

extraordinary example of excellence in care and community stewardship.

Gillette Children's provides modern care in an ever-changing world. By remaining on the cutting edge of technology, Gillette Children's stands alone in its ability to treat young patients who experience the most complex, traumatic, and rare conditions. When a child is referred to Gillette Children's, it is because they require specialized care by top experts in the field, and each patient receives nothing less. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Gillette Children's remained steadfast in their commitment to treating patients in a safe environment, pausing procedures when necessary and now proudly offering vaccines for the youngest and most vulnerable Minnesotans.

Since its founding, Gillette Children's has structured its care model around each child's specific needs, bringing together experts from many areas to address these needs at once—sometimes even in one visit. Each child's emotional wellbeing remains at the core of Gillette Children's approach to care, and we are so fortunate to have a committed, compassionate care center in our backyard.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the 125th anniversary of Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare for all that it does to improve the lives of children.

HONORING FRANKIE HARDAWAY

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Frankie Hardaway. Frankie was a community-oriented woman who led a fulfilling life and broke barriers in her career.

Frankie was born on March 29, 1934, in Augusta, GA to Alonso and Alma Gadley. She moved to Philadelphia, PA with her family in 1942. Frankie graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1953 and became a Practical Nurse. She married Lucius Hardaway in 1956 and together they had three sons.

In 1977, Frankie joined Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) as a trolley operator. In 1982, she completed a month-long training program and became the company's first female train operator. SEPTA described her as a "legend", she was a trailblazer in her field. She faced many obstacles during her training period. She handled them with dignity and class and became a well-respected peer amongst the train-operator community. Mrs. Hardaway retired from SEPTA in 1999 having held a groundbreaking career. She understood that being the first in her field would be difficult but an important task to ensure opportunities for those who would follow.

Outside of her career with SEPTA, Frankie was an established businesswoman who owned a dry-cleaning business with her husband, she was a seamstress and worked for the Internal Revenue Service performing data entry tasks. In her spare time, Frankie loved to read and stay active and engaged in the community.

Frankie passed away on November 10, 2022, peacefully at home surrounded by family. She was a loving matriarch, friend and relative who exuded a generous spirit and devo-

tion to others. The 3rd Congressional District of Pennsylvania mourns with her family and extends our sincere appreciation to her accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR GENERAL DAVID F. WHERLEY, JR., DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program Act. This bill would permanently authorize funding for the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program, which provides tuition and other financial assistance for higher education to members of the D.C. National Guard, which is an exclusively federal entity.

This program and bill are named for Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., former Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, who, along with his wife, Ann, and seven others were tragically killed when Metro trains collided on the Red Line on June 22, 2009. I renamed this bill after Major General Wherley because he worked tirelessly with me for many years to get funding for this program, and because of his devotion to D.C. youth and to the D.C. National Guard.

This program was recommended by Major General Wherley and his successor at the D.C. National Guard, Major General Errol Schwartz, to stem the troublesome loss of D.C. National Guard members to other units, including National Guards in surrounding states that offer assistance for higher education to their members. I am grateful that Congress has consistently provided funding for this program, most recently \$600,000 in fiscal year 2022. Permanently authorizing this program will help ensure that members of the D.C. National Guard receive the same benefits as members of other National Guards and help the D.C. National Guard recruit and retain members.

This program not only benefits D.C. National Guard members, the great majority of whom live in Maryland or Virginia, but also helps the D.C. National Guard to maintain the force necessary to protect the federal presence in D.C.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN DENIECE LOBBAN UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Deniece Lobban of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during

Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Deniece Lobban epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Deniece Lobban of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LAWRENCE BUTLER, JR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Lawrence Butler, Jr. was born in Natchez, Mississippi on November 25th to Ellen Shaw Butler and Lawrence Butler, Sr. He was the only son and the youngest of three children. He had two sisters: Clara Butler Watts and Regina Butler Davis. The family attended Greater Fatherland Baptist Church.

After attending Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he moved to Chicago, where he lived with his Uncle Harrison Shaw. Lawrence fell in love with Chicago and got busy making a life for himself in the Windy City. He began working as a bus driver for the Chicago Transit Authority but was drafted into the Army where he served as a military policeman. After serving his country, he returned to Chicago and joined the Chicago Police Department. He wore the badge with pride and honor for 34 years and enjoyed protecting and giving back to the city that he so cherished.

Lawrence's life truly began when he met and fell in love with a beautiful young lady by the name of Beverly. Lawrence and Beverly married on September 21, 1975. Shortly afterwards, Beverly and Lawrence purchased what would become their family home a beautiful old Victoria in the historical Austin Schock District.

Lawrence would spend the next several years working alongside his father-in-law to lovingly restore every square inch of the home

to the point of surpassing its former beauty. The house truly became a home when Beverly and Lawrence welcomed their first daughter, Mary-Ellen, soon followed by their second daughter, Hilaree.

His greatest source of pride was being the ever-present, unshakable force driving his family to excel. He lovingly encouraged and supported his wife as she advanced in her education and career. He set the bar of achievement high for his two daughters and challenged them to continue to push forward to reach even greater heights. Lawrence instilled a strong sense of self-worth in his children and constantly reminded his wife and daughters that the only limits to their successes would be those that they imposed on themselves.

Lawrence had a strong sense of humor and loved engaging in philosophical conversations. He was a free thinker who loved music and had an unyielding appreciation for the arts and creative expression. Lawrence laughed often and loved deeply. He was fixture in his community and the heartbeat of his family.

Lawrence was called home to eternity on November 6, 2022. He is preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence Sr. and Ellen.; and eldest sister, Clara; father-in-law, Nelroy; and other treasured loved ones. His memory will live on and be cherished by his loving wife of 47 years, his daughters, Hilaree and Mary-Ellen, his son-in-law Julio; and a host of loved ones.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MICHELLE
ROMAN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Michelle Roman for her 11 years of service on the Kingsburg City Council and congratulate her on her retirement.

A lifelong California resident, Mrs. Roman moved her family to Kingsburg in 1999. It was after her move that she truly discovered her passion for helping her community. As her children grew older and the encouragement of her friends and family members grew stronger, she decided to run for City Council to give the children and families of Kingsburg a voice in the local government.

Mrs. Roman has now been on the Kingsburg City Council for over a decade, passionately advocating for her community. Not only has she represented her district, but she has also served as both the Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor of Kingsburg—the first woman to hold either position. In her role as Mayor of Kingsburg, Mrs. Roman served as the public face of Kingsburg, presided over City Council meetings, and continually fought to improve her community in any way she could.

Under her leadership, Kingsburg has seen incredible development. From building the city's first skateboard park to founding the Kingsburg Youth Council, to helping enact city policies that attract businesses to her community, Mrs. Roman has played a key role in improving the lives of Kingsburg residents. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was an essential liaison between State and County officials and helped to secure grants that saved local businesses as well as a vaccination clinic that helped to save many lives.

Mrs. Roman has been a true public servant for her community and has repeatedly demonstrated her commitment to making Kingsburg a safe, prosperous, and welcoming place to call home. I wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement.

I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Michelle Roman for all she has accomplished during her 11 years of service to the City of Kingsburg.

HONORING MAYOR GEOFF
ELLSWORTH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Geoff Ellsworth in honor of his outstanding service to the people of St. Helena, California.

Mr. Ellsworth was born in Vallejo, California and grew up in St. Helena. After graduating from Justin-Siena High School in Napa, he attended the University of Oregon, and worked with his parents Bob and Pheobe Ellsworth at their winery supply company, Compleat Winemaker. Mr. Ellsworth was elected to the St. Helena City Council in 2016 and became Mayor in 2018.

During his tenure as Mayor, Mr. Ellsworth has led St. Helena through unprecedented challenges including devastating wildfires and the COVID-19 emergency. In response, Mr. Ellsworth worked with PG&E to build new transmission lines, supported a restructuring of the city's fire department and enhanced social services during the pandemic. With his help, the city also established internal financial controls, advanced a comprehensive housing strategy and the city also passed the General Plan after more than a decade of delays. Mr. Ellsworth worked with the City Council to ensure they continued awarding \$200,000 annually to non-profits that supported the city's most vulnerable residents.

Mr. Ellsworth has represented St. Helena as a member of the Napa County League of Governments, the Napa Valley Transportation Authority, and the Napa County Watershed Information Center and Conservancy. Additionally, he has served on numerous boards and committees including the League of California Cit-

ies, the Napa County City Selection Committee, and the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Outside of his work as a civil servant, Mr. Ellsworth is a renowned artist and musician of over 30 years, having traveled across the United States. He loves being around animals, is an avid reader, and is a frequent volunteer with local organizations.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Ellsworth for his commitment to the people of St. Helena. His efforts have made our community a safer, greener, and more enjoyable place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN MATTHEW WILLIAMS UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Matthew Williams of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Matthew Williams epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Matthew Williams of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.