

Sam worked for me from nearly the moment I became a Congresswoman—helping us set up the Lansing office in 2019 and helping to lead it for my full first term as Team Slotkin's Deputy District Director. Like everyone who met her, I was immediately struck by her kindness, her sharp mind, and her ever-present smile. Though she was young, Sam came to our team already well-established, having worked for multiple members of the state legislature, as well as many different causes close to her heart. She would go on to work for Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel and State Senator Stephanie Chang, among others.

I was also struck by her profound faith; not just her personal faith in Judaism, but her profound faith in humanity. Sam dedicated her time on my staff, and truly her entire life, to building understanding and bridges between people, and bringing light in the face of darkness. She helped establish our first interfaith roundtable and continued that work when she left our office, serving as president of the Isaac Agree Synagogue in Detroit where she was known for her outreach and dialogue with her Muslim and Christian neighbors. As the Detroit Jewish News noted in naming her one of the "36 Under 36" influential young people in the Jewish community, "By extending her hand and creating space for connection between Muslims and Jews, she has exemplified the values of healing the world." She also played a vital role in the revitalization of Detroit, including the renovation and reopening of her historic synagogue just a few months ago. It is deeply painful that we have lost someone so dedicated to healing, and connecting so many people, no matter their background, to such a destructive act.

Sam's senseless death has left a hole not just in our hearts but in the fabric of our community. She was a beacon of light and I ask that as we grieve her loss, we recommit ourselves to the principles by which she lived. Sam firmly believed in the power of government to do good: to lift people out of poverty, to give a voice to the voiceless, and to bring justice and equality to all. She was deeply committed to the idea that what united us as Americans and Michiganders was much more important than the ways some try to divide us. I send my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved her. May her memory be a blessing forever in our hearts.

**RECOGNIZING CARLA SCRUGGS'
32+ YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
CITY OF SALINE**

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Carla Scruggs, the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Saline, on the occasion of her retirement. Her contributions to the health and wellness of the Saline community over the last three decades are worthy of commendation.

Born and raised in Ann Arbor, MI, Carla graduated from Pioneer High School before attending Central Michigan University, where she spent four years on the softball team. After earning both her bachelor's and master's

degrees, she set out on a career in public service throughout Southeastern Michigan. In 1988, Carla began at the City of Hazel Park as a graduate intern specializing in senior programming and youth and adult sports. She then went to Novi, where she took on the position of Recreation Coordinator for the city's Parks and Recreation Department. In 1991, Carla was brought on as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Saline, where she has been serving ever since.

Carla's tenure at the head of the Saline Parks and Recreation Department has seen countless improvements to Saline's green spaces. These include, but are certainly not limited to, the Recreate Our Mill Pond Park play structure, multiple dog parks, and the creation of Salt Springs Park. As well as being the Director, Carla also acts as the Staff Liaison to the Parks Commission and the Youth Council. She has been an active member for the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association for the entirety of her tenure and is currently the Chair of their Awards Committee. In her free time, Carla volunteers every year for the Punt Pass & Kick State Competition, Saline's DARE golf outing, the PPSA golf outing, and the University of Michigan Softball Academy to raise awareness for breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 32+ years of public service that Carla Scruggs has been kind enough to dedicate her life to. She has given our children spaces to play, our dogs spaces to run, and altogether has made Saline a warmer and more welcoming place to live. Though we are sad to see her go, the families of Saline will be feeling her positive influence for decades to come. I thank Carla.

ALL VETERANS HONOR GUARD

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the All Veterans Honor Guard, who provide the final Military Honors at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Colorado. Only those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces are permitted to provide such services but in 1993, the U.S. Military ceased to perform these final rites for deceased veterans.

That's why approximately 100 Colorado veterans formed the All Veterans Honor Guard in 1994 to carry on this sacred duty for their late comrades in arms. Aside from a small stipend from the state of Colorado, the organization receives no additional funding or compensation to maintain and repair the World War II-era weapons or to purchase uniforms for their volunteers.

During their first year, the All Veterans Honor Guard provided Military Honors for 63 veterans at Ft. Logan National Cemetery—and since 1994, they have stood as the Honor Guard for over 23,400 military funerals; with Chief Master Sergeant Retired Morris Smith serving as the backbone for over two decades. But as time has gone on, the number of requests for their services has grown as our aging veterans pass away. The number of volunteers, however, has diminished. In 2021, the All Veterans Honor Guard had less than

80 veteran volunteers, who provided the final honors for 1,554 veterans.

Despite these challenges, the Honor Guard remains as dedicated to serving their late brothers and sisters in their afterlife as they were in serving alongside them in life. That is why, Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, on behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, it is a distinct privilege to recognize and commemorate the tireless efforts of the All Veterans Honor Guard over the past 29 years. Our country is blessed to have such heroes who care enough to honor their comrades as they are laid to rest.

**COMMEMORATING COOK COUNTY
BOARD'S "MEDICAL DEBT RE-
LIEF INITIATIVE"**

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I wish to recognize the transformative "Medical Debt Relief Initiative" in Cook County, Illinois which has successfully abolished \$281,338,840 of medical debt for Cook County residents. I applaud the tireless efforts of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board to provide much needed relief to 158,541 residents. This innovative program, in partnership with the national nonprofit "RIP Medical Debt," reallocated \$12 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to provide invaluable relief to Cook County families, many of whom are living paycheck to paycheck.

Medical debt continues to be a crisis in our country. According to "RIP Medical Debt," every day, 1 in 2 Americans must choose between paying medical bills and covering their basic needs. This is unacceptable. Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, more Americans have health insurance coverage now than ever before, but despite these historic strides, costs remain a barrier to accessing high-quality healthcare. Low and moderate-income American households continue to accrue medical debt and continue to be harmed by its financial and mental effects.

During a time of rising costs, Congress must do its part to assist working families. We must seek bipartisan solutions to reform our healthcare system because no one should be punished for becoming sick or receiving medical care. While we seek bipartisan policy solutions, partnerships across all levels of government should continue to facilitate medical debt relief. This relief, such as the "Medical Debt Relief Initiative" in Cook County, Illinois, has the power to give economic mobility to working families and boost our economy. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I extend immense gratitude to the Cook County Board, under the direction of Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle, for being a model for other jurisdictions across the country. I continue to seek opportunities to advance commonsense models like this one to address the medical debt crisis.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 100 YEARS OF THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF UPSTATE NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I am honored to recognize the Better Business Bureau of Upstate New York as they celebrate a century of dedicated service to our community. Headquartered in Amherst, NY, this organization, and their staff have undoubtedly had a lasting impact on countless constituents in Western New York.

Founded in 1923, the reach and growth of this chapter of the Better Business Bureau is nothing short of impressive. The eighth largest Better Business Bureau, it serves 6 million people across 48 counties in New York State. Due to their unwavering enthusiasm, BBB of Upstate New York closes 15,000 complaints annually while posting over 10,000 reviews. Throughout their long history, millions of service-oriented tasks have been completed in the name of consumer education and standards enforcement. Their mission is simple: provide consumers with resources to not only avoid dishonest business practices but offer remedies for those who have been wronged. Very importantly, all levels of government rely on BBB of Upstate New York to front-end this education of consumers. Federal, state, and local law enforcement have also been able to begin investigations (and ultimately prosecutions) of bad faith actors in our local marketplace. That type of responsibility is only given because the Better Business Bureau of Upstate New York has proven to be an honest broker for consumers.

Trust is at the very core of business, and it is only due to organizations like the Better Business Bureau of Upstate New York that consumers can approach matters with confidence. I applaud their century of work to better our community, and I wish them continued expansion and prosperity in aiding the men and women of our community.

RECOGNIZING DR. FRED LUTHER HAYNES

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Fred Luther Haynes, who passed away on September 2, 2023, and to thank him for his more than 40 years of dedicated service to the Bakersfield City School District. Dr. Haynes was born in Clarksville, Oklahoma to Harvey Haynes and Mable Haynes-Harvey. He was the eldest of five sons. At an early age, his mother instilled in him the value of education, which inspired him to become an educator. He attended college at Langston University in Oklahoma, where he received his bachelor of science degree in education. Dr. Haynes pursued his post-graduate studies at Fisk University in Tennessee, where he obtained his master's degree in education. Over the course of his

career, he earned additional credentials and teaching certificates at the California State University of Fresno and Bakersfield, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and Dillard University. In 1977, Dr. Haynes attended Brigham Young University, where he received a doctorate in education.

In 1951, Dr. Haynes married Marcy Alice Williams in Tulsa, where they would start their family of eight children. Ten years later, he moved his family to Bakersfield, California, where he began his extensive teaching career in the Bakersfield City School District (BCSD). Dr. Haynes was first a teacher at Colonel Baker School before becoming the school's Assistant Principal. He later moved to the district office, where he worked as a Resource Teacher and became BCSD's first African American district-wide supervisor. During his time as supervisor, Dr. Haynes was focused on parental involvement, even creating the Parent Involvement and Community Relation Division to strengthen the relationship between students, parents, and teachers at BCSD. For 26 years, Dr. Haynes served as Principal across multiple BCSD elementary schools and at Emerson Jr. High School. Throughout his tenure as Principal, Dr. Haynes was dedicated to the achievement of all students and was instrumental in district-wide changes that supported underrepresented students.

In 1996, the Dr. Fred Haynes Award was established to honor the leadership, strength, and courage displayed by Dr. Haynes over the course of his career. Each year, the award is given to male students in the district who exhibit the qualities of Dr. Haynes in their academic pursuits. In 2016, Dr. Haynes was inducted into the BCSD's Hall of Fame, to honor him for his 40 years of exceptional service to the district. After his retirement, Dr. Haynes became a Board Member for BCSD, a position he held until 2020. As a member of the board, he continued to advocate for the well-being and success of students in the district.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Haynes was passionate about the lives of members of the community. He was the author of African American Women Trailblazer, which celebrates the sacrifices and achievements of African American women in Kern County. He received several awards to honor his service, including awards from the NAACP, Boy Scouts of America, and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life of Dr. Fred Luther Haynes. Dr. Haynes' lifetime of service as an educator in the Central Valley will be felt for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING SHAKOPEE BREWHALL AS ONE OF AMERICA'S TOP SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to congratulate Shakopee Brewhall—Taproom & Coffeehouse as the Midwest regional finalist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's America's Top Small Business Award.

Shakopee Brewhall was selected as one of seven finalists out of a total of over 15,000 small business applicants for the annual Top Small Business Award. At its inception in 2018, the brewhall operated modestly with a nine-member team, opening its doors for just 41 hours across five days each week. During that time, the team focused on brewing and, as demand grew, distributing its unique beers. Today, they employ 27 workers, with over half of the original staff still remaining on the team and have grown their customer base and expanded their offerings to include morning coffee and espresso over 86 hours every week.

I'm grateful for co-founders, Ryan Lindquist and Damon Schuler's role in the revitalization of downtown Shakopee by turning their historic space into Scott County's first taproom and coffeehouse. Their leadership of the brewhall showcased necessary innovation when pivoting to distribution during the pandemic and working with other local small businesses. I've also appreciated their "Share More Than A Beer Day," which creates awareness and financial support for partnering organizations and has led to more than \$50,000 in donations to local non-profits.

It was a special honor to join Shakopee Brewhall's Caitlin Drayna at the Chamber's Awards Gala on October 19th. It is my privilege to represent Shakopee Brewhall in Congress and I look forward to sharing a beer together soon.

RECOGNIZING THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in recognition of the 32nd Anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreement that ended the Cambodian-Vietnamese War. As the Chair of the Congressional Cambodia Caucus and the Representative of a district with one of the highest populations of Cambodian-Americans, I rise to honor the anniversary of the peace agreement and call on the United States to do everything possible to help Cambodia realize its full democratic potential.

This historic agreement ended a horrible war that stretched over three decades and caused the deaths of countless soldiers and civilians. One of the promises outlined in the accord was for free and fair elections. Unfortunately, that aspiration was never realized, and the current state of Cambodia's government personifies the challenges that remain to achieving a truly democratic nation.

For thirty-eight years, Cambodia was ruled with an iron grip by Prime Minister Hun Sen. The democratic promise of free and fair elections was shattered by his weaponization of government power. Over the years, Hun Sen took steps to eliminate his opposition, ban independent media outlets, and jail peaceful protesters. In depriving the Cambodian people of their human rights, Hun Sen moved Cambodia closer to an authoritarian state and robbed them of the representative government promised in their Constitution and the Paris Peace Agreement.