

a decade and a half. In doing so, Sam has become an exemplar of civic engagement throughout the Central Coast and in Washington, DC.

Sam's path to becoming a leader in our community and throughout Indian country is as unique as they come.

After graduating from the University of Arizona and University of Minnesota Law School, Sam began his career in the world of international corporate and finance law. This work took him around the world, including a two-year stint in Tokyo, Japan. Sam briefly returned to the states to pursue his LLM degree in tax at NYU before once again venturing off the beaten path, this time to the U.S. Territory of Guam. While in Guam, Sam found his calling in more ways than one. First, he came to understand and appreciate the vital role that economic development plays in providing opportunity and equity to marginalized communities. His four years working to support companies investing in Guam struck a chord, as such Sam has gone on to spend the next 25 years working on behalf of many communities that have historically been passed over and overlooked in the economic opportunities afforded to many other Americans over the generations.

Sam also met his late wife, Trina, while in Guam. They were soon married, and together raised three children, Abraham, Keanu, and Rebekah, who are all now making their own way in the world.

Shortly after leaving Guam, Sam transitioned to serving as counsel to Tribal governments, working in the states of Washington and Louisiana before moving to the Golden State.

Sam's first role in California was to serve as General Counsel to the Tule River Tribe in Porterville. His efforts there, shortly after California voters authorized gaming for Native American tribes, were critical in setting the Tule River Tribe on a path to economic success.

In 2006 Sam moved to Santa Ynez in Santa Barbara County, to take a position as Legal Officer for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. His impact was felt immediately, and he has been a trusted advisor for tribal leaders and members ever since.

I first got to know Sam during my time serving as a Supervisor in Santa Barbara County. Like many Tribal nations in California, the Chumash tribe had very little land over which to assert its sovereignty, provide a sense of community for its members, and grow as a nation. Sam's personal interactions with Supervisors, staff and other stakeholders on fee to trust issues earned him a reputation as an honest broker which led to a number of successful and important Tribal initiatives.

My relationship with Sam and the Chumash Tribe deepened after I made the transition to Congress. Sam took time to educate my staff and I on the significance of the federal government's trust responsibilities to Tribes and imprinted on me the importance of Congress fulfilling its constitutional obligation to engage with Tribes on a government to government basis. Due in part to this education, I now am a proud member of the Native American Caucus.

Sam's prolific efforts on behalf of the Chumash Tribe have not only been an asset to me as a Representative, but also to the entire Central Coast region. Sam is tireless, and

his expertise seems to touch upon virtually every topic. He serves as a member of the Internal Revenue Service Advisory Committee and on a subcommittee of the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee, providing recommendations to the IRS on ways that it can better implement its laws and regulations to support Tribes, nonprofits, and all Americans. He is the President of the Santa Ynez Chamber of Commerce, President of the Econ Alliance for Northern Santa Barbara County, and serves on boards of the local community services district for wastewater and the regional transportation agency. He is currently guiding the Tribe's engagement with NOAA's consideration of a new Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and just this month Sam was named to an advisory committee of the Federal Communication Commission.

Most importantly, Sam is an absolute joy to be around. It is always a pleasure to run in to Sam and his partner, Trea, at community events throughout the district, and when they visit Trea's daughter, Bria, here in Washington, DC. On this momentous occasion, I want to wish Sam a happy birthday and recognize his exceptional work over the years and his many efforts to support the Santa Ynez Chumash Tribe and the citizens of California's 24th Congressional District.

#### HONORING GEOCONDA ARGÜELLO-KLINE AS SHE RETIRES

#### HON. STEVEN HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 18, 2022*

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Geoconda Argüello-Kline, as she retires from the Culinary Workers Union Local 226. Mrs. Argüello-Kline leaves a positive impact on the lives of thousands of workers in Nevada.

Mrs. Argüello-Kline's story begins in Managua, Nicaragua, where she was born and raised. In 1979, Mrs. Argüello-Kline was admitted to the United States as a political refugee. Since 1983, she calls Nevada her home. Picketing, negotiating, and asking for safe working conditions were some of the reasons Mrs. Argüello-Kline was relentless to give up the battle against the big corporations. As a guestroom attendant in 1989, Mrs. Argüello-Kline stood outside of the Fitzgerald's Hotel (now The D Hotel & Casino) picketing daily for 6 months. That was only the beginning of many more similar scenarios to help workers stand up for their rights and benefits.

In 1990, Mrs. Argüello-Kline joined the Culinary Workers Union Local 226. Mrs. Argüello-Kline went from being an organizer in the 1990s, then director of campaigns, trainer, and many other responsibilities, until becoming the union's Secretary-Treasurer. Over the years, Mrs. Argüello-Kline's call to action remained the same and the voices only grew. An 18,000-membership expanded to 60,000 members under her leadership. The casino industry, at that point, had to hear them out. The culinary workers were not alone. Bartenders and housekeepers also demanded dignity in the workplace, medical benefits, retirement security and more.

One of the many successes Mrs. Argüello-Kline led early on was the longest walkout in

the history of the U.S. labor movement: the Frontier strike in 1991, where the Culinary Workers' pension fund was in jeopardy. After more than six years of picketing, their pension fund was restored.

Mrs. Argüello-Kline has been a tremendous leader and a champion for workers in Nevada. We often saw her in the red t-shirt reminding folks of the power of each worker and the right to stand up for better working conditions. She retires after 32 years devoted to the Culinary Union and close to 40 years as a member. She is a hero in the labor community. I wish Geoconda Argüello-Kline a great retirement. We honor her arduous work and contributions to the Silver State.

#### RECOGNIZING THE VARINA HIGH SCHOOL BLUE DEVILS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

#### HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 18, 2022*

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the Varina Blue Devils football team for winning the Class 4 state championship title.

This title run was particularly exciting, as it resulted in Varina High School's first ever football state championship. Their victory was made even more special by the fact that the last time the Blue Devils made the championship finals in 1999, their Head Coach Marcus Lewis was on the team.

The Blue Devils' win was not earned just on the day of the game but was built on months of hard work. After a season of close victories that toughened their resolve and showed their fighting spirit, these young men closed out the championship game in style. When a last-minute interception sealed the win for Varina, the Blue Devils earned their place in our Commonwealth's history. I am certain that these young men and their championship achievement will be remembered in the Henrico community for years to come.

On behalf of Virginia's Fourth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Principal Darin Thompson, Coach Marcus Lewis, and the Varina High School Blue Devils football team for their inspiring championship season.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF POINT OF VIEW

#### HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 18, 2022*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize national talk radio program, Point of View, as they celebrate 50 years of media ministry committed to providing listeners with biblical clarity and truth.

Since launching in 1972, under talk radio pioneer, Marlin Maddoux, Point of View has offered listeners authentic insight on a full spectrum of subject matter and current events affecting our nation's families, constitutional freedoms, and faith. In recognition of his efforts, Maddoux received the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Award of Merit and was

later inducted into the NRB Hall of Fame. In 1994, Christian Today Magazine recognized the program as America's most popular live Christian call-in show.

Much of the longtime success of this program can be attributed to current host, Kerby Anderson, whose impressive background includes serving as the President of Probe Ministries and as the author of more than 25 books ranging from topics focused on media and technology, to economics and intelligent design. Cohost Penna Dexter shares the same devotion to God's truth as she provides listeners with weekly commentary focused on Christian conservative politics and prominent cultural issues affecting the family. Throughout it all, the Point of View team has remained steadfast in their commitment to sharing the truth of God to restore a Christian worldview and provide biblical wisdom in today's culture.

For 50 years, Point of View has brought needed attention to prominent issues while serving as a source of wisdom rooted in God's word. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Point of View team on this milestone anniversary and ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing their devoted service to truth and keeping God's word at the center of their message as they seek to enlighten the people of this Nation.

**HONORING TEXAS STATE SENATOR EDDIE LUCIO, JR.**

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 18, 2022*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., a man who has devoted his life to bringing dignity and prosperity to the people of the Rio Grande Valley.

Eduardo Andres "Eddie" Lucio, Jr. was born on January 20, 1946, in Brownsville, Texas. The second of ten children, Eddie grew up in the Bougainvillea neighborhood, where he learned the importance of hard work and a good education. He attended the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Education. Eddie served as an educator and coached football, basketball, and track and field in the Brownsville Independent School District before running for office in 1971.

At the age of 25, Eddie became the youngest person ever to be elected County Treasurer in the State of Texas. He also served as Cameron County Commissioner before his first election to the Texas House of Representatives, where he represented the people of Brownsville from 1986 to 1990. He then successfully ran to represent District 27 in the Texas Senate, a position he held continuously for 31 years until he announced his retirement in 2022.

Eddie leads by example and believes that looking out for your neighbors, especially those who have fallen on hard times or are economically disadvantaged, is the heart of public service. He has assisted families who have lost their homes to fire with food, clothing, and rent, and he donates hundreds of Thanksgiving turkeys every year. After witnessing the destruction of Hurricane Harvey,

he purchased a food truck, which he operates with the help of friends and family to feed residents in remote locations when they are affected by natural disasters or other events such as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. As a former educator, Eddie is a fierce advocate for students and teachers and is well-known throughout South Texas for his work to help young scholars, awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships from funds raised by his annual golf tournaments over the past 30 years.

In the State Senate, Eddie authored bills to increase public school funding, expand bilingual education, improve bus safety, ensure nutritious school lunches, and secure better pay for teachers. He also fought to improve access to higher education in the Rio Grande Valley. He was instrumental in the establishment of the University of Texas Regional Academic Health Center and helped fast-track the creation of the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley and its groundbreaking medical school, which are helping to train the next generation of doctors and medical professionals in a medically underserved area of the country. To honor his countless contributions to education in the community, Brownsville ISD named Lucio Middle School after him in 1997.

Eddie has changed the landscape of South Texas. As Vice Chair of the Finance Committee, he worked to secure millions of dollars in state funding for infrastructure, which contributed to the designation of the first interstate highways in the Rio Grande Valley and addressed water and wastewater needs for colonias. He also introduced legislation in support of bringing the World Birding Centers to the area and building an artificial reef off the coast of South Padre Island, boosting tourism and ecotourism in the area. Eddie was an early advocate for bringing SpaceX to the region, knowing it would eventually spur a boom of economic development.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, Eddie's wife, Minnie; his children, Eddie Lucio III and Lynda; and his grandchildren, Eddie 'Luc' Lucio IV and Olivia Rose, in thanking him for five decades of selfless dedication to his community.

**HONORING THE OUTSTANDING CAREER OF JANE BAIRD**

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 18, 2022*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the distinguished career of Jane Baird, of Haddam, Connecticut. As the Senior Director of External Affairs, Jane celebrated a major milestone on January 14th, 2022, when she officially reached 20 years of dedicated employment and leadership with Connecticut Children's Medical Center. By coordinating relationships between the CCMC and its partners, Jane has truly proved her devotion to the health and welfare of Connecticut's children, ensuring a bright and healthy future for countless youth throughout the state.

Before the outset of her career with Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Jane began with her studies at Grinnell College, graduating in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in biology. Upon graduating, Jane went on to

study at Indiana University, graduating with a master's in public administration in 1993. Equipped with this robust education, Jane initially moved to and worked in Vermont as the Managed Care Administrator of the Office of Vermont Health Access for over 4 years. Jane then moved to the Vermont Division of Health Care Administration to be the Director of Quality Assurance and Consumer Protection, keeping to her tireless life-mission of ensuring those around her receive proper medical care.

In 2002, the Second District of Connecticut was lucky when Jane and her family discovered the area for their new home. Upon moving to the small town of Haddam, Jane launched her impactful career with CCMC as the Director of Government Relations. In this role, Jane was responsible for the maintenance of legislative relationships on behalf of the medical center, acting as a conduit between the medical staff at CCMC and the world of public policy. Jane approached this role with great passion, leading advocacy efforts with a wide variety of partners to promote healthcare policies that advance the growth and health of families and their children. Throughout her tenure, Jane has been an extraordinary force in the realm of Medicaid, injury prevention, and national health reform. Without Jane's leadership, I am sure that CCMC would not have had such an influential impact on the well-being of children in Connecticut and across the country.

In recognition of her hard-earned successes, Jane was promoted in 2016 to her current title of Senior Director of External Relations. Under this expanded leadership position, Jane has been instilled with a deeper connection to the promotion of healthy families and communities, taking up even greater, more creative efforts of advocacy. In doing so, she has successfully and dutifully managed communications with the medical center's many affiliates, including Hartford Public Schools and local YMCAs.

Since 2004, Jane has also been an active member of the Board of Directors at Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance in Hartford. A medium of cooperation between CCMC, Hartford Hospital, and Trinity College, the Alliance continues to serve a devoted mission toward improving the lives of people in South Central Hartford. In 2011, Jane was appointed Chairwoman to the Alliance as a result of her commitment to and advancement of the organization's core mission.

Madam Speaker, Jane's advocacy for children—characterized by understanding, patience, and perseverance—is a practice that I am grateful to represent in Connecticut's Second District. Throughout her 20 years of advocacy with Connecticut Children's Medical Center, and the years of work before that in Vermont, Jane has displayed how providing care to others involves more than what we often think of. Even after 20-plus years in the field, Jane's devotion to the children is as tireless as ever, a mark of true devotion for helping others in the world. For her unparalleled altruistic nature, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Jane Baird, an unrelenting advocate and inspiring leader, setting her name, character and continued work further into stone.