

well as their families. Based on the testimony from these official events, I also introduced and passed House Resolution 888, condemning the killing of 14 individuals and the violence on Bloody Sunday as well as calling on all parties to take meaningful steps toward peace and reconciliation. Finally, to further these efforts, I led a Congressional Delegation in November 2022 to Dublin, Ireland and Belfast, United Kingdom to meet with stakeholders across communities and traditions and ensure the continued positive role of the United States as a good-faith actor in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. The CO DEL met with local leaders, representatives from the Irish and UK governments as well as all five of the main political parties in Northern Ireland. While I believe our efforts have been very impactful, I recognize that more work still needs to be done. I am thankful for the Members of the Subcommittee who have worked diligently on this issue over the past two years, and I will continue to make this issue a focus of mine in the coming Congress.

Finally, as Chair I have endeavored to utilize the platform we have on the Subcommittee to highlight the voices of young people as well as individuals on the ground. For example, during the 116th Congress I led a joint hearing with the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis titled "Voices Leading the Next Generation on the Global Climate Crisis." During that hearing we were honored to hear from young climate activists such as Greta Thunberg, Jamie Margolin, Vic Barrett and Benji Backer. Together they underscored the important need for politicians to enact progressive policies to combat global warming. In addition, I also held a hearing titled "the Role of Young People in Fostering Peace in Northern Ireland," where young people from both committees testified on urgent need for continued implementation of the Good Friday Agreement as well as an increased focus on the creation of economic and educational opportunities in the region. At the same time, through the use of virtual hearings the Subcommittee has continually endeavored to hear from people in the region. In taking this approach, we have been able to be flexible and responsive to changing dynamics in the region, while hearing from those who understand firsthand the situation on the ground, and we have been able to hear from a more diverse set of voices who have shared new perspectives.

As the 117th Congress comes to a close, I look forward to continuing the work of the Subcommittee in the next two years in the 118th Congress and I am immensely proud of the successes of this Subcommittee. I want to thank Chairman GREGORY MEEKS and Chairman Eliot Engel for their partnerships during the 116th and 117th Congresses. In addition, as we move into the 118th Congress, I want to acknowledge the efforts of this Subcommittee and its Members, including Ranking Member for the 117th Congress, BRIAN FITZPATRICK and Ranking Member for the 116th Congress, Adam Kinzinger, for their commitment to work in a bipartisan manner on issues within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction.

The U.S. commitment to Europe and our transatlantic alliance is resolute and steadfast, and I will continue to advocate for the important issues outlined above as we move forward.

In addition to this Summary of Accomplishments, I have compiled three appendixes outlining the hearings and briefings as well as CODELS we have organized, which can be viewed on <https://keating.house.gov/>.

HONORING THE CAREER OF TOM BIRMINGHAM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Tom Birmingham who has served as the General Manager of Westlands Water District over the last 22 years.

Spanning 1,000 square miles within Fresno and Kings County, Westlands Water District is the largest in the country. Serving as the General Manager, Mr. Birmingham's diligence and leadership has been advantageous to the greater Central Valley for more than 2 decades.

During this time, Tom embraced the full scope of his role, and guided the district through countless projects, including the settlements of drainage litigation and litigation concerning the renewal of the district's 1962 water service contract. He also oversaw the acquisition of additional Central Valley Project water supplies to the district, the conversion of the district's water service contracts to repayment contracts, as well as the implementation of a significant land retirement program, which balanced the demand for water with available supplies. In addition to this, under Tom's leadership, Westlands Water District also implemented several water conservation programs, developed large scale renewable energy projects, constructed habitat restoration projects, and developed integrated water management programs.

Furthermore, Tom and the Westlands team should also be proud of the instrumental role they played in advancing good water policy. Due to their exemplary efforts, they were able to influence major state and federal legislation, including the California 2009 Bay-Delta Reform Act, the CALFED authorizing legislation, the San Joaquin River Settlement and Restoration Program authorizing legislation, and the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. Tom and his team were also integral in negotiating the water purchase agreement for the Yuba River Accord, which amended the 1986 coordinated operations agreement. Lastly, Tom and company were successful in restoring flexibility for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project operations through the 2019 biological opinions, which resulted in greater protections of listed species.

After 22 years of dedication, Tom will be remembered for all of his hard work at Westlands. He states that he will remember the priceless interactions between himself and the staff of both Westlands and other water agencies, elected officials with whom he worked diligently, and the farmers he represented for so long.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tom Birmingham for a distinguished career. May we continue to be inspired by his good work.

HONORING HARVEST HOME ANIMAL SANCTUARY'S LIFESAIVING ANIMAL RESCUE EFFORTS AND COMMITMENT TO CREATING COMPASSIONATE CHANGE

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an extraordinary organization in California's 9th Congressional District. Since its founding in 2004, Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary, located in Stockton, California, has been a beacon of light for animals in need. Over the past 18 years, they have worked tirelessly to provide life-long care for abused and neglected animals—rehabilitating them both physically and psychologically and, if possible, finding appropriate homes for them. To date, Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary has rescued over 10,000 animals who, in turn, have become the catalyst for an important dialogue about compassion in our community.

The story of Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary began when co-founder Karen Courtemanche saw an online ad for free rabbits and ended up walking into a horrific and life-altering scene. Upon arrival at the listed home address, Karen found nearly 50 malnourished and filthy rabbits surrounded by garbage, waste, and the remains of other deceased rabbits. While she was only able to rescue one rabbit that day, Karen wasted no time alerting the authorities to this horrendous abuse. Following the homeowner's arrest, the rabbits were removed and placed in a shelter where Karen and others visited until they were medically cleared. But rather than being put up for adoption, the rabbits were scheduled to be euthanized, spurring Karen to spring into action. She immediately retrieved them all and brought them to her small home in the East Bay, but as she began to try to find these rabbits loving homes, only one rabbit was adopted. That's when Karen discovered her new mission: to help these rabbits and other unwanted and abused animals. She soon sold her house and purchased two acres of land to create a sanctuary that would not only serve as a home for rescued animals, but would also become a teaching tool for members of our community.

In an effort to prevent cruelty to animals, Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary educates the public on caring for companion animals as well as on issues concerning farmed animals and many widespread practices that result in their inhumane treatment and living conditions. They regularly host animal-centered literacy activities, humane animal care workshops, and discussions on farm animal awareness topics. Additionally, they partner with local libraries to hold events such as the Rescue Readers Club, a program where children read to rescue animals—an engaging way of embracing both compassion and literacy. Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary also partners with school districts and youth organizations to hold Compassionate Classrooms Programs, providing free in-person and virtual educational presentations on the topics of humane care and animal welfare that help bolster kindness and compassion for animals. The sanctuary is open to members of the public, who are invited to take

tours of the facilities and participate in activities—giving visitors the opportunity to directly connect with rescued animals on a personal level. At the core of Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary's work is the fundamental principle that all living creatures deserve to be treated with compassion and kindness—people and animals alike. Their work focuses on educating the public on the common ground shared between animals and people. This speaks directly to Karen's life's work, as she previously spent over 40 years working in education, with a focus on teaching children with disabilities. Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary's educational efforts aim to help people understand how animals are being treated and how we as individuals can make positive change for the betterment of our animal neighbors.

In addition to their educational and outreach efforts, when Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary is informed of cases of cruelty and neglect, they quickly mobilize to help. Through their work in the community, they have built strong partnerships with other animal welfare organizations, law enforcement agencies, animal services, and local governments, which has enabled them to continue their work supporting and rescuing animals in need—including in some large-scale relief efforts in our region and across the country. Karen and Christine Morrissey, who has served for years as the organization's Executive Director, have played a key role in many successful rescue operations. Christine, along with Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary's staff and volunteers, was instrumental in the removal of 1,500 hens from a factory farm where the birds were living in an overcrowded and highly unsanitary environment. They also helped lead the efforts to shut down a local rooster fighting ring and rescue the surviving birds. And when the owner of an egg factory farm abandoned 50,000 chickens, a third of whom were unfortunately deceased when help arrived, they were a central part of the rescue efforts to save the surviving chickens. Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary was also part of a lawsuit against the egg factory farm managers that resulted in their permanent ban from any future work with animals. From local shelters to farms to animal research labs to slaughterhouses, no rescue is too big or too small for this dedicated and committed organization. My Chief of Staff, Nicole Damasco, has called on Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary many times

to help rescue and find homes for animals in distress, and they have stepped up time and again.

A nonprofit powered almost entirely by donations from individuals, Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary is home to 200 animals, with a wide range of species calling the sanctuary home, including goats, potbellied pigs, chickens, ducks, turkeys, guinea fowl, pigeons, guinea pigs, rabbits and more. They are also an official sanctuary for the House Rabbit Society—an international rabbit advocacy and rescue organization—and feature a specially constructed, temperature-controlled enclosed rabbit habitat on their grounds.

Thanks to outstanding individuals like Karen Courtemanche, Christine Morrissey, and the rest of the staff and volunteers at Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary, the lives of countless animals and people have been positively impacted and forever changed. Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary is not only providing life-saving services and a safe haven for animals in need, they are also building a bridge for compassionate change. Members of our community, both animals and people, are made better by their invaluable work and dedication. For all they have done and will continue to do, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary.

HONORING THE CAREER OF KELLY
S. GILL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kelly S. Gill for 30 years of service as a Congressional employee with the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Kelly has served in different roles throughout her career in the Central Valley and her selfless dedication is clearly evident.

Kelly is a resident of Clovis, California and raised by a military family. With a strong influence from her father and brothers' retirement from the United States Marine Corps, she always carries a special place in her heart for the military and veterans. After graduation at Clovis High School, she attended California State University, Fresno and earned a Political

Science degree. She used her customer service skills and degree to help others in public service.

Kelly began her career as a Congressional Employee in November 1992 working for Congressman Richard H. Lehman, Congressional District 19 in the U.S. House of Representatives. She then worked for a few months as Caseworker for California State Assemblymember Cruz Bustamante before joining the office of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer as Outreach Director in 1995. In 2005, Kelly switched back over the U.S. House of Representatives and has spent 17 years with the Office of Congressman JIM COSTA, while serving in Congressional Districts, CA20 and CA16.

Kelly's name is well-known in the veteran and Punjabi community. She has helped many people throughout Congressman COSTA'S district with federal agencies such as United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Social Security Administration (SSA), military, Veterans Affairs (VA), Medicare, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Embassies and Consulates, and more. Kelly's expertise in constituent services working on difficult inquiries were life-changing for many.

Kelly has coordinated special events for the Congressman and dignitaries, trained staffers, and interns, led the Service Academies, and continues to do so with the goal to see people succeed.

With her two children, Kyle Gill age 29 and Kaylee Gill age 19 by her side, she continues to help people through hardships. Her wisdom is immense and 30 years in public service is without doubt, selfless years of compassion to assist anyone in need.

I invite everyone to celebrate my Deputy District Director and Director of Constituent Services, Kelly's career with me. Her work ethics are the definition of what public service is. Thirty years ago, Kelly started her career working for 4 Valley members and she still enjoys what she does.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career of Kelly Gill. May we continue to be influenced by her work ethics and immense knowledge in helping people of the Central Valley. Kelly's character and passion is an inspiration for all.