

Ms. Aponte's career began in June 1980 with the City of Los Angeles as a parking attendant. In April 1986, she joined the Los Angeles Police Department as a Police Service Representative, where she answered to 9–1–1 emergency calls as a frontline responder to those in need of help. In times of crisis and major events, Ms. Aponte provided consistent and critical support to law enforcement. Ms. Aponte's achievements have resulted in more than 27 well-deserved commendations during her career.

She earned recognition for her performance during the 1992 Civil Unrest, the devastating 1994 earthquake, her professionalism during situations with distressed children, and during the Lakers Championship parade in 2000 when a tactical alert was declared after 250,000 people filled the streets of Los Angeles. During the Democratic National Convention in 2020, Ms. Aponte received praise for her commitment to service excellence.

In 2001 Ms. Aponte was assigned to the Timekeeping Unit where she evolved as the timekeeping subject expert. She worked diligently to ensure the smooth function of the unit as she exceptionally performed all her duties. There was no task too big or too small that Ms. Aponte did not welcome.

For her remarkable accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Police Service Representative II Karen Aponte. Her decades of public service and commitment to the Department and the people of Los Angeles are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE 21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS 2022 SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, today we congratulate the 2022 Service Academy appointees from the 21st Congressional District of Texas.

The following individuals have accepted Academy Appointments:

Hudson T. Baese, Canyon High School, New Braunfels, United States Air Force Academy. Austin G. Curtis, Robert G. Cole High School, San Antonio, United States Air Force Academy. Walker L. Cunningham, Robert G. Cole High School, San Antonio, United States Merchant Marine Academy. Bradley J. DeMeritt, UTSA, Franklin High School, New Braunfels, United States Military Academy. Joseph G. Drastata, Canyon High School, New Braunfels, United States Military Academy. Logan J. Kitchen, Claudia Taylor Lady Bird Johnson High School, San Antonio, United States Military Academy. Austin W. Locke, UTSA, Boerne High School, Boerne, United States Merchant Marine Academy. John T. Murphy, Wimberly High School, Wimberly, United States Naval Academy. Noah A. Purify, USNAPS, Claudia Taylor Lady Bird Johnson High School, San Antonio, United States Naval Academy. Ella M. Rudik, BASIS Shavano, San Antonio, United States Air Force Academy.

These outstanding students have much to contribute to their chosen Academy and to our country. We appreciate their talents and their patriotism.

I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating these truly heroic young men and young women.

HONORING 75 YEARS OF THE MICHIGAN WATER COLOR SOCIETY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Michigan Water Color Society as they celebrate their seventy-fifth anniversary. Their significant contributions to our community and their seventy-five years spent promoting local artists and their work throughout the state of Michigan are worthy of commendation.

In September 1946, a group of about 70 watercolorists interested in forming a statewide society met in the galleries at Detroit's Scarab Club to discuss creating what became the Michigan Water Color Society. Their exploratory meeting focused on the need for integrity, professionalism, and inclusion of all points of view. By the end of the year, the Society was established, with Emil Weddige of the University of Michigan and William Bostick of the Detroit Institute of Arts serving as the first co-presidents. Their first exhibition was held in Detroit in June 1947, featuring fifty-nine unique paintings.

Annual juried exhibitions are the Michigan Water Color Society's premier event, these exhibitions feature watercolor paintings by Michigan artists and are on display for Michiganders and art enthusiasts of all ages to see. Winning artists receive cash prizes, and their paintings are then shown at museums around the state. The Michigan Water Color Society also provides other opportunities for Michigan artists to display their art such as "Out of the Box"—a "not necessarily watercolor" art showcase that exhibits other artistic mediums beyond watercolor. A volunteer-run organization, the Michigan Water Color Society has created a welcoming community for artists of all ages and backgrounds. They work tirelessly to promote and showcase the talents of our Michigan artists and share their passion for art with us all.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Michigan Water Color Society on this special day. We are grateful for their seven and a half decades spent enriching our culture in the state of Michigan. We wish them the very best in the years to come and congratulate them on their seventy-fifth annual exhibition at the Kayrod Gallery in Detroit, the city where it all began so many years ago.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING CHILD HEALTH COVERAGE COMPENSATION IN DIVORCE ACT OF 2022

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Ensuring Child Health Coverage

Compensation in Divorce Act of 2022. This bill would require that when a court directs a non-custodial parent (including a stepparent) to provide health insurance for a child, the other parent can get reimbursed directly from the insurer for any out-of-pocket medical expenses for the child incurred by such parent, regardless of the source of insurance.

In a divorce, one parent is typically court-ordered to provide health insurance for the child to prevent the child from being uninsured. However, the other parent may pay for out-of-pocket medical expenses for the child that are reimbursable by the insurer. Under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, group health insurers are required to directly reimburse a parent who pays for reimbursable out-of-pocket medical expenses when the other parent has been court-ordered to provide health insurance for the child. However, other health insurers are not required to directly reimburse the other parent.

This bill would provide the same requirements for all health insurers to ensure that the parent who pays for the out-of-pocket medical expenses is reimbursed.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S HEALTH MONTH

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Women's Health Month. This month, we seek to empower women to make their health a priority and recommit to raising awareness of and addressing the conditions and diseases that impact women across America.

As a woman and as a Black Woman, I am keenly aware of the health challenges that disproportionately impact women of color. From maternal health and autoimmune diseases to mental health and various forms of cancer, women—especially women of color—experience a variety of unique health care issues. Expanding access to health care and improving outreach, awareness, prevention and treatment strategies is critically important.

This Women's Health Month, I would like to draw attention to Uterine Fibroids. More than 25 million American women suffer from Uterine Fibroids, and around 80 percent of Black Women can expect to experience them by age 50. This disease can be devastating to a woman's life and her reproductive health. It causes debilitating symptoms and can negatively impact fertility. Uterine fibroids are a serious public health challenge, and they expose and exacerbate underlying racial health disparities.

In the face of this challenge, we need more funding for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment interventions, as well as public education. That is why I am proud to cosponsor Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE's landmark bill, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Uterine Fibroid Research and Education Act. The bill, named after my esteemed predecessor in Ohio's Eleventh District who was a longtime champion for women's health issues during her time in Congress, would increase research funding for uterine fibroids.

Specifically, the bill would establish \$150 million in research funding for the National Institute of Health and create a new public education program through the CDC. To help address the grave threat uterine fibroids pose to women of color, the bill specifically highlights the need to raise awareness of Uterine fibroids in the Black community.

I am proud to join Congresswoman CLARKE and my other colleagues in supporting this critical bill, and I look forward to its swift consideration here in the House.

HONORING THE PATRIOTIC
SERVICE OF OUR FALLEN HEROES

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotic service of the men and women who have given their lives in defense of the United States. From the icy waters of General Washington's crossing of the Delaware River to the burning sands of the Middle East, our armed forces have continuously devoted themselves to the cause of freedom and liberty for all Americans and our allies.

Today, this great Nation takes a moment to honor those who have given the last full measure of devotion that we might continue to proclaim the United States as the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. Our warriors have ensured with their very blood that all Americans might live in peace and security. Our warriors have fought in the trenches, on the beaches, in the streets, and on the seas. They have faced the most violent and evil foes in human history and have claimed victory.

From my very own district hailed one of the finest examples of American bravery, First Lieutenant Audie Murphy. He remains the most decorated American Soldier in our Nation's history having received the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Star Medals, three Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts, and many other citations. Lt. Murphy hailed from Kingston, Texas in Hunt County. While he is a shining example of American heroism, this same spirit lives on in all who have heeded the call to serve their Nation from the Fourth District. Others from the Texas' Fourth Congressional District who heeded the call of duty include the following heroes:

First Lieutenant Allen Arthur Brill served our nation during the Second World War as a Pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Born in Franklin County in 1916, Lt. Brill was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Air Medal, and Purple Heart.

Lieutenant Colonel Oren Calvin Atchley of Hunt County gave the last full measure of devotion for us in the mountains of the Korean Peninsula. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Daniel Lasaule Chappell of Camp County was KIA in the dense forests of South Vietnam defending the free world. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his selfless courage.

Staff Sergeant Ennis Murry Bankhead of Lamar County, Specialist Four Jose Sanchez Monetmayor of Fannin County, Lieutenant Warren Bacon Wisdom, Private First Class

Darrel D. Council, and many other servicemembers of the Fourth District who have given their lives bearing the torch of freedom for all of us.

I have requested a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize our warriors and their families whose sacrifices have secured the blessings of freedom and liberty for generations. It is my hope that we never forget these individuals and may God rest their souls.

RECOGNIZING GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize six young men and women in my district who were awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad during the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 academic years. This program's mission to "expand the number of young American citizens gaining knowledge, linguistic, and cultural skills that are critical to our national security and prosperity" is admirable, and our community is incredibly proud of the following students' achievement:

Humna Chaudhry of Bensalem, PA, studying in Singapore;

Sabrina De Nicola of Churchville, PA, studying in Spain;

Humna Rub of Doylestown, PA, studying in the United Kingdom;

Ryan Smith of Warrington, PA, studying in Indonesia;

Ian Yannuzzi of Southampton, PA, studying in New Zealand;

Mikaila Harper of Chalfont, PA, studying in Uganda.

At a time where our Nation's policy approach to security and diplomacy is actively challenged and adapting, the conviction of these young men and women is exceptional. We commend their participation in the Gilman Scholarship and are grateful for their commitment to strengthening the relationships and standing of the United States around the world.

CELEBRATING THE 104TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 104th anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, and to extend my best wishes to all Azerbaijanis. May 28th marked the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, when the people of Azerbaijan first gained their independence from the Russian Empire in 1918. Although Soviet forces ended Azerbaijan's independence in 1920, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was the world's first secular parliamentary democratic republic in a predominantly Muslim

nation—earning diplomatic recognition from the United States during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. We also recall that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted universal suffrage to its citizens in 1918, making it the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan restored its independence on October 18, 1991, when its Parliament adopted the Constitution Act on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has emerged as a key partner for enhancing global energy security, especially as the U.S. and European countries look for alternatives to Russian energy in the wake of Putin's unjustified war against Ukraine. Azerbaijan provides roughly 40 percent of Israel's oil consumption and enjoys friendly ties with Israel beyond oil sales. Jews have resided in Azerbaijan for 2,500 years without persecution and today, the Jewish community in Azerbaijan numbers over 12,000. Azerbaijan is also home to Christian communities and has been praised for its religious tolerance by the European Parliament.

It is also worth noting that Azerbaijan has provided significant humanitarian aid to Ukraine during this trying time, an exception among former Soviet non-NATO countries that led Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to publicly thank the President of Azerbaijan for this courageous step.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. As an active member of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States in countering terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and narcotics trafficking. Azerbaijani troops were among the last partner militaries to leave Kabul airport, facilitating the evacuation until the very end.

As co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I stand with the Azerbaijani people as they continue to work towards independence and security as well as to embrace human rights and democratic values. I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on the centennial of their Republic Day. May the partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan progress and continue to benefit both of our nations.

HONORING THE TRI-CITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE TO VETERANS CEREMONY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tri-City Community Development Corporation on the occasion of their Memorial Day Salute to Veterans Ceremony in Detroit, Michigan. The group's work to improve the lives of our entire community and honor our servicemembers is worthy of commendation.

Today and every day, we honor the veterans of the greater Detroit area and honor those brave and patriotic servicemembers who we have lost. Freedom is not free, and today we pause to remember those who gave their