

is also survived by his daughter-in-law Laurie Stone and grandchildren, Leah, Emma, and Nathan, as well as his first grandchild and daughter of Cari, Abigail Slider.

# RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN WHO SOAR

## HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2022*

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of Mary Kraft, Sylvia Waller, and Polly Letofsky who will be honored by the Northwest Douglas County Chamber & Economic Development Corporation as "Women Who Soar."

Each year, the Northwest Douglas County Chamber & Economic Development Corporation recognizes three women in the Denver Metro Community who inspire our community and are blazing the path for future generations.

Mary Kraft has been recognized as a "Woman Who Soars" because in the face of a multitude of struggles, she harnessed innovation and technology to advance her farm's capabilities. Her and her husband used an innovative approach to nurture their Blue Toothed cows—growing the herd from 200 to 6,000. Mary held the first leadership role by a woman and eventually became President of American Agriculture at the Colorado Livestock Association.

Sylvia Waller has been recognized as a "Woman Who Soars" by challenging and changing the standard of beauty. At the age of 62, she became the first African American in 32 years to be crowned Mrs. Colorado. Sylvia believes beauty has no age, shape, or color, rather it is found in the heart and spirit. Sylvia is a passionate Volunteer Community Educator for the Alzheimer's Association, using her personal experience as a caretaker for her father who suffered from dementia to help promote services for individuals and families dealing with the disease.

Polly Letofsky has been recognized as a "Woman Who Soars" because of her efforts to support authors who self-publish their work. She founded My Word Publishing which disrupted the publishing world by helping authors professionally self-publish their books while maintaining 100 percent of their rights. Since its inception, Polly's business has grown into a publishing library of 750 books and representing authors from 14 countries.

From using innovative methods in farming to creating a publishing house for self-publishing authors, this year's recipients have made a lasting impact on those around them and in our community. It is leaders like these three women who will allow us to achieve a more prosperous and inclusive future and I congratulate them all on being recognized as "Women Who Soar."

# HONORING JACK COLMER UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY 2022 GRADUATE

## HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2022*

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Jack Colmer as a member of the United States Merchant Marine Class of 2022.

Colmer graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy on Saturday, June 18, 2022, and was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserves.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Colmer's unselfish devotion to the people of this great Nation.

The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

South Mississippi is proud of Colmer and his accomplishments, and we look forward to him continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire Nation, as a United States Naval Reserve Officer.

As Ensign Colmer embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, graduating from a program as prestigious as the Merchant Marine Academy.

I would like to send Colmer my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

Semper Fidelis.

# CELEBRATING MONTEREY PENINSULA COLLEGE

## HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2022*

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Monterey Peninsula College as it celebrates 75 years of commitment to higher learning and service to the central coast of California. Since its establishment in 1947, Monterey Peninsula College has continued to provide transformative educational opportunities to students.

Monterey Peninsula College first began instruction in 1947 at Monterey High School. The next year, 280 students enrolled at the college's Fremont Street campus, and in 1949, 34 students were the first to graduate from this college by the Bay. By 1957, Monterey Peninsula College celebrated a milestone as it enrolled 1,000 students, and the College embarked on expanding its campus to include a library, arts and music center, athletic swimming pool, theater, and instruction buildings in the years that followed. The Library and Technology Center opened in 2003 and four years later, the College celebrated the first day of classes at the new Education Center in Marina.

Monterey Peninsula College continues to expand educational opportunities for its ever-growing student population. From 1971 to 1973, Monterey Peninsula College operated an extension campus at Fort Ord, which greatly benefitted Armed Forces personnel and

their families. From 1982 until 1993, a partnership between the College and the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula created the Maurine Church Coburn School of Nursing. This continued expansion of its facilities and programs ensures students at Monterey Peninsula College have access to high-quality education and post-graduate opportunities.

Monterey Peninsula College's illustrious history includes visits and recognition from many renowned educators, athletes, and activists. In 1960, the former First Lady and civil rights activist Eleanor Roosevelt spoke at the College, followed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. the following year. American activist Rosa Parks also spoke at the campus in 1990, bolstering the impressive history of this institution as well as its goal to enrich students' educations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Monterey Peninsula College and its remarkable rise from its humble beginnings in Monterey High School to becoming a respected institution. I personally extend my gratitude to Monterey Peninsula College's administration, instructors, leaders, and visionaries who continue to provide its students with life-changing opportunities and experiences.

# HOMETOWN HERO—GARLAND ISD

## HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2022*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Garland ISD for its dedication to ensure our North Texas veterans are set up for success when they return home.

Last month, after recognizing the statewide struggle to find employees, Garland ISD partnered with Soldiers to Sidelines—a non-profit aimed at helping soldiers get the training, credentialing, and even the networking needed to build post military careers in coaching.

I have met with several veterans groups across North Texas and they have all expressed the immense challenges they face transitioning into civilian life. By partnering with Soldiers to Sidelines, Garland ISD has affirmed its commitment to helping the heroes of North Texas overcome this obstacle.

It is imperative we lift up and support the veterans who have risked it all for our country. I'd like to thank Garland ISD for going above and beyond to do exactly that.

# RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF RICHARD AND ANN COBB

## HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2022*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of Dr. Richard Cobb and Ann Ventress Cobb.

Richard and Ann met at Cleburne County High School; he played in the band and she was a majorette—they have been together ever since. On August 12, 1972, they were

married at Heflin Baptist Church in Heflin, Alabama.

Richard was employed at Jacksonville State University as Department Head of Management, Marketing and e-Commerce Department in the College of Business. Ann was employed by Cleburne County Board of Education and taught High School English at both Ranburne and Cleburne County High Schools.

Richard, who served in the United States Marine Corps, has had his commercial driver's and private pilot's licenses since he was in high school, and for years Ann has received support for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The Cobbs are members of Heflin Baptist Church. They were blessed with two children: David (Misty) and Laura (Chad). They have six grandchildren: Nathan, Charis, Jonas, Ayla, Reaves and Fields.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Richard and Ann, and wishing them a happy 50th anniversary.

#### CELEBRATING CHAPLAIN BENJAMIN VEGORS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2022*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chaplain Benjamin Vegors, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on Sunday, September 25, 2022. Benjamin lives in Walla Walla, Wash., where for the last four decades, he has lived an inspiring life full of purpose. As anyone who knows him will tell you, Benjamin has had a positive impact on every person he has crossed paths with, both in his service to our country and community.

Chaplain Vegors is a man of great integrity, and he is a tremendous example to the next generation. He valiantly protected our country's freedom and liberty in the midst of World War II, when he served in the Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1945. During a particularly fateful mission in which two of his plane's engines were shot out, Chaplain Vegors made a promise that if he survived, he would serve God for the rest of his life.

Benjamin stayed true to his word. After his time as a serviceman, Chaplain Vegors turned his focus to living a life dedicated in service to God and His people. He attended Seminary at Multnomah Bible College in Portland and was appointed as a full-time chaplain at the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla in 1972. For 42 years, Chaplain Vegors selflessly served his brothers and sisters in arms, veterans from all across Eastern Washington, by offering his counsel and care until his retirement in 2014 at the age of 91.

During his remarkable 100 years of life, Chaplain Benjamin Vegors has undoubtedly fulfilled his mission to serve God and help others. Madam Speaker, on this most special day, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Benjamin Vegors the happiest 100th birthday and celebrating the legacy he will leave within our community for generations to come.

#### EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE WELFARE OF EMAD SHARGI

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to express concern about the welfare of Emad Shargi, a longtime resident of the District of Columbia who has been unjustly and inhumanely detained in Iran since 2018.

While visiting his wife's family in Iran, Mr. Shargi was arrested in the middle of the night by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and forcefully taken to the notorious Evin Prison, where he was held in solitary confinement and intensely interrogated for eight months. He was then released and cleared of the fabricated charges but was denied the return of his travel documents and banned from leaving the country. In November 2020, he was sentenced, without a trial, to 10 years in prison on fabricated charges. He is in Evin Prison. His family and I are concerned about his wellbeing.

I call upon the State Department to prioritize the immediate release of Emad Shargi and to do everything possible to bring him home safely.

#### SPC ROBERT PARKER

### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2022*

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Stratford Borough resident Robert Parker.

Specialist and Combat Life Saver Robert Parker has been a resident of Stratford, New Jersey for nineteen years and has dedicated his life to his community and our country. SPC Robert Parker was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, enlisting in the Army National Guard in 2000. He was deployed abroad to Iraq shortly after purchasing his home in 2003 and participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Robert also served in Kuwait and was a part of the national response to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ultimately, Robert served in the Army National Guard for six years attaining the rank of E4 as a transportation specialist and saved lives during combat. He was stationed at the Philadelphia Armory when in the United States and Camp Arifjan in Kuwait during the Iraq war before he was discharged in 2006.

SPC Robert Parker is the recipient of the Combat Action Badge, Army Achievement Medal, and National Defense Service Medal. He has also been awarded a Global War on Terrorism Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the A/M Device Army Service Ribbon.

In continuing his dedication and service to his community and country, SPC Robert Parker is involved locally, serving his neighbors and fellow veterans as a member of the VFW 7365 in Stratford, New Jersey. He also

serves as a coach of local basketball teams and Sterling Knights youth football. Robert has also built a career as a commercial roofer and member of Local 30, as well as bartending.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring SPC Robert Parker, of Stratford, New Jersey, a resident dedicated to his community, country and to those who have bravely served and defended the United States of America.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER DOMINIC HALL

### HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2022*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life and legacy of an outstanding public servant, Officer Dominic Hall. A military veteran and police officer with the Appleton Police Department, Officer Hall dedicated his life to serving his Nation and our Northeast Wisconsin community. Officer Hall was committed to serving the United States and Northeast Wisconsin through many different roles. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after graduating from Xavier High School and was active duty from 2008 to 2012. He then reenlisted in the Army National Guard where he continued serving until 2018. His dedication and commitment to his country has been memorialized by countless recognitions received during his career, including the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three Campaign Stars, the Bronze Star, USN Meritorious Unit Commendation, USMC Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and more. It is evident through his years of impeccable service that Officer Hall's dedication to his nation and community never wavered. I am incredibly grateful for his selfless and dedicated service.

Officer Hall continued to serve his community by joining the Police Department in the City of Appleton in 2017. Since 2017, he protected his friends and neighbors and was recognized by receiving the Appleton Police Department Commander's Commendation for apprehension of a homicide suspect, and the Appleton Police Department Life Saving Award. Officer Hall's exemplary character and thoughtfulness will certainly be missed by many throughout the City of Appleton and Northeast Wisconsin.

Throughout Officer Hall's fight with cancer that began in 2021 he continued to shine a light in our community. His battle with cancer brought together his church community at St. Pius X Parish frequently praying for healing. I am confident Officer Hall inspired many throughout our community with his fighting spirit.

Madam Speaker, today the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank Officer Dominic Hall for his extraordinary devotion to his community. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jacole, his two children, and all the people who were touched by his life.