

New York Heroes, Millard-Fillmore Suburban Hospital, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

By upholding the work of other community organizations and lending volunteers to support initiatives for people living in poverty, people with disabilities and illnesses, and youth in the area, the Williamsville Rotary Club is actively working to better the lives of Western New Yorkers.

Specifically, their work with young people in the Williamsville area demonstrates an outstanding commitment to improving our community. The Williamsville Rotary Club has provided annual scholarships to graduating Williamsville High School seniors. In addition to scholarships, the Williamsville Rotary Club also facilitates a youth exchange program through Rotary International. They also donate to the Bornhava Early Childhood Center and little league baseball. Internationally, the Williamsville Rotary Club supports the Liberian Learning Center and the Matrichaya School for Women in India.

Extending their work to help those in other countries, the Williamsville Rotary Club has shown that their outstanding propensity to serve others is not predicated on shared culture or identity. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedicated members of the Williamsville Rotary Club and their commitment to our youth and to those most vulnerable in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF VALERIA HASBERRY, KRISTA KINNARD, AND RODNEY WALLACE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Valerie Hasberry, Ms. Krista Kinnard, and Mr. Rodney Wallace on the outstanding achievement of being named finalists for the Samuel J. Service to America Medal. Each of these individuals have demonstrated extreme dedication to public service and their country.

As the Chief Security Officer of the Architect of the Capitol, Valerie worked tirelessly to restore and maintain operations of the U.S. Capitol following the events of January 6th. Valerie worked to ensure Capitol operations continued and that the important work of the people would continue.

While serving as Chief of Emerging Technology at the Department of Labor, Krista was responsible for several innovations that have increased department-wide efficiency. She worked to streamline services, saving time and money. Krista's service has strengthened the abilities of the Department of Labor and helped serve American workers everywhere.

As the Director of Detection, Diagnostics, and Devices Infrastructure Division at Department of Health and Human Services, Rodney had an imperative role in the development of the COVID-19 vaccine. Rodney and his team worked tirelessly with several entities to safely and swiftly develop a vaccine. Without the efforts of Rodney and his team, the pandemic would have lasted much longer than it did.

Valerie, Krista, and Rodney have provided phenomenal service to our great nation, representing Virginia's First District proudly. Their dedication to their work is nothing short of amazing and I am honored to recognize them for their achievement of being finalists for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal.

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DAN QUARATINO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dan Quaratino for receiving the 2021 Image Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. The Image Award aims to recognize individuals who make a positive impact in our community and go above and beyond to make the lives of others a better place.

Dan is the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Arvada High School and is well-known for his passion and dedication to the education of students. He regularly provides opportunities for student athletes at the school, such as field trips and participation in out-of-state tournaments. He has also spearheaded the Arvada Sports Institute which gives students the opportunity to work in the sports industry and gain real-world experience. In addition to supporting student athletes, he encourages all students to get involved in their community and is genuinely invested in their future of these kids ensuring they have the education and experience to succeed in their path in life.

Congratulations again to Dan Quaratino on this recognition from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. I extend my deepest appreciation for his contributions to our community.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND WORK OF CHERYL LITTLE

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the tremendous career and meaningful work of Cheryl Little.

Cheryl Little has been a tireless advocate for immigrant rights for nearly three decades and has established herself as one of this country's leading experts in the immigration field.

Cheryl's extensive involvement in immigration dates back to 1985 when, upon her graduation from law school with honors, she began working at the Haitian Refugee Center. In January 1996, she co-founded the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, Inc. (FIAC), now Americans for Immigrant Justice (AI Justice), and serves as its Executive Director.

She has received numerous honors and awards for her work, including the Morris Dees Justice Award as well as the Legal Legend award from History Miami and the 11th Judicial Circuit Historical Society. Poder Magazine named her one of Miami's 100 Most Influential People and she was named one of the "Top 20 Women Lawyers in South Florida" by the Daily Business Review. She has also been named "Person of the Week" by ABC News.

Ms. Little has authored numerous publications in the area of immigration, including law review articles and reports. She has testified before Congress and appears regularly on television. Her appearances include 60 Minutes, Nightline, PBS's News Hour, Frontline, The Oprah Winfrey Show, and CNN.

Cheryl Little is a selfless, compassionate, and devoted public servant and advocate for human rights. Her commitment to our community is exemplary, and I am proud to call her my dear friend. I wish her a hearty congratulations on her retirement and am grateful for her invaluable work to improve the lives of those in Florida's 23rd Congressional District, Florida, and our Nation.

IN HONOR OF THE 18TH INTERNATIONAL VEENA FESTIVAL

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize the Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA), along with Veena Council Global, in commemoration of the 18th International Veena Festival. SAPNA was conceived as the Saint Annamacharya Project USA by Dr. Sriram and Mrs. Saradapurna Sonty in 1989.

The International Veena Festival presents over 50 Saraswathi Veenas—an ancient Indian string instrument originating in Vedic times and referenced in Vedic Scripture from thousands of years ago. Veena music is known to bring about spiritual healing, a feeling of communion, and a connection with a higher power.

Through the International Veena Festival, SAPNA seeks to sustain classical music; to promote innovative music traditions on a global stage; and to foster friendship, peace, harmony, and universal understanding through music in today's turbulent times.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the work of SAPNA to honor the cultural heritage of more than four million Indian-Americans, uplift traditional Indian artists, and bridge cultural divides through music.

OPERATION SANDBLAST

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senior Chief, Torpedoman's Mate David E. Boe, Senior Chief, Sonar Technician John F. Kuester, Master Chief Petty Officer Robert C. Perkins, and Commander Allen W. Steele, the original crew members aboard the USS Triton during the submarine's 1960, top-secret Operation Sandblast mission.

This mission was instrumental in the Cold War—not only did the crew gather valuable oceanographic data throughout its circumnavigation of the globe while remaining entirely submerged and undetected, but they demonstrated their endurance and the submarine's technical capabilities. At the time of Triton's

commissioning in 1959, it was considered the largest, most powerful, and most expensive submarine ever built.

The Port of Benton in Richland, Washington, worked with the U.S. Navy to preserve the USS Triton's 75-foot-long sail and conning tower that are on display at the USS Triton Sail Park, to honor submariners and highlight the significance of Triton's impact on the Nuclear Age.

Central Washington is proud to hold this piece of our nation's history, and I am honored to recognize these brave crew members for their commitment and dedication to accomplishing the Operation Sandblast mission, which proved invaluable to the United States and the world during the Cold War.

AZITA RAJI OBITUARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following obituary for Azita Raji.

Azita Raji, a longtime Belvedere resident who served as a U.S. ambassador to Sweden under President Barack Obama, died Feb. 6 of metastatic breast cancer.

Ms. Raji, a major fundraiser for Obama, was appointed to the position in October 2014. However, she wasn't confirmed until February 2016 after a long delay by the Republican-controlled U.S. Senate. She presented her credentials to Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf on March 15, 2016, and served until Jan. 20, 2017.

With her confirmation, she became the first female U.S. ambassador to Sweden, as well as the first Iranian-born American to serve as a U.S. ambassador. During her tenure, she was also nominated for the Sue M. Cobb Prize for Exemplary Diplomatic Service, the State Department's highest award for a non-career ambassador.

"The deepest impression Azita made was on the people that had the privilege of knowing her," the U.S. Department of State said in a Feb. 8 statement. "Her loss will be deeply felt by all she touched. . . . She was an inspiring leader, who loved her time in Sweden and the relationships she made."

The statement noted flags at the U.S. Embassy in Sweden would be flown at half-staff for three days in her honor.

Ms. Raji left a career in finance in 2007 to focus on fundraising for Democratic candidates and for Obama's initial presidential campaign.

By 2012, Ms. Raji was serving as national finance vice chair and chair of the Swing State Victory Fund for Obama's campaign. She also served on the national advisory board of the Democratic National Committee and was a member of the Obama for America National Finance Committee from 2008 to 2012.

In 2013, Obama appointed Ms. Raji to serve on the President's Commission on White House Fellows.

Her nomination as ambassador came at a time when Obama had been criticized for naming ambassadors from among the ranks of his fundraisers, freezing out experienced diplomats in favor of those with little international experience or language fluency, though that is a common practice among presidents.

While not a career diplomat, Ms. Raji had more world experience than many of the

non-Foreign Service nominees, having grown up in Iran and Western Europe. In addition to English, she was fluent in French and Persian.

Ms. Raji was born Sept. 29, 1961, in Tehran, Iran, one of two children to Feyed and Parvin Raji. She completed her high school education in Lausanne, Switzerland, where she competed nationally as a downhill skier and chess player before moving to the U.S. when she was 17.

She then attended Barnard College of Columbia University in New York, where she received a bachelor's degree in architecture and French in 1983 and a master of business administration degree in finance in 1991.

She became a U.S. citizen in 1988.

Earlier in her career as an international investment banker, Ms. Raji held senior positions at firms including JP. Morgan & Co., Salomon Brothers and Drexel Burnham Lambert. She had been a member of the Institute for Chartered Financial Analysts since 1991.

She was a member of the Bretton Woods Committee, which supports international finance institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Ms. Raji has served as a trustee of the Barnard College Executive Committee, on the advisory board of Columbia Business School's Tamer Center for Social Enterprise and as founding co-chair of the Athena Center for Leadership Studies at Barnard College. She also served on the economic advisory council of the Center for American Progress and as director of the National Partnership for Women & Families. All the organizations benefited from her philanthropy as well.

On July 4, 2016, Ms. Raji was named an honoree of Great Immigrants, an annual recognition by the Carnegie Corporation of New York of inspiring naturalized U.S. citizens who have made notable contributions to the progress of American society.

The same year, when singer-songwriter Bob Dylan was named the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Ms. Raji read a letter by Dylan, who did not attend the award banquet, to the Nobel Committee on his behalf.

She also was appointed a commissioner of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in 2016.

That same year, she was the first U.S. Ambassador to Sweden to march in the country's Pride Parade. She also was the recipient of the 2017 Ellis Island Medal of Honor and of Barnard College's 2020 Joan Rivers Trailblazer Award.

She and her husband, Gary A. Syman, a retired Goldman Sachs partner, were married in 1992 and had lived in Belvedere since 1996.

In her free time, she enjoyed skiing, swimming, hiking, travel, reading and cooking Persian food for her family.

In addition to her husband, Ms. Raji is survived by a brother, Reza Raji of Menlo Park; two daughters, Gabriella Raji Syman of Belvedere and Elena Raji Syman of New York; three stepdaughters, Kimberly Syman of Lexington, Mass., Stefanie Syman of Brooklyn, NY, and Hillary Syman of Minneapolis, Minn.; and seven grandchildren.

A private memorial service will be held in June. Donations in her memory may be sent to Barnard College, Box AS, 3009 Broadway, New York City; NY 10027; or to the Joy Trust Fund at MarinHealth Foundation, 1350 S. Eliseo Drive #110, Larkspur, CA 94904.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF DUVALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of DuVall Elementary School, located in Dearborn, Michigan. DuVall Elementary has been paramount in shaping the minds of young students for a century, and its contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

The rapid expansion of Ford Motor Company in the early twentieth century attracted eager workers hoping to reap the benefits of the new \$5 work day. These workers traveled to Michigan en masse, bringing their families who settled in towns across Metro Detroit. One neighborhood, known as the Ford Historic Homes District near downtown Dearborn, experienced a rapid expansion which necessitated the creation of a new school. Consequently, Southwestern School opened its doors in 1921. Under Principal Leo DuVall, the school quickly grew to over 300 students. After three decades of leadership, the Board of Education decided to rename the Southwestern School after DuVall to honor his significant accomplishments, and Principal DuVall retired a year later in 1959.

DuVall Elementary School continues to provide invaluable instruction, guidance, and support to students across Dearborn. Remaining a fixture of the community after a century of service underscores its lasting impact and serves as a testament to its role in Dearborn. DuVall Elementary is a school that recognizes the value and abilities of every student and inspires all to achieve greatness both inside and outside the classroom.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring DuVall Elementary School as it celebrates 100 years of instruction in Dearborn, Michigan. We are proud of its enduring impact on our community and wish it the best of luck in the years ahead.

HONORING LAURA JOSS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today, with Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, in recognition of Laura Joss for her 32 years of exceptional government service with the National Park Service.

Laura has a long history of working for the National Park Service (NPS), beginning as a volunteer at Mesa Verde National Park after earning a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Indiana University and a Master of Arts in History Museum Studies from the State University of New York. Laura proceeded to serve as Superintendent at Arches National Park, Deputy Superintendent of the NPS Southeast Utah Group, Superintendent of both the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and the Hampton National Historic Site in Maryland, and Chief of the Branch of Cultural Resources and Tribal Liaison at Yellowstone National Park. Her commitment to the