

family in Lima before moving to Orlando, Florida when she was 14 years old.

After high school, Dr. Mendez earned a bachelor's degree with honors in psychology from the University of Central Florida. She then earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy and completed a clinical health psychology post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Psychiatry, and Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. Mendez is board certified in behavioral and cognitive psychology and began working at the Orlando VA healthcare system in 2014. As a result of her outstanding clinical skills and natural leadership abilities, she now oversees the clinical care, staff, and operations of mental health services across four of the Orlando VA's community-based outpatient clinics.

Every aspect of Dr. Mendez's career reflects a dedication to advocacy, equity, and service to others. Her research focuses on decreasing health disparities by improving social determinants of health for at-risk and underrepresented communities. She works tirelessly to improve access to mental health care for veterans from historically marginalized communities, which is reflected in her clinics' operations, as well as in the evidence-based, culturally sensitive approach she takes within her clinical work.

As a VA national consultant for diversity, equity, and inclusion, Dr. Mendez's leadership and expertise has been a driving force behind many DEI-related initiatives at the Orlando VA and throughout VA's across the country.

HONORING 82ND AIRBORNE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CORPORAL JOHN S. GILBERTIE FOR HIS VALOROUS SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal John S. Gilbertie who was inducted into the 82nd Airborne Division's Hall of Fame on September 28, 2022.

The 82nd Airborne Division's Hall of Fame began in 2018 to honor the division's 101 years of legendary service and its members. It honors veteran paratroopers who are nominated for their service within the division, their commitment to the division's values, their contributions to their chosen field outside of their division, or any other valorous combat actions.

A brief look at Cpl. Gilbertie's career accomplishments only begins to adequately describe the importance of his military service. He served in the 82nd Airborne Division from October 1917 to May 1919, which included serving as an infantryman and squad leader in company E, 327th Infantry Regiment during the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns of World War I. During WWI, Cpl. Gilbertie led nightly patrols for the 327th Regiment, which earned him the Distinguished Service Cross. According to his citation, he carried messages from the front lines to battalion and regimental headquarters in October 1918 near Cornay, France; "Although suffering from the effects of gas and sickness, on two occasions, he volun-

teered and led patrols in the enemy territory, obtaining and returning with information of the utmost importance and value." For his efforts, Cpl. Gilbertie was awarded the Silver Star Medal, the World War I Victory Medal with three Clasps and the Italian War Cross.

In the words of the former commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, Gen. Erik Kurilla, "the All American Hall of Fame is about preserving our legacy and paying homage to our All American Legends." Cpl. Gilbertie's selfless service could not be more deserving of such recognition. I know I speak for all in our community and Nation in thanking Cpl. John S. Gilbertie for his committed service and leadership in the 82nd Airborne Division and our nation's military more broadly.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring and congratulating Corporal John Gilbertie for his induction to the 82nd Airborne Division's Hall of Fame.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NEAL J. KATZ

**HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of Neal J. Katz.

On November 23, 1954, Neal was born to Regina and Louis Katz in New York City. In high school he would earn the name "Statz" after managing statistics for Horace Mann's Basketball Team, a lifelong skill to which he was well suited.

Following his graduation from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master's in Business Administration, Neal and his wife, Diane, would move to Texas, eventually settling in Plano.

Mr. Katz would become an active fixture in Collin County politics where his roles included serving as an elector as part of the Texas delegation to the Electoral College, on the State Republican Executive Committee, as a delegate to the National Convention, and as an active participant in more than a dozen local organizations. Most recently, he retired as Executive Director of the Collin County Republican Party.

Service above self was an important component of Neal's life, and his passions included keeping his hometown of Plano safe. To that end, he was a graduate of the Plano Citizens Police Academy, a Field Training Officer, and a volunteer in several initiatives including Citizens Assisting Plano Police, the Plano Youth Police Academy, and Summer Safety School.

As a proud father to Janelle and Rachel, Neal proudly served as a Girl Scouts Troop Cookie Dad before being elevated to a University of North Texas sports fan and ISU theatre patron.

While we mourn Neal's loss, we remember his many contributions as a servant leader within our community. With much gratitude for his longtime grassroots efforts, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the rich legacy of Neal J. Katz.

HONORING MIKE BRENNAN, FOUNDER AND FORMER CO-CHAIRMAN OF UNITY FOUNDATION

**HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to honor Mike Brennan and to wish him well upon his retirement from the board of Unity Foundation of La Porte County. Mike is the founder and former Co-Chairman of this outstanding organization, and his lifetime commitment to charitable efforts is to be commended. Mr. Brennan will be honored at the foundation's 30th anniversary celebration taking place at Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City, Indiana, on Saturday, October 1, 2022.

Mike Brennan is a developer, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. His successful career and lifetime of service is truly impressive and noteworthy. Among his many accomplishments, Mike is the founder and developer of Light-house Place Premium Outlets mall, which was built in 1987 in Michigan City, Indiana. In 1997, Mike was an investor of the former site of Joy Manufacturing which he helped develop into the Michigan City Enterprise Center, a facility that housed numerous companies and created many jobs throughout Northwest Indiana. In addition, he was a co-owner of Sager Metal Strip Company in Michigan City, a company that engineered and designed conveyor systems for organizations worldwide.

In the early 1990s, Mr. Brennan responded to the Lilly Endowment Inc. GIFT Initiative (Give Indiana Funds for Tomorrow) and began organizing ideas that would eventually culminate in the creation of Unity Foundation of La Porte County. Mike sought to establish an organization focused on giving back to the community. Since the beginning, he worked to unite local companies and partnered with remarkable leaders from La Porte, Michigan City, and throughout the region to help create Unity Foundation of La Porte County. Under Mike's outstanding leadership, the foundation has been immensely successful and continues to grow and expand. Today, the organization's assets have grown to more than forty million dollars while awarding over one million dollars in grants and scholarships each year. In addition, Unity Foundation has successfully reached all seven of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s fundraising challenges and has funded many projects, grants, and services including the Unity Park project, Save the Mill Pond, The Home Team, Trail Creek Watershed Planning & Partnership, The Discovery Alliance, Vibrant Communities of La Porte County and numerous COVID disaster relief and recovery efforts, to name a few. For his devotion to improving communities in La Porte County and throughout Northwest Indiana, Mr. Brennan is worthy of the highest praise.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Unity Foundation of La Porte County as the organization celebrates its 30th anniversary and in honoring Mike Brennan for his inspirational leadership and in wishing him well upon his retirement from the board. Mr. Brennan's remarkable contributions to the foundation and to the community will have a positive impact for generations to come.

HONORING ELSIE M. COLÓN RIVERA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Elsie M. Colón Rivera is a 36-year-old Hispanic woman from Cidra, Puerto Rico, and the oldest and only sister of five children. She was born with a rare blood disease called Von Willebrand disease. Playing as a child was a challenge because she could have lots of bleeds, but it still didn't stop her from doing sports like gymnastics, cheerleading, and swimming, and reaching her goals.

From high school up until leaving Puerto Rico, Elsie volunteered at Centro de Bendición in San Juan, a social help center. There, Elsie helped people obtain their high school diplomas, and distribute meals, clothes, and personal hygiene products, among others. This volunteer experience helped her find what she loved and defined her professional career to the service of people. Also, as a veteran dependent, she participated in the work-study program at San Juan VA Medical Center. There, she worked in the administrative area of the mental health clinic. This work set her commitment to service.

She moved from Puerto Rico to Florida in 2016 with her husband in search of a better future. Elsie is an honor graduate of a master's in business administration at the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico. From 2018 to 2022, Elsie worked in the family business doing administrative work. She missed her work of service and decided to move to AGM University's Orlando Campus to work as an administrative coordinator. Elsie is highly motivated by her daughter to use a positive mind, empathy, and energy to encourage others to succeed.

HONORING 82ND AIRBORNE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CAPTAIN JOHN B. SAULS FOR HIS VALOROUS SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain John B. Sauls who was inducted into the 82nd Airborne Division's Hall of Fame on September 28, 2022.

The 82nd Airborne Division's Hall of Fame began in 2018 to honor the division's 101 years of legendary service and its members. It honors veteran paratroopers who are nominated for their service within the division, their commitment to the division's values, their contributions to their chosen field outside of their division, or any other valorous combat actions.

A brief look at Cpt. Sauls' career accomplishments only begins to adequately describe the importance of his military service. He commanded Company G, 401st Glider Infantry Regiment. On June 9, 1944, Sauls led an attack on German defensive positions which were denying the progress of the Allied movement west from Normandy. Without cover or

concealment, Sauls and his company charged toward the Nazis, maneuvering down the 500-meter corridor directly into machine gun fire and artillery. After moving down the causeway, Sauls realized he only had a squad-sized element with him and the rest of the company was pinned down, wounded, or killed. Sauls made it across the corridor of fire and ran past the first line of German defense, shooting Nazis with his Thompson submachine gun. For his actions, Sauls earned the Silver Star. He died in 1987 at the age of 73.

In the words of the former commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, Gen. Erik Kurilla, "the All American Hall of Fame is about preserving our legacy and paying homage to our All American Legends." Cpt. Sauls' selfless service could not be more deserving of such recognition. I know I speak for all in our community and Nation in thanking Cpt. Sauls for his committed service and leadership in the 82nd Airborne Division and our nation's military more broadly.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring and congratulating Captain John Sauls for his induction to the 82nd Airborne Division's Hall of Fame.

**CHERYL BRUNGARDT**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cheryl Brungardt for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2022 Mayor's Award.

The Mayor's Award is selected by Mayor Bud Starker to be awarded to an outstanding member of the community. A Wheat Ridge native, Cheryl was selected as this year's awardee for her tireless community service that she does with energy and dedication. She is passionate about every task she undertakes and often the first to volunteer to do the unglamorous but necessary tasks that help move the City of Wheat Ridge forward. Genuine and cheerful, she is a vital community member.

I thank Cheryl Brungardt, for her outstanding leadership, which helps make Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live and work.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER CALVIN JAMIESON FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE GARLAND-TOMPKINS AMERICAN LEGION POST 399

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Commander Calvin Jamieson for his years of service to the Garland-Tompkins American Legion Post 399. Through his exceptional leadership, steadfast devotion, and willingness to serve, Commander Jamieson has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Born and raised on Old Mission Peninsula, Commander Jamieson has served his community and Nation his entire life. After joining the

United States Army in 1955, he was stationed at Fort Knox in Kentucky. Part of an elite Combat Infantry Division, he and his fellow soldiers were always ready to answer the call of duty.

In 1972, Commander Jamieson joined the Garland-Tompkins American Legion, and in 1996, he became Post Commander. In this role, he worked tirelessly to ensure the successful operation of the Post. From building a new Legion Hall, to planning the Post's dinners, to coordinating community outreach events, Commander Jamieson has been a cornerstone not only of the Post, but also of the Old Mission Peninsula Community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in recognizing the service of Commander Calvin Jamieson. His life's actions and work have embodied the highest level of patriotism and service to his community.

HONORING IRIS PADILLA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Iris Padilla immigrated to the United States from Venezuela at the age of 16. She is passionate about education and serving her community. In 2011, she fueled that passion by creating Kids Academy Learning Center.

Iris is the original founder of Kids Academy Learning Center and a co-owner of three additional facilities located in Haines City and Eagle Lake. The learning academies provide educational services for over 500 families and employment opportunities that boost the local economy.

She prides herself on the center's mission, "staff will strive to provide the highest quality childcare and educational service that promotes and enhances each child's development while assuring our parent's peace of mind in the care and service we render."

Iris exemplifies the heart of a servant leader. She provides free notary services and is an active member of the Kiwanis Club, the Northeast Chamber, and the professional development for the Council for Professional Recognition, where she ensures that childcare specialists are trained and equipped to provide excellent service to children. She is also a member of the Latin Business Expo where she works to spread awareness of positivity throughout the community by highlighting, promoting, and educating the community about Hispanic culture and businesses.

Iris is honored to have the opportunity to positively impact the lives of so many families on a daily basis. She is the mother of 2 children and has 8 grandchildren.