

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 ANNIVERSARY 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 COMMENDATION FOR PETTY OFFICER 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 FENCING AT THE UNITED STATES SUPREME 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

Donald J. Herrington to the New Holland community, as he retires from public service as a member of the New Holland Borough Council.

Mr. Herrington's selfless service to the New Holland Community exceeds thirty years across two millennia. He entered service to the borough as a member of the Planning Commission, serving seven years followed by a term as Mayor of the borough for four years ending in 1989.

Mr. Herrington was recalled to the service of the borough in June of 2000, as a Borough Council Member, a position which he held through the end of this year.

In addition to his dedication to the borough, he also served his community as a coach for several local Garden Spot sports teams, and with the local Jaycees, eventually serving as the 37th President of the Pennsylvania Jaycees.

Mr. Speaker, our communities across the nation are enriched through the selfless service of dedicated and talented individuals like Mr. Donald J. Herrington. We offer him our thanks and gratitude for his work to strengthen his community and we wish him well in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING EYOLE MBONGO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Eyole M. Mbongo of San Antonio, Texas, who received the Outstanding Congressional Staffer Award on December 1, 2023 from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) in recognition of his exceptional dedication to advancing equity in education.

In 2014, Mr. Mbongo joined my Congressional staff as an intern while completing his master's degree in public administration at the University of Texas, San Antonio. After his graduation, I hired him as a constituent services representative in my district office, where he worked to help residents of the 20th District of Texas access programs and services within the federal government. After almost two years in my district office, he joined my staff in Washington D.C., where he now serves as a senior legislative assistant.

Over the course of his work with my office, Mr. Mbongo has led the fight to bring hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding back to San Antonio schools and universities—helping them chart a path forward through the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic and close racial and socioeconomic gaps in college attendance and completion.

During the current session of Congress, Mr. Mbongo has been a critical advisor in the introduction of several bills and resolutions, including:

The Hispanic Educational Resources and Empowerment Act (HERE Act), which would authorize a grant program to support partnerships between Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and school districts with high enrollment of Latino students to improve college readiness and degree attainment.

The Advanced Coursework Equity Act, which would authorize a grant program to address equity gaps in enrollment and performance in advanced programs and courses.

A resolution to designate the week beginning on September 11, 2023 as National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week.

There is no one more qualified or deserving of this award than Mr. Mbongo, and I am grateful to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities for recognizing the profound impact of his work.

I congratulate Mr. Mbongo—he makes San Antonio proud.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL CATES

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brigadier General Michael "Mike" Cates of Frisco, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. General Cates honorably served in the United States Army as the 23rd Chief of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.

In 1980, General Cates followed in his family's footsteps and joined the Army after obtaining his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Texas A&M University. He specialized in veterinary services in South Korea and Germany, and was the first veterinarian to command the Army's Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine. I commend his extensive efforts to improve public health and the wellbeing of animals in the military. For his exemplary service, General Cates was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, and several other awards. In 2005, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine.

After his retirement in 2008, General Cates continued to make profound impacts in his community in many ways. He became a professor at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and served as their Master of Public Health Graduate Program Director. As the Program Director, General Cates helped prepare students for success in public health careers. When he retired from academia, he served as a board member for the Heritage Association and Pet Partners in Frisco. In these roles, General Cates helped preserve Frisco's rich history and supported local animal shelters so that they may have a safe place to call home. These actions highlight his commitment to uplifting the world around him and being a voice for those in need.

I am honored to represent BG Cates 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.

OSCAR ORTIZ'S COMMENDATION

HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and constituent, Oscar Ortiz, a devoted orga-

nizer and champion for educational equity. Oscar was a visionary: he fought for a just, inclusive future where everyone thrives. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, son, and respected member of the Illinois Third Congressional District community.

Born in our great City of Chicago on April 21, 1962, to Benito and Mirta Ortiz, Oscar dedicated his life to empowering our community through education. He believed that education was a powerful tool to build a just future. He knew education could unlock our collective potential and enable us to realize our dreams. With that in mind, Ortiz became an elementary and high school teacher, helping our young people find their power and joy in learning. Whether it was at Jahn and Lowell Elementary Schools or Jefferson Alternative School, el maestro Ortiz was always present for all his students, their parents, and faculty.

His desire to serve our community and defend public education in Chicago led him to join the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) in May 2003, where he quickly became a committed and active member, never missing a meeting or event. There, Oscar served as a sergeant-at-arms, as the Lowell delegate, and as a member of the Legislative Committees, always with the intention of advancing social justice and equity through education.

Oscar generously committed his time on earth to countless social justice causes. He believed in the power of organized communities and worked tirelessly to build a better future for Chicago and our nation. I, personally, will miss his calls to action and the way he could stir our passions and stoke our courage on the bullhorn at direct actions. May his passion for change and love of community always—guide us! I will miss him dearly, and I know that countless others will, too. He was a true, loyal friend.

His wife, Sabina; sons, Gabriel and Daniel; brother Ed; parents, Benito and Mirta; all his loved ones, and to the entire CTU family, are in my heart and in my prayers. Together, as we mourn his passing, let us celebrate the blessing he was in all of our lives, the impact he had on our community, and the mark he has left in our great City of Chicago. Oscar vive, la lucha sigue. Rest in power, Oscar.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF PASTOR CHARLES GILCHRIST ADAMS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today the 12th Congressional District mourns the loss of Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams, a beloved spiritual and community leader and activist in our district whose influence reached many across our state and the world.

Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams graduated with honors from the University of Michigan and Harvard University and went on to become a doctoral fellow in Union Theological Seminary in New York City. From 1962 to 1969, Dr. Adams served as Pastor of the historic Concord Baptist Church in Boston. Shortly after, Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams was appointed as lead pastor for the historic Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit, a role