

him the best of luck at Rowan College. God Bless Angel, and God Bless our United States of America.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN WITHERS
OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John Withers of Irvine, California. Mr. Withers served as Chairman of the Orange County Sanitation District Board of Directors from June 2021 to June 2022.

During his tenure, Mr. Withers led the work of the Orange County Sanitation District's Board of Directors, providing high quality water treatment services for over two million Orange County residents and protecting our fragile coastal ecosystems from wastewater pollution. Under his watch, the Orange County Sanitation District has served as a model for other communities throughout the Nation that are facing climate resiliency challenges.

Despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Withers oversaw the implementation and initiation of multiple public works projects. One of the most impressive projects was the construction of a new headworks facility, which serves as the nervous system of a well-functioning wastewater treatment process. These efforts will improve the service capabilities of the wastewater treatment plant and the resiliency of the facility's electrical system, resulting in fewer power disruptions and better safeguards. This ambitious project will provide Orange County with the necessary infrastructure to better manage the harms brought on by climate change and create good paying jobs.

PFAS, a group of man-made chemicals that are harmful to human health, are a serious threat to our drinking water. I am thankful for the Orange County Sanitation District's commitment to developing solutions to address this issue and help protect families. Mr. Withers understood the need to protect public health through the development of innovative technologies that keep our water safe by treating and removing these chemicals. His work has served as a catalyst to promote accessible and cost-efficient PFAS treatment.

I am proud to honor Mr. Withers and thank him for his years of service on the Orange County Sanitation District's Board of Directors and for his successful work as the board's Chairman.

RECOGNIZING JON BOUGHTIN

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Jon Boughtin, a dedicated staffer for the New Democrat Coalition.

Jon departs Capitol Hill this month after working for more than a decade in public service, but his legacy of strong member engagement and meaningful relationships with staff,

members, and outside stakeholders alike will not soon be forgotten.

The New Dems occupy an important place within the Democratic Caucus. We are the center of gravity in the House Democratic Caucus, the majority makers, and forward-thinking policymakers. None of our work would be possible without a strong support system for our members and staff. Jon worked tirelessly to support the New Dems, helping them make a meaningful and lasting legislative impact in the House of Representatives. Jon developed relationships with countless external experts and organizations, which was essential for New Dems to "get stuff done," as we often like to say. One thing we heard over and over from New Dem members and staff was, "Jon always came in at the right time with the right advice before I even knew I needed it." This level of instinct and intellect is a rare combination.

New Dems are known for working across the ideological spectrum and with anyone who is willing to come to the table to get things done. But more than that, we've also become a home for thoughtful, measured leaders who have had enough of the shouting and division that too often defines our politics. Jon helped foster this spirit of collaboration and cooperation. Because of his relationships and thoughtful, smart work, New Dems have been able to deliver meaningful policy solutions that put kitchen-table issues at the center of the political debate.

Jon embodied the New Dem spirit as a selfless public servant and pragmatic policy advocate throughout his career. As the Chair of our 98-Member Coalition, I thank Jon for his service, both past and future, and wish him and his family all the best.

RYAN MATHIS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the honor of attending Ryan Mathis' Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony. Ryan graduated from Cape May County Technical High School last year and was a part of their welding program, where he became a certified welder. He achieved his Eagle Scout rank as a part of Cape May Court House Troop 65. For his Eagle Scout project, Ryan built a flag box for retired American flags. He designed the box himself and created it from a sheet of steel, utilizing his welding skills. Ryan placed the retired flag box at the American Legion in Cape May Court House. Ryan should be proud of his project and his service to Cape May Court House and the entire South Jersey community. I wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors. God Bless Ryan, and God Bless our United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 12

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of American Legion Post 12, located in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District. Since its founding on June 26, 1922, Post 12 has made countless contributions to our community.

Over the years, Post 12 has been a fierce advocate for veterans' affairs and rehabilitation, national security, Americanism, and our children and youth. These Four Pillars of the American Legion serve as a guiding light for the organization and pervade all aspects of Post 12's philanthropic work.

Composed of service members, veterans, and military families, Post 12 represents the best our nation has to offer. I am proud to represent a district that has a strong military presence and is home to some of the bravest patriots in the country. Not only did these men and women serve our country while in uniform, but they also continue to give back to our community's robust veteran population.

Post 12 ensures our men and women in uniform have the resources and support they need throughout and after their service through local advocacy and assistance with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Furthermore, Post 12 serves as a community leader in Graves Registration by assisting concerned parties locate veterans' gravesites and maintaining a burial lot for kinless servicemen. It is also a principal sponsor for many community service initiatives and youth academic scholarships.

I know I speak for our entire community in offering my most heartfelt gratitude to American Legion Post 12 for their century of service. The exemplary men and women of Post 12 are the heart and soul of our community and I wish them continued success in their service going forward.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the 100th anniversary of American Legion Post 12.

BASE ACCESS PRIVILEGES
IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Base Access Privileges Improvement Act," which would standardize and streamline access to military installations for designated support personnel across the nation. I thank my colleague Congressman DONALD NORCROSS (D-NJ) for his support as the bill's original cosponsor.

Every day, civilian workers access military bases to provide services, transport goods, or conduct job fairs for departing service members or military spouses. Unfortunately, from state to state—or even installation to installation—there are different standards for unescorted civilian access set by the service

branches or base commanders. This can be a maddening bureaucracy for support workers requiring routine base access to do their jobs.

The "Base Access Privileges Improvement Act" would create an overarching set of access standards for civilians with legitimate need to access military installations on a recurring basis or for a scheduled purpose. For example, the bill would allow truckers delivering household goods for military families to use their Transportation Worker Identification Credentials, which is issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and requires passing a federal background check, for proving their identity to get on base. The bill would also require that the U.S. Department of Defense provide expedited, unescorted base access privileges for veterans accessing services at the installation, civilians working at a construction job site on base, State labor regulators for applicable workers' compensation or minimum wage laws, and members of federally recognized labor-management committees.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I know full well that our military installations are secure for a good reason. However, for those civilians who are already appropriately vetted and cleared, we must ease the bureaucratic hurdles for base access so they can do their job in support of our nation's military, military families, and veterans. Military bases can maintain the highest level of scrutiny for those seeking access while still equalizing the requirements across the nation. The "Base Access Privileges Improvement Act" would ensure just that.

RYAN RUSSO

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last Sunday, I had the honor of attending the Olympiad at Beth Israel congregation in remembrance of the 50-year anniversary of the Munich massacre. Ryan Russo was nominated to receive the Olympiad Student Athlete Award at the event. Ryan is an impressive student-athlete who excelled in the classroom, in the pool, and on the track at Vineland High School. During his senior year season, he suffered an injury that restricted him from playing. However, Ryan remained positive and committed to his teams. He is a true leader and an ambassador for his community, school, and his teams, serving as a role model for many underclassmen. Ryan should be very proud of his contributions to the Vineland High School community, and I am glad that I was able to meet him at the event last weekend. God Bless Ryan, and God Bless our America.

HONORING SGT. THOMAS H.
COREY, VIETNAM VETERAN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Thomas H. Corey, a decorated Vietnam War Veteran and beloved advocate for veteran's rights. Sergeant Corey passed away at the age of 77, on June 6, 2022, in Jupiter, Florida, due to complications from injuries sustained during the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Corey served as a U.S. Army combat infantryman and squad leader in Vietnam. In January 1968, in Quang Tri Province, he was shot in his spinal cord while engaging the enemy, leaving him paralyzed and quadriplegic. For his service and heroism, Sergeant Corey was awarded the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

After medically retiring, Sergeant Corey relocated to West Palm Beach, Florida in 1972 and joined the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), beginning his decades-long career as an advocate for our nation's veterans. In 1981, he founded VVA's Palm Beach County Chapter 25, which was renamed in his honor in 1991.

Sergeant Corey would go on to serve as VVA's National President and vowed, "to speak up for those veterans without a voice." He fought for mandatory funding for veterans' health care and services because he believed that "to deny adequate funding for quality health care and other services is to violate a sacred trust with the nation."

Sergeant Corey also traveled back to Vietnam more than a dozen times as a representative of the VVA's Veterans Initiative Task Force to meet with his former enemy, and work together in search of the remains of Americans and Vietnamese who lost their lives during the war. He simultaneously ran the Vietnam Veterans Peace Initiative where he spearheaded the building of a maternal health clinic in Vietnam to provide medical support to victims of Agent Orange attacks.

Sergeant Corey dedicated his life to fighting for veterans and improving access to quality health care. His work has touched the lives of generations of veterans and their families. I am proud to honor him today and express my condolences to his family, friends and to our entire community for the enormous void he leaves behind. May his memory be a blessing.