

ILIA ORTIZ BAEZA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ilia Ortiz Baeza for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ilia Ortiz Baeza is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ilia Ortiz Baeza is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ilia Ortiz Baeza for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL  
RAYMOND CHARLES SMITH, JR.

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rear Admiral Raymond Charles Smith, Jr. in celebration of his outstanding career in the U.S. Navy.

Rear Admiral Raymond Charles Smith, Jr. was born and raised in Vallejo, California, graduating from St. Vincent's High School in 1961. Admiral Smith began his career in the Navy in 1962. Shortly after enlisting, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy, which he graduated from in 1967. Later, in 1974, he earned a master's degree in Physical Oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Admiral Smith served as First Lieutenant on USS *Floyd B. Parks* for two years before participating in Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training. After graduating from his SEAL Training in 1970, Admiral Smith served in a variety of positions on Underwater Demolition Team Thirteen, including as Ordinance Officer, Operations Officer, and Platoon Commander.

In August 1990, he deployed to the Arabian Gulf in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, where he led Naval Special Warfare Task Group Central during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Then in June 1992, he assumed command of Naval Special Warfare Command at Coronado, California, where he was responsible for over 2,300 SEALs and support personnel. From 1996 to 1998, Admiral Smith moved to Tampa, Florida, and served as both Director of Resources and the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Special Operations Command. He retired from active duty in 2001 after 34 years of service.

During his retirement, Admiral Smith devoted himself to his three passions: family, fitness, and community service. Admiral Smith

was described as a great husband, father, and friend. He was married to his wife, Kathleen, for 54 years, with whom he had three sons: Raymond III, Nate, and Adam. Admiral Smith passed away peacefully at his home in Coronado, California, on February 6, 2022.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Rear Admiral Raymond Charles Smith, Jr. dedicated his life to military service and our country. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

WYATT WILSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Wyatt Wilson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Wyatt Wilson is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Wyatt Wilson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Wyatt Wilson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHEN YUN

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Shen Yun, and welcome it back to Lincoln Center for its 17th anniversary. Shen Yun is a classical Chinese dance and music company with the mission of preserving traditional Chinese culture. The name Shen Yun means "the beauty of divine beings dancing." Shen Yun preserves, memorializes, and revitalizes ancient Chinese stories and traditions, introducing this rich culture and art form to New Yorkers and many other people around the world.

In 2006, a group of Chinese artists, persecuted by the Chinese Communist Party for practicing Falun Dafa, founded Shen Yun to preserve their traditions and ancient history, which has been under threat since the Cultural Revolution. These artists chose to gather in New York, a testament to this city's status as a haven for the arts, culture, and freedom. Shen Yun creates a new performance each year dedicated to these principles.

Shen Yun's performances draw from historical Chinese stories and legends such as Mulan and Journey to the West. Its dances are accompanied by traditional Chinese instruments such as the pipa, suona, and dizi.

Three of Shen Yun's performers were recipients of the Chinese Ministry of Culture's "National First-Class Performer Awards".

Shen Yun currently has seven troupes that travel and perform all around the world. The troupes perform in over 130 cities in North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and Latin America. In their first three years of touring, over 1 million people attended Shen Yun performances.

I congratulate them for their unwavering devotion not only to putting on a fantastic show, but to preserving cultural treasures for future generations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Shen Yun for celebrating thousands of years of Chinese culture and history through traditional dance, orchestration, costumes, and more.

RECOGNIZING MADDIE ROONEY OF  
ANDOVER, MINNESOTA

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maddie Rooney of Andover, Minnesota, for her participation in the 2022 Winter Olympics. Maddie joined Team USA and played as goalkeeper on the women's ice hockey team.

Maddie comes to the Olympic team from the University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs women's ice hockey program. In 2018, she was awarded the Bob Allen Women's Player of the Year Award from USA Hockey.

Her training and hard work paid off: She helped bring home a silver medal for the United States. I congratulate Maddie on this great result at the 2022 Winter Games.

JANCY MENDOZA MANCIA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jancy Mendoza Mancia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jancy Mendoza Mancia is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jancy Mendoza Mancia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jancy Mendoza Mancia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RETIRED BIG BEAR LAKE MAYOR NEAL HERTZMANN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS PASSING

### HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the passing of Neal Hertzmann, a constituent of my district and former Mayor of my hometown of Big Bear Lake, California. Neal was an exceptional and dedicated public servant. He served Big Bear Lake as its mayor from 1994 to 1998 and served Southern California for over twenty years including as a member of the Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power Board, a Councilman for the City of Big Bear Lake, and as Big Bear Lake's representative on the League of California Cities, just to name a few of his roles. In each position, Neal never lost sight of the unique qualities that make each of us proud to call our community home.

In addition to his extensive public service, Neal was an innovative mechanical engineer by trade, and diligently worked on several of the Falcon missiles for Hughes Aircraft, which were among the very first operational guided air-to-air missiles adopted by the United States Air Force. His creative originality and expertise also proved vital in the development and success of the Surveyor program, which consisted of seven unmanned lunar missions launched between May 1966 and January 1968, five of which successfully soft-landed on the lunar surface. The legendary success of the Apollo 11 mission would not have been possible if not for the crucial developments pioneered by great men like Neal.

Throughout his life, Neal sought opportunities to directly engage with neighbors, to meet new people, and to lend a helping hand wherever he could. I am honored to have had the chance to know him and call him my friend, and I can say from firsthand experience how impactful his continuous dedication has been for our community. My prayers are with his family and the City of Big Bear Lake as we mourn the loss of this dedicated public servant.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT PETER BLUME, JR.

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today in recognition of the loss of a champion of his community—Fire Police Lieutenant Peter Blume, Jr., of Vernon, Connecticut. Pete, as he was known, tragically left this world, still active in his service as a first responder, on March 2, 2022, at the age of 53. A guardian to his fellow service members, Lieutenant Pete Blume has served with the Fire Police company for the last six years. He was known for his particularly infectious degree of optimism and was eating to all.

Born to Carolyn Bolk Blume and Peter Blume on December 24, 1968, in South Windsor, Pete was destined to live out his life as a source of energy within eastern Connecticut's communities. Upon graduating from South Windsor High, Pete went on to Eastern Connecticut State University where he achieved a degree in physical education in 1991. A true steward of the community, he devoted the next nearly 20 years of his life to teaching as an elementary school physical education teacher for Ashford and Union, Connecticut. He was deeply passionate toward the growth of our region's youngest generation, engaging with students as a youth program leader, the coach for the Ashford boys' basketball team and even by taking on the title of Chef Blume as a cook for Union's annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

Amidst his earlier days in teaching, Pete fostered a relationship with the love of his life, Wendy, who he married in 1996. It was through their relationship that Pete's love for raising children transformed him into quite the family man, with the birth of their two children Allison and Timothy. Together, the family moved to Vernon, Connecticut where the children became an inspiration to Pete, catalyzing an entirely new era of community involvement. It was throughout this new era that Pete grew in his already known love for youth sports, coaching and volunteering for his kids' teams in Vernon Little League, Vernon Soccer and Vernon Basketball.

Pete's involvement with the Town of Vernon did not stop with his coaching the next generation. As we all know, he took an interest in and joined the Vernon Fire Department as a fire police officer, becoming the man responsible for the safety of fellow first responders at the scene of an incident. Pete was the perfect man for the job—he was the kind of person who would give you the shut off his back if you needed it. As such, he was known for bringing an unmatched sense of diligence and care to the role, which he took incredibly seriously. For Pete, the safety of those who displayed similar care toward his own neighbors was paramount. He was most recently recognized for his diligence, becoming a 1st Lieutenant with the Vernon Fire Police company which he again served with for more than six years.

Madam Speaker, we ask firefighters and their families to do an enormously important job across our community, our state, and our nation. Standing by every day of the year at all hours, Pete, Vernon's "gentle giant," has given true example to the dedication that first responders arm themselves with while serving their respective communities. In Pete's case, he was also armed with a heart the size of Vernon. These brave men and women unquestionably deserve the very best we can offer as a small form of gratitude for their sacrifice. While we mourn the void left by Pete's loss, we find consolation in the memory he leaves behind. He is survived by his loving family, namely, his wife Wendy, who is also a teacher in Manchester, his two children Timothy and Allison Blume, his mother Carolyn Blume, his brother, David Blume, and his sister Kristin McCauley. While his family will undoubtedly carry the legwork in extending the reach of his memory, I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this effort, thanking Pete for a life of service and setting his name and character further into stone.

MEADOW MONDRAGON

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Meadow Mondragon for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Meadow Mondragon is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Meadow Mondragon is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Meadow Mondragon for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PASSING OF DOROTHY L.W. SMITH

### HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise on International Women's Day to honor the life of Ms. Dorothy L.W. Smith, a dedicated educator and San Diego community leader who passed at the age of 82 on February 16th. Ms. Smith was a native of Capleville, Tennessee. She attended the Historically Black College, Philander Smith College, and later received her Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California.

In 1969 Ms. Smith and her husband Carl moved to California where she began her career as a teacher. After moving to California, she taught at Long Beach City College, Grossmont Community College, and later San Diego City College, where she was a professor for 24 years. While teaching at San Diego City College she designed various courses, including one entitled "Black Women in Literature and the Media." This course has now been taught in the San Diego Community College District for more than 45 years. She also lectured at San Diego State University, where she taught courses in teacher education, rhetoric, and writing. She also lectured at San Diego State University where she taught courses in teacher education, rhetoric, and writing.

In 1981, she was elected to serve on the board of the San Diego Unified School District, becoming the first African American woman to be elected to the board. She served on the school board for eight years and twice was the President of the board. In March of 2019, she was recognized and elected to the San Diego Women's Hall of Fame in the Trailblazer category. Today, we celebrate her life and her commitment as an educator and mentor to future teachers.