

death of two Japanese citizens. When I became aware of this tragedy last year, I immediately conveyed my condolences to Ambassador Tomita and continue to pray for the family of those who passed away. At the scene of the accident, LT. Alkonis was immediately arrested by Japanese authorities without receiving any medical care and imprisoned in solitary confinement for 26 days. He was systematically deprived of sleep, denied legal counsel while undergoing harsh daily interrogations by Japanese authorities, and pressured to sign false accusations. Financial compensation plays an influential role in the Japanese justice system, with Japanese citizens possessing considerable leverage over foreigners in court. LT. Alkonis was advised into signing a \$1.65 million financial settlement, the largest private financial settlement ever entered into by a U.S. service member in Japan. Despite there being no evidence of negligence on his part, LT. Alkonis cooperated fully in the investigation and paid the financial settlement in full; nevertheless, he was still sentenced to three years in prison. And last month, the Tokyo High Court rejected the majority of evidence submitted by LT. Alkonis including the Japanese police arrest warrant and a medical diagnosis by military physicians. The Court dismissed LT. Alkonis's appeal last week, even disregarding the financial settlement—an unprecedented decision by a Japanese court. Many familiar with these proceedings have called this situation the most egregious case against an American service member by Japan in over 60 years. I'm deeply troubled by Japan's treatment of LT. Alkonis. A review of the facts clearly shows that LT. Alkonis did not fall asleep and was not negligent, that he did in fact suffer a medical emergency. While indeed a tragedy, this was an accident in every sense of the word. Additionally, there have been numerous Status of Forces Agreement violations and human rights abuses by Japan. I have even heard persuasive allegations of illicit domestic political interference in LT. Alkonis's court proceedings by the victims' family, which is strongly connected to the Tokyo High Court. The treatment of LT. Alkonis has been unacceptable and is hurting the U.S.-Japan alliance exactly when it needs to be strengthened. America cannot allow our brave sons and daughters to be so vulnerably exposed while serving abroad. I call on President Biden, as well as our Ambassador to Japan—Ambassador Emanuel, to bring LT. Alkonis home and to immediately work with our Japanese partners to ensure that the terms of the Status of Forces Agreement are immediately reviewed and enforced at every level. Now more than ever, we need to acknowledge and correct injustices and take the appropriate steps to strengthen this alliance by ensuring service members are treated fairly.

HONORING DIANE PORTER COOLEY

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the vibrant life of Diane Porter Cooley, a pillar of the Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County community, who passed away on March 10, 2022.

Born to a family that settled in Santa Cruz County in the 1850s, and raised on Las Lomas Ranch in Watsonville, Diane had a deep connection to the land and people of the central coast of California. Her father Tom was one of the four founders of Driscoll Berries, and Diane continued her involvement with agriculture until her death. Diane and her husband, Don, were active members of the community, constantly engaged in the issues they cared about.

A deeply passionate civic leader, Diane worked tirelessly to protect and preserve the environment, and was an outspoken advocate for the people of the Pajaro Valley. She once said, "I care for the trees but for humans, too. People should have the chance to thrive just like the Sequoia should stand tall."

She was a dynamic agent of change who championed the creation of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, the Pajaro Valley Arts Council, the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. She was involved with the Nature Conservancy, served on the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency board, and was a supporter of many other causes, including Pajaro Valley Shelter Services, Salud Para la Gente, the University of California, Santa Cruz, Cabrillo College, and Second Harvest Food Bank in Watsonville. We may never know just how many lives she touched, or how many people received an education, braces, medical care, a home, or love when they needed it most thanks to her.

Madam Speaker, Diane Porter Cooley's outreach and philanthropy extended far and wide throughout our community. As Santa Cruz County bids farewell to its beloved daughter of 95 years, may her legacy of giving continue to inspire us for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING DOUGAL NELSON FOR RECEIVING THE KARL FLEMKE PIONEER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD THROUGH JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT USA

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dougal Nelson for receiving the Karl Flemke Pioneer Achievement Award for his work with Junior Achievement of the Heartland through Junior Achievement USA.

Mr. Nelson was very honored to win this award, which is given to first-time presidents of Junior Achievement organizations throughout the country with between 2 and 6 years of service in their role. Nelson was among five others nominated. Junior Achievement of the Heartland, a member of the global JA network, has been serving young people in the Quad-Cities and surrounding areas for 66 years—equipping them with the skillset and mindset to create sustainable businesses, find meaningful employment, and build thriving communities. Mr. Nelson exemplifies the mission statement of Junior Achievement of the Heartland, which is to "inspire and prepare young people to succeed." As CEO, Mr. Nelson believes it is his job to put the right people in the right places to help children succeed and says that his staff and the community are to thank

for him receiving this award. Because of his strong leadership, he was able to build a culture of trust within the organization and make a big difference for youth in the community. I commend Mr. Nelson for his resolve to help the youth in the Quad Cities and surrounding areas.

It is because of strong community leaders such as Dougal Nelson that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Dougal Nelson for winning the Junior Achievement organization's Karl Flemke Pioneer Achievement Award.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOHN W. SEAMAN

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John W. Seaman, for his brave service in the New York Army National Guard.

John Seaman was born in 1937 in Wantagh, New York. When he was young, his family moved to Greenfield and started a farm. In 1959, John entered the New York Army National Guard and was enlisted with the 247th Medical Company. John was deployed twice during his tenure with the National Guard. Both of his deployments were in the Return Forces to Germany Operations in 1990 and 1992 following the fall of the Berlin Wall. During these deployments, John supported active troops with military medical support and delivering aid.

For his brave service during the 1990 deployment, John was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. In 1974, John's unit was awarded the National Guard Superior Unit Award for maintaining the Guard's highest standards. John retired from the service in 1997 at the rank of Sergeant First Class E-7 and was awarded the Army Service Ribbon and the National Defense Service Medal for many years of service in the National Guard.

In addition to his time in the National Guard, John loyally served his local community in a variety of different roles. In 1961, John and his wife moved to Corinth, New York, where he worked as the Superintendent of Buildings, Grounds, Maintenance, Custodial Staff, and the Bus Garage for the Corinth School District. He worked for the school district for a total of 37 years. While working for the school, John was actively involved in multiple local organizations. He was a member of the village planning board, president of Rondac Campers Association, and commander of the Horace D. Washburn American Legion Post 533.

Throughout his life, John showed exceptional dedication to serving his country and his local community. We are proud to join the Saratoga County Veterans Association as part of the monthly Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony to honor John. On behalf of the 21st District of New York, I would like to thank John Seaman and his family for their service to the country and to the Corinth community.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL
HUGH ROBERT OVERHOLT, U.S.
ARMY (RETIRED)

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Hugh Robert Overholt of the United States Army (Retired) for his lifelong service to our country's military, Eastern North Carolina, and our great Nation. Born in the town of Beebe, Arkansas in 1933, General Overholt attended the University of Arkansas where he earned both a bachelor's degree and a law degree. While attending law school, he served as the Comments Editor for the University of Arkansas Law Review.

Following his graduation in 1957, General Overholt entered the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After his graduation from the Army's Judge Advocate General's school, General Overholt would go on to serve in various leadership roles within the United States Army including Assistant Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army from 1981 to 1985 and Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army from 1985 to 1989. General Overholt served a remarkable ten years as a General Officer, which included eight as a Major General. General Overholt used these years to increase the professionalism and the role of the Judge Advocate General's Corps through critical changes and reforms.

One of the finest accomplishments in General Overholt's career was the establishment of the Masters in Military Law (LL.M.) program at the Army's Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School located at the University of Virginia. General Overholt also greatly expanded the schools' facilities, automatized the delivery of Army legal services, and published a revolutionary code of professional responsibility for members of the Army's Judge Advocate Corps. General Overholt's changes modernized the Army's legal services and exemplified his ability as an outstanding leader.

General Overholt has received numerous awards in recognition of his life of service. These include the Distinguished Service Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit, the Department of Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Army Commendation Medal (Two Oak Leaf Clusters). Along with attending the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps Basic and Advanced Courses, General Overholt also attended Airborne School, Command and General Staff College and the National Defense University.

General Overholt has served on the North Carolina Board of Transportation (BOT) since 2009 and was instrumental in creating a new 2020 Department of Transportation (DOT) law that gave the BOT more oversight authority. This new legislation also shifted designation of board members from the Governor to the General Assembly. For the first time under this new authority, Speaker of the North Carolina House Tim Moore used one of the General Assembly's three appointments for General Overholt who was first placed on the BOT by Governor Beverly Perdue and was re-appointed by Governors Patrick McCrory and

Roy Cooper. General Overholt is the only BOT member who has been appointed by both Republican and Democratic Governors, plus a Republican Speaker of the House.

General Overholt in action means seeing good government work. Between 2009 and 2020, General Overholt was instrumental in delivering over \$800 million in new road projects to Carteret, Craven, Jones, Lenoir, and Pitt Counties. Of particular importance has been his support for military related transportation projects. One of the most vital military projects is the new Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point Slocum overpass ramp. General Overholt secured over \$30 million in special funding for the project as part of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) efforts to support the military and reduce traffic accidents and congestions in Havelock. He also advocated for the Highway 17 Bypass through Jones County that finally connected Camp Lejeune and MCAS Cherry Point with a four-lane highway. This was decades in the making and without General Overholt's leadership, it would not have become a reality.

Two other major projects General Overholt helped shepherd through to construction are the Havelock Highway 70 Bypass and the James City-New Bern Highway 70 reconstruction. Today, his focus as an at-large BOT member continues to support Craven and Carteret Counties, the State Ports, aviation, rail, and the Global TransPark as well as overall transportation-related economic development.

Prior to his appointment to the BOT, General Overholt was a Governor's appointee to the North Carolina Military Affairs Advisory Commission. He also helped lead the State's 2004 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) response team where he focused on advocating for MCAS Cherry Point. General Overholt was again successful in preventing the closure of this vital base.

General Overholt also serves as Chairman of the North Carolina's 3rd Congressional District Service Academy Nomination Board, where he assists in nominating high school students to attend our esteemed service academies. He continues to be a servant to the people and the impact he has made on the citizens of this great nation is truly remarkable. General Overholt and his wife, Ann, have two children, Scott and Sharon, two grandchildren, Grayson Overholt and Ashton Overholt Baker, and two great-grandchildren, Sebastian and Sawyer Baker.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of this great patriot and all he has done and continues to do for our great state and Nation.

**RECOGNIZING THE EGYPTIAN
HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL**

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to convey my good wishes to the organizers of this year's Egyptian Heritage Day Festival in Astoria, Queens. Thanks in part to the efforts of dedicated groups such as theirs, New York City is one of the world's great cultural melting pots.

The Egyptian community has long been a pillar of New York City's vibrant immigrant landscape and events like the Egyptian Heritage Day Festival highlight the essential role that Egyptians and all cultural groups play in shaping the fabric of our great city and country.

I have the privilege of representing Little Egypt in Congress, and I have seen firsthand the beauty and strength of this community. Whether it is with authentic Egyptian restaurants, small businesses or community events, Little Egypt and our city's Egyptian community play a key role in making New York City the multicultural capital of the world.

Egyptian Americans have made significant contributions to our country in the fields of science, arts, sports or entertainment. Ahmed Zewail was the first Egyptian to be awarded a Nobel Prize in a scientific field. He studied in and taught at our nation's finest institutions and was nominated by President Obama to serve on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. Mohamed Atalla is often described as a pioneer of semi-conductors and electronics. He was awarded the Benjamin Franklin medal in physics and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Rami Malek has starred in several award-winning films and in 2018 he became the first actor of Egyptian heritage to win the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Michael Mina, is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and now heads the Mina Group, a network of 40 restaurants worldwide.

As these examples illustrate, Egyptian Americans have played a crucial part in our country's scientific, cultural, and artistic accomplishments. Their talents, hard work and dedication help make our country a global beacon of opportunity and discovery.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the organizers of this festival and celebrating the enormous contributions that Egyptian-Americans have made to our country.

**RECOGNIZING MS. JANINE GUIDO
AND THE SPERANZA ANIMAL
RESCUE**

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Janine Guido for her tireless, selfless, and relentless commitment to the protection and rescue of animals in and outside of our community.

Janine grew up around avid horse-riders—where her affection and love for animals and all wildlife began. When her family built their 18-acre horse farm in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, she and her sister not only trained the horses, but also gave lessons/taught other children the joys and value of horses. Though horses were her main focus, her heart also led her to rescue myriad stray, injured, and unwanted animals in her free time.

In 2011, after several knee injuries that made it impossible to train/ride horses anymore, Janine turned her focus fulltime to rescuing animals. Using the family's farm as her home base, Janine went on to save numerous