

Following her undergraduate studies, she plans on securing an MD/PhD and applying through the Fulbright program to pursue her Masters in the United Kingdom.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Djaina Dervil for her accomplishments.

**HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
COURTNEY SMITH 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 Courtney Smith 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 service members 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 service members like Staff Sergeant Courtney Smith 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 Courtney Smith 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.

**RECOGNIZING VETERAN AND FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION SUPERVISOR, DAVID PESKO, JR.**

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David Pesko, Jr. and his many years of dedication to the United States and Inland Empire as a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and air traffic controller for the Federal Aviation Administration.

David served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 9 years and 7 months from February 1985

until September 1994. During his service with the Marine Corps, David attended Air Traffic Control Communication Technology school. In 1986, he used this expertise to serve with the Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron 18 while stationed in Japan. In 1989, David was transferred to the Marine Corps Air Station in Irvine, California, where he served in the G-6 Communications Data and Electronics Squadron. Later he continued with this squadron but transitioned from the Marine Corps to the Department of Defense. After more than 10 years of dedication to the Marine Corps and Department of Defense, David transitioned to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), where he rose in the ranks to become a supervisor at the Ontario National Air Space Electronics Service Support Center. After his transition to the FAA, David continued to serve his country as he was deployed to Haiti in 2010 to support the FAA's Air Traffic Control at the Port Au Prince Airport.

At the end of this year, David is officially retiring. I hope that he gets to rest and enjoy time with his family, including his three grandchildren. We are grateful for his service to our country.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize David Pesko, Jr. His years of civic service and commitment to the United States and the people of the Inland Empire are worthy of the highest commendation.

**HONORING TROY VINCENT**

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Troy Vincent as a new inductee into the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project and proudly honor him with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom and Justice Award.

Troy Vincent was a cornerback in the National Football League from 1992–2006 for the Miami Dolphins, Philadelphia Eagles, Buffalo Bills, and Washington Commanders (formerly Washington Redskins). Troy Vincent served as the former President of the NFLPA, the first active NFL player to serve on the National Board of Directors for a Pop Warner Scholars Program, and the first Black Executive Vice President.

Born on June 8, 1970, in Trenton, New Jersey, Vincent attended the University of Wisconsin and was drafted by the Miami Dolphins as the 7th overall pick in 1992. In his current role as Executive Vice President of Football Operations for the NFL, he drives the organization through a deep commitment to impact lives. As a national leader and advocate against domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse, Role Model Troy Vincent is committed to leadership, demonstrating character and a powerful voice for the voiceless.

During the 116th Congress, I worked hard to pass an historic, bipartisan piece of legislation that created the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. Troy Vincent was honored for being a champion for boys and men of color at the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project's 29th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast.

It is an honor to recognize Troy Vincent with this award.

**HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
BRANDON JENSEN 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 Brandon Jensen 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 Brandon Jensen 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 Brandon Jensen 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.

**REMEMBERING JOHN ELLIKER**

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Elliker, who passed Monday, November 28, 2022. He was 100 years old.

John was born on April 7, 1922, in Decatur, Indiana. The son of the late Reverend Reuben and Marth C. Elliker. He was raised in Galion, Ohio while his father pastored over First United Church of Christ (formerly known as First Reformed Church) for 29 years. After graduating from high school, John would travel down to Oxford to continue his education at Miami University, where he would major in Economics and History. He would take a break during his studies to serve in the United

States Navy during World War II, and return after the end of the war. After graduating, John would go on to our nation's capital and complete his graduate studies from Georgetown; he would major in International Law while there. Later on, he would attend the Army War College and complete his studies in International Relations.

In 1948, John married his beloved wife, Janet (Carpenter) Elliker of Detroit, Michigan who also attended Miami University and preceded John in death in 2014 and was known in Washington, D.C. and in Ohio as a dedicated Bible Study leader and as a sports-woman. They were married 66 years.

John subsequently served with the National Security Agency (NSA). During his years with NSA, he undertook assignments across the world, with specific ties to Asia and Europe, and at the National Headquarters and Processing Center in the Washington, D.C. area. His journey would take him to the highest executive levels of the agency. His senior positions included Director of Foreign Relations, Director of Field Activity, and Assistant NSA Deputy Director for Policy. Following retirement, John and Jan moved to New Philadelphia in 1988.

John was active in community affairs in various capacities. He served with the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce, the Tuscarawas Philharmonic, and the local Kiwanis Club. He was active as a member of the Dover Alliance Church serving over the years in several positions such as elder, church governing board and board secretary as well as musical activities. John frequently lectured on foreign affairs for local organizations. He was a member of the Union Country Club where both he and Jan were ardent golfers.

John is survived by four children, John Jr. (Susan) of Virginia Beach, VA, James (Roula) of Fleetwood, PA, Jody (Bill) Weisgarber of New Philadelphia, OH, and Jeffry (Marcia) of Durham, NC, 15 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents and wife, John is preceded in death by two brothers, Richard of Cable, WI, and Bernard of Ellicott City, MD.

#### HONORING DON LEMON

### 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 Don Lemon on his accomplishments and to congratulate him on receiving the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom and Justice Award.

Don Lemon is a multiple Emmy and Edward R. Murrow award-winning CNN Anchor. He has worked for news stations across the country and has reported for NBC News' New York Operations as a correspondent for Today, Weekend Today, NBC Nightly News, and MSNBC.

Born on March 1, 1966, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Don Lemon graduated from Baton Rouge public schools and attended Louisiana State University, later graduating from Brooklyn College. The best-selling author moderates CNN political town halls and co-hosted the

Color of Covid special that addressed the pandemic's impact on communities of color.

During the 116th Congress, I worked to pass historic, bipartisan legislation creating the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. Mr. Lemon will always be remembered as a leading network voice following the death of George Floyd and subsequent protests and riots.

Mr. Lemon was honored for being a champion for males of color at the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project's 29th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast, and it is an honor to call him a friend.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CHEN CHING YING

### HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Dr. Chen Ching Ying, who passed away on October 2, 2022. He was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather and an outstanding leader for the professional world of medicine.

Chen Ching was born on May 6, 1930, in Qingdao, China, to Mr. Gua Ying and Mrs. De Zhen Li. After graduating from the National Defense Medical Center in Taipei, he served for 10 years in the Taiwanese military. After two years of service as a general medical officer, Chen Ching completed his residency training in Pediatrics for three years at Taichung Hospital.

Following the completion of his residency in 1966, Chen Ching became a staff physician at the Taipei Veterans General Hospital. On May 6, 1967, Chen Ching married his wife, Lily Fan. In 1968, their first son, Steve, was born. Chen Ching soon began studying for the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates and passed the infamously difficult exam. In 1972 their second son, Alan, was born. In 1973, Chen Ching began his internship in Internal Medicine at the University of Miami in Miami, Florida. After various residency programs, Chen Ching obtained his license to practice medicine and was able to settle down with his family in Ohio. His life is an excellent example of achieving the American dream.

Chen Ching dedicated his life to the medical profession and his family. His upbringing and life in Taiwan brought forth an ethic of perseverance and service. With 63 years of experience under his belt, Chen Ching proved to be an essential asset to the medical world. While his passion for treating and healing patients drove him, Chen Ching was known for his love of family and a passion for table tennis, history and music. He was loved by so many people and touched so many lives with his giving spirit and caring heart. The loss of Chen Ching will be felt by his friends, family, and the many communities he has treated and served.

Chen Ching is survived by his sisters, Lai-Ching and Ching-Ehr; brother, Chen-Zhe; and sons, Steve and Alan; and his grandchildren. May Chen Ching's memory live on in his many contributions to his community and family.

#### HONORING REPRESENTATIVE ALBIO SIREs

### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of our colleague and dear friend, ALBIO SIREs. Chairman SIREs is retiring after ten years of admirable service in the U.S. Congress. In that time, he has been a steadfast advocate for human rights, democracy, and for those struggling for freedom in the most repressed places in the world.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee of the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, Migration and International Economic Policy of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman SIREs worked tirelessly on behalf of the American people to manifest our American values and interests abroad.

If you were to compare our voting records, you might conclude that we have little in common. That would be wrong. Like my family, Chairman SIREs' family was forced into exile to escape the tyranny of the Castro dictatorship. We share the gratitude of being warmly welcomed into freedom, while also feeling compelled to help those still languishing in their island prison. So when it came to pressing for freedom for the people of Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Communist China, Iran, and elsewhere, Chairman SIREs was a fierce and adept advocate.

Chairman SIREs and I also co-chaired the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, a bipartisan congressional organization that focuses on preserving freedom and self-government for the people of Taiwan, providing Taiwan with the tools it needs to defend itself, and strengthening the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. We also co-chaired the Colombia Caucus, which built on the success since Plan Colombia to ensure that the country did not backslide into the violence and narcoterrorism of the 1990s. No one could be a better ally in the struggle for democracy and human rights than my friend, Chairman SIREs.

I thank him for his service, and will always be proud of the accomplishments we achieved together to advance freedom in the Pacific and our hemisphere. He has left a lasting legacy befitting the foundational values of freedom, self-rule, and fundamental rights.

Chairman SIREs is a friend, patriot, and a beloved brother in the cause for freedom. I am grateful that our country has been blessed by his leadership. Indeed, his example represents the best of America, and the best of this body.

#### RECOGNIZING KEVIN COUNTIE

### HON. TROY E. NEHLS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary work of my Deputy Chief of Staff and National Security Advisor, Kevin Countie. Kevin has proven to be a true American patriot and devoted public servant through his 32-plus years of active reserve, and national guard service, 20 years of service with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and having