

confident the leadership he has displayed in his decades of service will be followed in the Lapeer community for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE BLACK STUNTMEN AND WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I rise to take note of the history and accomplishments of the Black Stuntmen and Women's Association (BSA). For 55 years, their pioneering efforts paved the way for all minority stuntmen and women to contribute their talents to the American entertainment industry. They have helped assure that television, movies, and other media, which have a global reach, truly reflect our nation.

Founded in 1967 by Eddie Smith with co-founder Alex Brown and the group's first president Ernie Robinson, members would meet after their regular jobs in a park in Compton, California, to train and perfect their stunts in Hollywood. At the time, Caucasian stunt doubles in dark makeup nearly always stood in for Black actors during filming. By organizing together and working with Black actors who wanted more realistic stunt doubles, they effectively pressured producers and directors to change their practices and open the doors to their work.

These were hard-fought battles. BSA filed 32 lawsuits to shed light on systematic discrimination in the film industry. With the help of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and attorney Margaret Ryan Kreeger, BSA won all 32 cases, including a 1976 judgment that ordered major studios to abide by federal mandates against discriminatory hiring, a major victory in an industry that saw itself outside such legal mandates. BSA's efforts ended the common practice of "paint down" to match a double to the actor's skin tone, while they also broadened and changed the landscape of the film industry.

Forcing more equitable studio hiring practices not only cracked open the door for Black stunt doubles, but also increased Black and minority participation in many other roles behind the camera, including cinematographers, set and lighting designers, costume and makeup designers, even directors and producers.

BSA's groundbreaking work deserves recognition, especially now that many early members have retired or passed away. While much work remains to assure real equality of opportunity, I commend the BSA for their continuing fight for a Hollywood that reflects all of America.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR GRACE VARGAS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent the late Honorable Grace Vargas for her countless

years of dedication to the Inland Empire as the former Mayor of Rialto.

Grace served her community for nearly 35 years and shined as a trailblazer for women of color throughout the Inland Empire. As a single mother of seven children, Grace moved from Yuma, Arizona, to Fontana, California, in 1959. She joined the California Employment Training Act (CETA) program, gaining new skills and turning towards a life of public service for the City of Rialto.

She began her career in 1979 with the City Clerk's office, later transferring to clerk for the Rialto Police Department and the City Treasurer's Office. She was elected to the City Council in 1998, where she served for two years.

In 2000, Grace Vargas was elected Mayor, becoming the first woman and first Latina to hold that position. She served as Mayor for 12 years, retiring in 2012. During her tenure, she accomplished several crucial economic development projects, such as Renaissance Rialto and a new senior center. Her legacy would later be memorialized as the city established the center as the Grace Vargas Senior Center in 2016.

Her work in Rialto and the Inland Empire uplifted residents and businesses, leaving an impact that will be felt for decades to come. Grace's coworkers and friends gave her the nickname "Amazing Grace," exemplifying her dedication and influence on the community. Grace Vargas will be missed in the Inland Empire, but she will remain in our memory through her contributions to the community.

Today, Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Honorable Grace Vargas on the House floor for the contributions she has made to the greater community of the Inland Empire. May she rest in peace and her family find comfort during this time.

RECOGNIZING ILIR ZHERKA

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ilir Zherka's service as Executive Director of the Alliance for International Exchange. For nearly seven years, Ilir has devoted himself to advancing person-to-person exchanges and fostering greater global connectivity. During that time, the Alliance has forged deeper relationships between its members and federal officials, and federal funding for educational and cultural exchange programs has reached record levels.

Ilir's tenure coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, which derailed countless exchange opportunities and threatened the short-term viability of any international linkages. Under Ilir's steady hand, however, the Alliance helped expand on line programming and worked to ease barriers to participation.

Ilir also recognizes the role that exchanges play in strengthening global democratic networks. I commend the Alliance's work to promote freedom and American values within the international exchange community as a means for reversing the global decline of democracy.

While the exchange community will feel his absence, Ilir's legacy will endure through new and fortified international relationships. I join

the Alliance in thanking Ilir for his years of steadfast service, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Inspector General Act of 2022, which would create an independent Inspector General (IG) for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB). The FRTIB administers the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the retirement savings and investment plan for federal employees.

On June 1, 2022, FRTIB launched a new system with the goal of modernizing TSP's recordkeeping, improving customer service and bolstering cybersecurity. There have been widespread problems with the new system, including account access, account balances, missing or incomplete information in accounts and hours-long wait times to reach customer service.

As of December 2021, TSP had approximately 6.5 million participants and \$838,052,933,000 in assets, making it the world's largest defined contribution plan. Federal employees dedicate their careers to serving our country, and they deserve a retirement savings and investment plan that provides top-tier customer support and security.

While the Employee Benefits Security Administration has the audit responsibility for the FRTIB, as it does for all private sector 401(k) plans, there is currently no IG for the FRTIB. The problems with the new TSP system are evidence enough that the FRTIB needs an independent IG.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION OF WAUKEELA CAMP FOR GIRLS

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100 Anniversary Reunion of Waukeela Camp for Girls, located in Eaton, New Hampshire. Established in 1922, Waukeela Camp for Girls has been a home away from home for campers and staff alike for over 100 years.

Waukeela has enshrined its sense of community with treasured traditions and open arms to all, which has built a life-long community that endures even years after leaving camp. It is no easy feat to keep a small business running for 100 years, and I congratulate Waukeela's current and former owners and staff on this accomplishment. Waukeela is also remarkable for the ways in which they give back to our larger Mount Washington Valley community, and we are grateful for their work.

I also wish to extend my condolences to the entire Waukeela community for the losses of Edith "Edie" Middleton, Ralph Mead, Kendall Chun, Louise Stevenson Thomas, and Nancy Evans Burns, the latter two of whom were better known around camp as "Stevie Ma'am" and "Nan EB" respectively. This centennial celebration is not complete without their presence, and I hope this weekend brought you a chance to honor their memory and share stories of the good times you enjoyed with them.

Finally, I recognize the 'Mid Pines Foundation for organizing this reunion celebration, and for the work they do to provide for those who could not otherwise afford to attend Waukeela Camp for Girls.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, congratulations once again to the entire Waukeela Camp for Girls community on this incredible milestone.

RECOGNIZING MS. MOLLY
McFADDEN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significant contributions of Ms. Molly McFadden, as she steps down as Director of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) Department of Emergency Preparedness. I'm pleased to join Ms. McFadden's friends and colleagues to celebrate her twenty years of committed service to the safety of North Texas.

Ms. McFadden, a University of North Texas alumna, first began working for the NCTCOG in September 2002 as an Emergency Preparedness Specialist. During her time as a student, her involvement in the International Emergency Management Student Association in the aftermath of 9/11 garnered numerous awards. She also briefly served on the municipal level as the Emergency Management Specialist for the town of Flower Mound in 2003. In 2005, she also earned her Master of Public Administration at UNT and continues to be a devoted proponent of her beloved alma mater.

Throughout her lengthy tenure with NCTCOG, Ms. McFadden's passionate dedication to public preparedness and safety has expanded and strengthened North Texas' emergency response capabilities and infrastructure. Ms. McFadden was personally instrumental in forming the NCTCOG Emergency Preparedness (EP) Department, which effectively coordinates and fosters collaboration between local, county, regional, State, and Federal agencies to execute and heighten regional emergency preparedness and homeland security programs. After being promoted to EP Supervisor and then EP Manager, Ms. McFadden was selected as the Director of the EP Department in 2010, where she has served for the past 12 years.

In addition to her leadership at the NCTCOG, Ms. McFadden served on the Board of Directors for the Emergency Management Association of Texas (EMAT), and, from 2006–2008, as the organization's Vice President. Her involvement with EMAT also included significant contributions to educational

programming for the Association's annual conference, which she capably chaired for several years. In addition, she is a member of the FBI's InfraGard program, The International Association of Emergency Managers, and the World Affairs Council.

Her emergency response deployments include Emergency Operation Center assignments in the wakes of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Harvey, and Hurricane Ike, where her selfless devotion helped to provide effective disaster relief to citizens and communities across Texas. On the local level, Ms. McFadden has implemented new training initiatives, such as Urban Shield and Big-X, to equip civilians and government entities for emergency response. I am also personally grateful to her and her staff for their efforts to educate and equip my constituents to prepare for all hazards, both natural and man made. At my annual Emergency Preparedness Summit, she has often served as a subject matter expert on intergovernmental cooperation and as a panel moderator.

Ms. McFadden's expertise, diligence and leadership has resulted in the enhanced safety and well-being of her fellow Texans. I applaud her two decades of exemplary public service, and I wish her all the best in her future personal and professional endeavors.

HONORING THE HEROIC LIFE AND
SERVICE OF HAROLD MCAFEE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic life and service of World War II veteran and United States Army Sergeant Harold McAfee.

Harold McAfee was born in Detroit, Michigan, on January 9th, 1923. Harold was a star hockey player in high school and was offered a scholarship to Fordham University. Instead, Harold enlisted in the newly formed 10th Mountain Division in 1943, where he trained in mountain combat and utilized his substantial hockey experience to learn skiing and mountaineering skills. He was deployed as a Combat Infantry Squad leader in Italy and held the line against Tito's movements on the Italy-Yugoslav border.

During World War II, Harold played an integral role in one of the 10th Mountain Division's most iconic attacks. After two other divisions had previously failed, the 10th Mountain Division was tasked with securing Mount Belvedere in Italy's North Apennines to ensure Allied forces could safely advance into northern Italy. The 10th Mountain Division valiantly overran the Germans, clearing them from the high ground and laying the groundwork for an Allied victory. In 1946, Harold was honorably discharged and was awarded a Bronze Star and two Oak Leaf Clusters.

After his time in the military, Harold dedicated more than thirty years of his life working for the United States Postal Service. In 1989, Harold and his wife Loraine relocated from Long Island to Queensbury. They spent a large amount of their time enjoying the outdoors through hiking, skiing, camping, and golf. Harold prioritized sharing his passion for winter sports with children. For many years,

he volunteered as a coach for Adirondack Youth Hockey, where he mentored hundreds of children. In addition, he was a member of several clubs in his community such as the Lions Club and the High Flyers. Harold remained active until he reached the age of 97, when his attention became fully devoted to caring for his wife who developed dementia.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary life of Harold McAfee. It is my hope that his active spirit and community service will be carried on by those who knew and loved him.

HONORING DOROTHY LOUISE
LEONARD

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorothy (Dot) Louise Leonard of Stevensville, Maryland, on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Ms. Leonard has contributed enormous energy and talent over the years to the protection of our Nation's coastal resources, particularly our shellfish and the industry they support. Not surprisingly—for Dot—she is still immersed in shellfish restoration work as we speak.

A public policy graduate of New York's Syracuse University, Dot Leonard's local government land use planning work soon drew her into coastal conservation matters following Congress' adoption of the 1972 Coastal Zone Management Act. Dot took on the monumental task of creating an atlas of shellfish production areas around the Nation's entire coastline for the purpose of protecting those areas. She proceeded to develop Best Management Practices for Shellfish Restoration, now used by State and local governments to set sanitary control standards for our Nation's shellfish waters and industry.

Dot was recruited by the State of Maryland to lead its Department of Fisheries where she worked with all her might to help her Chesapeake Bay 'watermen' protect and restore their oyster grounds and other fishery resources. She worked with the State of Washington, as executive director of the non-profit Willapa Alliance, to improve shellfish culture in the southwest corner of that State.

Dot has been a 'mover and shaker' in the international shellfish restoration scene, helping to pull together the initial gathering of what has become the International Shellfish Restoration Conference, now in its 20th year. Some of her favorite international shellfish restoration gatherings are those that have taken place in Ireland, from where her grandparents immigrated to America more than a century ago. As Chair of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, I know Dot's contributions to shellfish restoration and coastal conservation are far-reaching.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate to recognize Dot Leonard for her extraordinary commitment to coastal conservation and shellfish restoration as she celebrates her 90th birthday in Ireland surrounded by many of the friends that she has won over the years from the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland and beyond. Please join me in expressing deep appreciation for her service and in