

years. Many have gone on to become community and business leaders, educators, healthcare and technical professionals or law enforcement officers.

The university is led by Dr. Dena McCaffrey, its 8th president and under her leadership, JeffCo is poised to continue its successful educational mission through the next 60 years. It is my great pleasure to congratulate Jefferson College on this milestone today before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS
WRIGHT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Christopher Douglas Wright and reflect on the remarkable life he lived. Though a resident of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Chris left an impact that can be seen far and wide.

Chris was born on November 13, 1984, to loving parents Greg and Janet Wright. Following in the footsteps of his father and brother, Chris attended The Baylor School in Chattanooga beginning in 1997. A significant member of the Baylor community, Chris was widely known for his versatile athleticism, academic prowess, and magnetic personality amongst his peers, friends, and teachers. His athletic achievements, which included a state championship in baseball and two-year All-State football honors, left a legacy that inspired countless future Baylor athletes. However, Chris was also not one to be outdone in the classroom as he was a highly accomplished student, excelling academically as a National Honor Society member.

After high school, Chris continued his academic and athletic career at Yale University, where he was a four-year letterman and 2006 Ivy League Football Champion. A consummate gentleman and scholar, he was known and loved for his sincerity among classmates and friends.

Chris further propelled his business education after Yale by attending the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, where he received a Master of Business Administration.

Emboldened by a long-term desire to leverage his honed business acumen in his hometown, Chris returned to Chattanooga in 2016, where he most recently served as a Principal at Alderman Enterprises.

I had the opportunity to meet Chris several years ago, and it was abundantly clear that he was a man who possessed a deep devotion to God and his family. He fervently loved his wife, Acacia, and their children, Declan, Abbott, and newborn daughter, Aprilia, with no exceptions. He valued character over image and humility over pedigree. He was a man of discipline and a role model to many.

Chris passed away on September 29, 2023—a life cut far too short but a memory that will live on.

It is an incredible privilege to honor that memory today. Chris Wright blessed so many, and I am certain those individuals will spend their remaining days in deep appreciation of the opportunity to have known him. My pray-

ers remain with his family, friends, and loved ones during this tragic time.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JESSICA TURNER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's Athletic Excellence Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Jessica Turner. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend the alumni who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

As a leader on and off the court, Jessica has been exemplary in her commitment to service. While playing Division I basketball at Niagara University, she served as Vice President of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee and was selected as an Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sports Scholar. The skills Jessica gained as a student-athlete were directly transferable to her role in the business world. She has consistently advanced as an employee at New Era Cap Company and was a critical force in the creation of New Era's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council (DEI). Jessica was the first person to hold the title of Director of DEI. Outside of work, she spends her time as a mentor with the Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholars and volunteers with the Festival of Trees, FeedMore WNY, the Special Olympics, Willie Hutch Jones Education and Sports programs, and the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation. Jessica's love of basketball was formed by her father, and it has shaped the person that is deserving of this award. Though athletics can be seen as an all-encompassing time commitment, Jessica has used her passion of sports as fuel to better the lives of others.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Jessica Turner continues to live these values in her career, relationships, and most importantly, as a mother to Maya and Kellan.

REMEMBERING RICHARD L.
BUTTERFIELD

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Richard L. Butterfield.

Richard was born in Mansfield, Ohio on April 25, 1945. His family moved to New York in the following years, and he graduated from Averill Park High School in 1963. He enlisted in the United States Army the same year, attending the Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia and graduated to be commissioned as a second lieutenant in March

1965. He was subsequently deployed to Vietnam as a Pathfinder Team Leader, 11th Pathfinders, 1st Cav. Division. His team directed helicopter resupply, medical evacuations, and rescue missions. When Lt. Butterfield was wounded in action, he refused to leave until all other wounded servicemembers were removed from the battlefield.

Lt. Butterfield returned to duty on his second tour in 1968 as Captain and Commander of E Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne, later serving as Team Commander with 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Green Berets. He was honorably discharged in 1970; for his valiant service, he received dozens of medals and commendations including the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, and several Federal Badges, Vietnamese Medals, and New York State Medals.

Richard continued to serve in the New York Army National Guard as a Commander until 1995. Upon his retirement, he was breveted to the rank of Brigadier General and given the Long and Faithful Service Award (25 Years). From 1970 to 2006, he was also a member of the New York State Police. He worked as a canine officer with his partner Frey, a firearms instructor, rifle sharpshooter, member of the underwater recovery team, delegate to the Police Benevolent Association, and as an undercover investigator with the Community Narcotics Enforcement Team and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. After retiring from the State Police, he joined the Warren County Sheriff's Office as Marine Patrol on Lake George.

When not on duty, Richard was a family man. He had three children—Lori, Hayden, and Eric—and seven grandchildren, and he married his wife Cathy on July 27, 2020. As an active participant in his community, Richard remained a lifelong member of the Castleton Boat Club and the Nassau Sportsman's Club, served as a board member for the Lebanon Valley Speedway, and rode with the Renegade Pigs Motorcycle Club.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to share the incredible story of Mr. Richard L. Butterfield, a patriot who dedicated his life to serving his country and his local community.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN CHRIS
MADZIK'S SERVICE TO THE CITY
OF NORTHVILLE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Madzik, Captain of the Northville Fire Department in Northville, MI on the occasion of his retirement. His dedication and commitment to the City of Northville over the last 28 years is worthy of commendation.

Chris joined the Northville Fire Department in 1995 because they were offering free training for a three-year commitment as an on-call firefighter. He fell in love with public service and became a full-time firefighter in 1998. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2002, followed quickly by another promotion to Lieutenant in 2003. He has been a Captain with the Northville FD since 2017.

Armed with a Masters of Human Resources and Labor Relations, Chris has spent his time

with the Northville FD revamping policies and developing HR training. Chris, a charter member of Local 3961, served as the first union Vice-President and worked to implement 24-hour staffing for the fire department. When the Department transitioned to Advanced Life Support, Chris attended and graduated from Eastern Michigan's School of Fire Staff and Command in addition to earning his Paramedic's license. He served as a representative on the Westen Wayne Hazardous Materials Response Team for over 10 years, and he was selected by his peers as the Firefighter of the Year in 2017.

Almost 12 years ago, Chris rediscovered his love of music. Currently, he is a tenor in the Livingston County Choir and participates in concerts hosted by Expressions Music Academy in Novi. He has had the unique opportunity of representing the Department while singing the National Anthem at First Responder nights for the Detroit Tigers, Red Wings, and Pistons. He plans to continue his work in public service for Howell Public Schools as a paraprofessional, where he will assist impaired children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Captain Chris Madzik for the 28 years of service he has dedicated to the City of Northville. Chris's dedication and respect for the job serves as a constant reminder that local communities are dependent on the commitment of such public servants to keep its residents safe. We need more public servants like Chris, and though he may be retiring from fighting fires, I am hopeful that we will continue to hear that beautiful voice ringing out for years to come. I thank Chris and we wish him the best of luck with his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LATE RICHARD
STEWART

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Richard Stewart, a beloved and well-known figure from my hometown of Petersburg, in Virginia's Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Stewart was the honorary "Mayor of Pocahontas Island," one of the oldest Black neighborhoods in our Nation.

Since 1732, enslaved, escaped, and free African Americans have called Pocahontas Island home, and Mr. Stewart fought relentlessly to preserve artifacts, properties, and the stories of those who lived there. He even created the Pocahontas Island Black History Museum, the first Black history museum in Petersburg, to educate visitors and memorialized the storied history of the neighborhood. He was a veteran, a community leader, and an engaged citizen who devoted his life to preserving our history and preparing the next generation through storytelling and learning.

He leaves behind a lasting legacy and will be sorely missed by the Petersburg community and our Commonwealth.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MARJORIE "MARGE" STANTON RYAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's Spirit of Mercy Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Marjorie "Marge" Stanton Ryan. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend all of those who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

Marge Ryan is one of South Buffalo's most dedicated activists, and her passion for bettering this neighborhood is nothing short of commendable. After graduating from South Park High School in 1959, Marge worked as a stenographer with RJ Walsh/Equitable Insurance before marrying Tom Ryan in 1959 and raising six children. Marge took on an active role in the parents' guilds at Mount Mercy Academy and Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School while her children were in school. Marge was a founding member of South Buffalo Alive, a nonprofit organization that dedicates its time and energy to improving the quality of life in South Buffalo and beautifying the neighborhood. She has worked with the Olmsted Conservancy Board and has a long history of working with elected leaders in the community to get things done including, the Mayors in the City of Buffalo, Buffalo City Council Members, the Parks Department, and the Department of Public Works, as well as working closely with county, state and federal representatives on important projects in our community. Marge is consistent and attentive, and you can tell almost immediately which gardens Marge makes her own by their beauty, simplicity, and by the way they are kept—tidy. Marge still actively helps to maintain: Mount Mercy Academy, Trocaire College, the Firemen's Memorial, Morgan/Heacock Park, the traffic circle gardens on McKinley Parkway, and the brick paths in Cazenovia Park and pocket park gardens around Abbott and South Park. Of course, her passion of gardening has been a constant through all her years, and it has led to the beautification of countless areas and parks in South Buffalo. Her friendship with Sister Marie Bernard was the foundation of her involvement and gardening at the Mt. Mercy Convent and Trocaire College. As a friend of Marge, I can say with confidence that our community is a better, more attractive place to live because of her unrelenting efforts.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Marjorie Stanton Ryan continues to live these values in all she does. Marge shares this legacy with her husband, Tom, as well as her children, Mary Lynn ('79), Karen ('80), Maggie ('83), Kevin, David, Tom, Jr., and their grandchildren.

HONORING COMMISSIONER
KALPANA KOTAGAL

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus to recognize Commissioner Kalpana Kotagal as we celebrate her well-deserved ascension to EEOC Commissioner.

As you may know, women still lag behind in pay and promotions, are the victims of pregnancy discrimination, and are the primary survivors of sexual harassment in the workplace. We cannot overstate the importance of enforcing EEOC laws and pay data collection. Commissioner Kotagal will do exceptional work to ensure that every individual, regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information, has an equal opportunity to succeed in the workforce. This mission is not just a legal requirement; it is a moral imperative.

We know that having strong equality laws are not enough. Enforcing these laws requires dedicated individuals who understand the urgency of their mission. Our newly sworn-in commissioner embodies this commitment. Her experience, expertise, and unwavering dedication to the principles of equality makes her the right person for the job.

I would like to personally thank her for her leading role in the class action against Sterling Jewelers which was an impetus for two major bipartisan bills that became law in 2022, nullifying forced arbitration and nondisclosure agreements in cases of sexual harassment and abuse.

As we celebrate this moment, we recognize that the EEOC's work extends beyond individual cases. When people are given an equal opportunity to succeed, we all benefit. Diverse teams lead to innovation and stronger decision-making. Equal pay ensures that every family can thrive. A discrimination-free workplace fosters a culture of respect and dignity for all.

The work of the EEOC is also about fostering a culture where respect for diversity is not just a requirement but a guiding principle. It's about educating employers and employees on best practices and the benefits of a more inclusive workforce. It's about shaping our collective future by ensuring that opportunities are open to everyone, regardless of who they are or where they come from.

So today, we celebrate our commitment to equality, fairness, and justice in the workplace by congratulating Kalpana Kotagal and wishing her only the best on her new journey. I am confident that as commissioner, she will continue her life path of exceptional work.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN DAVE
CRESICO'S SERVICE TO YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Dave Cresico of the Ypsilanti Township Fire Department in Ypsilanti, MI