

Firm. In 2015, he was appointed to Judge on the New Jersey Superior Court. Mike served as Judge in the Criminal and Family Courts until 2020, before deciding to return to practicing law. In addition to these career accomplishments, he was also Chairman of the Cape May County Regular Republican Organization and won Irishman of the year. I am very proud of Mike for his extensive career as a lawyer, judge, and chairman in the South Jersey community. God Bless Mike, and God Bless America.

HONORING MARYLOU HERNANDEZ ARMER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, to honor Marylou Hernandez Armer in recognition of her service to the Santa Rosa Police Department.

Born in 1977, Mrs. Armer grew up in National City, California, and attended Morse High School. Her aspirations to be a police officer began early when she enlisted in the National City Police Department's Explorer Post 2859.

Mrs. Armer dedicated her career to protecting her community. Mrs. Armer served with the Santa Rosa Police Department for over 20 years. She joined the Santa Rosa Police Department as a field evidence technician in 1999. Nine years of civilian service later, she was sworn in as an officer. Mrs. Armer became a detective in 2016 and was an investigator in the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Unit. She was a person of deep empathy and compassion and always showed kindness to survivors for whom she pursued justice.

On March 31, 2020, our community and our Nation lost an outstanding citizen when Mrs. Armer passed. She was the first peace officer in the state of California taken by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. Armer leaves behind her husband, Mark Armer, and their daughter. Our community and state continue to mourn her loss.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Mrs. Armer dedicated her life to the people of Sonoma County through her service to the Santa Rosa Police Department and the victims of domestic and sexual violence. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, on April 1, 2022, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 103; Nay on Roll Call No. 104; Nay on Roll Call No. 105; Yea on Roll Call No. 106; and Nay on Roll Call No. 107.

REMEMBERING JERRY THORNE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, today I along with Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY and Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, ask our colleagues to join us to remember Jerry Thorne, who passed away on March 27, 2022.

Mr. Jerry Thorne spent his career serving the Pleasanton community, first as a councilman for more than seven years and then as the mayor for eight years. Throughout his tenure, Jerry oversaw Pleasanton's city park improvements, Highway 84 widening and safety projects between Livermore and Sunol, and strengthened the relationship among the five Tri-Valley municipalities to achieve regional goals.

Jerry was raised in Tennessee and earned a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Tennessee at Memphis, before serving in the U.S. Army. He then had an esteemed professional career, including nearly 30 years with Hewlett-Packard and its affiliated company Agilent Technologies.

Moving to Pleasanton in his 20s, Jerry first got involved in politics as a volunteer with the Pleasanton Seahawks advocating for swimming facilities. He then served on the Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commission.

Jerry was a devoted public servant who improved the quality of life and city services in Pleasanton. He not only served in leadership for the city of Pleasanton, but also represented the Tri-Valley statewide and nationally through the League of California Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Our deepest condolences go out to his wife, Kalee Thorne, daughter Keri Thorne Gough and two grandchildren. He will be missed by the entire Pleasanton community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AGAMYRAT AGAMBAYEV

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Dr. Agamyrat Agambayev. This man, still in the prime of his life, was ruthlessly murdered in broad daylight in Tempe, Arizona. The killer took the life of a husband, a father, and an incredible immigrant to this country who was all set to start his new career working at Intel.

This young man was loved by many and led an impressive life that will not go unnoticed.

Dr. Agamyrat Agambayev was an impressive scholar receiving his second Ph.D. at Arizona State University. He had also recently accepted an engineering job at Intel that he worked so diligently to get. But most importantly, Dr. Agamyrat Agambayev was a friend to many, an extraordinary husband and a dedicated father to his two year old son. Dr. Agamyrat's wife, Sumeyra Agambayev states, "He had a real bright future . . . he was dedicated, smart, and studied tirelessly for years at universities to start giving back to the community here and abroad in Turkmenistan."

I condemn the crime here, and the loss to humanity. I am appalled at the growing crime and homeless problems in Tempe and Phoenix. Our people need to be assured they can live and work in a community without fear of a murderous car jacker lurking to take one's life and property.

I mourn for his young family. His son will be left with little memory of his father. But I hope one day his son will read these words, and the words of others, and know that his father was a bright star in the sky and made the world a better place. He lived and died with honor.

My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones and shall Dr. Agamyrat Agambayev never be forgotten.

HONORING BETTY LABASTIDA AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Betty Labastida, whom I have named the 2022 Woman of the Year in Napa County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Labastida was born in El Centro, California, to Rosa and Leopoldo Labastida. She graduated from California State University, Los Angeles in 1968 with a degree in nursing. Ms. Labastida began her professional career in hospital nursing, and then worked in public health nursing. After earning her master's degree in health service and family nurse practitioner from the University of California, Davis in 1973, she worked for county medical services and community clinics for 43 years. During her nursing career, she also spent 20 years working with the Department of State Foreign Service.

After retiring from nursing in 2014, Ms. Labastida became dedicated to community service. She is best known for her work as a volunteer at COVID vaccination sites in Napa County, where she utilizes her family nurse practitioner experience and her bilingual speaking skills to help people register for vaccinations and infection screenings. Ms. Labastida has volunteered at approximately 55 vaccination clinics, primarily through Ole Health.

Ms. Labastida has been a devoted volunteer with the non-profit Napa Valley CanDo, which creates and collects donations for food banks. She has volunteered in CanDo's community garden for four years and has served as a Food Project Neighborhood Coordinator for five years.

Ms. Labastida is known throughout her community for her humble demeanor, dedication to others, cheery disposition, and bright smile. When she is not serving her community, she is having adventures abroad. She is also a devoted mother and grandmother to her daughter, Alisa, and her grandson, Sebastian.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Betty Labastida has dedicated her life to the people of Napa County through her community service and nursing career. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

GERALD THORNTON

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to honor Gerald Thornton, also known as Gerry, who started his career in 1974 as a District Committeeman in Lower Township, Cape May County. He was then appointed to Cape May County Freeholder in 1976. Later on, Gerry became the Chairman of the Board of Elections for six years and eventually was appointed as the Director of the Board. He was placed in the New Jersey Association of Counties Hall of Fame and was recognized as Freeholder of the Year for all 21 counties in New Jersey. Over the years, Gerry has directly participated in developing many South Jersey projects including building the Cape May County Special Services School, building the Gerald M. Thornton Veterans Cemetery, and helped to bring a Veterans Clinic to Cape May County. After 44 years serving Cape May County, he has decided to retire. Gerry should be very proud of his lifelong service in South Jersey, and it was my honor to have had the opportunity to recognize him for all his accomplishments. God Bless Gerry, and God Bless America.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PERMIT COMMERCIAL FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY ON THE GROUNDS OF THE U.S. CAPITOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would permit commercial filming and photography on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol Complex, beyond east of Union Square, the only area where such filming and photography is currently authorized. This bill would allow commercial filming and photography outside of the Capitol and congressional office buildings by permit, so long as neither the House nor Senate is in session. In many countries, freedom of expression is limited, and while the January 6th insurrection was one of the greatest threats to American democracy in history, the Capitol and the United States remain beacons of democracy for the world. We should encourage commercial filming and photography at the Capitol to share this symbol of democracy with the world. Movies and television shows that involve the Capitol should not have to go to other cities or use fake capitol buildings for filming.

The current policy allowing commercial filming and photography near the U.S. Botanic Garden shows that the Capitol Police can handle commercial filming and photography at the Capitol Complex, especially when Congress is not in session. However, that vantage point captures the least familiar view of the Capitol. Preventing commercial filmmakers and photographers from shooting in front of the Capitol is neither business-friendly nor true to the nation's democratic traditions. Encouraging commercial filming and photography at the Capitol would help spread the story of our national legislature around the world.

There is no good reason why commercial filming and photography should be confined to Union Square. Specifically, my bill would give the Capitol Police complete discretion to issue a permit for commercial filming and photography at the Capitol Complex under the same terms and conditions as those for commercial filming and photography in Union Square. No policy or security reasons exist to justify limiting commercial filming and photography at the Capitol Complex to only one location, Union Square, especially considering that permits are necessary. Visitors are regularly seen on East Capitol Street (east of 2nd Street) taking pictures, where they get a full view of the Capitol, demonstrating the arbitrary nature of limiting commercial filming and photography to Union Square.

This bill would provide the Capitol Police authority to charge fees to cover any costs incurred by the Architect of the Capitol from permit approval. The fees would be deposited into the Capitol Trust Account, which was established to accept fees collected for commercial filming and photography permits for Union Square. Amounts in the Capitol Trust Account would be available without fiscal year limitation for maintenance, improvements and projects the Architect of the Capitol considers appropriate, subject to the approval of the Appropriations Committees.

Views of the Capitol are among America's most iconic. Limiting commercial filming and photography of the Capitol, an important vehicle for telling the nation's story, does not serve the American people. Indeed, most of the world reveres our system of government largely through commercial films and photos of the Capitol, a symbol of our democracy at work. Commercial films and photographs of the Capitol, the seat of our democracy, are perhaps the best modern vehicles for telling the nation's story and showcasing its democratic system of government. Republicans and Democrats alike revere the image of the Capitol as a symbol of democracy. My bill would enable appropriate, permitted commercial filming and photography of the Capitol, and would create economic benefits for the nation, the District of Columbia and private businesses.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING BONNIE SUE GRAHAM**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, to honor Bonnie Sue Graham for her outstanding career at the U.S. Veterans Affairs Department, helping our veterans secure the proper care they need and deserve.

Mrs. Graham was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and grew up in the nearby suburb of Winthrop, where she attended public school. She then graduated from Tufts University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy. Following her graduation, Mrs. Graham spent years in the private sector, working at medical centers in Connecticut and New Mexico. Eventually, she became the vice president of the Lovelace Health System, the largest healthcare provider in New Mexico.

After her service at Lovelace Health System, Mrs. Graham became a senior administrator at Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Albuquerque. In 2007, Mrs. Graham became Associate Director of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Later, in 2013, Mrs. Graham became the director of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in San Francisco, where she cultivated a culture of support, openness, and a commitment to excellence.

As Director, Mrs. Graham has served on numerous national Veterans Affairs committees and mentored several Veterans Affairs executives and administrators. In 2000, she began a trailblazing program to educate Veterans Affairs workers on how to address matters of diversity and equity, an effort that has achieved widespread recognition today.

As Mrs. Graham prepares to retire from her excellent service at the end of this month, she looks forward to spending more time with her husband, Glenn, and their son, Garrett.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Bonnie Sue Graham has spent her life serving and supporting our brave service members. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

ROBERT RALPH MACMURRAY**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, SPC Robert Ralph MacMurray was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Ralph and Catherine MacMurray in 1946. As a child he belonged to the Boy Scouts of America and supports the organization today.

In 1966, at the age of nineteen he signed up for the United States Army. He served in the Third Armor Infantry Division stationed in Freiburg, Germany, as a cook for four years and completed two years in the United States Army Reserves.

In recognition of his service to our country, SPC MacMurray earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Camden County Veterans Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal. In 1972, Mr. MacMurray completed his time in the United States Army Reserves after six total years of courageous service.

Upon returning home from his military service, SPC Robert MacMurray married Ms. Janet Wilson on June 5, 1972. They had two sons Robert and Jonathan and two daughters-in-law Beth and Megan. They have five grandchildren Ryan, Aidan, Connor, Brenna, and Aubrey. They have been happily married for 50 years.

Back in his hometown, SPC MacMurray worked for Bond Bread Company for over nine years. SPC MacMurray continued his service to our nation through his work at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and with the Navy Public Works Center Norfolk Detachment Philadelphia, with over thirty-three years of federal service.

In his retirement, SPC MacMurray is a member of the American Legion and a part of the American Legion Post 17's "Thank a Vet" program, providing any veteran an opportunity to have a cup of coffee and a donut with other veterans.