

April 27, 2022, and September 14, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 428, YEA on Roll Call No. 429, and YEA on Roll Call No. 127.

#### RECOGNIZING RON HALBER

#### HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2022*

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe the remarkable tenure of Ron Halber, who is recognizing his 25th year of service to the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington. Ron has served as the JCRC's Executive Director since 2001, and his passionate work in that role reflects his dedication to the DC-area Jewish community.

Ron has transformed the JCRC of Greater Washington, turning it into one of the nation's most robust Jewish community relations organizations. Under his leadership, the JCRC has advocated for numerous pieces of beneficial state and local legislation and has been able to vastly increase its programming in support of the organization's mission.

Ron is the deserving recipient of the 2006 Ted B. Farber Professional Excellence Award and the 2001 Professional of the Year Award from the Association of Community Government Affairs Directors. However, his career outside of JCRC has been just as remarkable as his career inside. He has long been involved in his community, serving as the political coordinator for the Montgomery County Democratic Party and, long before, as the community liaison for New York State Senator Martin Solomon.

Ron Halber's tenure has been beneficial for the State of Maryland, and I know that he will continue to serve the state as Executive Director of the JCRC. His dedication to Maryland's Jewish community and the greater Maryland community serves as an example for us all of what it means to be an American, committed to both pluralism and the common good. I hope that the House will join me in celebrating Mr. Halber's contributions.

#### HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORT OF HARLINGEN, TX

#### HON. MAYRA FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2022*

Mrs. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Port of Harlingen, Texas, as it celebrated its 70th anniversary this year.

On February 27, 1952, John Fullbright, the President of the Intracoastal Canal Association of Louisiana and Texas, stood in front of a crowd and said, "Port Harlingen is now open for business!" For 70 years, the Port has served a major role in the growth and development of those in the Rio Grande Valley and throughout the country.

In 1926, Mr. Lon C. Hill, the first Mayor of Harlingen, envisioned that the newly formed city would be a vital port for the Arroyo Colorado River. He was right. Soon after, he and

several other colleagues began the process of creating the Port. From 1926 to 1941, the commissioners worked to secure the funding for the Port of Harlingen and in 1938, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers approved the building of the channel. Not long after, construction began. For the next nine years, construction workers tirelessly worked to build the Port. Finally, the Port of Harlingen was finalized. On February 27, 1952, the Port was officially opened as it discharged its first cargo shipment of steel pipes.

Initially, the Port was responsible for transporting steel, fuel, a variety of seafoods, and gasoline. Later, it quickly began to be a transporter of fertilizer and liquid bulk. This meant that the Port could serve as a means of transporting the goods local farmers produced as well as means of receiving the needed assistance to increase their production. The Port of Harlingen continued to expand. In 1979, the construction of the Administration Building began, and in 1983, it officially changed its name to "The Port of Harlingen Authority".

It also serves as the starting point of the Gulf-Intracoastal Waterway and has become a critical port for the South Texas as well as the rest of the country. The RGV would not be the area like we know it without the Port of Harlingen. It is an essential part for the people of the Valley as it employs just over 4,600 jobs for individuals directly and indirectly.

It is for these reasons and our history that I congratulate the Port on its 70th anniversary and look to the future as it will continue to impact the RGV.

#### RECOGNIZING THE KOREAN AND VIETNAM WAR VETERANS

#### HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2022*

Mr. BENTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Korean and Vietnam War Veterans from Oregon's Second Congressional District who are visiting their memorials on the National Mall through the efforts of Honor Flight of Oregon. When I have the opportunity to meet these heroes, I am reminded of the enduring words of General George S. Patton, who said, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of men who follow and of the man who leads that gains that victory." The words he spoke then, Madam Speaker, still ring true today. Those who value liberty are indebted to these heroes, for each one of them chose to defend freedom through acts of service, incredible sacrifice, and bravery on behalf of our country. It is my privilege to include in the Record their names.

The Veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are as follows: Robert Altvatter, Army; Dennis Allen, Marine Corps; Kenneth Anderson, Navy; Fred Barber, Marine Corps; Keith Becker, Marine Corps; Robin Brown, Coast Guard; Ricky Davis, Air Force; James DeSully, Army; George Endicott, Army; Robert Fincham, Navy; James Gabriel, Navy; Vernon Gurney, Army; James Lindgen, Navy; Thomas Mabalot, Navy; Thomas McCann, Navy; James Mills, Navy; George Oldham, Army; Joseph Petrelli, Navy; Thomas Queener, Navy; Wade Reece, Army; John Richardson, Marine

Corps; Ronald Robbel, Army; Harold Schneider, Navy; Gerald Smith, Army; Spencer Stewart, Marine Corps; Allan Tobiason, Army; Jay Turnage, Navy; Mark Wirges, Marine Corps; Jimmie Young, Marine Corps; and James Zupancic, Air Force.

These heroes join over 240,000 Veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005. I would also like to recognize volunteer Dr. Jana Frazier for her years of dedicated service to our Veterans and the Central Oregon Honor Flight.

Madam Speaker, Ronald Reagan affirmed that, "We owe this freedom of choice and action to those men and women in uniform who have served this Nation and its interests in time of need. In particular, we are forever indebted to those who have given their lives that we might be free." As a nation, we must never take for granted the liberties we enjoy today, recognizing that these freedoms have been hard-won by the honor, commitment, and sacrifice of our Veterans. Each Member in this chamber and citizen in these United States should be humbled by the courage of the brave Veterans who voluntarily underwent dangers and successes in order to preserve our country and way of life. Colleagues, please join me in thanking these Veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their remarkable service and devotion to our great country.

#### CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF CIRCLE THE CITY

#### HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2022*

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Circle the City. By recognizing health care as the first step to empowerment and independence, Circle the City is an invaluable community partner in addressing homelessness in Phoenix.

Founded by Sister Adele O'Sullivan, CSJ, MD, Circle the City opened the first medical respite center for people facing homelessness in Phoenix in 2012. Today, Circle the City operates two medical respite centers, two outpatient health care clinics, and four mobile medical units. The COVID-19 pandemic increased homelessness in Phoenix dramatically and made providing health care to underserved populations more important than ever. Circle the City rose to the challenge, providing vaccinations to the hardest to reach individuals. As climate change continues to worsen extreme heat in Phoenix, Circle the City has been working to help people experiencing homelessness prevent and heal from heat exhaustion and dehydration.

I would like to offer my deepest thanks to Circle the City for their work providing health care to a population that is too often overlooked. I congratulate them on a decade of service and look forward to helping them achieve another 10 years.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM O'HALLERAN**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2022*

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on September 15, 2022, I was unable to vote for H.R. 302, the Preventing a Patronage System Act. I would have voted in favor of H.R. 302. I was also unable to vote on Agreeing to the Amendment by Mr. HICE on H.R. 302. I would have voted against the Amendment.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF CHUCK FUENTES

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2022*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a very heavy heart to honor the life of Chuck Fuentes, my dear friend and confidant, who passed away on September 13 at the age of 70.

Born March 16, 1952 in Whittier, CA to Robert H. and Theresa M. Fuentes, Charles Patrick "Chuck" Fuentes was raised in the City of Norwalk, CA. He attended St. John of God Catholic School, St. John Bosco High School, Cerritos Community College, and the University of California-Berkeley.

Chuck was raised a proud Democrat by his father, Robert H. "Bob" Fuentes, a politico of some note. Chuck ran countless campaigns and ran for office himself. He was a shrewd strategist with a keen sense of timing, and he had a knack for connecting a candidate's vision to voters' concerns.

Chuck was a ubiquitous presence in city, county, state, and national politics, causes, and committees, and was elected the youngest member of the Cerritos Community College Board of Trustees. He served for 26 years on the Democratic State Central Committee, was elected Vice Chair of the California Democratic Party in 1989, and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Working at all levels of government, Chuck was at one time my right hand, serving as my advisor on the Norwalk City Council and my Chief of Staff in the State Assembly and the United States Congress. My gratitude for all his years of service knows no bounds. He was instrumental in helping guide me as a public servant but was so much more than an employee. Chuck was family, and his loss is immeasurable.

Chuck was also campaign manager for James K. Hahn in his final successful campaign for City Controller and his later successful campaigns for City Attorney and for Mayor of Los Angeles. He served as Chief Administrative Officer for the Los Angeles City Controller's Office and later as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Los Angeles City Attorney. Chuck was City Manager of Pico Rivera and was General Manager at the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

A devout Roman Catholic and member of the Knights of Columbus, Norwalk Council 3678, Chuck was an active member of numer-

ous church communities and served as a parish bereavement minister.

Chuck is survived by his spouse, Linda L. Unruh; siblings Christine M. Fuentes, Roberta T. "Bobbi" Buescher, Andrea Kunkel (Robert), Cecilia C. Fuentes, Robert H. Fuentes III, Christopher Fuentes (Paul), and Joseph A. Fuentes (Amy); and godchildren Ryan A. Kunkel, Jonathan Palomares, Robert H. Fuentes IV, and Ray Morones.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the family, colleagues, and friends of Chuck Fuentes, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing his distinguished life and public service. Although he is deeply missed, he will forever remain in our hearts.

## RECOGNIZING MRS. DIANE MESSER DODDS

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2022*

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Diane Messer Dodds, for receiving the Bench and Bar Award, Kern County Bar Association's most prestigious award.

A graduate of Yale Law School, Mrs. Dodds was sworn into the California State Bar in 1975 and began her lifelong commitment to provide outstanding legal services to those in need. She started her legal career working with the Legal Aid Office in Long Beach, California. After a year there, she began clerking for U.S. District Judge Harry Pregerson. Following her clerkship, she would go on to work at the Western Center on Law and Poverty in Los Angeles.

After her time with Western Center, Mrs. Dodds moved to Kernville after marrying her husband, Patrick. For 12 years, she would provide important legal services to the elderly throughout her community as she and Patrick raised their young children. This work led to her meeting Pat Jennison, an attorney in Bakersfield, who has been a dear friend and important legal partner. The two would go on to open the law office of Jennison and Dodds in 2007.

For decades, Mrs. Dodds has provided vital legal services to clients throughout the Valley. Mrs. Dodds's pro bono work has earned her special recognition from the California State Bar, as a recipient of the Wiley M. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services. Mrs. Dodds has dedicated thousands of hours to legal clinics for self-represented litigants through the Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance and the Kern County Law Library—even teaching a monthly class at the library for self-represented litigants for the past 15 years.

Mrs. Dodds has rightfully received the praise of fellow attorneys, Judges, Bar Associations throughout California, and most importantly—her clients. She has accomplished all of this while being a dedicated wife and loving mother to three children, and I cannot think of a more deserving recipient of this prestigious award than Mrs. Dodds.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the incredible work of Mrs. Diane Messer Dodds for her accomplishment of receiving the Kern County Bar Association Bench and Bar Award.

## RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS FOR 2022

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2022*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three schools in the Illinois 11th Congressional district that have been named National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2022: Eisenhower Academy, Elmwood Elementary School, and Highlands Elementary School. These schools are recognized for their overall academic excellence on their progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups, demonstrating that all students can achieve at high levels.

Throughout its 40-year history, the National Blue-Ribbon Schools Program has affirmed the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. The award flag gracing a school's building has been widely recognized by everyone—from parents to policymakers—as a symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the faculty, staff, administrators, parents, and students at these three schools for their great accomplishment.

## RECOGNIZING THELMA CASTILLO AND THE BLUE WATER AREA CHAMBER

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2022*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thelma Castillo and The Blue Water Area Chamber in Port Huron, Michigan for supporting, celebrating, and growing small businesses in Michigan.

The Blue Water Area Chamber is hosting a MI New Favorite Snack competition this fall. The competition gives businesses with 10 or fewer employees a chance at a generous cash prize. This opportunity allows up and coming businesses the chance to show off their products and promote them in an exciting new way. Participants look forward to the marketing benefits as well as a chance at winning the cash prize to invest in the growth of their business.

Small businesses are a critical part of our economy and community. We must continue to help them grow by supporting them in any way we can. I applaud the work of Thelma Castillo and The Blue Water Area Chamber for recognizing small businesses in Michigan.

## RECOGNIZING PASTORS RANDY AND AMY BEZET

**HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2022*

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Pastors Randy and Amy Bezet