

IRIS BARKETT

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iris Barkett of Cañon City, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Iris traveled to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia 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 Iris 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 Iris' many accomplishments.

**RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE****HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of America's fifth President, James Monroe, and to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Monroe Doctrine.

President James Monroe was born on April 28, 1758, to a middle-class family in what would eventually become Virginia's First District. Monroe was a fierce advocate for American independence from the very beginning. At only 18 years old, he enlisted in the Continental Army, where he fought and was wounded while serving under General George Washington.

In the earliest years of our fledgling nation, Monroe would distinguish himself as master diplomat and lay the foundations of United States foreign policy. As Minister to France, he helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase, doubling American sovereign territory. After being appointed Secretary of War, he masterfully defended the country during the War of 1812, and managed the acquisition of Florida, all while forging alliances and boosting the United States' standing on the world stage. His skill at statecraft was recognized by the public and he was elected President in 1816.

President Monroe's crowning achievement as a leader was the creation of his namesake Monroe Doctrine. On December 2, 1823, the United States took the important step of recognizing and establishing trade and defense treaties with the newly independent republics

of Latin America. By vowing to aid these countries against invasions by European colonial powers, Monroe began a proud American tradition of a bold foreign policy that promotes freedom and democratic values abroad.

I am honored to represent Virginia's First District, the place Monroe once called home. I am inspired by Monroe's devotion to fundamental American values, and his committed belief that our rights and the freedoms we derive from them deserve to be shared not just by our countrymen, but by all people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing President James Monroe and the Bicentennial of his most outstanding work of statesmanship, the Monroe Doctrine. His legacy is one of profound accomplishment and service to the American people, and I am deeply grateful to the example he sets to all who would follow in his footsteps.

**CELEBRATING SGT. J.J. CORBETT'S 101ST BIRTHDAY AND SERVICE****HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy birthday to Bartow resident, Sgt. Jordan Jerome "J.J." Corbett, who celebrated his 101st birthday on November 25th. Sgt. Corbett has earned many accolades throughout his storied life, including WWII hero, educator, championship coach and civil rights trailblazer.

Sgt. Corbett served during WWII as one of the U.S. Army's first black paratroopers. He first volunteered to train with the all-white 82nd Airborne Division and was part of the formation of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion. The 555th was nicknamed the "Triple Nickles"—one of the few all-black units with black officers. Today, Sgt. Corbett is the last surviving member of the "Triple Nickles," which was assigned to one of the most dangerous operations to save lives from the aftermath of a clandestine Japanese balloon attack in the Western United States.

Today, he is a retired schoolteacher, Bank Director for Citrus & Chemical Bank, two-time Florida Track Coach of the Year, member of the Florida High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and member of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Sgt. Corbett a happy 101st birthday. On behalf of the 18th District of Florida, we thank him for his service and sacrifice for our nation and his steadfast dedication to our community.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION****HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was late to the House floor on the day of November 15, 2023 due to time-sensitive commitments I had as the White House Liaison for the House Democratic Women's Caucus. Had I been

present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 665.

RILEY FLYNN

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Riley Flynn for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Riley has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Riley, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Riley's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Riley Flynn on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

**HONORING THE CAREER OF ALASKA'S JUSTINE GUNDERSEN****HON. MARY SATTLER PELTOLA**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Mrs. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House to honor the career of a great Alaskan, Justine Gundersen, upon her retirement from the Board of Directors for the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association, known generally as "APICDA." APICDA is one of six Community Development Quota Groups formed pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management and Conservation Act, as amended which created in statute the Community Development Quota Program. This revolutionary and game-changing program ensured that remote underserved Alaska Villages, would have a real and economically viable stake in the vast and valuable federal fisheries harvested in close proximity to their communities. Justine Gunderson played her own invaluable role in making it happen.

In 1976, Justine Gundersen made Nelson Lagoon her home with her late husband, Paul Gundersen. "The Lagoon," is nestled on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, on a narrow sand spit, 580 miles southwest of Anchorage and 70 miles north of Cold Bay. Nelson Lagoon, which the Unangax people originally used as a seasonal fish camp, has developed into a close-knit, year-round community with commercial fishing as its economic backbone.

Since the inception of the CDQ program, Justine has been a cornerstone, holding a position on the APICDA board since its earliest days. Her guidance helped lay the foundation for the APICDA board and played a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of the entire program.

Justine's list of accomplishments is extensive, serving on influential bodies such as the Advisory Panel for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Alaska Seafood

Marketing Institute Board, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly, and the Nelson Lagoon Advisory Board.

What truly distinguishes Justine is not merely the duration of her service, but the unwavering commitment that propels it—a resolute determination to ensure that the state's villages, regardless of their size and remoteness, receive the attention they deserve. With the accumulating of nearly 50 years of service, Justine has become a beacon of knowledge, dedicating herself to educating others about village life.

Beyond her board service, Justine assumed the role of Administrator for the Tribe and Corporation in Nelson Lagoon. In these capacities she worked tirelessly to shepherd projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life for the village residents. These projects include a community dock, erosion mitigation initiatives, a boatyard and storage facility, a community greenhouse, and two seasonal tourism adventure sport fishing camps that provide employment opportunities for Nelson Lagoon residents.

Justine's wealth of knowledge in the region and the fishing industry, coupled with her extensive experience and unyielding passion, positioned her as a formidable advocate. Her dedicated service to APICDA leaves an indelible and positive mark upon its history and its future, and upon the CDQ Program generally and continued economic opportunity that it provides to Villages throughout areas of Western Alaska. I thank Justine for her service to Alaska.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF IDRA

#### HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to call the attention of the House in recognition of the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. For over 50 years, IDRA has been steadfast in its commitment to equitable access to high-quality public education for every child and family that needs it. Both their research and advocacy focus on ensuring public schools have the tools necessary to succeed.

Originally founded in 1973 by Dr. José A. Cárdenas, IDRA quickly established itself as a singular voice for Texas students and parents in the field of education. In the early 1980s, Dr. Cárdenas was an expert witness and, alongside IDRA staff, played a pivotal role in the Supreme Court's decision on *Plyler v. Doe*, guaranteeing equal protection for immigrant children across the country to access education in our nation's public schools.

Since then, IDRA has continued working with lawmakers and policy advocates to help secure critical laws supporting bilingual education, equity in school funding, and the rights of immigrant students. Every year, IDRA supports the training of thousands of teachers and administrators on creating the best environment for our children to succeed, while connecting parents and schools so they have a seat at the table in shaping and supporting their child's education.

IDRA has spent decades working to create a more equitable system for millions of students across the country, including those in my district. As the Congressman for the 35th District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate them on their 50 years of transforming public education and empowering our communities.

#### JOSHUA BANALES

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joshua Banales for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Joshua has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Joshua, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Joshua's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Joshua Banales on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL JAMES "BEN" BENTON GASTON

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of James "Ben" Benton Gaston, 74, who passed away on November 22, 2023, in Indianola, MS.

Ben was born in Greenville, MS, on December 4, 1948, where he also grew up. He graduated from Greenville High School in 1966 and attended Mississippi State University and Mississippi Delta Community College. He ultimately graduated from Delta State University following his discharge from active duty military service. He joined the U.S. Army in July 1969 and served as an Infantryman in the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Upon his discharge from active duty, Ben joined the Mississippi National Guard as a Non-Commissioned Officer in 1971 and later took a direct commission to 1st Lt. in 1981. Ben also served as the Company Commander for B Company 2/198th Armor—Indianola, MS, Battalion Commander 1/198th Armor—Amory, MS, 155 Armored Brigade—Tupelo, MS, 66th Troop Command—Jackson, MS and Assistant Adjutant General—Mississippi Joint Force Headquarters—Jackson, MS.

Brigadier General Gaston retired in January 2008. He was recalled one month later to function as the Assistant Adjutant General as a Major General, which ultimately culminated his 42-year military career. MG Gaston received numerous awards and decorations, including the Soldier's Medal, Air Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Legion of Merit. Following his discharge from active

duty, he continued his civilian education at Delta State University, obtaining a Bachelors and Master's in Chemistry and an MBA in Business. He also received a Master's in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He began his civilian career with the USDA in Stoneville, MS, and was eventually elected as the District 3 Supervisor for Sunflower County.

Ben is survived by his wife, Sherry Ikerd Gaston, his high school sweetheart, his sister, Ann Bradshaw (Jimmy) of Pearl, MS. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Bobbie Ruth Gaston of Greenville, MS.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was late to the House floor on the day of November 15, 2023 due to time-sensitive commitments I had as the White House Liaison for the House Democratic Women's Caucus. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 664.

#### HONORING THE 26TH ANNIVER- SARY PASSING OF FORMER MAYOR COLEMAN YOUNG

#### HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the longest serving mayor of the city I so proudly represent, Mayor Coleman A. Young, on the 26th anniversary of his passing.

Born in the throes of segregation in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Mayor Young rose from the humble beginnings of the Great Migration to become a beacon of hope and a pillar of strength for the city of Detroit. His journey was marked not just by the offices he held, but by the indomitable spirit he embodied—a spirit that challenged inequality, fought for justice, and tirelessly sought to uplift every resident of Detroit.

As Detroit's first African-American mayor, he broke barriers and built bridges. He led our city through times of challenge and change, always with an unwavering vision for a more inclusive and prosperous Detroit. His efforts to integrate the Detroit Police Department and to fight excessive use of force were not just administrative actions, but bold steps towards healing and unity. His advocacy for affirmative action and his dedication to economic development were testament to his belief in a Detroit that offered opportunity for all. Under his leadership, Detroit saw the rise of vital infrastructure and community projects, laying the groundwork for the city's future.

As we reflect on Mayor Young's legacy, let us remember his courage, his unwavering commitment to civil rights, and his enduring love for Detroit. His life's work reminds us of the power of resilience, the importance of visionary leadership, and the unyielding pursuit of equality. Mayor Young's legacy is not confined to the past; it is a guiding light for our future, motivating us to continue building a city