

That's why, I've introduced the Fight For Families Act to help low- and middle-income families afford adoption. Every child deserves a loving home, and I'm determined to ensure that the federal government does not stand in the way of that mission.

To that same end, I also want to thank the credit unions in my home state of Iowa and around the country who are offering affordable loans specifically designed for adoption costs—such as a home study or legal fees—and are built around supporting families through the multi-year adoption process. With credit union adoption loans, families are not burdened by excessive interest rates when pursuing an adoption.

The bottom line is that Congress must do more to lower the cost of adoption because we have too many children without forever homes. But until then, I'm heartened to see credit unions stand up and serve our communities in this important way.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH DUCLOS, THE 2024 NEW HAMPSHIRE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elizabeth Duclos on being named New Hampshire's 2024 Teacher of the Year. Elizabeth was chosen among a talented group of educators from across the Granite State because of her leadership, dedication, and proven ability to make students feel valued.

Elizabeth arrived at Pembroke School District in 2010 and is currently a third-grade teacher at Pembroke Hill School. Her strong work ethic and insightful thinking have given her students the tools needed to succeed and receive a well-rounded education. Elizabeth's compassion and ability to foster an effective learning environment are just part of what makes her an exemplary educator.

Noted for her ability to connect with students and make them feel valued, Elizabeth has enriched the lives of all those around her. It is clear that Elizabeth has been an asset to her students and community both in and out of the classroom. As Teacher of the Year, Elizabeth will serve as an ambassador for teachers throughout the state, exemplifying empathetic and impactful learning.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate Elizabeth for her achievement and thank her for her service to our community. Elizabeth embodies our state's sense of service and gives us hope for the future of American education. This is a well-deserved honor and I know Elizabeth will continue to inspire Granite State students for years to come.

MARLON PINEDA PIEDRAHITA

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marlon Pineda Piedrahita for

earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Marlon has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Marlon, 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 Marlon'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 Marlon Pineda Piedrahita on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict, I was unable to participate in the consideration of H. Res. 888 and H. Res. 793. Had I been present, I would have voted, YEA on Roll Call No. 677, and YEA on Roll Call No. 676.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF 103-YEAR-OLD LILLY LOISE CULP HOGAN

### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lilly Louise Culp Hogan. Lilly lived a life of adventure and at age 103 was the oldest veteran at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, Mississippi. She was born on February 5, 1920, in Obion County, Tennessee. Lilly was the second youngest child of eleven children.

Growing up during the Great Depression, Lilly learned the value of hard work by making clothes for all the children at home. She made her own patterns and designed her own clothing. Lilly had many siblings to look up to and who were a part of her life. Attending the local one-room schoolhouse, Lilly was taught by her older sister Zora. Lilly loved math and was always competing with her classmates for the best grades. When she finished the eighth grade, Lilly attended high school at the local Dixie School. Having no car, Lilly and her brother Fred would walk to school every day, except on the rare day when her father would allow them to ride the horse. Fred and Lilly would stable the horse in the barn attached to the school while they did their studies. In 1938 Lilly graduated as valedictorian and Fred graduated with her the same year as salutatorian.

After high school, Lilly wanted to attend college, but her family did not have the resources, so she started working. Lilly and her sister Kitty rented an apartment close to Union City, Tennessee, and together they worked at a nearby shirt factory. While working at the shirt factory, her landlord introduced Lilly to her cousin, Reed Hogan. Reed was on leave from the U.S. Navy.

After Reed was sent back overseas on duty, Lilly was bored of the shirt factory and her life

in Tennessee. On the lookout for more adventure, she moved to Wisconsin to join her brother Calvin learning the trade of photography. Lilly learned how to take photos, print them, and colorize the photos. With a new job and a new life, Lilly began to find her place in the world. While in Wisconsin, Lilly and Reed were constantly exchanging letters.

As Lilly worked in the photography shop, many men and women would come in to take pictures for their Navy identification cards. Lilly saw them coming in with their nice Navy uniforms day-in and day-out. Feeling adventurous, Lilly decided to join the Navy, too. With her photography skills, she enlisted with the goal of becoming a war photographer. Encouraged by her brother to join, Lilly went off on a new adventure in Washington, D.C.

During the process of joining the Navy, it became clear that Lilly excelled at math and was pulled from the photography route and placed in a decoding role. Lilly had no idea what the future held, but she underwent investigation for a top security clearance.

In Washington, D.C., the Pentagon had not been completed, and Lilly worked in an underground facility nearby. Lilly decoded enemy messages in Naval Intelligence. Her work was important to the war, and she knew it. She worked around the clock taking messages and typing them on a card to be slid into what was a very primitive and early version of the modern computer.

In 1944, Reed came home wounded and made his way to Washington, D.C., to find Lilly. They were married on March 16, 1944, not many days after Reed returned.

When the war ended, Lilly and Reed used the G.I. Bill to go to college. They attended the University of Tennessee together and both majored in business—Lilly in business education and Reed in business administration. Lilly and Reed were in some of the same classes and would compete against each other for the best grades. Lilly and Reed had four children—Mary Beth, Reed Jr., Jeannie, and Kim—and made their home in Mississippi.

Later in life, Lilly moved into the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, Mississippi. Keeping with her adventurous spirit, Lilly stayed at the facility while residents cleared out during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 stating she had never seen a hurricane. The water rose to the third story, and Lilly and several of the other residents had to be rescued.

Lilly's life legacy of adventure, courage, and bravery lives on in her four children, seven grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren. I am proud to honor the life of a woman who made an impact not just during World War II but throughout her entire life.

### ANGELO FIELD

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

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

Angelo has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Angelo, 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 Angelo'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 Angelo Field on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

#### HONORING DAVID WHISENANT'S RETIREMENT FROM WBTV AFTER 32 YEARS

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend David Whisenant on his retirement from WBTV after 32 years of service.

David Whisenant started his news career at Salisbury-based radio station WSTP while in high school in 1976. He went on to attend Appalachian State University, earning degrees in both Political Science and English. Throughout his four years, he worked at a radio station in Boone, North Carolina. After graduation, David returned to Salisbury and started a full-time job at WSTP.

When WBTV first created their bureau in Salisbury, David sent a handwritten letter to the news director expressing his interest in working for the station. David started at WBTV as a stringer and within a year was promoted to General Assignment Reporter.

David would go on to provide coverage for Charlotte as well as Salisbury, Concord, and Kannapolis. In his words, he would go "wherever they send me." Some of David's biggest stories include the Pillowtex/NC Research Campus developments, the tragic fire at Salisbury Millworks, the funeral of President Ronald Reagan, NASCAR-related stories, and coverage and updates of Hurricane Katrina. I think I speak for the whole of our community here in North Carolina in wishing David all the best as he begins this next chapter of life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing David Whisenant's retirement from WBTV and his 32 years of service to the people of North Carolina.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 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. 674.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELBERON FIRST AID & EMERGENCY SQUAD

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad on its 75th anniversary. The all-volunteer agency continues to provide exemplary service to residents and its work is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Incorporated in 1948, Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad is a 501c4 that does not bill for its services. Though the squad is responsible for financing most of its operations, including its medical supplies, equipment, and vehicles, it receives a small stipend through the city and is also supported by the community through donations and fundraisers.

Responding to over 600 calls a year, Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad serves the residents of the Elberon section of Long Branch, but also provides backup for the entire city of Long Branch, West Long Branch, Deal, Allenhurst, Eatontown, Oceanport, Monmouth Beach, and Sea Bright. In addition to providing on-site support for local community events, including the large-scale NJ Marathon, Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad is on a Monmouth County EMS Strike Team and stands ready to assist in mass casualty incidents.

First Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians play a vital role in our communities, providing quality care in a timely manner. The members of Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad volunteer their time and undergo rigorous training to support its neighbors. They are well-trained, efficient, and compassionate, and they demonstrate true community service.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in marking this milestone. For 75 years, Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad has upheld its duty to serve the community and its dedication is to be celebrated.

#### MICKEY WILSON

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mrs. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mickey Wilson of Golden, Colorado, for receiving a Carnegie Medal after saving his friend's life in a daring act of heroism.

In January 2017, Mr. Wilson, a professional slackliner, was skiing in Dillon, Colorado, when a friend and fellow skier got caught leaving a ski lift. The skier was left dangling unconscious from the lift, out of reach from help. Mr. Wilson realized the gravity of the situation and selflessly sprung into action. Despite danger warnings, he climbed the chairlift pole and traversed 30 feet along the lift's two-inch cable to reach the chair. He then swung down onto the chair and, after catching a knife thrown by a rescue crew member, cut his friend free. The skier fully recovered with only a broken rib, while Mr. Wilson was uninjured. Mr. Wilson's slacklining experience proved life-saving that day.

The Carnegie Medal is given to people who risk their own safety in an attempt to save the lives of others. There is no doubt that Mr. Wilson is incredibly deserving of this award and it is an honor to congratulate him on this life-saving act of bravery.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF JORDAN MORRIS BRANDMAN

#### HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable individual, Jordan Morris Brandman. Jordan leaves behind a legacy defined by his unparalleled commitment to the community he lived in for his entire life.

Born in 1980 to Michael and Mara Brandman, Jordan was the youngest of five children and was raised in the City of Orange. After graduating from El Modena High School, he attended University of California, Irvine, where he majored in Political Science and was an early leader in the Orange County Young Democrats. Jordan interned and later worked in the California State Department of Education under both Governors Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger after his studies. It was during these years that he developed a passion for education issues.

Jordan took his inspiring passion for education and public service and ran for the Anaheim Union High School District Board of Trustees, winning a seat on the board in 2008. As a Trustee, he led the effort to create a culturally competent curriculum that catered to the needs of the growing Latino working class community. He brought the seal of bi-literacy to the school district and helped make resources accessible to students who were Dreamers.

In 2012, Jordan won a seat on the Anaheim City Council during a turbulent period of change. Jordan also broke barriers when he came out as an LGBTQ councilman—the first openly gay Councilmember in Anaheim history—giving a voice to his community. He worked relentlessly to foster a feeling of community and provide opportunities for everybody by ensuring that the bridges he built reached the very core of our local communities.

Jordan, in his professional life, showed a dedication to making connections between labor and business as the Vice President of Labor Relations at BIASC and the leader in workforce development for the Orange County Business Council. His sincere kindness and generosity extended beyond the public sphere, having a positive impact on those closest to him.

Jordan is survived by his father Michael and stepmother Pam, as well as his four brothers, Jason, Joshua, Jake, and Jedidiah. He is now reunited in eternal rest with his mother, Mara Brandman, who he always held a special place in his heart for.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and commemorating Jordan Morris Brandman's great career and contributions to our community.