

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank Mary Ellen Stone for her tireless work and contributions to the community, and I wish her a happy retirement.

KESLEY WHITE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kesley White of Leadville, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Kesley traveled to Nepal 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 Kesley 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 Kesley's many accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WWII USMC VETERAN WILLIAM PAUL GOSCH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor World War II Marine Corps veteran William P. Gosch as he celebrates his 100th birthday which is December 8th.

William P. Gosch was born in North Tonawanda, New York, on December 8th, 1923. While attending North Tonawanda High School, he showed academic prowess, earning a football scholarship to attend Niagara University. After graduating from high school in the Fall of 1941, William chose to forgo his scholarship and joined the Marine Corps. For two years, he served as a rifleman and military policeman in the infamous "Carlson's Raiders" in the Eastern Pacific Theatre of World War II.

William Gosch was an exemplary soldier. His unit was awarded a presidential citation for their heroism in capturing the Okinawa Prefecture, Japan. During his time as a Marine, he participated in action in Bougainville, Emirau Island, the St. Matthias Islands, Guam, and Okinawa. Following the Allied victory in World War II, William Gosch worked as a general

manager in the Richardson Boat Company before spending time working in the costume jewelry business in Honolulu. After returning to Buffalo and settling down, his opportunity to dedicate more to the Buffalo community came in 2020 when he was instated as the temporary replacement for the 2nd Ward Alderwoman. Following this, William received the rare opportunity to collaborate with YouTube documentarian Rishi Sharma, where he promoted awareness of the remaining World War II veterans to an audience of over one million people.

Today, I want to congratulate William on his 100th birthday and express my deep gratitude to William Paul Gosch for his service to our country and the Buffalo community. As William said in 2020, "Buffalo is the greatest city in the world." it is a great city because of dedicated individuals such as William Paul Gosch.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CASEY HATCHER

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Butte County resident, Casey Corin Hatcher, who passed away in the early morning of November 5, 2023, at the young age of 43. She was surrounded by her sister, mother, and two lifelong friends.

Casey was born on February 26, 1980, in Auburn, California to her parents Michelle and Tom Hatcher. When she arrived, she was welcomed by her big sister Kelci Hatcher who became her lifelong treasure. She was inquisitive and had a head for planning, directing and problem-solving early in her development. She moved to Chico to attend college in 1999, graduating from California State University (CSU), Chico with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing.

Casey began her professional career with a management consulting firm focused on assisting small businesses. She assisted over 60 in total during her tenure. The hands-on work with these businesses provided her with a solid foundation for continuing her work in economic development.

In 2011, Casey joined Butte County Administration as a member of its economic and community development unit, where she began her enduring advocacy for the Butte County community that she served with dedication for the remainder of her life.

Casey worked on a variety of community development projects early in her career with the County including implementation of disaster recovery assistance for homeowners affected by the 2008 wildfires in Butte County. Due to her stellar work, she was promoted to Economic Development Manager in 2016. She returned to CSU, Chico and received her Master's Degree in Public Administration in 2017.

Casey served in the County's Emergency Operation Center during many activations including the Oroville Dam Spillway Incident, the Wall, Ponderosa, and La Porte/Cherokee fires in 2017, the Camp Fire, the 2020 North Complex Fire, and the 2021 Dixie Fire. She worked countless hours supporting the response and recovery to these tragedies in Butte County.

She never wavered, faltered, or tired of her dedication to serving the people of Butte County.

Ultimately, she was promoted to Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and assigned to "lead" disaster recovery organizing County staff, advocating with state and federal agencies, and helping rebuild the community for which she cared so deeply.

Additionally, in October 2021, Casey was asked to testify before a congressional committee on disaster recovery where she was provided a national platform to advocate for disaster recovery. The systems Casey put into place are used today as a model by communities experiencing catastrophic disasters, including most recently by the State of Hawaii in their response to the Lahaina Wildfire in Maui.

Casey was a rock; she was a role model; she was a moral compass. She was encouraging, challenging, motivating, but supportive. Her family, friends, colleagues, and beloved community will cherish her for the rest of the days of their lives.

RECOGNIZING ANDY FLICK FOR TWO YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest gratitude for the outstanding service and unwavering dedication of Andy Flick, who served as the Executive Director of the New Democrat Coalition. During my time as Chair of the New Dems, his tireless efforts were instrumental in advancing our shared vision for pragmatic and innovative solutions to the challenges facing our nation. From the intricacies of policy research to the dynamic coordination required in the Coalition's daily operations, his contributions have truly made a lasting impact.

Andy's commitment to fostering bipartisan collaboration and ability to navigate the complex landscape of Capitol Hill have not gone unnoticed, and now he serves as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Vice President. His strategic insights and meticulous attention to detail were invaluable assets to our team. As we continue to strive for a more effective and efficient government, I want to take this moment to recognize and thank Andy for his exemplary service.

The New Democrat Coalition and I are profoundly grateful for Andy's hard work, and I am confident that his future endeavors will reflect the same level of excellence he brought to our team. I wish Andy the best of luck in all his future endeavors and thank him for his outstanding service.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MEGHAN CROTTY QUINN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's

Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumnae Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Meghan Crotty Quinn. 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.

A proud South Buffalo resident, Meghan and her husband Kevin Quinn are the proud parents of Kiera (Mount Mercy Academy, Class of 2027), son Rory and daughter Colleen. Meghan is the daughter of Anita Durkin Crotty (Mount Mercy Academy Class of 1963) and Patrick Crotty. Meghan is a business and community leader. She graduated from John Carroll University in 2007 and earned the title of Certified Public Accountant shortly thereafter. Meghan's rise in the banking industry has been rapid; after a stint with M&T Bank, she now serves as a Senior Vice President in the Commercial Banking division at HSBC Bank. She has twice been recognized by her peers as a top 100 performer in United States commercial banking and is a recipient of the Irish Echo's 40 Under 40 Award in 2021. Meanwhile, her professional success has been coupled with a steadfast commitment of paying it forward. Meghan is the Treasurer of South Buffalo Roots, a rising community organization responsible for organizing the very successful South Buffalo Porchfest, Music in the Park series and South Buffalo Irish Festival. This dedicated group of volunteers in turn supports an array of neighborhood organizations using a creative model of giving back to other charitable organizations including, the South Buffalo Community Table, Buffalo Irish Center, Buffalo Refuse, local sports and school organizations, 11-Day Powerplay, Kids Escaping Drugs, and Feed the Front Line. Citizens like Meghan—those who are consumed with doing right by their neighbors are what makes Buffalo so special. Her commitment to professional excellence and bettering the Western New York community make for an incredible endorsement of Mount Mercy Academy and its principles.

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 Meghan Crotty Quinn continues to live these values in her career and relationships.

LUIS MOLINA-BARRAZA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Luis Molina-Barraza of Westminster, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Luis traveled to Morocco 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 experi-

ences 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 Luis 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 Luis' many accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS AN EMPOWERMENT ZONE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would designate certain areas of the District of Columbia as empowerment zones. This bill would effectively reauthorize many of the unique federal tax incentives for business investment in D.C. that expired in 2011. D.C.'s downtown, which has been the economic engine of the city, has been particularly hard hit by the increase in remote and hybrid work since the COVID-19 pandemic, making this bill especially important.

In 1993, Congress created the national empowerment zone program to encourage investment in low-income communities and delegated to federal agencies the authority to designate communities as empowerment zones. D.C. was not among those so designated. However, in 1997, working primarily with Republicans in Congress, I created federal tax incentives for investment in D.C. by businesses and individuals. The business incentives were similar to, but more generous than, those available under the national empowerment zone program. I got the D.C. incentives reauthorized regularly until 2011, when Congress refused to extend the D.C. incentives. At the same time, Congress extended the national empowerment zone program, and the program was last extended through 2025. Under my bill, low-income neighborhoods in D.C. would be treated as empowerment zones as long as the national empowerment zone program remains in effect.

Congress has recognized that the benefits of tax incentives for investment in economically distressed communities outweigh the costs, as it has continuously extended the national empowerment zone program. The tax incentives for D.C. were the only tax incentives for a big city that were not extended, even though they were initially created by Republicans, with the help of several Democrats.

The expiration of the tax incentives for D.C. was tragically timed, as the low-income parts of D.C., which needed the incentives most, were ready for revitalization. As we work to revitalize downtown D.C. and Wards 5, 7 and 8, the need for these incentives for D.C. is of

paramount importance. The tax incentives for D.C. were effective and their costs were de minimis.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING DR. HANK HINE
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
ARTS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Hank Hine, his remarkable achievements and the well-deserved recognition from Spain's King, Felipe VI of the Order of Isabel la Católica. As the Executive Director of The Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, Dr. Hine has not only enriched our community and cultural landscape, but also has forged international connections that highlight the artistic and cultural treasures we hold dear.

Dr. Hine's lifelong commitment to the arts and his exceptional stewardship of The Dalí Museum have left an indelible mark on the cultural life of our community. The Dalí Museum holds the largest collection of Salvador Dalí's artworks outside of Dalí's home country of Spain. Under his visionary leadership, the museum has become a beacon of creativity and inspiration, welcoming visitors from all corners of the globe to experience the masterpieces of Dalí and other renowned artists.

The recent honor bestowed upon Dr. Hine, the Order of Isabel la Católica, is a testament to his dedication and tireless efforts in fostering cultural exchange and promoting the legacy of Salvador Dalí, one of the most celebrated artists of all times. This recognition is one of the highest civilian honors Spain bestows, and it reflects the deep respect and admiration with which he is regarded not only in our local community but also on the international stage. Dr. Hine expressed his gratitude to the entire community in his acceptance address, recognizing all those who welcomed The Dalí to St. Petersburg—the founders, staff, trustees, and volunteers whose embrace of the power of art propelled all the Museum's achievements.

Dr. Hine's work transcends borders, enriching our understanding of art, culture and the human experience. His tireless commitment to fostering collaboration and understanding among different cultures and nations deserves our highest praise and gratitude.

As we congratulate Dr. Hine on this prestigious recognition, we also express our gratitude for his continued contributions to the vibrant cultural tapestry of our community. His passion and leadership at The Dalí Museum have made Tampa Bay a cultural hub and a destination for art enthusiasts worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and applauding Dr. Hank Hine for his outstanding achievements and for bringing the world of art and culture closet to our hearts and our community. Dr. Hine's unwavering commitment to the arts has enhanced the lives of my community and his work will be celebrated by many generations. May his work continue to inspire and enrich us all.