

But thank God all of you here today knew her. You knew her greatness, her kindness, her strength, her sense of humor, her positivity, her creativity, her ever-encouraging way, and most of all you knew her enduring LOVE. Her love came with no strings attached. She loved you simply because you were you. That quiet acceptance was like being wrapped in a warm blanket. The love that our mother gave was felt deep to your core. She knew that giving that love away to someone else would never take anything away from her but make her stronger.

Since our mom's passing, I have had so many people make comments to me about how much our mother impacted their lives by not only the love that she so freely shared but also by her encouraging way. She had such self-love that she always looked to raise up someone else and knew that doing this would not detract from her but add to her. She shared her love and wisdom so freely. Her goal was always to life up the life of another.

One of our dear friends from our growing up years said to me your mother was my inspiration growing up. She was amazing and we connected. That just makes me pause and say wow how awesome is that, that someone outside of our family unit could feel that same love we did.

Our mother would always say let's lift one another up and make a difference. Well mom you did just that. You succeeded. You lifted up so many, many people. You will be sorely missed on this physical earth, but you are always with us. Your strength of spirit and love will never die. You have led by example and have passed that love on to the next generation so that we to can make a difference. The mantle has been passed and we accept the challenge.

On a personal note, in this experience of losing my mother, I don't think it is sorrow that I feel, but such a complete sense of gratitude toward Life for granting me such a blessing. So, to Life I'd like to say thank you, thank you, thank you.

To conclude, my mother's favorite prayer was the prayer of St. Francis. She lived this prayer on the daily. It sums her up in a nutshell. In honor of her, I'd like to say it now.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light, and where there is sadness, joy. O' Divine Master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Mom, you did all of those things. You led by example. You will live on in us and our children forever. To a life well lived. We love you and you will be missed."

For all of us, Madam Speaker, we remember Loretta's extraordinary kindness and compassion and her deep and abiding faith in the Lord.

When we were expecting our first child, Melissa, in 1978 Loretta hosted a baby shower and boy did we need it.

Loretta had an amazing ability to work hard and effectively. She was a doer even for the most difficult tasks and was a great asset in my campaigns for Congress.

Loretta officially joined our congressional office in 1982 and it was clear right from the start that she had a remarkable empathy for people, especially those in need and assumed the position of district director in 1985, until she retired in 2005.

Twenty years of awesome leadership.

Loretta was a tough competitor and thrived on the challenges of political campaigns. Lo-

retta was a problem solver and set a tremendous example of what hard work and leaving no stone unturned looks like.

I was always amazed how diplomatically but firmly she would question people seeking our help.

She wanted the facts, the truth with no hyperbole.

America's national program for assisting persons with Autism started in 1997 in my Whiting office with a meeting put together by Loretta that included the parents of two children with autism from Brick.

After a three-hour first meeting followed by many others, we mapped out a strategy and legislation that became law.

Like so many initiatives, it took years for our initiative to bear fruit.

Loretta was never a quitter.

When Navy Lakehurst was put on a DOD list for closure, Loretta put together a meeting of dozens of elected officials just two days after the bad news broke, and together we began the arduous task of saving the base, and against all odds, we succeeded.

Loretta is deeply missed, but is remembered with enormous respect, joy and love.

#### HONORING THE ENDURING CAREER OF ALANNA KABEL

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career in public service of Alanna Kabel of Bridgeport, Connecticut. A housing policy guru, Alanna retires from a career that spans 44 years, eight of the last with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, on December 31, 2022.

Alanna's service in government goes much further than her time with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 1978, after completing a degree in History from Immaculata University, Alanna began her career with the City of Bridgeport, first as a Relocation Assistant. Though she transitioned between public-service roles over the decades, working for other institutions, including the nearby City of Norwalk and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, Alanna possessed an unending degree of loyalty to her home community, Bridgeport. Her loyalty was reflected through her continual return to Bridgeport City Hall, including as the City's Assistant Chief Administrative Officer between 2011 and 2014. In this capacity, Alanna coordinated daily business operations for an organization of more than 45 departments, supporting efficient services for the largest city in the state.

Alanna joined the U.S. Department of Housing in 2014. As the Community Planning and Development Director in the Hartford Field Office, she has overseen a period of growth for a team that more than doubled under her watch—directly expanding the field office's ability to advance U.S. HUD initiatives. Under her leadership, the Community Planning and Development office administered roughly \$118 million in annual—and \$91 million in pandemic specific—funding to scores of municipalities, nonprofits and the state government. In doing so, Alanna has worked to support the viability of urban Connecticut life, revitalization of neighborhoods, enable opportunities for affordable housing development and implement homelessness mitigation strategies.

In her time with U.S. HUD, Alanna has been responsible for a wide array of priorities. She has overseen the Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery Program, Rebuild by Design Program, National Disaster Resilience grants, and two Youth Homeless Demonstration Program grants in Connecticut. One of Alanna's proudest accomplishments has been her leadership on a team of 18 staff to audit and streamline the Department's Consolidated Annual Action Plan and field training processes. This administrative overhaul enabled the department's ability, particularly during the pandemic, to efficiently receive, review, and distribute funding to grant requests.

Madam Speaker, my office learned firsthand about Alanna's stellar work ethic in 2015 when a little understood crisis began affecting residential foundations across the state. Homeowners found themselves grappling with the untimely and unpreventable crumbling of their concrete foundations. With no assistance from insurance providers, every homeowner impacted by a crumbling foundations faced the difficult predicament of securing the financial means to make the costly repairs. As my office worked with federal partners to identify resources for homeowners, Alanna's role as the Community Planning and Development Director was pivotal in those efforts. HUD was the first agency to identify a means of assistance for homeowners using an already existing federal program, the Community Development Block Grant. With HUD's guidance, federal and state stakeholders began to formulate avenues of assistance that continue to benefit impacted constituents.

Madam Speaker, I can personally attest to the tremendous support Alanna has been to my office, and by translation, constituents of the Second District of Connecticut, for which this representational body ought to be eternally grateful. There will certainly be large shoes to fill in her place as dedication as she transitions into retirement with her husband, William, to spend more time with their beloved four children and four grandchildren. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing and thanking Alanna Kabel for her decades of service.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unexpectedly delayed. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 513 (H.R. 8404).

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF CLOTILDE PEREZ-BODE DEDECKER

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize Clotilde

Perez-Bode Dedecker and her remarkable seventeen-year career with the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. Clotilde began her work with the Community Foundation in 2005, becoming President and CEO in 2007. Under her leadership, she oversaw this philanthropic organization's growth from \$159 million to \$850 million in total assets. Furthermore, she was a visionary and understood the value of establishing partnerships with other community organizations such as Say Yes Buffalo, Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable, and the WNY Impact Investment Fund. This expansion has allowed the Buffalo community to be more strongly supported and guided, and none of it would have been possible without the stewardship that Clotilde has provided.

Clotilde's contributions to the community and work as a philanthropist have been recognized at all levels, from local community organizations to international organizations. She was appointed to the White House Council on Service and Civic Participation and named co-chair of the U.S. Committee of the United Nations International Year of the Volunteer. She has also presented at the U.S. Partnership on Mobility from Poverty Summit supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Washington, D.C. and the Asia Forum on Philanthropy for Better Cities in Hong Kong. Furthermore, she was awarded the President's Award for Service, a civic award bestowed by the President of the United States to honor volunteers that give hundreds of hours per year helping others through the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Clotilde has previously been named The Buffalo News Citizen of the Year Award, the Buffalo Niagara Executive of the Year, and received the Distinguished Citizen Award from her alma mater, Canisius College. Highly honored and recognized for her commitment to moving this community forward in a strategic way, Clotilde has led the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo to enhance our environment and educational opportunities, and further invest in our rich and diverse local arts. Clotilde is the indispensable pillar of the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, and she will be missed dearly after her retirement; however, her legacy, work, and success will inspire community members for years to come. During my time in Congress, it has been a pleasure to work with the Community Foundation under the leadership of Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker and I commend her for her professionalism, vision, and impressive leadership on behalf of a grateful community in the Western New York.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
THE HONORABLE LAURENCE  
MAY TO THE RESIDENTS OF  
HILLSBOROUGH, CALIFORNIA

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Laurence May upon the occasion of his departure from the Hillsborough Town Council. The residents of Hillsborough have benefitted enormously from Larry's service to the community in an elected or volunteer position since 1989.

It takes a special personality to volunteer or to serve in elective office for 33 years. The word that comes to mind is "patience." Larry served on the school board from 1995 to 2007. During that time, he spearheaded a \$68 million bond measure to rebuild Hillsborough's schools. Even now, as a town council member, Larry continues his support of the schools. He supported a measure on the November ballot needed to upgrade the classrooms for modern education in science, engineering, technology and math, to repair roofs and electrical systems, to upgrade classrooms for earthquake compliance, and to install solar when feasible. Prior to joining the school board, Larry served on the Hillsborough Schools Foundation Executive Committee from 1989 to 1993.

Woven into Larry May's story is a family history of dedication to Hillsborough. His mother was a significant volunteer and essentially raised Larry from childhood with a sense of duty towards the community. Today, this duty extends beyond the borders of Hillsborough to include service on countywide organizations such as the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County and Peninsula Clean Energy, as well as the City-County Association of Governments Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He's chaired the Hillsborough Town Council's Audit and Finance Committee and served as Chair from 2021 to the present.

The Town of Hillsborough is a remarkable community of 11,000 nestled in the hills and flatlands of central San Mateo County. The community's spirit is extraordinary, with volunteerism playing a major role in civic life. Larry May has personified this volunteer spirit over decades. During his council service, he's given countless hours of expert legal advice to his colleagues and offered a willing ear to residents seeking a redress of their grievances.

He has also been the council's liaison to the city's Code Enforcement Board, the Architecture and Design Review Board, and served as a commissioner on the Hillsborough Recreation Commission since 2011. One of the most challenging positions was serving on the SFO Airport Community Roundtable. Larry and leaders from neighboring cities tried to find ways to decrease airport noise impacts on the community despite woefully inadequate federal noise protections. In the 1980's, Larry served on the Board of Directors of the Heart Association of San Mateo County and was a member of the Rotary Club of Foster City.

Not all of Larry's nonprofit service has been solely to Hillsborough or to its schools. He is deeply embedded in the health system, having served on the Board of Trustees of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, the Mills Peninsula Hospital Foundation and the Board of Trustees of Mills Peninsula Hospital.

Larry was educated at Crocker Middle School in Hillsborough and ultimately received his A.B. in Economics from the University of California. Berkeley and his J.D. Cum Laude, Law, from Santa Clara University School of Law. He served for almost three years as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of California before entering private practice in local law firms. He is now retired, but he enjoyed practicing law representing investors and developers of real estate in their transactional activities. He also handled acquisitions, dispositions, leases, and financing as well as appearances before public agencies.

I want to also express my appreciation to Larry's wife, Laurie, their son Aaron, and their daughter Jessica for sharing Larry with the community over all these years. While the time that Larry dedicated to his community improved it enormously over many decades, his family supported him during countless hours when he was performing his public duties. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

My best wishes to my friend Larry May—a local boy who grew up to lead. He is a public servant who left his mark on Hillsborough, and for that we are all grateful that he did.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
MICHAEL RAUCCI 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 Michael Raucci 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 Michael Raucci 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 Michael Raucci 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.

RECOGNIZING LIN BANKS FOR  
NEARLY 22 YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REP-  
RESENTATIVES

**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lin Banks, who