

After 26 years in the House, Congressman BRADY has earned the right to step away and spend more time with his family—his wife Cathy and his two sons, Will and Sean. It has been an honor to call him not only a colleague, but also a friend—or as Robert Puente would say, *amigo*. Once again, I would like to congratulate him on his retirement and wish him the very best in the next chapter of his life.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
IDALIZ ALICEA UPON RECEIVING
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING
CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Staff Sergeant Idaliz Alicea 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 Staff Sergeant Idaliz Alicea 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 Staff Sergeant Idaliz Alicea 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.

HONORING JESSE JACKSON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Jesse Lewis Jackson, Sr. for his historic accomplishments and contributions to our nation's history, for receiving the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom and Justice Award, and for his induction into the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project.

Jesse Jackson has been called the Conscience of the Nation and the Great Unifier. He is a former candidate for President, Civil Rights champion, and Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient, the nation's highest honor.

Born on October 8, 1941 in Greenville, South Carolina, Jesse Jackson graduated from the public schools in Greenville and enrolled in the University of Illinois. He later transferred to North Carolina A&T State University and graduated in 1964. He has received more than 40 honorary doctorate degrees.

During the 116th Congress, Jesse Jackson endorsed the passing of an historic, bipartisan piece of legislation that created the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, and I was proud to honor him at the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project's 29th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast.

Jackson has championed civil and human rights for many years, pressing for broader employment opportunities for African-Americans and negotiating the release of international hostages and prisoners. It is an honor and a joy to call our Conscience of the Nation and the Great Unifier a dear friend.

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF
THE HONORABLE SANJAY
GEHANI FROM THE CITY COUNCIL
OF FOSTER CITY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Sanjay Gehani as he concludes his service on the city council of Foster City. Sanjay was elected in 2018 and is the first Mayor of Indian descent in the city's history. When elected, he likely never imagined that a global pandemic as well as federal and state law would profoundly shape his time in office.

Sanjay is a true child of the Midpeninsula. He was raised in Belmont and moved to Foster City as a child where he fondly remembers playing Little League on Foster City's wonderful sports fields. He and his family have always had a home in the city, although in recent years his parents maintain their primary residence across the bay. As a resident since childhood, he is invested in this community and its traditions.

In his candidate statement, Sanjay listed three top priorities as, "Take a break from housing production, enable traffic management solutions, improve relationships with the school district." During his four-year term, the city created a traffic mitigation measure along Hillsdale Boulevard and Foster City worked closely with a state legislator to change state law to allow cities to access state housing funds to preserve existing affordable housing. Sanjay supported both measures as well as efforts to assist residents of Fosters Landing when they were faced with skyrocketing rents at the end of their guaranteed decades of affordability. While state law made pausing housing construction unlikely, Sanjay expressed his concerns about the law but ultimately worked with colleagues to ensure that Foster City submitted a housing element to the state that the council and staff believed would pass muster.

As COVID continued to rage in 2021, Sanjay Gehani was Mayor. He voted to assist Foster City small businesses and to help families by creating family-friendly events during a time of isolation. For example, he supported the Rubber Ducky Races which returned to Foster City after a 30-year hiatus. As vaccination rates rose, he supported creating hybrid city council meetings where residents could participate through Zoom or in person. He launched the Mayoral Minute video series, offering residents concise updates about city affairs. He supported the creation of a sister city relationship with Inagi City, Japan.

The largest single public works project in the history of the city is the upgrade of the Foster City levee. As a councilmember in 2020, shortly after the pandemic came to Foster City, and amidst all of the uncertainty, Sanjay and his colleagues unanimously voted to accept the bid that commenced construction. At the time of its final permit approval, the Foster City levee was the largest single project in the modern history of the permitting agency. It set several precedents and it is a credit to Sanjay and his colleagues that they were able to get this needed improvement under construction and to keep it on track despite the pandemic impacting nearly all other public works projects. Sanjay and his colleagues also worked very hard to keep a large upgrade to the wastewater treatment system on track and on budget.

Sanjay represents the city as a liaison to, or member of, several regional boards and commissions. These include but are not limited to the Airport Land Use Committee, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the City/County Association of Governments, the League of California Cities, the Foster City Chamber of Commerce, the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, the San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District, and the South Bay Waste Management Authority.

Professionally, Sanjay spent 15 years at high technology companies before co-founding a preschool franchising company that is one of the largest in the nation. He is proud to help franchisees become financially independent. His commitment to children goes beyond establishing preschools as he coaches Foster City Little League and serves on the board of directors. He holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California at Davis and an MBA in Marketing and Leading Organizations from the Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University.

As Foster City says goodbye to its former Mayor and Councilmember, it will remember his efforts to help better the community. Democracy needs people who are willing to step up and to accept the responsibilities of public office. Sanjay Gehani was willing to serve so that others could concentrate on their private and business lives. He will now rejoin his neighbors in those same roles, and his wife Sweetu and son Veer will now have more time with Sanjay for important family matters. The people of Foster City will no longer have the benefit of that time, but they will always owe a debt to their neighbor who accepted the role of leadership, with all of its blessings and challenges, during one of the most trying times in modern history.

JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 1512, James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023. This bill contains many important provisions that should become law, but unfortunately those policies are outweighed by the staggering increase in military spending. Accordingly, I cannot support the bill as a whole.

I am grateful for the inclusion of robust policies to protect our ocean, especially provisions from my legislation, the BLUE GLOBE Act. These provisions will direct existing ocean-focused interagency committees to coordinate overlapping data collection, align supercomputing and data storage efforts, develop cross-agency databases, and support consistent archiving practices. The legislation will also better assess the value of the Blue Economy, develop a study on workforce shortages related to careers in oceanic and atmospheric data collection, and identify actions the federal government can take to promote diversity in STEM education. Further, it directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to create, maintain, and regularly update a publicly available website that provides information about all resiliency grant programs. H.R. 7776 also prevents illegal fishing and forced labor, enhances marine mammal conservation, including of whales in the Puget Sound, and eliminates shark fin sales.

I also strongly support the pay increase for our troops, increased funding for research conducted at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, an increased military housing allowance, and providing reimbursement for members of the Armed Forces for childcare costs related to permanent base changes. Additionally, I commend Chairman SMITH for his ongoing advocacy for additional funding for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which provides support and assistance to the Ukrainian Armed Forces in their response to Russian aggression.

I cannot ignore, however, the unprecedented amount of military spending this legislation authorizes while too many Oregonians and Americans continue to struggle economically. This bill costs \$847.3 billion, which far exceeds the President's budget request of \$773 billion. In our current economy, supporting more than 74 billion additional dollars, primarily for weapons, is unjustifiable when our communities desperately need food and housing security, access to high-quality childcare, affordable health care, and support for small businesses. We must not accept the notion that annual increases in defense spending are inevitable and can be rationalized as modest when Americans continue to struggle.

I do not take this vote lightly and my commitment to providing for our servicemembers remains steadfast. It is a complex and challenging task to responsibly fund our national defense, but I am confident that we can main-

tain adequate security while reining in the immense and ever-increasing sums that endlessly pour into the military-industrial complex. I look forward to continued engagement with my colleagues as we address these difficult issues.

RECOGNIZING TRUSTEE MEGAN ROUSE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize outgoing Dublin Unified School District Trustee Megan Rouse as her term ends on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, after nine years of serving Dublin's students.

Megan graduated from Smith College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physics and Mathematics in 1993. After moving to Dublin in 1997, she returned to school and earned a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance from the University of California Berkeley's Haas School of Business in 2001.

Megan began her career in corporate investment banking in New York and San Francisco. She remains a Certified Financial Planner practitioner and owner of her own financial planning business, helping individuals and families reach their financial goals. She also served on the board of the Financial Planning Association of the East Bay for 11 years.

After she was appointed as a Dublin Unified School District trustee in 2013, Megan was elected to her first full term in 2014 with a successful bid for re-election in 2018. As a school board member, she serves on the wellness committee, budget committee, and grading committee, while also participating in programming for the Tri-Valley Special Education Local Plan Area and Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program.

Through all of this, Megan has remained an active member of the Dublin community. Since 2014 she has been an active member of the Rotary Club of Dublin, holding various leadership positions. She also serves as a deacon and finance elder at John Knox Church, served on the board of Joy Preschool and Daycare for five years, and was the committee chair of Cub Scouts Pack 930.

I thank Megan for lending her diligence and leadership to the Dublin Unified School District Board for nearly a decade. I join the Tri-Valley community in celebrating her numerous accomplishments and wish her and her loving husband, Gordon, and two children, Maribel and Gabe, all the best as they decide what challenges to take on next.

HONORING JOHNNY C. TAYLOR, JR.

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. for the grand opening of the Johnny Taylor Family UTrailblazers Experience.

The UTrailblazers Experience is a multimedia tribute recognizing and commemorating

Black students, living and deceased, who graduated from the University of Miami during the 1960s and 1970s, as well as spotlights the contributions of present and future black students. In 1961, the first trailblazers set foot on campus when the University of Miami admitted its first black students three and a half decades after the university first opened its doors. The inaugural forty student class dismantled many barriers and paved the way for generations to come.

The Johnny Taylor Family UTrailblazers Experience was born from an initiative by the Black Alumni Society, who shined a light on the many struggles the first Black students endured. At the time, the information was only available in the archives of the University of Miami Libraries. Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. is a University of Miami alumnus and member of the University of Miami Board of Trustees. Mr. Taylor has gifted UTrailblazers Experience as a permanent exhibit to celebrate and highlight the accomplishments of students and future generations of students who make a difference in the areas of diversity and inclusion.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. for his contribution to the University of Miami community and his commitment to preserving the history of past students and honoring the potential of future generations of Black students.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT E-QUANTAY MASON UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Staff Sergeant E-Quantay Mason 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 Staff Sergeant E-Quantay Mason 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