

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM A. MCFARLANE'S SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY AND TO OUR NATION

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of William "Bill" A. McFarlane and to grieve his passing. A dedicated public servant, his devotion to his community, state, and nation is worthy of remembrance and commendation.

Bill graduated from Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan in 1965, later being inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2004. His secondary education was interrupted by the conflict in Vietnam, which at that time was growing in its size and intensity. William proudly served his country in the Army under Colonel George S. Patton IV in 1968 and 1969, during which he was awarded two Bronze Stars for "heroic achievement in a combat zone" as well as two Purple Hearts.

After his service in the Army, Bill graduated from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan. A true leader in his community, he was appointed as Head Detective for the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office before serving as the Township Supervisor for Superior Township for 20 years. In his position as Township Supervisor, Bill was crucial in the negotiations that resulted in Hyundai establishing their American HQ in Superior Township in 2003. During his tenure, Superior Township saw a marked increase in population as well as their median income. Not yet satisfied, he would also serve six years on the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Bill was integral in facilitating transportation improvements in Superior Township and throughout Washtenaw County, providing increased mobility and access to all of our residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating and honoring the life and service of Bill McFarlane. A leader in his community and a friend to many, his presence will be greatly missed but not forgotten. His memory lives on in his wife, Sharon, two children, and four grandchildren. We offer them prayers of solace in this difficult time, and thank them for sharing their husband, father, and grandfather with us. He made our corner of Michigan a better and more welcoming place for all.

SERGIO NAVARRO

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE MOLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT ON RECEIVING THE FIRST RESPONDER AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. ERIC SORENSEN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Moline Fire Department in Moline, Illinois who received the First Responder Agency of the Year Award from Black Hawk College.

The Moline Fire Department works incredibly hard to ensure the safety and well-being of the community in which they serve. They are so loved by the city of Moline that they received more nominations than any of the other first responder agencies in the area. The "First Responder Agency of the Year" award acknowledges the dedication and extraordinary contributions of the Moline Fire Department to the community. I am proud to call Moline my home and I am incredibly grateful to have First Responders like these on call when you need them most.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Moline Fire Department formally on the honor of receiving the First Responder Agency of the Year Award. I join the rest of the community in thanking the Moline Fire Department for their commitment to serving and protecting the residents of Moline, Illinois.

HONORING JAMES J. MOSCONI

**HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James J. Mosconi, Jr. of Liverpool, NY for his distinguished career with the United States Postal Service.

Mr. Mosconi was born in Syracuse, NY on Oct. 14, 1951, to Roslyn and James Mosconi, Sr., who was also employed by the USPS. James, Jr. followed in his father's footsteps after having graduated from LeMoyne College with a degree in sociology. He started his career with the USPS part-time during the Christmas season in 1973 at the main post office in downtown Syracuse. In 1979, he was promoted to a full-time clerk/carrier at the office in Liverpool, NY.

At various points, Mr. Mosconi was called on for assignments outside his main location. For instance, he was the Officer in Charge at the Hastings, NY office for a stint in 1991. He also worked as an instructor at the Taft Road Main Office, and later taught computer usage at the downtown office. He even ran stamp shows at local parks and the New York State Fair.

Throughout his nearly 50-year career, Mr. Mosconi embodied everything an employer could hope for in an employee, namely, dedi-

cation, product and service knowledge, a passion for customer service, and unparalleled reliability. His work ethic, the processes he helped to implement, and his amiable and gentle nature will undoubtedly live on at this branch for years to come. And, most importantly, he remained a devoted father, making his five children incredibly proud of his hard work and dedication over the years.

On behalf of New York's 22nd Congressional District, I would like to commend Mr. Mosconi for his nearly five decades of federal employment and his outstanding commitment toward improved Postal Service operations and serving our Central New York community. James J. Mosconi's many contributions to the United States Postal Service—and to the Liverpool branch in particular—will be felt for many years to come.

JULIUS GARCIA

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

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

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

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM FAILURE TO SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5283, the Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act of 2023.

In bringing H.R. 5283 to the House floor, Republicans again demonstrate they are more interested in political grandstanding and punishing asylum seekers than advancing any serious policy on immigration. Under the guise of protecting our public lands and national parks, H.R. 5283 would prohibit any temporary or permanent housing for asylum seekers on land controlled by National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or the Forest Service (USFS). If Republicans truly cared about our public lands, they would not have passed an Interior Appropriations bill that dramatically cuts funding for our federal land management agencies, including \$450 million from the National Park

Service and \$312 million from the U.S. Forest Service.

Mr. Chair, this is another messaging bill from House Republicans that will never become law. It is time we focus on finding real solutions to the issues our constituents are facing.

CONGRATULATING LOS ALAMOS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Los Alamos Public Schools in New Mexico, which is the 2023 College Board Advanced Placement Small District of the Year.

Every year, the College Board honors three districts with an Advanced Placement District of the Year award. Each represents a small, medium, or large district and has achieved the most significant increases in AP Exam scores. They have also expanded access to Advanced Placement courses for a greater diversity of students. The College Board awarded Los Alamos Public Schools this distinction from over 12,000 school districts across the U.S. and Canada as the national leader among small-sized school districts.

Advanced Placement courses provide avenues to higher education opportunities and unlock many doors for students. Los Alamos Public Schools had 40 percent or more of its graduating cohort take at least one Advanced Placement exam. Their scores demonstrate high-level achievement. This proves that our students have the potential to excel when offered challenging educational opportunities. The award is a great testament to the hard work and commitment of the administrators, educators, families, and students of Los Alamos.

Los Alamos Public Schools is a wonderful example of the excellence and achievement that exemplify the great state of New Mexico. I commend the educational community whose dedication and work ethic paved the way for this well-deserved award.

JUAN JOSE MORENO SANTOS

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juan Jose Moreno Santos for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Juan Jose has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Juan Jose, 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 Juan Jose's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Juan Jose Moreno Santos on achieving the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNUAL  
FAMILY CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, December 16, 2023, Brevard County families, businesses and local community organizations will gather to celebrate the 15th Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza. This wonderful event, which will take place at Fred Poppe Regional Park in Palm Bay, FL, will provide an uplifting message of hope and future during this Christmas season.

The House Church, River of Life Christian Center, Elevation Church, Eastwind Pentecostal Church, Grace Bible Church, Jornada al Cielo, Church on the Rock, Truth Reveal Ministries, Wings of Grace Ministries, CITA Rescue Mission, have all united to bring the 15th Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza to our City and County.

Working with several community and business partners such as the City of Palm Bay Parks & Recreation, Thrifty Specialty Produce, Chick-Fil-A, Fruits of my Labor, Engel & Volkers, Gator Automotive, the Mortgage Firm, Frog Bones-Family Shooting Center, Z88.3FM, All Digital All Day, Grifols Plasma Distribution Center, Double Scope, Al Dia Today Newspaper, Martin's Famous Potato Rolls, SMTC Manufacturing, and Premiere Oaks 10 Cinema, the mission is to provide a positive venue for residents and children to celebrate Christmas, serve others and give back to their community.

Over sixty local businesses and organizations have made donations of toys, food, gift certificates, equipment, finances, and goodie bags, and will feature musicians and artist such as Unified Sound with Joel Lopez, Peabod, Carl Lewis and the Intensity Band, Eddie Anthony as Eddie Frost, Jalixa Morales as FA-LA-LA-LA-LIXA and Corey Sprenkle with S & S Sound.

Senior Pastor Ken Delgado of The House at Palm Bay said: "With today's news being filled with division, contention, and expressions of hatred, it is exciting to see the City of Palm Bay, along with the city's businesses and the citizens, create an event where love, joy and peace are expressed. The Family Christmas Extravaganza is the greatest expression that so many people yearn for and is what the angels proclaimed at the birth of Jesus, saying 'Peace and good will towards all men'."

The Mayor of the City of Palm Bay, Rob Medina, issued a proclamation in support for this year's celebration, recognizing the Extravaganza has become the largest Christmas party on the Space Coast and December 16, 2023, as Family Christmas Extravaganza Day.

The spirit of the holidays is all about giving and spending time with loved ones. This year's Extravaganza brings our community together to remind us of that. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting all those who are doing their part to spread the Christmas spirit this holiday season and those who have worked so hard to make the 15th Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza possible.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JEFFREY  
PEIRCE

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Officer Jeffrey Peirce of the Newfields Police Department for his recent act of bravery that earned him the Department's Life Saving Award. When an armed man experiencing a mental health crisis needed assistance, Officer Peirce relied on his training, experience, and sense of duty to effectively de-escalate the situation and help the individual access proper care. I commend Officer Peirce on his courage during a difficult situation and thank him for his decades of service to the Newfields and Rye Police Departments.

In response to calls about a distressed individual in the police department's parking lot, Officer Peirce arrived on the scene ready to assist in the de-escalation of a mental health crisis. Without any backup Peirce engaged with the man, asking him questions and listening to his concerns, empowered by his years of de-escalation training and mental health classes. After removing a gun from the individual's car, Officer Peirce encouraged the man to travel with him to Portsmouth Hospital in order to receive treatment and speak with the staff at the Behavioral Health Unit.

Officer Peirce's ability to de-escalate the situation is a result of his quick thinking and courage, as well as the professional training in mental health affairs he received as a member of the force. By listening to the concerns of the individual, acting quickly to withdraw and empty his gun, and helping him access the care he needed, Officer Peirce demonstrated bravery and empathy, making him truly deserving of the Life Saving Award.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Officer Peirce for his bravery and recognize him for his service to the people of New Hampshire. His heroism and sense of duty will serve as a shining example for all Granite State public safety professionals. I wish Officer Peirce all the best in his future endeavors.

JESUS FIGUEROA-ARRIGA

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jesus Figueroa-Arriga for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jesus has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jesus, 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 Jesus'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 Jesus Figueroa-Arriga on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.