

Police Department's Special Enforcement Team (SET). I have named the team as Public Safety Heroes of the Year for Sonoma County in California's 5th District as a result of their extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

SET was established in July 2021 in response to a rise in violent crime within the city of Santa Rosa. That year, the Santa Rosa Police Department reported a 25 percent rise in weapons violations and an 8 percent increase in aggravated assaults, including five homicides. SET's mission was to combat these trends via the confiscation of illegal firearms. The team prioritizes the interdiction of privately made "ghost guns" and monitoring repeat offenders. Initially, the team was comprised of Sergeant Terry White and Officers Jason Jucutan and Jeff Badger. These individuals were chosen because of their performance and experience within the Santa Rosa Police Department. Over the course of several months, the team conducted probation and parole searches, wrote and served search warrants, built relationships with confidential informants, supported the Special Services Division with major cases and responded to violent crime calls in support of patrol units.

In 2021, the team seized 44 firearms, an increase of 29 from the previous year. Due to SET's immediate success, officers Dane Schindler and Brett Wright were added to the team in January 2022. In the first six months of 2022, the team has seized 49 ghost guns. In total, the team's work has led to a 75 percent increase in total gun seizures and a 179 percent increase in ghost gun seizures. Most important, shootings within the City of Santa Rosa have decreased by 31 percent since the team's inception.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that the members of SET demonstrated an investigative skill and relentless devotion to our community's safety. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

#### THE BLYTHEWOOD MINORS BASEBALL TEAM WIN THE DIXIE YOUTH WORLD SERIES

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2022*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the South Carolina Blythewood Minors baseball team for their win of both the state AAA baseball youth championship and the Dixie Youth World Series.

For the first time in nearly 50 years, a South Carolina Blythewood Youth Baseball team won the World Series title with a 10–3 win over Alabama. This is an incredible victory for not just the thirteen players, Head Coach Marshall Dinkins, and Assistant Coaches, Matt O'Donnell, Justin Blackwelder, and Fred Cruz, but also for their families and the entire Blythewood community who have supported them all along. Throughout their sixteen-game stretch, the team and coaches worked hard in preparing for this big championship.

Since the age of seven, this was a dream for many of the players to one day achieve this impressive title. The win was especially meaningful for Coach Dinkins, as he played in the league himself a few decades ago.

Founded in the mid-1970s, the Blythewood Youth Baseball and Softball League has unified the community. Beginning with the building of the original baseball field, the team continues to bring families together weekly to cheer on the young players. This kind of abundant support exists throughout the Blythewood community, and I know they could not be more excited about the title earned by their team.

This first-time victory of the Dixie Youth World Series by the Blythewood team is well-deserved, and I congratulate the team, coaches, families, and community for all their hard work, making the kids' dream come true.

#### IN MEMORIAM—FAITHFUL AND DEDICATED CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE OF ERIC "RICK" ZABEL REMEMBERED

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2022*

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Eric "Rick" Zabel, who worked for the U.S. House of Representatives' Chief Administrative Officer's Office of Payroll and Benefits, and passed away Saturday, February 5, 2022, after more than 43 years of Congressional service. Rick served as a Retirement Counselor, supporting staff in the offices of House Leadership, Officers, and Committees over his 13 years of service to the People's House. Before joining the House, Rick also worked for the U.S. Senate for over three decades as a Retirement Counselor for Senate Disbursing, providing faithful service to all Congressional staff throughout his tenure. Rick was a consummate professional and took great pride in providing detailed information, benefit options, retirement estimates, and advice to ensure Congressional staff could make well-informed retirement decisions and maximize their benefits.

The CAO was lucky to be blessed with the knowledge and expertise of Rick's more than 43 years of Legislative Branch retirement experience. The House truly benefitted from his expertise, with staff of the Office of Payroll and Benefits learning under Rick's tutelage to progress in their careers as Benefits Specialists. Rick equipped staff from the Office of Payroll and Benefits with his knowledge, professional pride in ensuring staff understood their retirement benefits, and ability to assist Congressional staff in maximizing their benefits.

Rick was an early-bird and always ready with a cheerful morning greeting of "Hey, how you doin'?" Those who knew Rick will miss his passion for retirement as well as chatting with him about his wife, Rosemary, and his sons, Christopher, Matthew, and John Paul, his Maine Coon cat, T.C., his love of golfing, his green thumb gardening skills, his time at Virginia Tech, and his excitement about baseball—in particular, the New York Yankees. Rick coached his son's little league baseball teams and loved every moment of imparting his love and knowledge of the game with a new generation, specifically his boys. One of Rick's most exciting professional baseball memories was attending the New York Yan-

kees World Series games in New York and being a part of the pinnacle of the sport, cheering on his favorite team. Rick also had a favorite National League team, the Washington Nationals, and was able to attend a World Series game for the 2019 season in which they won the World Series 4–3.

Dealing with the loss of a colleague and friend is always very difficult. The Legislative Branch lost a dear colleague and friend in Eric "Rick" Zabel, who will be sorely missed. However, his legacy will continue in the Congressional staff he counseled about their retirement and the colleagues he trained over the years.

#### HONORING JOI MITCHELL FOR HER WORK AS AN AMERICORPS FELLOW

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joi Mitchell for receiving the Relationship Rockstar Award for her outstanding work as an AmeriCorps fellow with Saga Education in the District of Columbia.

Joi received the award for her exceptional work with students at Anacostia High School and Ron Brown College Preparatory High School in the District of Columbia during the 2021–2022 school year. The Relationship Rockstar Award prioritizes respect and values relationships and providing positive experiences through inclusiveness and excellence.

Improving the academic outcomes of low-income students is one of our nation's most urgent challenges. By high school, many low-income students are three or more years behind grade level, especially in math. In many schools, large class sizes have made it impossible for teachers to offer students the individual instruction they need. That is why the work that Joi is doing each day with ninth graders in the District of Columbia has made such a big impact on their lives.

Joi was previously a facilitator for a mentoring program in the South Side of Chicago, where she led sessions and offered personal guidance to young women. Joi is a joyful person who set out to help others, especially children and youth—part of what makes her such a great fit as an AmeriCorps fellow and tutor working with youth in the District of Columbia.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Joi Mitchell for her outstanding work as an AmeriCorps fellow with Saga Education and for her positive impact on students at Anacostia High School and Ron Brown College Preparatory High School in the District of Columbia.

#### HONORING BRIAN RINGO

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Ringo, a Deputy Sheriff II with the Napa County Sheriff's Office. I have named Mr. Ringo as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Napa County in

California's 5th District as a result of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

A native of Deer Park, Texas, Mr. Ringo began serving his country at a young age. After graduating high school in 2004, he served in the U.S. Army for nearly a decade, completing four tours of combat duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan. After nearly a decade in uniform, Mr. Ringo received an honorable discharge at the rank of Staff Sergeant. In August 2021, he received an Associate of Arts degree from Solano Community College and in November of that year, was hired by the Napa County Sheriffs Office. In this capacity, he has served as a Patrol Officer in American Canyon and a seasonal deputy for the Marine Patrol Division at Lake Berryessa.

On June 17, 2022, Mr. Ringo was assigned to land patrol when the Napa County Sheriffs Office received numerous 911 calls regarding a pregnant woman whose legs had been severely injured. Aware of the gravity of the situation, he made the decision to join Marine Patrol Deputy Joseph Schiavoni in responding to the location of the 911 call via patrol vessel. When the two deputies arrived on scene, they found the victim in critical condition aboard the involved vessel. Mr. Ringo immediately provided medical aid, applying a tourniquet to stop heavy bleeding, and lifted the victim onto a backboard for extraction. Upon their arrival at the shoreline, Mr. Ringo assisted in packing the victim's wound and carrying her aboard a helicopter for transport to Kaiser Vacaville. The flight medic later reported that Mr. Ringo's placement of the tourniquet, along with the careful and rapid extraction of the victim, saved both her life and the life of her unborn child.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that Mr. Ringo is an exemplary civil servant whose determination and skill in the face of an extremely stressful incident is symbolic of his dedication to others. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 ST. CLAIR COUNTY VETERAN OF THE YEAR, KEVIN L. JONES

### HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2022 St. Clair County Veteran of the Year, Kevin L. Jones of the Marine Corps League, Belcher-Lane-Williams Detachment 146.

Kevin enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1974 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant infantry officer in 1978. He served in many roles as a commanding officer and has been deployed around the world.

After his distinguished military career, Kevin dedicated his life to serving the veterans in his community. He has been instrumental in establishing and forming a General Motors salaried veterans' group and was recognized by USA Today for his role in hiring veterans. Kevin is a member of several veteran advocacy organizations and has been vital in promoting the health and advancement of fellow veterans in his community. He is the Vice Chairman of the Saint Clair County Veterans

Affairs Board of Commissioners. He also holds several leadership roles within his detachment of the Marine Corps League. Additionally, he is a member of the American Legion and AMVETS.

I congratulate and thank Kevin for his selfless dedication to our veterans and community. It is vital that we continue to support and honor those who have risked their lives and given so much to our country. I applaud and recognize Kevin Jones for all he has done for our country and his fellow veterans.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL TOM MULLIKIN ON A SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENT OF THE SMART REEF PROJECT

### HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major General (Ret.) Tom Mullikin, PhD, JD and the SC7 Team for successful deployment of the Smart Reef Project. This project increased integrated real time environmental observations and advanced modeling supporting an array of beneficial applications. A secondary focus was on technology development to enable cost effective distributed observing.

The Smart Reef Initiative advanced numerous goals of the South Carolina Floodwater Commission recommendations: data collection to advance modeling for predicting and engineering of coastal environments to deal with issues of sea level rise and flooding; exploring the utility of artificial reefs to potentially be designed to effect coastal beach erosion while also supporting recreational fisheries; and, data collection for similar ideas of "living shorelines" such as oyster reef restoration projects to help mitigate marsh erosion in estuaries as well as the potential to employ further up the watershed.

The Smart Reef system adds data and facilitates real-time data feeds into the Coastal Carolina University Center's interactively coupled ocean-atmosphere-wave-hydrologic modeling system to improve the advanced model applications to help inform discussions about tropical storm impacts (e.g., flooding, and storm surge) and eventually broader pressures and threats to our coastal environmental and economies. The data also supports broad research interests related to the growing of reef system interactions with waves and currents as well as a wide range of natural resource management concerns.

The SC7 Team Expedition along with the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor, Coastal Carolina University, University of South Carolina, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Force Blue, Medical University of South Carolina, South Carolina Office of Resiliency, South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs, Toadfish and other private sector partners successfully overcame rough seas to deploy the Smart Reef technology to protect the Palmetto State. A special thanks to my friend MG Tom Mullikin for his continued and tireless efforts to protect South Carolina's beautiful environment.

BIDENFLATION THREATENS FAMILIES

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, an August NBC News poll revealed that fifty-eight percent of Americans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction.

Already at a forty-year high, inflation has surged thirteen percent since Biden took office, while wages have risen only eight percent over the same period. Under Biden, inflation has outpaced wages for workers for seventeen months in a row, causing families to pay more for everyday goods and services.

New economic figures show that inflation and high interest rates have cost the average American over four thousand dollars in annual income, according to a Heritage Foundation expert.

Eggs are up forty percent. Gas is up twenty-six percent. Milk is up seventeen percent. Bread is up sixteen percent, and the list goes on. Families are suffering and jobs are being destroyed.

Bidenflation prices are unsustainable for families.

God Bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the Global War on Terrorism moves from a safe haven in Afghanistan to America. Never forget 9-11.

HONORING WESTIN SCHINDLER

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Westin Schindler, an officer with the Santa Rosa Police Department. I have named Mr. Schindler as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Sonoma County in California's 5th District as a result of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

Mr. Schindler was born in Santa Rosa, California and raised in Petaluma. He received two associates degrees from the Santa Rosa Junior College and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from Sacramento State University. While attending Santa Rosa Junior College, Mr. Schindler began his law enforcement career as a police cadet and shortly after, became a community service officer at Sacramento State University. Immediately following his college graduation, Mr. Schindler was hired by the Petaluma Police Department and attended the police academy. After serving over two years with Petaluma Police Department as a member of their gang enforcement team, Mr. Schindler was hired by the Santa Rosa Police Department, where he works today. In addition to his role as a patrol officer, Mr. Schindler has also served on the special weapons and tactics team and as a defense tactics instructor.

Every year, Santa Rosa Police Department receives over 100,000 calls for service, with busy shifts averaging between 200 to 300 dispatched calls. Through his skill and determination, Mr. Schindler has also invested significant time in preventing criminal activity