

APPLAUDING PINELLAS PARK
HIGH SCHOOL FOR THREE CON-
GRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE
WINS

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the students, teachers, and alumni of my home district's own Pinellas Park High School for winning the 2021 Congressional App Challenge for Florida's 13th Congressional District. This will be Pinellas Park High School's third winning submission to the Congressional App Challenge in only five years—the most for any school in Florida's 13th District.

Since our first Congressional App Challenge in 2017, the students of the Pinellas Park High School STEM Club have submitted highly original and technically sophisticated apps addressing the needs of the culturally-diverse communities I'm honored to represent. Helmed by their dedicated STEM teacher, Lafrance "Joe" Clark, this club has proven time and again the power of hands-on STEM instruction, collaboration, and teamwork.

Over the past five years, the winning teams of Pinellas Park High School have created apps that address a host of issues facing our community. From large challenges like those confronting Pinellas Veterans transitioning to civilian life, to smaller but still important ones like the lack of accessible information on teen skincare, these students have used technology to tackle the tough problems they see in the world around them. This year's winning submission, Healthy Minds, is no exception—providing a platform for teens experiencing mental health challenges to access health providers, resources, and expert information.

As the Representative for Florida's 13th Congressional District, I want to congratulate our 2021 Congressional App Challenge winners—Trudy Kwok, Jenna Nguyen, Gabriel Moreno, and Rashonda Fayson. Under the leadership of the excellent Mr. Joe Clark, they are doing their STEM club, school, and community proud.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF LUSIA "LUCY" HARRIS STEW-
ART

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable individual basketball champion, Lusie "Lucy" Harris Stewart.

Lucy was born February 10, 1955, in Minter City, Mississippi to Ethel and Willie Harris. Lucy, at the age of 66, was called to her heavenly resting place on Wednesday, January 18, 2022, at Greenwood-Leflore Hospital in Greenwood, MS.

From her humble beginnings in rural Leflore County, Lucy, along with her eleven siblings, were raised on a system of integrity premised on the tenets of love, kindness and compassion imparted by their parents who instilled a

central moral compass that echoed the heart of the Good Samaritan and core ethical values encompassed in the importance of work, family, community, and the love of God.

A graduate of Amanda Elzy High School in Greenwood, MS, Lucy received a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in health, physical education, and recreation in 1977, a master's degree in education in 1984 and an honorary doctorate degree in 2014—all from Delta State University. Lucy still owns a plethora of Lady Statesmen basketball records and has the honor of holding another distinction: at the 1976 Olympics, Lucy scored the first points ever recorded in an Olympic women's basketball game. Lucy changed the face of women's basketball. Opponents called her unstoppable but even that barely described her approach to the game.

To this date, Lucy is still Delta State's career record holder in points (2,891) and rebounds (1,662) and averaged 25.9 points and 14.5 rebounds per game in 115 career games played. Lucy shot an astonishing 63.3 percent from the field in her illustrious collegiate career.

She holds the distinction as being the first female, collegiate player inducted in the National Basketball Hall of Fame (1992) and is a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame (1999). She is also a member of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame (1990) and the Delta State Sports Hall of Fame (1983). Lucy collected Kodak All-American honors in 1975, 1976, and 1977, and was the Mississippi Sportsperson of the Year in 1976. She became the first and only woman drafted by the NBA, when the New Orleans Jazz selected her in the 1977 draft.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Mrs. Lusie "Lucy" Harris Stewart.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DON
HANSEN

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Don Hansen, who passed away on January 5, 2022.

In 1938, as a young boy, Don and his family moved from Iowa to San Clemente, a beautiful beach town in my congressional district in Southern California. When Don turned twelve, he worked at the San Clemente Pier, hauling fish from arriving ships to the shore. Later, Don enlisted in the United States Coast Guard at the age of eighteen, serving four years—with two of those years stationed in Guam.

Don moved back to San Clemente after his honorable discharge, working at a sportfishing company that he would ultimately buy in 1966. Each season, Don took over 10,000 fishermen into the waters off the coast of Southern California. In 1970, he was honored as San Clemente's "Citizen of the Year" for his efforts.

A year later, Don moved his operation a few miles north of San Clemente to Dana Point Harbor, founding Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching, the harbor's first business. During that time, he helped jumpstart the whale watching industry and created the first

and longest-running annual whale festival in the world, the Dana Point Festival of Whales. In March 2021, I was honored to celebrate the Festival's 50th anniversary with Don and his family.

Beyond his role as a business owner and leader of his community, Don was always a strong advocate for sustainable fishing. The Coastal Conservation Association of California awarded Don its highest honor, the Anthony Hsieh Conservation Award, for his decades of work to improve the accessibility of sportfishing. He maintained positions on the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and the Sportfishing Association of California. He is survived by his children, David, Michael, Jeff, Donna, Jane, and Jennifer, and his 15 grandchildren.

Don Hansen lived an incredible and full life. He was a central part of his community and his love of the ocean and his dedication to the conservation, understanding, and appreciation of whales changed Southern California for the better. We are grateful for his service and contributions to his community.

RECOGNIZING MS. SARONDA
LEWIS AS THE WALTON COUNTY,
FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL SUP-
PORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE
YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Saronda Lewis as the Walton County Educational Support Professional of the Year. Since August of 1998, Ms. Lewis has served the Walton County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best educational support professionals in the Nation. It is recognized that the position of Food Services Manager can be difficult but can also be so rewarding. Ms. Lewis has performed her many duties without any question, while also committing to provide a big smile for all those she encounters.

Her support and outreach extend far beyond the hearts and minds of her own students through her willingness to help wherever assistance is needed. Ms. Lewis has displayed dedicated teamwork by coordinating events, like Freeport's Annual Bayfest and the Spring Festival. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve as an example for those that matter most, the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of her admirable contributions, I am truly proud to have Ms. Lewis as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Saronda Lewis for her accomplishments and her commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Walton County School District. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL
(RETIRED) ROBERT LEWIS
"SAM" WETZEL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary American patriot, soldier, mentor, and hero, Lt. Gen. (RET.) Robert Lewis "Sam" Wetzel. He transitioned on Thursday, January 20, 2022. His Funeral Mass was held on Friday, January 28, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Anne Catholic Church in Columbus, Georgia followed by a military burial at the Fort Benning National Cemetery and visitation at the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.

Lt. Gen. (RET.) Robert Lewis "Sam" Wetzel was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia on October 6, 1930. His impressive 34-year military career began after he graduated from Irving High School in 1948. He planned to attend Purdue University, but ultimately went to the United States Military Academy at West Point. After graduating from West Point in 1952 as an Infantry Officer, he was immediately deployed to Korea, where he served as a Company Commander. In 1961, as a captain, he commanded a mechanized infantry company in Germany.

In 1968, as a Lieutenant Colonel, Wetzel was deployed to South Vietnam to serve as the commander of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment (United States), also known as the "Polar Bears". During a firefight, an enemy bullet grazed his forehead leaving a small but permanent scar. The abrasion and his actions during the Vietnam War prompted his nomination for a Purple Heart, which he declined, however, believing that his wound was not severe enough to warrant being awarded a Purple Heart.

Following his return from Vietnam, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and assumed command of a brigade at Fort Carson, Colorado. In 1975, following promotion to the rank of Brigadier General, he was sent to West Germany, where he commanded the First Infantry Division. Following his command with the First Infantry Division, he received his second star from the Commander of all European and American forces in Europe, the renowned, General Alexander Haig.

Wetzel went on to serve as General Haig's Chief of Staff in Belgium from 1978 to 1979. During this time, he worked with his staff to develop a response to the Soviet Union's deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe. The ultimate strategy was to deploy the Pershing II missiles in Europe, so that Moscow could be hit in a matter of minutes, shortening the response time for the Soviet Union. Unfortunately, domestic political battles began in NATO countries about deploying the Pershing II missiles, and that strategy was deferred. After his tenure as General Haig's Chief of Staff, Wetzel commanded the Third Infantry Division in Würzburg, where he led his division to victory in the annual war games staged in West Germany.

In 1981, Wetzel was diagnosed with what was thought to be terminal melanoma cancer and was given less than a year to live. During this time, the Army offered him full medical disability in exchange for retirement, but he re-

fused the offer, signed a waiver, and remained on active duty. The Army sent him back to the United States, where he managed to make a full recovery and assume command of the infantry training center in Fort Benning, Georgia.

In 1983, Wetzel was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and sent to Germany as the Deputy Commander in Chief of U.S. Forces in Europe as the NATO allies had finally approved the Pershing II plan. Upon his arrival, Wetzel's main responsibility was to receive and deploy the Pershing II missiles amid anti-war demonstrations all over Europe. It is argued that the Pershing II plan was one of three key factors that contributed to the defeat of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

In 1986, Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Colin Powell, succeeded Wetzel in command of V Corps in Frankfurt, Germany. This was his last assignment before retirement.

Following his military service, he continued to serve his community and make a positive impact in the lives of others. His contributions include serving as the Commander in Chief of the Military Order of the World Wars, a Veterans organization of commissioned officers, which is committed to promoting national security, patriotism, good citizenship, and service to one's country. During his stint as Commander in Chief, he worked tirelessly to educate the public, local civic clubs like Kiwanis and Rotary, and the media on national security issues while also instilling patriotism and leadership skills in young people through Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, JROTC, ROTC, and other youth programs.

Among his numerous honors and awards are the Army Distinguished Service Medal, a Bronze Star, two Legions of Merit, six Air Medals, a Joint Superior Service Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal, and a Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star.

Lt. Gen. (RET.) Wetzel accomplished much throughout his life, but none of this would have been possible without his enduring faith in God and the love and support of his wife, Eileen; their children, Margaret, Robert, Eileen, Theodore, Patricia, Catherine, and Michael; and a host of other family, friends, and associates, all of whom will miss him dearly.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in paying tribute to Lt. Gen. (RET.) Robert Lewis "Sam" Wetzel for his extraordinary service to his nation, his community, and to humankind. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all those who mourn his loss.

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING
THE SERVICE OF LT. COL. JOHN
"KARL" MARKS

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the service of one of the highest-time fighter pilots in the U.S. Air Force, Lt. Col. John "Karl" Marks.

On September 1, 2021, U.S. Air Force Reserve pilot, Lt. Col. Marks made history when-

ever he became the only pilot to reach 7,000 hours in the A-10C Warthog; in addition to becoming one of the highest-time fighter pilots in the U.S. Air Force. Lt. Col. Marks is assigned to the 442nd Fighter Wing based out of Whiteman Air Force Base. He has an impressive career which spans over three decades with over 3,610 flights, 1,150 combat hours from thirteen combat deployments in multiple theaters of operations, and his most memorable combat mission of the destruction of 23 Iraqi tanks in a trio of missions during Desert Storm.

It has been said that Lt. Col. Marks is a humble and outstanding attack pilot who loves to fly and brings an immense amount of invaluable knowledge to the 442nd Fighter Wing. Among the incredible feat of achieving 7,000 hours in a single aircraft type, Lt. Col. Marks has had memorable missions from Desert Storm I, Desert Storm II, and from Afghanistan. During his time in Afghanistan's Kunar Valley in 2014, Lt. Col. Marks was able to help extract a Jaguar 20 squadron which was surrounded by the Taliban with no casualties. This is just one of the many successful combat missions Lt. Col. Marks has had.

It is with great honor that I recognize the dedicated service of U.S. Air Force Pilot Lt. Col. John "Karl" Marks. Please join me in congratulating this true American hero for his dedicated valor and service to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICE OF
NAMI NEW HAMPSHIRE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR KENNETH NOR-
TON

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kenneth Norton's nearly 20 years of service to the National Alliance of Mental Illness of New Hampshire. For the past two decades, Ken has served his community as a steadfast advocate for mental health services and suicide prevention leading the way before many in today's society recognized the importance of behavioral health.

Ken started with NAMI NH in 2003 to help create and grow prevention programming and spread awareness to policy makers, providers, and families across our state. By focusing his efforts on the organizations three cornerstones of support, education and advocacy, Ken has significantly expanded NAMI's presence in New Hampshire after stepping into the role of Executive Director in 2011. Under his leadership, the staff of NAMI NH, the budget, and the number of people served has quadrupled in size recognized by their well-deserved Non-profit Impact Award from the NH Center for Nonprofits in 2019.

By working with lawmakers and the public advocates such as NAMI NH and other mental health advocates, Congress has delivered expanded funding opportunities to prevent, educate, and treat our communities in need. Using these new grant opportunities NAMI NH offers Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Mental Health Awareness & Deescalation training for our police, fire, and EMS. This allows our first responders to learn how to best manage individuals experiencing mental illness so they