

my office's Academy Nominations Panel, where he helped evaluate and advise local academy candidates that were interested in serving their country as he had. His perspective was unique and highly valued; I will sincerely miss his wit, empathy, and candor.

Mr. Hester leaves behind a large legacy of service, compassion, and dedication that all Americans can admire.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTING HEALTHIER LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE ACT OF 2022

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Promoting Healthier Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise Act of 2022, or the LIFE Act, which would authorize a national initiative to combat a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Increasing rates of overweight and obesity are found among Americans of every age, race and major demographic group, and threaten the health of Americans like no other condition or disease. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is not only to reduce overweight and obesity, but also to encourage exercise of all kinds.

This bill would provide \$25 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a coordinated national effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar. Specifically, this bill would require the CDC to establish the first national strategy to combat the overweight and obesity epidemic. The CDC, either directly or through grants to states and local organizations, would train health professionals to recognize the signs of overweight and obesity early in order to educate Americans about proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct public education campaigns about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies for use in everyday life, such as in the workplace and community settings.

The National Survey of Children's Health found that 16.2 percent of children ages 10 to 17 had obesity in 2019–2020. The CDC National Center for Health Statistics reports that Type 2 Diabetes, once considered an adult disease, is now widespread among children. The rising cost of the health care system, including insurance premiums, reflects this epidemic. Today, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight and obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S. and 75 percent of U.S. medical care costs, according to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. A focused national health initiative would provide guidance to state and local governments to engage in similar programs.

A national focus could lead to changes, such as greater participation in high school physical education classes, which dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 23 percent in 2020, according to the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Changes in nutrition are equally

critical because more than half of all young people consume too much fat, a factor in the increase of overweight youth. Data also show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity.

To cite an example of the need for action, the District of Columbia is one of the fittest cities in the U.S., according to a 2019 study by the American College of Sports Medicine, yet, even here, obesity continues to be a severe problem. Approximately one-fifth of District residents are considered obese. Most of the obesity epidemic is exercise- and food-related.

I urge support for this important bill to mobilize the country before entirely preventable health conditions, which often begin in childhood, overwhelm the Nation's health care system.

#### PEYTON DUPLESSIS

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Peyton Duplessis for his creative and unique photograph, earning him the top photography award in the 2022 Congressional Art Competition.

As a participant in the art show and student at Wheat Ridge High School, Peyton created a work of art entitled, "Beyond the Glass". The artwork uses digital photography and is meant to show the reflection of an eye through a glass.

Peyton spent countless hours and used numerous tools to learn new techniques and refine his photography skills and education in the arts. I appreciate his participation in the competition and the support provided by his teachers at Wheat Ridge High School.

Congratulations to Peyton Duplessis for his hard work and participation in the 2022 Congressional Art Competition. I am certain he will exhibit the same dedication and character in his future accomplishments, and I wish him the best of luck going forward.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON REEVE

#### HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2022*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of George Washington Reeve. George was a great man who worked hard for everything he earned in life. He grew up poor with a single mom. His first job was sweeping shop fronts. He had to work at a gas station to pay for college. He was a landscaper.

Living the American dream is an overused phrase. But I cannot help but use that phrase with George. George moved up from landscaper to Vice President at the Del Webb Corporation in a period of only six years.

And it was in the completion of the little things—small tasks that are often overlooked that led to George's professional break. The owner of the company, Mr. Webb, made an off-hand comment on a possible improvement for the property. By the next day, George had

implemented the suggestion. He was not even asked. He just did it. We should all learn a lesson from George that the competent fulfillment of our daily duties can lead to human success, but more importantly—and as a man of faith also, I know George is nodding his head in heaven—God sees and appreciates all our small efforts no matter how things turn out.

George went on to found a very successful real estate company, George W. Reeve Enterprises. The diligence, care, and competence George placed in his professional work overflowed into his personal life. George mentored a whole host of people seeking real estate experience. What they got was way more than just professional knowledge. They were exposed to the kindness and thoughtfulness of a man who cared more about their personal happiness than anything else.

George started the George W. Reeve Foundation for the purpose of teaching children to share his love of nature. George was very close to his children, Renee and Derek, as well as his grandson Hadden and granddaughter Tatum.

George built a chapel on his lonely, beautiful ranch in Cornville, AZ, where he spent so much time. Through all the business of his life, George never forgot to honor God, who he appreciated and saw in nature. To Renee, Derek, Hadden, and Tatum, I know your father and grandfather is watching over you. I hope his children and grandchildren especially remember him when life gets tough and those little duties become so hard. I hope they take a moment and step outside when it especially hurts, and remember their dad and grandfather in the nature he loved so much. God Bless them all.

#### RECOGNIZING GUAM'S STARGAZERS DANCE TROUPE AS THEY CELEBRATE 30 YEARS IN THE DANCE INDUSTRY

#### HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2022*

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Guam's Stargazers Dance Troupe for their extraordinary talents, awarded performances, and continued commitment as ambassadors of our island community. I would like to further congratulate Mr. Mark Gonzales for thirty years of leadership in fostering the talents, skills, and passions of rising Guam dancers through his company.

As a young freshman in high school, Mark's passion for dance fueled his desire to invest in himself and others. When the original founder of Stargazers was faced with the choice to permanently close its doors, Mark committed to re-establishing the dance group and promoting its growth in 1992. With humble beginnings traced back to rehearsals in Mark's garage and on Guam's beaches, the company has dramatically emerged as a vital force in our dance and larger island communities. In addition to hosting countless company productions and workshops for the public to enjoy, our people have had the opportunity to witness a wide range of performances from the group at local festivals and other events held in places like the Guam Premier Outlets, Micronesia Mall, and Agana Shopping Center.

Moreover, the Stargazers Dance Troupe has successfully collaborated with other organizations. This notably includes work with the Guam Allied Dance Force in producing a 2020 virtual Christmas dance festival to celebrate the season of giving, benefit the Salvation Army Guam, and uplift the spirits of the People of Guam amid the challenges and uncertainties imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the years, Stargazers have used their gifts and talents to elevate our island's presence abroad. From performing on national television in the Philippines, to earning numerous national championships in the U.S. and Canada, and taking the stage at California Disneyland and Disney World, Florida, they have proudly represented Guam, garnered many national and international awards, and showcased to the rest of the world the greatness to be discovered in our small region of the Pacific. Their recent accomplishments in the 2019 Luv 2 Dance Competition have distinctly lengthened an already extensive list of accolades. After facing off against a wealth of other experienced competitors, Guam's Stargazers rose to the top as Large Group National Champions while simultaneously obtaining the Top National Sapphire Studio Award, Best Choreography Award, and the first-ever Legacy Award—an award created to recognize an outstanding dance group that made an impact, demonstrated showmanship and studio spirit, and developed meaningful connections with other dancers throughout the week of competition.

On behalf of the People of Guam, I would like to extend a proud congratulations to our Stargazers for their success in earning national and international recognition across competition and entertainment platforms. Dancing is a form of art and expression that truly provides the opportunity to connect with, empower, and inspire others, and I applaud the Stargazers Dance Troupe for continuously accomplishing these objectives. I further commend Mr. Mark Gonzales for his dedication to encouraging generations of Guam's youth with the space to learn the value of hard work, cultivate their passions, and pursue their dreams. It is truly an honor to watch the Stargazers Dance Troupe story unfold, and I look forward to seeing the next chapter of their journey as they set out to represent our island once again in Atlantic City's That's Entertainment Performing Arts Competition in July.

BROOKLYN HECTOR

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brooklyn Hector for her creative and unique drawing, earning her the top drawing award in the 2022 Congressional Art Competition.

As a participant in the art show and student at Ralston Valley High School, Brooklyn created a work of art entitled, "Twilight in Golden Canyon". It was created using watercolors and depicts the sunset reflected on a pond with glass in the foreground.

Brooklyn spent countless hours and used numerous tools to learn new techniques and refine her painting skills and education in the

arts. I appreciate her participation in the competition and the support provided by her teachers at Ralston Valley High School.

Congratulations to Brooklyn Hector for her hard work and participation in the 2022 Congressional Art Competition. I am certain she will exhibit the same dedication and character in her future accomplishments, and I wish her the best of luck going forward.

COLONEL JEFFERY B. EDWARDS

**HON. CLIFF BENTZ**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2022*

Mr. BENTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Colonel Jeffrey B. Edwards, United States Air Force, for his exceptional dedication and distinguished service to the United States of America. Colonel Edwards will retire on May 15, 2022, from his current assignment as the Commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. We thank him for his commitment to our country over the past 27 years.

Colonel Edwards graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1995. His first mission took him to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska, then to Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, and then Osan Air Base in the Republic of Korea. During his time in Alaska, he was deployed twice to defend our nation, which included 52 combat sorties in Operation SOUTHERN WATCH in Iraq and Operation ALLIED FORCE, over eastern Europe. In 2000, he was assigned to Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, where he served as an F-15C fighter pilot instructor, training the next generation of fighter pilots. In 2003, Colonel Edwards was stationed in Osan Air Base in the Republic of Korea as the Chief of Air Defense Plans for the 7th Air Force. After his service in Korea, in 2004, he joined the Oregon National Guard at Kingsley Field. In 2006, Colonel Edwards attended United States Air Force Weapons School. In 2019, after serving in several positions at Kingsley Field, he earned the Command of the 173rd Fighter Wing. Colonel Edwards has been awarded the 173rd Fighter Wing Instructor Pilot of the Year award, the USAF Weapons School F-15 Academic Award, the 19th Air Force Air-to-Air Fighter Pilot Instructor of the Year, the Meritorious Service Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal. His service has included over 3,200 flight hours. Colonel Edwards embodies the Air Force Core Values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do as a Commander, leader, and Airman.

Kingsley Field is a critical asset for American national security. It serves as an outstanding training center for the Air National Guard and active-duty pilots. In Colonel Edwards' time as Commander, Kingsley Field was designated as first in line to function as a formal training unit for the Boeing F-15EX fighter jet. A critical part of domestic defense missions, the first operational F-15EX squadron was designated to operate in the Oregon Air National Guard. Additionally, Colonel Edwards led Kingsley Field effectively through the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans were formalized for Kingsley Field's dedicated men and

women to support their families while carefully maintaining the overall mission. In 2021, he seamlessly balanced the activation of over 250 Airmen for COVID-19 and hospital support. In 2022, over 145 members were activated to help the State of Oregon's deal with the Omicron variant. During this time, never once did Colonel Edwards' leadership waver. He stands on the front line, supporting innovation in aircraft, managing issues as they arise, and holding fast to a vision of a better future.

Furthermore, Colonel Edwards extends his focus on the future beyond his service to the men and women of Kingsley Field as a member of my Military Service Academy Nomination Board, which includes other exceptional active and retired officers. His experience as an Air Force Academy graduate, a pilot and a leader provides invaluable help as he, and the other military officers of my annual nomination board, interview students to assess their character, leadership, physical aptitude, motivation, academic preparation, extracurricular, and community service activities.

For a man who has demonstrated such strong leadership, allegiance, and sacrifice during his service to our Nation, recognition is a very modest attempt to thank him.

We indeed owe a serious debt of gratitude to Colonel Edwards, because, though technology, time, and power may change, the attributes of a good leader remain unchanged. Colonel Edwards has dedicated his life to this nation, and we thank him for the service, vision, and leadership he has demonstrated both at home and abroad.

Madam Speaker, as we reach the culmination of his distinguished career, I join my colleagues today in congratulating Colonel Edwards for his lifetime of service to our country. We wish him, his wife, Teresa, and their six children: Matthew 22, Anna 20, Andrew 17, Rachel 14, Sarah 12, and James 10 best wishes as he retires from the United States Air Force.

CONGRATULATING ROCK ISLAND  
HIGH SCHOOL COACH MARC POLITE  
FOR BEING NAMED "COACH  
OF THE YEAR"

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2022*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rock Island High School boys' head basketball coach Marc Polite for being named "Coach of the Year" for 2022 by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association.

When Marc began coaching at Rock Island High School, he decided he wanted to build a strong and solid team both on and off the court. The student-athletes that he coaches are able to set academic, athletic, personal, and professional goals, and play basketball while having fun. And just one year into his coaching career at Rock Island High School, coaches from across the State of Illinois voted Marc "Coach of the Year." As a former athlete, I appreciate Marc's dedication to his team, and I commend him for receiving this honor from the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association.

It is because of community leaders like Marc Polite that I am especially proud to serve