

needs of students seeking to advance their careers in order to secure a better future for themselves and their families and contribute to the well-being of their communities.

I congratulate my friend Dr. Bassam Deeb, the president of Trocaire College, as well as the trustees, faculty, staff, students and supporters of the College as they announce that they have met and exceeded the goal set for their Funding the Future for WNY campaign, which is making a Trocaire College education more affordable for more students.

Again, I recognize this important institution and its work to improve the lives of the students it serves, and ultimately, the communities which they will serve.

HONORING DIANE BOYLE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, Jr.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Diane M. Boyle for her 28 years of outstanding Federal service as a civilian attorney for the Department of the Navy (DON) Office of the General Counsel (OGC).

Since she began her distinguished career with DON OGC in 1995, Ms. Boyle has served in several positions, including serving in multiple acquisition attorney positions at the Naval Air Systems Command, and service as Counsel, Navy Region Naval District Washington; Deputy Counsel, Commander Navy Installations Command; and Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Notably, she became a member of the Senior Executive Service in February 2014 when the General Counsel selected her as Counsel for the Office of Naval Research. Later, in December 2019, the General Counsel selected her to serve as the Deputy General Counsel, OGC's "managing partner." During her tenure as Deputy General Counsel, she has impressively managed the personnel, budget, training and oversight of a legal community comprised of more than 1,100 attorneys and professional staff operating in over 145 offices worldwide.

Throughout her career, Ms. Boyle has distinguished herself as an extraordinary attorney who has made invaluable contributions to the DON on a variety of complex matters of significant impact to the national defense mission. From advising on the V-22 Osprey acquisition program, to overseeing legal matters in the Navy Trademark and Licensing Program Office, to steering the DON and OGC through the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Boyle has worked tirelessly to provide proactive, accurate, and innovative legal advice on a multitude of legally complicated issues across a broad spectrum of matters. Additionally, Ms. Boyle has brought innovative business acumen to the operations of the DON OGC, ensuring it functions efficiently and effectively. Her character and sustained work ethic has consistently enabled the DON OGC to meet its mission of supporting Sailors, Marines, and civilians executing the defense mission worldwide.

The daughter of a decorated Navy Flag Officer, Ms. Boyle has continued that legacy of service and has been recognized for her own outstanding contributions. Among her achievements, she has received the DON Meritorious,

Superior, and Distinguished Civilian Service Awards, and many other performance-related accolades. A dedicated civil servant, she is worthy of additional recognition before her fellow citizens as she completes her Federal career.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Diane M. Boyle as she retires from Federal service.

AUBREY MILLER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aubrey Miller of Arvada, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Aubrey traveled to South Korea to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Aubrey for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Aubrey's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. AGONAFAER SHIFERAW

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mr. Agonafer Shiferaw, a critical leader and steward of progress in the Bay Area community. Mr. Shiferaw leaves behind an indelible legacy of love, leadership, and service to his community and family.

Born in Ethiopia in 1952, Mr. Shiferaw's passion for knowledge led him to California, where he studied economics at San Francisco State University. After he earned his bachelor's degree, he remained in San Francisco where he opened Rasselas Restaurant and Jazz Club, an Ethiopian restaurant located in the Fillmore neighborhood in 1986.

For nearly 30 years, Rasselas was a gathering place for friends, family, and loved ones to come together in celebration. It was a cultural hub within the Bay Area, uniting the community and offering residents and visitors alike

a space where they could join in shared appreciation of jazz music.

In addition to his crucial work as the founder of Rasselas, Mr. Shiferaw also demonstrated his sincere love for his community through his compassionate leadership and altruistic advocacy. He was committed to empowering and uplifting the Black community in the Bay Area and was truly passionate about serving others and giving a voice to the voiceless. His critical contributions made him a beacon of light within his community and undeniably improved the lives of those around him.

Mr. Shiferaw will be remembered not only for his decades of service to the Bay Area, but also for his genuine kindness and compassion. He impacted the lives of so many in his community and was known both for his leadership and the unfailing love he had for his family. His passion for service, valiant advocacy, and perseverance have left a legacy on the people of the Bay Area.

Mr. Shiferaw's enduring spirit will live on in his loving wife, daughter, nieces, nephews, and extended family. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Shiferaw's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of the Bay Area, join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

KATHERINA MOOK

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katherina Mook of Golden, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Katherina traveled to South Korea to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Katherina for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Katherina's many accomplishments.

HONORING AUGUST "AUGIE" COSENTINO FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor 94-year-old Korean War

veteran August V. Cosentino for his community accomplishments and life-long dedication to America's values.

In 1951, young August Cosentino enlisted in the United States Air Force and was assigned to attend radio and radar school at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, for one year of intensive training. Following his training, he was assigned to a forward operations outpost on the 38th parallel of the Korean peninsula, where he aided in directing advanced bombing missions in North Korea.

After the Korean War, August Cosentino married the love of his life, Martha, and together they raised three children: Cindy, Ralph, and David, before Martha passed away on their 59th anniversary in 2012. To support his family through a growing America, August worked in the sales business before forming his own company—August Cosentino Enterprises, where they supplied the automotive industry with custom made parts.

The Buffalo community played a large part in Mr. Cosentino's life. August served as the president of Kenmore Rotary, where he tirelessly exemplified their motto of "Service Above Self." As a talented musician, August can play the piano, accordion, and stand-up bass. He has played in several military bands since 1951 and is well known in the Western New York music community. Mr. Cosentino still plays stand-up bass weekly in the choir at the Newman Center mass.

I am excited to thank the guest of honor, veteran August V. Cosentino, for his service. Mr. Cosentino served our country 70 years ago and our grateful community since then, and I hope for many more bright years to come.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL MITROKA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY AND SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Michael Mitroka, a longtime resident of Southgate, MI and veteran of the Second World War, on the occasion of his 100th birthday. His service to our country is worthy of commendation.

Born on November 20, 1923, Michael enlisted in the Army as a Private in May of 1943. Over the next two and a half years of service he would traverse the Pacific, seeing combat in places like New Guinea and the Philippines. The Japanese conquest of the Philippines just a couple of years earlier was one of the worst military defeats in U.S. military history, and the retaking of the islands, though sure to be a long and hard affair, was a point of pride for General MacArthur and the Army. By the time Michael left the Army as a Sergeant in December of 1945, he had earned the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, a good conduct medal, a purple heart, and two bronze stars, awarded for "heroic or meritorious service in a combat zone."

Michael carried on his service after the war by working in his local school district. He retired in 1985 as the Supervisor of Maintenance, Custodial, and Transportation after 35 years with the Southgate School District. Mi-

chael married his wife, Rosemary, just a few weeks before his discharge from the Army in 1945. Though Rosemary passed away in 1994, her legacy carries on in their two sons, Paul and Michael Jr., three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Still an active member of his current and former community, Michael is a member of St. Aloysius-Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Royaltown, IL, the American Legion Post 975 in Dowell, IL, and the Knights of Columbus Council Post 3965 in Southgate, MI.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 100th birthday of Michael Mitroka. A veteran who served our country with honor and bravery during our darkest hours eighty years ago, he spent the last eight decades continuing that service within his local community and uplifting those around him. As we celebrate the milestone of a centennial, Michael should know that he is appreciated and valued by his family, friends, community, and nation. We thank him for his service, and wish him a 101st year filled with laughter, love, and many blessings. I thank Michael.

HONORING GEORGINA "GINA" CARDONA

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Georgina Cardona, affectionately known as Gina, was a woman of extraordinary kindness and caring, and left this world at the young age of 95. Her constant commitment to community and family formed the pillars for who she was in life. Gina moved into our community in the winter of 1952 from The Island of Puerto Rico with her husband Eliseo and only son Aureo. The three lived in a rooming house owned by the Rivera family, this is where she came to love the South Bronx and all those who lived there with her, including her beloved "Bronx Bombers".

After settling in, Gina continued her dedication to service of others by graduating with honors from the Helena Fuld School of Nursing. She started her career at Hunts Point Hospital as a surgical nurse, then worked at the Hospital for Joint Diseases until her retirement 40 years later. During her years in healthcare, she was instrumental in groundbreaking medical procedures and became a highly respected leader in the industry.

While tirelessly working to improve the health of her fellow community members, she also fought for the Bronx we see today. Her political activism was integral in rebuilding the South Bronx. Gina always found the time and energy to campaign, mobilize, and organize her fellow community members to make lasting, positive changes for the South Bronx. Her passion for service and change was instilled in her family, especially her son and granddaughter who continue her legacy of love and community. She was as proud of her civic engagement as I am inspired by it.

A beacon of strength, Gina was the Matriarch of her beloved family. Like many in her generation, she sent much of her hard-earned money to help her mother and sisters in Puer-

to Rico. Ultimately, she helped to settle them in the South Bronx. Gina continued to bring her family together by helping to move her aunt and younger cousins to Brooklyn. Gina's commitment to her family is exemplified by these acts of selflessness.

While the Bronx became Gina's new home she never forgot where she came from. She would go back to Puerto Rico annually to see her aunt, uncle, and cousins. She would celebrate Puerto Rican heritage month with her brother and his family every year in Connecticut. She also made sure to teach her family in New York to appreciate and learn their history and culture. She did this through language, tradition, food, music, and celebrations. She embraced and loved her family with her entire heart. She will be sorely missed.

I want to recognize her truly amazing impact on our community and anyone who knew her. Gina was a healer through and through. From saving lives as a nurse to helping rebuild her community to taking care of her family, she always worked to heal those around her. In the words of Gina's only Granddaughter Ralina, she left behind a legacy of family and love, not in words but in her deeds.

RECOGNIZING MARY ELLEN STONE, 44 YEARS WITH THE KING COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mary Ellen Stone for her many years of service for the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) and congratulate her on her retirement as the Executive Director.

Mary Ellen has served as a steadfast advocate for survivors of sexual assault over the past 44 years throughout King County and Washington State. She has been a visionary leader in changing the landscape of sexual assault services including prevention, education, and victim advocacy. She was influential in establishing the state's first accreditation process for sexual assault providers, professionalizing service delivery and ensuring core services to be accessible; and publishing "He Told Me Not to Tell," one of the first educational pieces in the nation for parents to talk with their children about sexual assault. As a result, KCSARC is nationally recognized for its effective and innovative services.

Mary Ellen has shared her time and expertise in many ways to better inform systems and communities about the needs of victims. This includes serving on the Seattle Archdiocese Review Board, Mental Illness Drug Dependence Oversight Board, Seattle Chief of Police Search committees, Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Sex Offender Management Committee, Women's Funding Alliance, and Municipal League Seattle-King County. My staff and I have had the privilege of working with Mary Ellen on multiple occasions. Through her productive relationships with several elected officials, Mary Ellen has helped the KCSARC gain exposure at both the state and federal level. Her passion, tenacity and leadership have shaped KCSARC into the strong, vibrant nonprofit it is today.