

these categories. I want to congratulate the MKC team for all their hard work and wish them continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE NEWEST
CITIZENS OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. Fallon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our newest United States citizens in North Texas. Today is a remarkable milestone in each one of their lives.

Since the founding of our Nation, people from all over the world have flocked to the shores of the United States. They have escaped conflicts, persecution, and violence, while others simply dreamed of a better life for themselves and their families, just like many of the men and women here today.

My fellow citizens are now part of our Nation's rich history after devoting much of their time and labor into learning what it means to be an American. In our great Nation, we are afforded the most important liberties and freedoms that are seldom found anywhere else. These unalienable rights protect all Americans from injustice.

The naturalization process was never meant to be simple or swift, and for good reason. By diligently completing each required task, they have now proven that they are determined to overcome the most difficult challenges and are ready to welcome new opportunities. It is my hope that they reflect upon the work and effort that led them to this very moment, and take pride in their new responsibilities as an American citizen.

I have requested a United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capital in recognition of each of our Nation's newest citizens for their hard-earned achievements. I wish every one of them continued success and prosperity as they unlock the next chapter of their life as a citizen of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING YURI
HRESHCHYSHYN'S LIFETIME OF
ADVOCACY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the hard work, commitment, and leadership of my good friend, Yuri Hreshchysyn. Born in 1959, Yuri has been an inspiring advocate and dedicated servant in the maintenance and growth of Buffalo. The Ukrainian-American community, City of Buffalo, and all of Western New York owe Yuri a debt of gratitude for his enduring vision of what our community should look like.

A committeeman with the Erie County Democratic Committee, he has worked closely with elected leaders on several community projects. Yuri worked as an advisor and volunteer with Buffalo Green Code and None Like You/We Care to right the wrongs of environmental injustices, plan educational outreach,

and design city green space. Whether it was cutting grass, trimming trees, or planting gardens, each project was a chance to make a tangible difference in the lives of his neighbors. As Executive Director Emeritus of the Central Terminal Restoration Corporation, Yuri was instrumental in the redevelopment of the terminal and surrounding area. He also offered indispensable leadership in the fight to clean up Buffalo's waterways. It is safe to say that the Buffalo River and Old First Ward would not look the same in the absence of his stewardship.

Yuri has also been steadfast in preserving Ukrainian customs and traditions in Western New York. He has formerly served as the President of the Ukrainian American Civic Center and as a board member of the Ukrainian American Welcome Foundation of WNY. Yuri has been the President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee (Buffalo Chapter) since 2019. In light of Russia's baseless invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, he has been helping displaced Ukrainians, collecting humanitarian aid for the front lines, and serving as my personal counsel for accurate information on the war's developments.

In the "City of Good Neighbors," we are blessed to have no shortage of caring residents; nevertheless, those looking for a model citizen should look no further than Yuri Hreshchysyn. Yuri embodies everything good about our community, and it is my honor to thank him for all that he has done for our community and our country.

COMMENDING MOBILE RETIRED
EDUCATORS FOR THEIR SERVICE
TO ALABAMA DISTRICT ONE

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mobile Retired Educators and their service to Alabama's First Congressional District. Educating the young minds in our District is arguably one of the most important jobs there is.

Though their job may not be the easiest, it is vital in laying the groundwork for successful citizens. Being an educator is not just a career; it is being a mover, shaper, and inspiration to young people.

We are grateful for their sacrifices and time in their dedication to their careers for shaping the young minds of our future and the betterment of our community. We wish them the best in their hard-earned, well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to cast my vote during Roll Call No. 691 on December 1, 2023, due to circumstances that necessitated my remaining in the District. As a consequence, I was unavoidably delayed and was not present in the House Chamber to

cast votes on this date. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call No. 691, on Agreeing to the Resolution (H. Res. 878), "Providing for the expulsion of Representative George Santos from the United States House of Representatives", I would have voted YEA.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR SENIOR AIR-
MAN ELISHIA BAXTER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senior Airman Elishia Lorraine Baxter of Little Elm, Texas, and award her a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Senior Airman Baxter honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Iraq War.

Born in a military household, Senior Airman Baxter had a longtime desire to defend her nation and joined the Air Force in 2003. She trained as an Air Transportation Apprentice, and was stationed at Tinker Air Force Base and Warner Robbins Air Force Base. In this role, she upheld safe and efficient flight protocols for passengers and cargo onboard Air Force aircraft. Senior Airman also served as a career advisor and fitness monitor for fellow servicemembers so that they were prepared for success.

Following her discharge from the Air Force in 2011, Senior Airman Baxter has committed to improving the lives and wellbeing of fellow veterans in our community. For her master's degree, she specialized in social work and assisting veteran grant programs through United Way. Through Senior Airman Baxter's work, over a million dollars was distributed to veterans in Denton County facing difficult financial circumstances. She even finds time to manage a mental health pilot program for veterans. I am confident that her continued veteran outreach efforts reassure the men and women that fought for our country that their sacrifices will never be forgotten.

I am honored to represent Senior Airman Baxter in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award her the Congressional Veteran Commendation for her service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MS.
JOYCE ALLEG RUCCI

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Ms. Joyce Allegrucci, a dedicated public servant for the state of Kansas. Over a long and lasting career, Ms. Allegrucci served as Assistant Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for Children and Family Policy, where she fiercely advocated for policies to make Kansas a safer place where children and families can thrive.

She's also supported other public officials on the state level to ensure fair and equitable

policies are at the fore, having served as chief of staff to former Governor Kathleen Sebelius and on Governor Laura Kelly's transition in 2018.

Ms. Allegrucci is an example to us all of what it means to commit yourself to public service. We in Kansas owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude, and it is a privilege to honor her here today. I congratulate Ms. Allegrucci on an impressive, successful career, and wish her a peaceful retirement.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER CRAIG
HELM, SPRINGGETTSBURY POLICE
DEPARTMENT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Officer Craig Helm on earning the 2022 Springgettsbury Township "Officer of the Year."

Officer Helm joined the Springgettsbury Township Police Department in November 2015. Throughout his career, Officer Helm has served tirelessly in enforcing the laws of the Commonwealth. In 2022, he made 37 criminal arrests, 188 traffic contacts, 400 incident reports, and investigated 46 traffic accidents. His outstanding work in DUI investigations previously earned him the "DUI Top Gun" award.

Officer Helm frequently serves as the Officer in Charge (OIC) during shifts, and is poised and professional in his leadership. He leads by example, and always volunteers to cover a shift when manpower issues arise. His frequent guidance and support to newer officers, providing them with everything they need to ensure successful outcomes, earned him selection in 2022 as Field Training Officer.

In one of his most notable and heroic actions in 2022, Officer Helm was dispatched for a shooting while serving as the OIC. He arrived on the scene and immediately began dispensing lifesaving first aid to the victim, while simultaneously directing officers to secure the crime scene. His leadership in commanding the situation resulted in the Criminal Investigation Department identifying the suspect, who eventually was charged with attempted homicide.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged and honored to recognize and commend Officer Craig Helm on earning the 2022 "Officer of the Year" for Springgettsbury Township Police Department. He is the standard by which we all should be judged.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF ARMY ROTC AT
UTEP

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Army Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

The Army ROTC program has been an integral part of the UTEP and the El Paso com-

munity since its establishment on July 1, 1948, as an Air Defense Artillery ROTC unit of the College of Mines and Metallurgy. Today, the Army ROTC program offers UTEP students basic and advanced courses of Military Science, including a Minor in Military Studies, and provides training in small unit leadership and military skills, in both classrooms across campus and in a field environment.

The Officers commissioned through the UTEP Army ROTC program have served their nation in all major conflicts from the Korean War through the Global War on Terrorism, having preserved the liberties that have enriched this nation. Additionally, the Officers are always at the forefront of providing voluntary service to our country in terms of disaster preparedness and response, community development and environmental protection.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the UTEP Army ROTC, and all those associated with the program, for the important role in preparing individuals to serve their country and their communities, for the last 75 years. I wish them continued success and impact for many years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR PETTY OFFI-
CER STEPHEN LUNSFORD

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Stephen Lunsford of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. PO3 Lunsford honorably served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

PO3 Lunsford comes from a military household and sought to continue his family's tradition of service. In 1961, he joined the Navy and first trained as an Aviation Metalsmith on the A-3B Skywarrior strategic bomber. After being transferred to the Seventh Fleet, he served as a Plane Captain on several aircraft carriers, including the USS *Constellation* (CV-64), USS *Midway* (CV-41), and the USS *Coral Sea* (CV-43). In this role, PO3 Lunsford directed flight operations on the carriers' runway and ensured that F-4 Phantom IIs safely took off for their combat missions. Additionally, he served on the USS *Constellation* when it sailed to the Gulf of Tonkin to provide air cover for American destroyers that were believed to be attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats. For his service, PO3 Lunsford was bestowed the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Navy Unit Commendation with bronze star, along with several other awards.

Today, he vividly recalls his experience working on the flight deck of aircraft carriers and that it was an exciting opportunity for someone as young as him to maintain the airworthiness and flight operations of the most advanced aircraft at the time. After his discharge from the Navy, PO3 Lunsford was able to transform the skills he gained in the Navy to successfully operate several businesses, including a nonprofit organization. For the past 40 years, he has served as a deacon at his church and taught Sunday school. PO3 Lunsford has also served as a disaster recov-

ery chaplain and assisted victims of natural disasters. I strongly commend him for his efforts to set a positive example for his family and uplift our community through his generosity.

I am honored to represent PO3 Lunsford in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO FENC-
ING AT THE UNITED STATES SU-
PREME COURT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the No Fencing at the United States Supreme Court Act, which would prohibit the installation of permanent fencing at the U.S. Supreme Court. Earlier this year, I introduced a bill that would prohibit the installation of permanent fencing at the U.S. Capitol complex.

After the Supreme Court's draft opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* was leaked in May 2022, the Supreme Court installed temporary anti-climb fencing around its grounds, which remained in place until late August 2022. While the Supreme Court has not announced plans to install permanent fencing, temporary security measures often become permanent.

While I understand the importance of protecting the Supreme Court building, Supreme Court Justices and Supreme Court employees, we can and must maintain our commitment to security without sacrificing public access by using the least restrictive means necessary to address security.

Permanent fencing would send an un-American message to the nation and the world by transforming our democracy from one that is accessible and of the people to one that is exclusive and fearful of its own citizens. The Supreme Court has long welcomed First Amendment demonstrations without becoming a fortress.

Public property should be open to the public. The distance between government and the people has grown, with trust in government, including the Supreme Court, low. We should not entrench that distance further by placing intimidating barriers between public servants and the people they serve. There are more effective, less obtrusive security solutions than archaic fencing.

Moreover, the Supreme Court is in a residential neighborhood in the District of Columbia. The Supreme Court grounds are widely used by both D.C. residents and visitors. Permanent fencing would block that use.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DONALD J. HERRINGTON

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give thanks for the many years of service of