

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, due to a family health issue that required prompt attention, I missed two suspension votes last night regarding our greatest ally, Israel. Had I been present, I would have voted yes—without reservation—for both measures: I unequivocally reaffirm Israel's right to exist, and I support the immediate release of all hostages taken by the jihadist terrorist organization Hamas. I am thankful that my colleagues in Congress voted overwhelmingly in favor of these measures. Anyone familiar with my voting record knows that I have always stood foursquare in support of Israel and will continue to do so. Hamas must be eradicated, all prisoners must be released, and we must continue to remove any shred of doubt about Israel's right to exist.

## AZAHNAE MEDINA

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

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

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

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN  
HERO CAPTAIN KENNETH  
ZACHARIE

**HON. BETH VAN DUYN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Dallas Fire-Rescue Captain Kenneth Zacharie. Earlier this month at a Nimitz High School basketball game, Kenneth, alongside an Arlington Lamar High School Athletic Trainer and Arlington EMS supervisor, worked to save a young athlete when she collapsed on the court during pregame warm-ups. The young athlete went into cardiac arrest and Kenneth swooped into action, using chest compressions and a defibrillator. As a result of his heroic actions, the student-athlete is now on the road to recovery.

Kenneth's wife coaches the Nimitz High School girls' varsity basketball team. Luckily,

Kenneth brought their three sons to the game earlier than usual and was there when the student-athlete collapsed before the game began. As the Captain of the Rapid Intervention Team, Kenneth is no stranger to serious situations and was able to work with others to provide a swift, lifesaving response.

I'd like to thank Captain Kenneth Zacharie for being a shining example of the heroes that make North Texas such an amazing community to live in.

HONORING MAJOR DAVID  
CHARLES HOFFMAN**HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Major David Charles Hoffman for 39 years of dedicated service to our country.

Major Hoffman started his career with the U.S. Army after graduating from Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1985, when he received his commission as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army. His Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal are a testament to his exceptional achievements and the magnitude of his contributions through his service.

Major Hoffman's commitment to learning was instrumental in his success. In 1988, he graduated from the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College. That same year, he graduated from the Army Logistics Management College, where he was named as a distinguished graduate of the Management of Defense Acquisitions Course.

On October 2, 1998, Major Hoffman joined the U.S. Army Reserves, and on that same date, he joined the U.S. Department of Justice as an attorney with the Civil Division, Commercial Litigation Branch. While there, he continued to serve the people of Virginia. Since 2005, he has served as the Deputy General Counsel for Audit Policy and Contract Litigation in the Office of General Counsel for the Defense Contract Audit Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In recognition of his esteemed service on behalf of the American people, the Defense Contract Audit Agency bestowed Major Hoffman with the Civilian Meritorious Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Major David Charles Hoffman for 39 years of service to our country and in wishing him the best as he retires to spend time with his wife of 43 years, Cheryl, and their two children, Kristin and Jonathan.

## JAYLIN MARTINEZ

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

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

Jaylin has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along

the way. Students like Jaylin, 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 Jaylin's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

## HONORING LARRY D. SMITH

**HON. AMI BERA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest gratitude and admiration for the exemplary service and dedication of Mr. Larry D. Smith. It is with great honor that we acknowledge his remarkable contributions and years of service to our country and our Military Academies. I thank him for his invaluable partnership over the past decade as this weekend marks his last round of academy nomination interviews that he will conduct in support of my office.

Born in Los Angeles in 1940, Mr. Smith's journey is one marked by commitment and achievement. A graduate of Manual Arts High School in 1958, he furthered his education at the United States Military Academy, earning a BS in General Engineering in 1962. Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army, Armor Branch, Mr. Smith's military service took him to Germany, the United States, and Vietnam, where he served with distinction in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Transitioning to civilian life in 1970, Mr. Smith embarked on a successful career in Commercial Real Estate, notably with Grubb & Ellis Company, where he served on the Board of Directors and managed offices in the Los Angeles area. His relocation from Southern California to Sacramento in 1979 marked the beginning of a new chapter as a Commercial Real Estate Developer, leaving an indelible mark by constructing the IRS office facility in Sacramento and managing others in Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. His foray into residential home building in 1990 saw the creation and sale of hundreds of homes in the Sacramento area, a testament to his enduring entrepreneurial spirit.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Smith has been an active and engaged member of the West Point community. Currently serving as the President of the West Point Alumni in Northern California, he also holds the position of National Trustee for the Association of Graduates. His involvement in the West Point Admissions Department and his role as the e-mail network moderator for the West Point Parents Net (wpp-net) showcase his commitment to the development and support of future generations. Mr. Smith's family life is equally commendable, having been married to his wife, Maren, for 35 years. His sons, Tom and Mark, have followed in his footsteps, with Tom serving as an officer in the Army and Mark as a legislative aide to a California State Senator.

I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Larry D. Smith in recognition of his outstanding achievements and unwavering dedication to public service. His legacy serves as

an inspiration to us all, and we are grateful for his continued contributions to the betterment of our community and Nation.

**HONORING THE CONTINUED SERVICE OF COMMANDER CHRISTIAN WOODSIDE**

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Commander Christian Woodside, United States Navy, during his service as a legislative fellow in my Washington, D.C. office this year. Throughout 2023, Christian has played a critical role in supporting my work on the House Armed Services Committee and representing the proud Navy community in eastern Connecticut.

As Ranking Member of the House Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, which has the solemn, critical duty of overseeing much of our nation's Navy, Marine Corps, and various Air Force programs and policies, his perspective was essential to me and my office. Year in, and year out, the Department of Defense's legislative fellowship program brings highly talented officers to Capitol Hill who provide invaluable benefits to Members of the House and Senate and the defense committees. Officers, like Christian, bring real-world experience from their time in the classroom at the various academies and experiences from their time serving on active duty. This year, as our subcommittee actively worked to shape our nation's critical shipbuilding programs, shipbuilding industrial base development, and Navy and Marine Corps readiness through the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, Christian provided exquisite judgement in navigating the landscape of crafting such a large and critical piece of legislation.

Christian has also seized initiative in a variety of areas beyond naval affairs that benefit eastern Connecticut. He worked tirelessly to provide insight into our Navy's planned shipbuilding programs, visited with leadership at Naval Submarine New London to discuss ongoing installation operations, and focused on submarine industrial base issues crucial to sustaining the Navy's fleet. He also used his recent shore assignment as a resource sponsor at the Surface Directorates as the SSDS and Enterprise Test and Evaluation Officer for N96 to provide invaluable insight on the Navy's budget process throughout this calendar year. Lastly, he engaged in persistent communication with the embassies of Australia and the United Kingdom to facilitate various engagements in my office and around Capitol Hill and, most importantly, leveraged those relationships as the Congress considered legislative proposals to execute the trilateral AUKUS security agreement.

Christian's work ethic, diligence, intelligence, and first-hand experience as a Surface Warfare Officer made an immediate benefit and memorable impact on my office and subcommittee staff. He was also an energetic, affable colleague to my entire congressional staff, willing to help in small ways and big ways to serve the constituents of Connecticut's 2nd Congressional District. His sense of

humor and thoughtful comments on issues outside of his Navy portfolio were much appreciated by the whole team, and they will be friends for life.

After traveling across the world with tenures on the USS *Doyle* (FFG 39) and USS *Stout* (DDG 55), and numerous shore assignments including Integrated Undersea Surveillance System (IUSS) qualification at Whibdey Island in the state of Washington, I am thankful for his family's tremendous sacrifice to our nation and for landing in the District of Columbia for the current phase of their life. Though Christian's presence will be deeply missed by both my personal staff and Seapower staff, I know full-well that he will make his presence known as he heads to Naval Education and Training Command to serve as Executive Officer aboard USS *Mahan* (DDG 72).

Mr. Speaker, as has also been the case for each of his predecessors that my office has had the opportunity to host, I have benefitted greatly from Christian's training and background. This recurring process that the fellowship program fosters, strengthens civilian-military understanding for future leaders of the greatest military in the world, which I believe is a necessary component of a strong democracy. Our Nation is best served at sea and here onshore by officers and leaders of the highest caliber, like Christian. He embodies such qualities and has a promising career ahead in continued service to our nation, and we owe him such gratitude. I ask that the House join me in wishing CDR Christian Woodside, his spouse Leigh Anne, and their two daughters, Hannah and Charlotte, the best of luck in their next life chapter.

ESHAYA GRAY-SULLIVAN

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eshaya Gray-Sullivan for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Eshaya has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Eshaya, 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 Eshaya's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Eshaya Gray-Sullivan on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

**CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in advance of the 300th Anniversary of the

First Congregational Church and Meeting House in Shrewsbury. The Congregation will celebrate this tremendous milestone on Monday, December 4.

Mr. Speaker, the history of the Church spans almost as far back as the town itself. In October 1717, the General Court of Massachusetts permitted Shrewsbury as a township, as long as 40 families would settle there, build a meeting house, and settle an ordained minister within three years. With little delay, Reverend Job Cushing was ordained, and the original church covenant was adopted on December 4, 1723.

For 109 years, the meeting house was the site for both church and town affairs, until the two separated in 1832. Since its inception, the Church has undergone moves, repairs, remodels, and expansions. Nevertheless, the Church remained a steadfast community center.

During its long history, the Church has remained a site of social responsibility. The Church championed a Vigilance Committee to support the Underground Railroad. Its ministries outreach to those in need. And today, the Church is an open and affirming Congregation.

In 1961, the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury became part of the United Church of Christ. Since then, the Church has opened its doors to all, supporting the diverse needs of the Shrewsbury community.

Mr. Speaker, the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury strives to keep adapting to be in service to all people. I look forward to celebrating this crucial community organization on their 300th Anniversary. Please join me in paying honor and tribute to the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury.

**RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF WDSU CHANNEL 6**

**HON. STEVE SCALISE**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2023*

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize a local television station, WDSU Channel 6, on their 75th Anniversary. On December 18, 1948, WDSU became the first television station to "sign on" in the State of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region and for the next nine years would remain our only local station.

Starting with the invocation of archdiocesan chancellor Monsignor Charles J. Plauche in 1948, WDSU has been an eyewitness for historical moments that have shaped our region. WDSU was on the scene during the building of the Crescent City Connection which connects New Orleans' East Bank to the West Bank. The station was there to provide the first live election results in the Greater New Orleans area, and WDSU reporters were the only ones to live broadcast the World's Fair in New Orleans in 1984. The station chronicled the moments leading up to landfall of Hurricane Katrina, with coverage during the storm, and the days, months, and years following as the people of Southeast Louisiana recovered and rebuilt. The station has since covered other major storms to hit the area including Hurricanes Gustav, Ike, Laura, and Ida.

The name WDSU is widely recognized across the Greater New Orleans area but not