

has no man than this: to lay down his life for his friends." It was with great courage of conviction that Jacob Chaffins lived to protect the people of the United States, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and especially those in Floyd County.

In a Nation where police forces have been vilified in recent years by the actions of a few bad actors, may Officer Chaffins' life be a reminder of the outstanding integrity and sacrifice that the thin blue line represents. We must continue to support our law enforcement officers across the United States, ensuring they are fully equipped, adequately prepared, and never at the mercy of evildoers.

This Nation owes a great debt of gratitude for the life and service of Officer Jacob Chaffins. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Savannah, their daughter Paisley, his mother April and his siblings, as well as the widespread band of brothers and sisters in uniform who served alongside him. May his loved ones find peace and confidence in God's promise in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

HONORING STUART SMITH,  
CHARLES SMITH, AND THE  
SMITH-MADRONE WINERY

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stuart Smith and Charles Smith, founders of the Smith-Madrone Vineyards & Winery in celebration of the winery's 50th anniversary.

The Smith-Madrone Winery was founded on May 14, 1971. Its vineyards are located on top of Spring Mountain in Napa Valley at 1,200 to 1,300 feet in elevation. The winery only produces wine from these 50-year-old local vineyards that are enriched by the county's deep red Aiken loam soil.

Smith-Madrone Winery played an integral role in the international popularization of Napa Valley wines. The winery first prompted international recognition when its 1977 Riesling was named the world's Best Riesling by wine experts in the first international Wine Olympics in Paris in 1979. Additionally, Smith-Madrone received The Daily Meal's Winery of the Year award in 2014. In 2020, the winery was chosen by the University of California, Berkeley to conduct a virtual wine tasting to attendees of the University's homecoming events.

Stuart and Charles have positively impacted the wine community through their involvement in the Napa Valley wine community. Stuart was appointed to the 2008 General Plan Steering Committee and the 1998 Napa River Watershed Task Force by the Napa County Board of Supervisors. Starting in 2006, Charles has published weekly harvest report for the St. Helena Star, until Stuart took over writing the report column in 2012. Stuart also served as chairman of the 1986 and 2005 Napa Valley Wine Auction.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Stuart Smith and Charles Smith, through the Smith-Madrone Winery and their community involvement, have made important contributions to the Napa Valley wine community. Therefore, it

is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

HONORING MONSIGNOR ARTURO  
JOSE BAÑUELAS' RETIREMENT

### HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Monsignor Arturo José Bañuelas' life work in the Catholic Church as he retires from full-time ministry.

Monsignor Bañuelas is a native of El Paso, TX and Pecos, AZ. His 46 years of service have truly been centered in assisting the community's sick, hungry, and unemployed. During his tenure as pastor at Saint Pius X Church, the parish has received national distinction as one of the best parishes in America. He also significantly grew the parish's ministries and outreach programs in Saint Mark and assisted in the development of the new San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado Church. Monsignor Bañuelas' pastoral leadership has taken him execute missionary initiatives in Chihuahua, Mexico, Honduras, China, Cuba, and Kenya.

He is a venerated faith leader always working for the betterment of his community. He founded numerous theological initiatives such as the Tepeyac Institute, a diocesan ministry formation center, the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States and the El Paso Interfaith Alliance. His work is also grounded in social justice to advocate for the neediest. He founded the Hope Border Institute—a pillar in the El Paso and Ciudad Juarez region for the immigrant rights movement.

Monsignor Bañuelas is the embodiment of a community leader devoted to the service to the people of El Paso. May he continue to live out his commitment to his faith and community in retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MR. JOHN W. RYAN

### HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. John W. Ryan, president and CEO of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, who unexpectedly passed away on May 16, 2022.

John was a steadfast advocate of state financial supervision as the leader of CSBS, the nationwide organization of financial regulators from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, for 11 years.

But John was more than just an advocate and leader. He was a rare consensus builder in Washington. While he fiercely defended the dual banking system, he tempered his passion with humility, humor, and integrity. As tributes have poured in from across the nation, it is clear that he touched many with his humility, kindness, and vast knowledge of financial regulation.

John was also a visionary. In recent years, he crafted strategies that empowered states to

retain their authority and function on a local level while working together with federal regulators as one system; he called this strategy "networked supervision."

John grew up in a banking family. He would recount summers spent working for his father, who ran the Bank of Walnut Creek in Northern California. Among his many early jobs, he often told of filing checks, and when he was old enough, driving them over the Golden Gate Bridge to the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank. His early experience with the payments system informed his career and helped shape his idea for a more seamless system.

After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in political science and economics, John moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked on the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, now the House Committee on Financial Services. While there, he worked on groundbreaking legislation, including the 1994 Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act. He later took a fellowship with the financial services commission in Brussels and worked for a public policy consulting firm.

In 1997, John joined CSBS as an assistant vice president of legislative affairs. He rose through the ranks to become President and Chief Executive Officer in 2011. Throughout his career, John helped define the contributions and accountabilities of state financial regulators. He was a key contributor to protecting the states' role in financial services legislation, including the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act. John also played a critical role in the creation of what is now the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System.

After the financial crisis of 2008, John recognized the need for policymakers to have facts and figures about community banking when writing legislation that would impact them. He was instrumental in creating the Community Bank Research Conference with the Federal Reserve Board. The conference's research has driven more sound and appropriate regulatory policy and supervision, and, I believe, helped policymakers recognize the value of community banking when crafting laws and rules during the pandemic.

Under John's leadership, CSBS was a valued partner to Congress as we worked through a range of financial services issues. The impact of his vision and leadership is immense. Our financial system is better because of John W. Ryan's work, as are the lives of those of us whom he touched.

HONORING CURT MORGAN

### HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Curt Morgan, who is concluding his nearly six-year service as Chief Executive Officer of Vistra Corp., one of the nation's largest integrated retail electricity and power generation companies, which is headquartered in the 24th District of Texas.

When Curt took over Vistra, the company operated exclusively in Texas. Today, its operations span more than 20 states, and its businesses serve more than 4.25 million customers.

Throughout its rapid growth, Curt ensured the company took proactive steps to create a culture of inclusion, improve its spending with diverse-owned enterprises, and be a company that does business the right way.

Curt has always believed that electricity is the lifeblood of our society, and access to reliable electricity is a fundamental necessity of life. To prepare Vistra for the future, he has spearheaded the transformation of the company's fleet to meet the challenges of producing reliable, affordable electricity in a rapidly changing world.

The Vistra Zero initiative is a years-long commitment to powering America's zero-carbon, clean energy future. Under this plan, Vistra has already built the world's largest battery energy storage facility, reduced its company's carbon footprint, and initiated or completed over a dozen solar and energy storage facilities.

A native of Galesburg, Illinois, Curt never forgot the impact power plants have historically played in their host communities. He has ensured an orderly and responsible retirement process that treated workers and the local community with dignity and respect. Through his advocacy, Illinois lawmakers passed the Coal to Solar and Energy Storage Initiative, which will transform nine retiring coal-fired plant sites into renewable energy centers.

Because of Curt's vision, business acumen, and leadership, for years to come, thousands of hardworking men and women in our nation's building trades and energy industry will safely operate power plants, install miles and miles of solar panels, configure hundreds of thousands of battery modules, responsibly retire legacy plants, and reclaim thousands of acres at retired plant sites.

Despite all the regulatory, environmental, and economic changes, including the unprecedented impact of a global pandemic and weather events, thanks to Curt's management Vistra's future is as bright as ever. I want to express my appreciation and best wishes to Curt, and I hope that he will continue to guide America's energy transition in his next professional chapter and wish he and his family well.

#### HONORING AL WAGNER

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Al Wagner who is Napa County Farm Bureau's 2022 Agri-culturist of the Year.

Born in Queens, New York, and raised in Connecticut, Mr. Wagner grew up helping his grandparents on their family farm. He attended both the Universal Technical Institute for Automotives and Diesel Mechanics in Phoenix, Arizona, and the University of Arizona. Throughout his life, Mr. Wagner has worked as a ranch manager, an auctioneer, a wrangler, and a volunteer firefighter.

In 2015, he became the Vice President of Vineyards for Foley Family Wines. Later, he

was promoted to Senior Vice President of Foley Family Farms. Mr. Wagner oversees 61 properties and over 200 employees.

Mr. Wagner is a staunch advocate for sustainable farming practices. He has received awards for his work in the Salinas Resource Conservation District and served as a member of the Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group for years. Mr. Wagner served as the director of the Napa Valley Expo Board for nine years, during which he pushed the board to approve the use of Merlot Hall as a winter homeless shelter. He worked closely with the Napa County Health and Human Services to ensure the proposal was approved. Mr. Wagner was also instrumental in bringing the BottleRock Napa Valley festival to Napa County.

A loving husband, father, and grandfather, Mr. Wagner now lives in Sutter County with his family on a small farm. He still makes the commute to Napa and Sonoma counties several times a week to oversee his vineyards.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that Al Wagner is an exemplary member of our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS CONSORTIUM

#### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of The Veterans Consortium, a nonprofit organization providing pro bono services to our nation's veterans with cases pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC).

The Veterans Consortium was established after the first Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims encouraged Congress to create a program to provide veterans with suitable legal representation before the Court—and help them receive every dollar in benefits they are entitled to.

A competitive grant was awarded to The Veterans Consortium for the formation of a legal services corporation to carry out Congress's wishes. Although today it is an independent nonprofit, The Veterans Consortium's founding members are four hallmark veterans advocacy organizations: The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, National Veterans Legal Services Program, and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Over the past 3 decades, The Veterans Consortium has become one of the most prominent organizations providing pro bono services for veterans' claims, with almost 6,000 volunteer attorneys having delivered over \$400 million in rightful benefits, care, and compensation to American veterans. They did so by astoundingly winning over 83 percent of their appeals cases.

While this number demonstrates the effectiveness of the Consortium, it also underscores significant room for improvement in the Department of Veterans Affairs benefits determination process. That's what makes the work of The Veterans Consortium so important.

As Chair of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations subcommittee,

I have the distinct honor and responsibility of leading the only committee in Congress that cares for our servicemembers through their entire lifecycle: both during and after their service.

I'm proud to work with our VSOs to ensure those who have risked their lives for this Nation are supported throughout their transition to civilian life and are able to age with dignity. A critical component of that work is ensuring the Veterans Benefits Administration is adequately funded and that our veterans receive the benefits they need and are entitled to.

We know the benefits and claims process is in dire need of reform, and it has been for years now. That is why I will continue working with VA Secretary McDonough to improve upon the existing system, and by conducting rigorous oversight of all VA agencies to ensure they are spending the money we provide effectively.

Congress can honor our veterans—and the decades of committed work of The Veterans Consortium—by legislating and using the power of the purse to make sure the benefits and claims process is working for those who served their country. For all that veterans sacrifice for this Nation, the least we can do is ensure they receive the benefits they were promised and deserve.

Congratulations to the Veterans Consortium and the TVC National Volunteer Corps on 30 impactful years, and I thank them for all the critically important work they do.

#### CONGRATULATING THE GREENWICH WITCHES ON A VICTORY AT THE CLASS C STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Greenwich High School softball team on an extraordinary season culminating in a win at the state championship game.

The Greenwich Witches won the state championship softball game at Moriches Athletic Complex over the Greene Trojans, by a score of four to one. Led by Coach Bill Curley, the Greenwich Witches rose to the challenge during their final game and, after an amazing comeback, the team pushed the game into an extra inning. Trailing by one run in the fourth inning, the Witches responded with a run of their own during the sixth inning and tied the game. In the top of the eighth inning, the Witches scored three more runs and sealed their state championship victory.

After a hard-fought semifinal game earlier in the day, the Greenwich Witches' perseverance ultimately allowed them to succeed in the final. They won the state championship thanks to the hard work and dedication of the entire team. Pitcher Lily McCauliffe helped carry the team to victory with nine strikeouts during the championship game and eleven in the previous semifinal game. In the championship game, the Greenwich Witches began their comeback with a critical double hit by Reese Autiello. Additionally, Faith Ingber and Kiley Allen scored significant runs that carried the Witches to victory. Their perseverance and determination are truly inspirational and worthy