

HONORING STEVE EDWARD MARCHESE FOR HIS 29 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 11, 2022*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and on behalf of the Members of the Committee, and its staff, to pay tribute to Steve Edward Marchese as he retires after 29 years of Federal service. Steve began his career with Senator Alan Dixon before eventually serving my former colleague Representative Sidney Yates as his Appropriations Associate. Steve left Congress moving over to the State Department before coming home to the Appropriations Committee, where he has spent the last 15 years.

During his service to the Committee, he spent four years as professional staff on the State and Foreign Operations (SFOPs) Subcommittee. He eventually became the SFOPs Clerk and remained in that role for 10 years. During this time, Steve provided vital counsel to Members, which led to responsible investments through the SFOPs bill that made the world better, safer, and healthier while improving the security of generations throughout the world. He also spent considerable time and effort in compiling an anthology of the SFOPs bill that is an invaluable resource to the SFOPs subcommittee members.

When I became Chair of the Appropriations Committee a year ago, Steve moved over from SFOPs to serve as the Legislative Branch Clerk. Steve undoubtedly thought this would be a break from world conflicts, but instead found himself at the subcommittee's helm, deeply involved in the aftermath of the January 6th attack. Madam Speaker, Steve did not disappoint and brought his trademark dedication to a suddenly critical position. Steve was instrumental in crafting the Emergency Security Supplemental to Respond to January 6th Appropriations Act. As the Legislative Branch Clerk, Steve's hard work and dedication was very much appreciated and a great service to Congress and democracy.

I speak for myself, and I am sure other Members and his colleagues, when I say we will miss Steve after he retires from Federal service this week.

I am excited for what the future holds for Steve and wish him, his wife Cathy, and daughters Audrey and Julia all the best. Congratulations on an outstanding career. His country thanks him for his hard work.

CONGRATULATING TODD GORMAN FOR WINNING THE NJCAA ESPORTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 11, 2022*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Todd Gorman on his national win playing Hearthstone at the NJCAA Esports competition.

Todd has been playing Hearthstone since 2015, and it is a game that involves strategy

and skill to succeed. Hearthstone is a fast-paced, strategy-based computer card game in which players amass a collection of unique cards to build four decks of 20. Before each one-on-one match, both players can protect one of their decks and ban one of their opponent's decks. And then they play a best-of-five series. In the championship, he earned a 3-0 sweep over the runner-up from Bryant & Stratton. This season, he has won 21 of 25 rounds played. I am pleased to see Todd representing the Knoxville community nationally. I congratulate Todd on his win at the national championship, and I look forward to seeing what he accomplishes in the future.

IT is because of leaders such as Todd Gorman that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Todd Gorman on his winning of the NJCAA Esports National Championship.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF VFW POST 857

**HON. JIM BANKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 11, 2022*

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 857 of Fort Wayne as they prepare to celebrate their 100-year anniversary.

Founded less than five years after the end of the First World War, VFW Post 857 has been a fellowship among American patriots in and around Fort Wayne all of whom served our country at some point in overseas conflict for now a century. With over 500 members including an Auxiliary, Post 857 remains a most honorable and beloved local institution.

This institution over the years and generations has been the fraternal home of patriots like Donald Kurtz, Edwin Davis, David Roth, Don Van Osdale, Edgar Grider, and so many others. I am inspired by these men and the mission of the organization to which they belonged—a mission which includes not only helping veterans recover from the wounds of war but, even more importantly, to ensure that the memory of those who have served is never forgotten.

From holding raffles to support the home repairs of veterans to throwing children's Halloween parties to hosting motorcycle rides alongside Northeast Indiana Honor Flights, and more, Hoosiers thank Fort Wayne's VFW Post 857 for their service and stewardship to the community over the years and generations.

This record is testament to VFW Post 857's longevity and achievement, for which Indiana, and northeast Indiana, is grateful. May God bless them, and may God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE TAOS NEWS 2021 TRADICIONES UNSUNG HEROES

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 11, 2022*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible lives

and work of the Taos News 2021 Tradiciones unsung heroes. It was my honor to join all of them on their big night of celebration. The stories they shared and the work they do for the community are more important than words can describe. I feel very fortunate to have attended such a special event surrounded by such selfless and inspiring people.

It was an honor to hear Benito Concha share his heartfelt story in person. I'm happy that he shared a gift with all the unsung heroes of the night. We all need to do more to uplift the good work and the heroes who deliver. All and all he's an incredible example of why it is so important to listen to the wisdom of our Native elders.

I thank Judy Weinrobe for bringing the wonderment and love of our state to a group like Los Jardines. I often hear how easy it is to fall in love with our state. She is an example of why. She adds beauty to our community through her work. We recognize the beauty of her labor. Keep planting the seeds.

Bette Myerson can't retire for the last time if she does what she loves. Especially if what she loves is a necessity, repairing the world. I think we were destined to meet because we do the same work. Best wishes to Bette and her family. I know she'll continue to do good.

Anita Bringas is a true asset as a strategic support manager. The way she can easily connect people, time, and tradition is the essence of New Mexico. We are all different and beautiful. It's understanding each other and caring that makes this place truly unique. The moment she shared with her mom was one I'll always remember.

As a founder of the women's shelter, HEART of Taos, the world needs more people like Kathryn Herman. Someone who is called to action to fill a void without the intention of becoming a hero but is one. She's saved countless women and children. There is nobody who has a bigger heart than Kathryn. She is the person who we all should aspire to be.

The beauty of Questa, New Mexico doesn't end with its scenery—it extends to its people and there is no better example than Malaquias Rael, Jr. He is an inspiration. The work he has done to diversify and promote sustainability serves as a model for the state and other communities. In small towns, it's important we remain a community and truly live as neighbors who look out for each other.

It's a rarity to see people as generous as Roels "Roy" Cunningham, especially when it comes to donating land for the community. Those actions promote the health, welfare, and economy of our community, echoing long after the deed is handed over. It's people like Roy who will ensure that Taos grows and prospers for decades to come.

Lisa Abeyta-Valerio is a treasure to her community but more importantly, to our youth. Her passion as a cheerleader coach constantly reminds us of this. Taos may be a small community, but there is no shortage of champions. With someone as caring as Lisa in the driver seat, we'll never get lost.

Pauline Mondragon's story as a fighter and cancer survivor inspires all. Having been there myself, I understand how strong she must be to do as much as she has. Pauline devotes her time and energy for everything that we value as Nuevo Mexicanos. When the pandemic passes, we will all be able to celebrate her and the great heroes of our community.

David Elliot, Citizen of the Year, is an outstanding citizen for the community of Taos. The progress and change he fostered during the pandemic are a beautiful example of the power of love for community. The world is a better place because of the work he's done. It was my honor to invite David to President Biden's State of the Union address to Congress, and I appreciate him inviting me to hear the stories of many of New Mexico's other unsung heroes. I look forward to seeing the incredible things he continues to do.

After listening and meeting with them, my heart is filled with inspiration and hope. It is their passion and the passion of so many more that bring peace, prosperity, and harmony to our beloved communities.

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**HONORING THE LIFE AND PATRIOTIC SERVICE OF MARION E. WRIGHT**

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**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 11, 2022*

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the life of Marion E. Wright. On January 5, 2022, Marion peacefully entered the gates of glory and is survived by his sister Ula Defenbaugh, his six children and their spouses, fifty-seven grandchildren, thirty-four great-grandchildren, and thirteen great-great-grandchildren.

Marion was born on June 26, 1921 to Noel and Lorena Wright in Parsons, Kansas. While stationed in Sioux City, Iowa with the United States Army he was joined in marriage to his wife Marcella (Durgan) Wright on August 8, 1943. From July of 1942 to December of 1945, Marion faithfully and patriotically served his nation which was in the midst of the Second World War. Not only did he serve as a Military Policeman but, he was also deployed to Europe in 1945 where he was a Gunner on a halftrack and a Tank Operator. Marion would fondly recall meeting Jimmy Stewart who was training to fly B-52s in Sioux City. On his return home from deployment in Europe, Marion crossed the Atlantic on the famous troopship, *The Queen Mary*.

At home after the war, Marion could be found working the field, restoring antique furniture, or joyfully attending to the needs of his beautiful wife and children. Marion had a career at Kustom Electronics where he worked in the shipping department. As a member of the American Legion, he remained close to many of his brothers in arms in the years after the war.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capital to recognize Marion E. Wright's patriotism and devotion to God, Family, and Country. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal condolences to the Wright family for the loss of such an extraordinary man of service and duty. May God rest the soul of this great American.

CONGRATULATING AUSTIN HUFF FOR WINNING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS STATE BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP

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**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 11, 2022*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Austin Huff on winning the Special Olympics State Bowling Championship.

In the state championship, Austin bowled 89, 71, and 75 to win the gold. I am pleased to see Austin representing the Rock Island community in the Special Olympics. I congratulate Austin on his win at the state championship, and I commend him for his good sportsmanship and exciting win at the state championship.

It is because of inspirational people such as Austin Huff that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Austin Huff on his win at the Special Olympics State Bowling Championship.

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**IN MEMORY OF REVEREND LAWRENCE IRVING SLATER SR.**

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**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 11, 2022*

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Reverend Lawrence Irving Slater, Sr.—a pillar of our Fort Worth community.

Reverend Slater was a graduate of Como High School in Fort Worth, Texas before serving as a brave member of the United States Army and then graduating from Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth. Reverend Slater was a man of faith who proudly served our community through his preaching tenure at Strangers Rest Baptist Church and as an Associate Pastor at Greater Rising Star Baptist Church.

My thoughts and prayers are with all those who knew and loved Reverend Slater, particularly his wife, Lessie Slater, and his five children, Diana Lynn Wright, Shirley Thomas, Kathy Slater, Lisa Holmes, and Lawrence Slater, Jr. May his memory last forever.

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**2021 ACADEMY NOMINATIONS**

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**HON. GREG PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 11, 2022*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the importance of service academy nominations in Indiana's Sixth District. Every year, my office has the honor of nominating students to the various service academies throughout the country. The Academies demand the best of the best. In November, we had 13 bright high school students throughout Indiana's Sixth District interview for service academy nominations. I'd like to thank my Service Academy Advisory Board for taking

the time out of their day to interview these students:

Tom Schneider, Merchant Marine Academy graduate of Madison, Indiana;

Kelly Poltrack, Naval Academy graduate of Batesville, Indiana;

Nate LaMar, West Point graduate of New Castle, Indiana; and

Bob Morrow, Air Force Academy graduate of Centerville, Indiana.

I wish our service academy nominees the best of luck with their future endeavors.

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**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN MADDEN**

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**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 11, 2022*

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of football's greatest icons, John Madden. First, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to Virginia, Joseph, Michael, and the entire Madden family on the loss of their beloved husband, father, and grandfather who left such an indelible mark on our Las Vegas Raiders and the American football landscape. John Madden once said, "If you think about it, I've never held a job in my life. I went from being an NFL player to a coach to a broadcaster. I haven't worked a day in my life." While he may not have felt he worked a day in his life, Mr. Madden certainly accomplished a lot and helped others do the same.

As a young man, he recognized the importance of an education and utilized his football prowess to pursue his dreams. His grit and determination on both the offense and defense at Cal Poly were recognized by pro scouts and he was drafted into the National Football League (NFL). Unfortunately, his professional playing time was cut short by injuries, but this was only the first step in a stellar career.

Initially hired as a defensive coach, after two years with the Raiders organization he was promoted to head coach at 32 years of age, making him the youngest NFL coach ever to lead a team. Over the next decade, his Raiders teams personified owner Al Davis's motto, "Just win, baby." Under Madden's inspired leadership, the Raiders won seven Western Division titles and made eight playoff appearances in 10 years. Mr. Madden's team defeated the Minnesota Vikings led by Fran Tarkenton, 32–14, in Super Bowl XI, when he cleared the Raider bench to be sure every active player saw game action. Afterwards, Madden was memorably carried off the field on his players' shoulders and commented, "I'll never take off the Super Bowl ring. It's something I will always cherish." Along with owner Davis, five of the Raider players would later be inducted into the Football Hall of Fame. Madden would join them in 2006. Today he still holds the highest winning percentage of any coach who has won 100 or more games.

Mr. Madden's players respected his vision, elevating their play and creating a style all their own. They raised the competitive level of the game and set the standard that many teams still try to emulate today. Their loyal fans, Raider Nation, also personify defiance, struggle, and the will to win. During his tenure he also made great strides in diversifying the