

## HONORING VICTORIA BRANDON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Victoria Brandon, whom I have named the 5th Congressional District's 2022 Climate Crisis Champion from Lake County for her inspiring leadership in combatting the climate crisis currently gripping our communities.

Victoria Brandon was born in New York City and attended Brandeis University. She has been a California resident since 1976, and she has resided in Lake County since 1981.

Ms. Brandon has been an active community member, beginning her service in 2004 as Secretary of the Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch, where she served until 2020. The next year, she increased her involvement by joining the Sierra Club Lake Group, followed by the Tuleyome Board of Directors and then the Sierra Club Redwood Chapter, which she still serves to this day. From 2009 to 2015, Ms. Brandon represented the Sierra Club on the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee, which she chaired in 2013. Additionally, she chaired the Sierra Club Agriculture and Food Task Force from 2014 to 2015. Ms. Brandon was also a member of the Sierra Club national political team from 2013 to 2021, serving as the chair from 2016 to 2021.

Ms. Brandon has worked on many essential environmental projects, such as the designation of Cache Creek as Wild and Scenic River in 2005, the adoption of California Strategic Framework on invasive species in 2010, the development of Sierra Club policy on Agriculture and Food in 2015, and the designation of Berryessa Snow Mountain National monument in 2015. Ms. Brandon founded the Sierra Club Grassroots Network Team on Food and Agriculture in 2016 and organized the data on Clear Lake Hitch spawning migrations from 2004 until 2020. When Ms. Brandon is not fighting for climate justice, she enjoys reading, gardening, and other outdoor activities.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Victoria Brandon has dedicated her life to combating the climate crisis in our communities. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

## DON CHILDEARS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Childears of the Colorado Bankers Association on his retirement.

For more than forty years, Don has served the Colorado banking community in his role as Chief Executive Officer of the Colorado Bankers Association. He got his start in public policy on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. and managed several successful congressional campaigns before joining CBA in 1975. During his time at CBA, Don navigated the adoption of branch banking in Colorado and was instrumental in creating the Executive Development Institute at the Graduate School of Banking at

Colorado. He also worked with Congress on legislation such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the Dodd-Frank Act, and federal legislation to protect banks and other businesses from liability surrounding Y2K issues. Don has been a national leader in helping banks navigate the conflict between state and federal cannabis laws, and he has been a strong supporter of the SAFE Banking Act.

In addition, Don has served on several boards and committees including BancInsure Board of Directors and Reinsurance Committee; Graduate School of Banking at University of Colorado; Trustee and Treasurer, Graduate School of Banking (University of Wisconsin-Madison); and Board Member of the American Bankers Association along with participation on several subcommittees and task forces. Don has a passion for education, and he teaches and lectures to many banking and law schools including the University of Denver, University of Colorado, and George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School. His vast presence and ongoing contribution to the banking community here and across the country earned him the Denver Business Journal's Pinnacle Award for The Most Admired CEO in November 2020. Don has also been recognized with industry awards including the Scarboro Award from CU's Graduate School of Banking.

In addition to Don's work professionally, he has served his community in other capacities. He has served on the Common Sense Institute board, Vice-Chair of Let Colorado Vote, and Chair of the Colorado Competitive Council, to name a few. He remains active on many other campaigns and initiatives, task forces, nominating committees, advisory boards, and charitable and political committees.

I have had the privilege of working with Don on many different occasions and always appreciate his advice and insight on many issues. His hard work and dedication to the banking industry is tremendous. I wish Don all the best in retirement and send gratitude for his service to our community, the State of Colorado, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
AGAMYRAT AGAMBAYEZ**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Dr. Agamyrat Agambayez. 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 Agambayez 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 Agambayez was a friend to many, an extraordinary husband and a dedicated father to his two year old son. Dr. Agamyrat's wife, Sumeyra Agambayez states, "He had a real bright future . . . he was dedi-

cated, 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 Agambayez never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING EMILY BEAR  
OF ROCKFORD FOR WINNING A  
GRAMMY AWARD**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Emily Bear on her Grammy Award for "Best Musical Theater Album."

A graduate of Guilford High School, 20-year-old Emily Bear is a native of Rockford, Illinois. Since graduating in 2017, she has released numerous albums, scored major films with Warner Brothers and has performed at internationally renowned settings, such as the Lincoln Center, the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall. This year, Emily won her first Grammy Award with Abigail Barlow for Best Musical Theater Album for "The Unofficial Bridgerton Musical." Last year, Emily and Abigail began the project inspired by the popular Netflix series by going through the show's plot as if it were a musical. With her hard work, Emily has turned a viral social media sensation into a Grammy Award.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Emily Bear on her first Grammy Award and wish her much success in her life and career.

## RECOGNIZING ANNIE BURNS-HICKS

**HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's true pioneers, Annie Burns-Hicks, the School City of Hammond's first African American teacher. Earlier this year, the Hammond School Board voted unanimously to rename Maywood Elementary School, which she attended in her youth and at which she taught for the majority of her career, to Annie Burns-Hicks Elementary School. The School City of Hammond will be honoring Ms. Burns-Hicks at a special event taking place on April 28, 2022.

The eldest of thirteen children, Annie's family relocated from Mississippi to Hammond, Indiana, in 1944. Her parents, Albert and Mary Burns, sought a better life for their children

after her father witnessed the brutal lynching of two young black boys. Annie recalls her father telling her and her siblings of his expectation that they strive to make the world a better place, a lesson that has remained with her throughout her lifetime. It was this desire to make a positive change in her community that likely led to her graduation from Ball State Teachers College in hopes of returning to teach in Hammond.

Unfortunately, Annie's desire to improve her community by educating the city's children would not come without opposition. Despite being five years after the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* ruling of the Supreme Court to end segregation in schools, Ms. Burns-Hicks's application for a teaching position was rejected without consideration, as she was told the city was "not ready for a colored teacher." Undeterred, and remembering her father's inspirational words encouraging her to be a force of change, Annie pressed on through the courts and won, thus allowing her to become the first African American teacher in the city of Hammond in 1960 and paving the way for the many future teachers who would follow in her footsteps. During her tenure, Ms. Burns-Hicks co-authored the first full-day kindergarten program in the city, a contribution that truly enhanced the educational opportunities for the community's young children.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Annie Burns-Hicks. Ms. Burns-Hicks broke barriers as Hammond's first African American teacher, and in doing so, has been a true inspiration and a source of tremendous pride to her community. Throughout her more than forty years of teaching, she touched countless lives. It is fitting that the school now bears her name for the generations to come.

#### IN HONOR OF LOUIS BURKOT

### HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Louis Burkot as he celebrates 40 years as the founding artistic director of Opera North in Lebanon, NH.

Among his accomplishments, Louis has conducted the Dartmouth College Glee Club and more than 700 Opera North Resident Artists from around the world. His expertise in vocal and choral music has contributed significantly to the Upper Valley community and beyond. Louis' knowledge of vocal and operatic music has been invaluable for many young singers, many of whom have gone on to major careers around the world.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Louis for his many years of service, and for being a part of what makes the Granite State so great. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Louis on 40 years of incredible work, and I wish him many more.

#### VIRGINIA THEATRE, CHAMPAIGN, IL 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

### HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Virginia Theatre in Champaign, Illinois, which celebrated 100 years of business on December 28, 2021.

In 1921, Charles "C.C." Pyle made the decision to build a major entertainment venue in downtown Champaign, an area that had been known as a cultural hotspot. He initially had a vision of a 12-story hotel with a large theatre space, but that quickly changed. The final building resulted in a stand-alone, multipurpose performing arts center.

In January of 2000, the Champaign Park District made countless efforts to prevent this landmark from demolition. Once they assumed control of the theatre, it went on to grow into a \$10 million restoration project to bring the theatre back to life.

Through the years, the Virginia Theatre has been the "place to be" for friends, families, and colleagues in the community. The Theatre hosts local productions, concerts, movies, live theatrical plays, stand-up comedy events, and many more.

Congratulations to the Virginia Theatre on their 100th anniversary, and I wish them all the best in the years to come.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRIVATE OLIVER CROMWELL

### HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Private Oliver Cromwell, one of the most decorated Black soldiers who served in the American Revolutionary War.

Private Cromwell was born in 1753 in Mansfield Township, New Jersey, and in 1776 he enlisted in the 2nd New Jersey Regiment. He crossed the Delaware River with General George Washington and went on to fight for American independence in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Monmouth, Short Hills, and Yorktown. At the conclusion of the war, Cromwell received the Badge of Merit for six years of faithful service to the Army and was honorably discharged by General Washington in 1783.

Following his service, Cromwell fathered 15 children in Burlington Country and loved to share stories of his time as a "Drummer in the Revolution" with his family and the community. Cromwell passed away at 101 years old in 1853, and he is buried in Burlington at the Broad Street Methodist Church cemetery. Oliver Cromwell risked everything fighting for freedom in a country that did not recognize his own right to freedom. For these sacrifices, Oliver Cromwell should be eternally remembered for his contributions toward America's independence. Burlington County is grateful for Private Cromwell's dedication, sacrifice, patriotism, and honorable personal conduct.

Nine generations of his descendants have resided in Burlington County, some of whom still reside in the 3rd District today and continue to honor their familial legacy through community engagement, service, and historic preservation. I am grateful for Private Cromwell's descendants' continued contributions to our community and am proud to be honoring the life and legacy of their ancestor on this day.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARVIN YELLOWHAIR

### HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Marvin Yellowhair, a beloved Navajo community leader who passed away in March.

Throughout Marvin's life, he made immense contributions to numerous fields, and is remembered as a devoted son, brother, father, husband, uncle, nephew, grandfather, coach, author, musician, actor, storyteller, runner, carpenter, politician, Council Delegate, and School Board Member.

After graduating from Rough Rock High School and attending Mesa Community College, Dine College, Northern Arizona University, and the University of New Mexico, he dedicated his life to the advancement of Navajo language, culture, and history developing bilingual and bicultural curriculum materials and publishing several books of his own.

He continued his efforts developing Navajo language materials and books throughout his career, translating for notable artists, authors, and craftsmen. Among many accomplishments, he was the voice actor for Darth Vader from the Navajo version of the movie *Star Wars*, and worked with Oxford University out of New York to develop an English and Navajo picture dictionary and Rosetta Stone audio recordings to support the teaching and learning of the Navajo language.

Throughout 30 years at Rough Rock Community School, as both a teacher of Navajo language, and a beloved basketball, football, and baseball coach, Marvin was well-known by colleagues and students for his passion for Navajo culture and history, and his gift for storytelling and leadership.

A devoted advocate for Navajo self-determination in education and strong supporter of Navajo Nation veterans, his legacy in the Rough Rock and Black Mesa communities will live on for generations to come.

The Navajo Nation and the state of Arizona have lost a great leader. My wife and I are keeping his many loved ones, friends, students, and colleagues in our hearts as they mourn his passing.

#### WHAT CAN JWB DO FOR CD 13?

### HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.