

Mr. O'Connor was born in Fremont, California. In 2015, he became a paramedic and in June 2022, began his training with the Vallejo Fire Academy. Mr. O'Connor is currently enrolled in their 20-week Firefighter I program. He resides in Tracy, California with his wife Adrienne and daughter Delaney.

On July 1, 2022, Mr. O'Connor was driving to the recruit academy when he observed a major traffic accident on the Byron Highway in Tracy, California. There, two vehicles had recently collided with each other, with one forcing the other to roll off the side of the road. Although he had not yet finished his program at the academy, Mr. O'Connor drew upon his training and took immediate action. He pulled over and assessed the injuries of those involved, relaying a full update of the incident to dispatch. After apprising them of the situation, Mr. O'Connor placed himself at risk by climbing into one of the badly damaged vehicles to provide life-saving care to two individuals. Even though the crash was miles from the area covered by the Vallejo Fire Department, Mr. O'Connor remained on scene to assist in medical care even as South San Joaquin Fire Authority resources arrived.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. O'Connor for his bravery, quick action and remarkable focus during an incredibly stressful situation. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING PROJECT C.U.R.E.

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Project C.U.R.E., headquartered in Colorado's Sixth Congressional District, for their efforts in collecting and distributing life-saving emergency medical relief to the people of Ukraine.

Founded 30 years ago by Jim and AnnaMarie Jackson, Project C.U.R.E. has grown into the world's single largest distributor of donated medical relief. They've provided over 2,000 cargo containers of medical supplies and equipment to over 135 countries, and most recently, to the people of Ukraine.

Upon the invasion of Ukraine, Project C.U.R.E. identified an urgent need for medical supplies as civilian casualties increased at an exorbitant rate. Recognizing that the war was having an immediate and devastating impact on an already weakened healthcare system, Project C.U.R.E. began collecting donations and medical supplies—including hospital beds and ultrasound machines—from across the U.S., to send to the people of Ukraine.

With a goal of delivering health and hope to Ukraine, Project C.U.R.E. has delivered 60 air shipments and four containers of medical relief to Ukraine—equating to a total of about \$12.3 million worth of medical supplies. Additionally, they worked closely with the Ukrainian government to transport and distribute 5,000 kits, containing two months of supplies for newborns, across the country.

Project C.U.R.E. has an extensive history providing medical relief to Ukraine and was recognized earlier this year by the National Health Council of Ukraine for their significant contributions to the international humanitarian project "Support Hospitals in Ukraine."

The impact of these donations are immeasurable in terms of lives saved and I commend Project C.U.R.E. for their tireless dedication in providing critical medical supplies as there continues to be a dire need in Ukraine. It is organizations like Project C.U.R.E. that provide hope in the darkest of times, and I know that our global community benefits immensely from their continued support and generosity.

RECOGNIZING JOE HIGGINS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Joe Higgins, Chairman of the Veterans of Chatham County organization, for being awarded the Marne Rockstar Award.

The Marne Rockstar program recognizes private citizens for their dedication to serving Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, which are both in Georgia's First Congressional District. Recipients of the award must show that they have given back to the bases through outstanding public service. Joe Higgins has done just that. As a result of him winning this prestigious award, Joe's photo, along with a description of his service, will be permanently displayed at division headquarters.

Throughout the years, Joe has given back to the military bases in many ways. He has given turkeys to junior soldiers at Thanksgiving, arranged meals for over 700 families for Family Day, and has secured donations from local distributors. Joe has gone above and beyond with every opportunity he has gotten. He could not be more deserving of this award.

On behalf of myself and the First Congressional District of Georgia, I want to say thank you to Joe for giving back to our service men and women.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MARY ANN BOCCOLINI

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Mary Ann Boccolini, a healthcare leader in New Jersey's 3rd District who dedicated her career to enhancing the lives of people throughout South Jersey for nearly 5 decades.

Mary Ann worked in multiple settings devoted to helping our most vulnerable community members and their families. She began her career as a staff nurse for a multitude of health facilities like the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, the National Institute of Health, and the Philadelphia Veterans Hospital. After developing a robust background of healthcare operations, Mary Ann became a manager for the oncology inpatient service line at Virtual Memorial Hospital. She later joined Samaritan as Director of Clinical Operations in 1997, where she served South Jersey communities for 25 years.

Since becoming President and CEO in 2000, Mary Ann established Samaritan as one of the state's largest, most respected providers of palliative medicine and end-of-life care. During her time, Mary Ann grew Samaritan's comprehensive services to include primary care at home, palliative medicine, hospice care, grief support, education, and advocacy. As a four-star provider in the We Honor Veterans program, Mary Ann's leadership has also made Samaritan a nationally recognized care provider for those who have served our country.

Mary Ann's contributions to our South Jersey communities and in the healthcare field have earned her numerous awards and accolades over the years. Most recently, Mary Ann was recognized by NJBIZ Magazine as one of its Best 50 Women in Business, by South Jersey Biz as a Power 50 in the South Jersey Business World, and by SJ Magazine's Women in Healthcare of Influence and Impact.

Through these remarkable milestones and achievements, Mary Ann's humble servant leadership inspired staff, volunteers, and colleagues. It is because of Mary Ann's dedication to providing extraordinary compassion and expertise, that many patients, and those who care about them, can live their best life every day. New Jersey is grateful for the work that Mary Ann has done, and I hope that her career can inspire others to carry on her legacy as a champion for high-quality service in healthcare. I know I speak for the 3rd District in wishing Mary Ann a happy retirement.

HONORING KRISTY AND BOB BRINDLEY WITH THE JUST1MIKE FOUNDATION

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 Kristy and Bob Brindley, founders of the Just1Mike Foundation. I have named the Brindley's 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.

Kristy Brindley is a native of Chicago, Illinois and a graduate of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Bob Brindley was born in Buffalo, New York and is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Michigan. The Brindley's met and married in Chicago, where they lived for 29 years and raised their three boys, Robbie, Jack, and Mike. In 2016, they lost their youngest son Mike to sudden cardiac arrest. A year later, they founded the Just1Mike Foundation, in honor of Mike's beloved sports blog, to increase survival rates of sudden cardiac arrest in children and young adults. The Just1Mike Foundation began its work in the Chicago area where it supported cardiac screenings for thousands of high school students. In the first screening alone, 13 students were found to have previously undiagnosed heart conditions.

After moving to California in 2018, the Brindley's broadened their foundation's reach even further. The Just1Mike Foundation donated four automated external defibrillators (AED) SaveStations to Sonoma Valley High

School, eight to the Sonoma Valley Boys & Girls Clubs, and many more throughout Northern California. They plan to continue providing vital equipment and screenings well into the future. On June 15, 2022, a 16-year-old boy at Sonoma Valley High School collapsed while playing basketball from sudden cardiac arrest. Thanks to the quick action of three friends and an AED provided by the Just1Mike Foundation, the boy is still alive today.

Madam Speaker, I thank Kristy and Bob Brindley for the great work of the Just1Mike Foundation. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month 2022. Each year from September 15 to October 15, we recognize and celebrate the history and culture of Americans whose ancestry can be traced from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. First established as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968, this observation was expanded to a full month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. This month-long period encapsulates many celebrations of independence for Latin American countries. September 15 is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18.

During this time, we uplift the stories of Latinos and celebrate their contributions to this country. Throughout history, Latinos have come to this nation in search of their own American Dream and the promise of a new life for themselves and their families. In every facet of American life, Latinos have made their mark on this country and created a more perfect union for us all. I am proud of their countless contributions to our country's story, and I would like to take this month to honor the crucial role that these Americans play in our society and in Georgia's Sixth Congressional District in particular. This year, I am honored to recognize Maritza Morelli, Belisa Urbina, and Pilar Valdez.

Maritza Morelli is the Executive Director of Los Niños Primero, a nonprofit organization focused on empowering Latino students and their families from early childhood to college through education and leadership programs. A native of Venezuela, Maritza earned a bachelor's degree in Special Education and a master's degree in Childhood Psychology from the University of Caracas. For seven years, she conducted research with the Venezuela Department of Education to examine the ways in which children learn to read and write. Her research study would go on to change the course of the National Scholastic Curriculum. She migrated to Atlanta, Georgia where she briefly worked as an interpreter for Northside Hospital in the department of mental health. She became the lead bilingual community liaison for Fulton County Schools, assisting Latino families in navigating the public school

system. In June 2001, Pastor Rick Sommers at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church asked her to lead a new project called Los Niños Primera. Over the last two decades, Maritza has grown the organization's capacity from serving 17 students to serving over 300 students and their families. Over the years, more than 3,000 students have completed the Los Niños Primero program. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Los Niños Primera was able to expand their reach to serve over 13 counties across all programs as well as launch their LYRIC program to support Latino high school seniors in their pursuit of higher education and launch their COVID-19 Educational Campaign to equip and guide the community with bilingual materials to make educated choices for their families. They were even able to provide financial assistance to over 21 families through rental assistance.

Belisa Urbina is the Chief Executive Officer of Ser Familia, Incorporated. Belisa was born and raised in Puerto Rico where she studied Business Administration at the University of Puerto Rico. Belisa and her husband Miguel lived in Puerto Rico until 1999 when they decided to move to Atlanta, Georgia. As a young couple in a new city, Belisa and her husband witnessed the challenges that Latino couples were facing with conflict resolution and navigating married life as they adapted to a new culture. As a result, in 2001 Belisa and her husband decided to co-found Ser Familia (previously known as Renovacion Conyugal, Inc.) as a program that aimed to strengthen Latino couples and families through couples workshops. Over the years, they identified a need for additional programs to support families by taking a more holistic approach. Under Belisa's leadership, Ser Familia has developed the "Ser Familia Model" that focuses on delivering coordinated social and mental health services to families they serve through a multidisciplinary team led by a case manager and supported by counselors, psychiatrists, parenting educators, couples program facilitators, youth mentors, domestic violence advocates, and immigration attorneys. Ser Familia's reach has expanded to serve over 6,900 clients per year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ser Familia was essential in addressing the mental health needs of the Latino community as they completed thousands of mental health assessments and provided rental assistance to those families who were most affected by COVID-19.

Pilar Valdez is currently the Program Director of the Early Learning Program and After School K-5 Academy at Corners Academy. Pilar is a proud Georgia native born to Mexican parents. She earned her bachelor's degree in Health Science from Georgia State University and has over 8 years of experience in childcare. She has dedicated her career to the development of these two early childhood development programs and has become an advocate for her students and their families. In fact, after successfully leading the After School K-5 Academy, Pilar developed the Early Learning Program at Corners Outreach, working to educate parents on how to become their child's best and first teacher in order to prepare these children for a successful academic life after kindergarten. During 2021, at a time when COVID placed a spotlight on education gaps in the community, Pilar was able to lead and guide the Early Learning Academy through a 26 percent increase in registration,

and the Corners Academy tutoring program offered tutoring to 100 new students and offered in-person summer camp to more than 196 students.

The impact of these three women alone is tremendous, and it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize and honor them for working so hard to make a difference in the lives of others here in Georgia's Sixth Congressional District. As we continue to celebrate the observation of Hispanic Heritage Month, may we recommit ourselves to the spirit of service demonstrated by these individuals and the many others whose stories have yet to be told. On behalf of myself, the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to join in the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. In telling the stories of community members like Maritza, Belisa, and Pilar, we celebrate the power of our Latino community in Georgia. As a representative of our state, I will continue to champion their values of strength, service, and patriotism every day.

HONORING BERNIE WAGONER AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly honor Bernie Wagoner as Iowan of the Week. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a commitment to serving her community. As the co-founder and Clinical Director for Southwest Iowa Families in Clarinda, Iowa, Bernie has served countless people in need of assistance throughout my district.

Bernie has a clear track record of serving others. While in junior high, Bernie's grandmother was hospitalized with a psychiatric condition, and that experience motivated Bernie to pursue a degree in Psychology from the University of Nebraska. Moving to Iowa after that, she was employed in intellectual disability and mental health services before founding Southwest Iowa Families as a non-profit in 1993. Bernie saw a need for a non-profit that could provide permanency and benefit the community more than a traditional private practice.

Over almost 30 years, Southwest Iowa Families has strived to ensure that community needs were being met. Bernie has always stressed the importance of available and affordable rural mental health services. Out-patient mental health care and counseling have been a staple of Southwest Iowa Families since its inception. Over the years, Bernie has helped ensure that the mission evolved to meet the needs of the Southwest Iowa community. Seeing a need for the development of services for vulnerable 0- to 5-year-old children, in 2010 the Agency achieved Healthy Families of America accreditation for Southwest Iowa Families—which was an intense process and qualified the organization to interact with and directly assist parents and children at risk of abuse and neglect. Thanks to the constancy of Southwest Iowa Families, Bernie has started to see young parents visit who the organization first met as young children. The organization also accepts and distributes various donations of clothing and furniture to then distribute to in need families and