

Bachelor of Arts in Economics from San Diego State University.

HONORING THE 2023 FLORIDA
TEACHER OF THE YEAR ME-
LISSA ANNE MATZ

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, I rise today to honor the 2023 Florida Teacher of the Year, Melissa Anne Matz. A resident of Clay County and constituent of Florida's 4th Congressional District, Melissa was chosen from almost 185,000 public schoolteachers throughout the great State of Florida.

In addition to teaching seventh grade math at Lakeside Junior High School, Ms. Matz has served as the head of the entire math department since 2015. Additionally, she has gone above and beyond while serving as the chairperson for Lakeside's School Advisory Committee and a leadership team member.

Ms. Matz now serves as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education, where she helps to raise public awareness for the outstanding teachers in Florida. As the 2023 Teacher of the Year, she will receive an award from the Florida Department of Education, a tuition waiver to pursue a graduate degree, and a two-year Florida College scholarship to present to a student of her choice.

Ms. Matz's commitment to her students, the community, and the State of Florida will have a lasting impact on a future generation of leaders ready to take on the world's challenges. My colleagues and I on the Committee on Education and Workforce are inspired by the work of this exceptional educator.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring the 2023 Florida Teacher of the Year, Ms. Melissa Anne Matz.

RECOGNIZING MR. JACOB
FRANCESCO-PETER DUNKLIN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Jacob Francesco-Peter Dunklin for his service to my office and the 22nd Congressional District of California over the past decade.

Mr. Dunklin was born in Fresno, California to parents Marianne and Jerome R. Dunklin, M.D. Growing up in the Central Valley with his brother and sister, Joseph and Kristina, Mr. Dunklin enjoyed being active and challenging himself academically as he played varsity tennis while attending San Joaquin Memorial High School in Fresno. Following his graduation in 2014, Jacob attended American University. During his time at American University, Jacob developed a strong interest in politics. In March 2020, Mr. Dunklin graduated from American with his Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science.

Shortly after graduation, Jacob returned to California's Central Valley to follow his passion of politics. Mr. Dunklin began his political career by quickly securing a position in my campaign office. Jacob has been a member of my team since 2014, first serving as campaign intern and most recently, as Legislative Assistant in Washington, D.C. His thoughtful approach to crafting public policy combined with his expansive legislative knowledge made Mr. Dunklin an invaluable member of my team and a true public servant to the people of California's Central Valley.

Outside of work, Jacob enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf and tennis, riding his lilac bicycle, and heli-skiing.

This February, Mr. Dunklin's time in my office came to an end as he moved on to a new role with Senator TED BUDD of North Carolina. While I am excited for Jacob to begin this new chapter, he will be greatly missed as a member of my team. Knowing Mr. Dunklin, his character and work ethic, I have no doubt he will achieve many great things in his future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Jacob Dunklin for his public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing him the very best in this next chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS SECRETARY
OF STATE JANE NELSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the storied public service of State Senator Jane Nelson. Senator Nelson retired from serving the people of North Texas in the Texas State Senate after a historic 30-year career, making her the longest-serving Republican in the Texas State Senate. She served as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and was the first woman in Texas legislative history to chair a standing budget-writing committee. Before becoming Chairman of the Finance Committee, she was the longest-serving Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee. She even authored three consecutive balanced budgets—a feat, if accomplished in Washington, D.C., would be of great benefit to our country.

Her legislative accomplishments are far too numerous to name and speak for themselves. Senator Nelson displayed a tireless commitment to her constituents and conservative values throughout her time in the state legislature. Senator Nelson is a businesswoman, former teacher, and proud mother and grandmother who was never afraid to tackle issues that matter the most to Texans.

Senator Nelson is truly committed to public service. She has a proven track record and a deep understanding of state government. Because of this, Governor Abbott appointed her to serve as Texas Secretary of State. In her new role, I know she will work hard to ensure that elections in Texas are fair and have accurate, timely results.

On top of her years of public service, Senator Nelson remained active in the North Texas community. While raising her children in Denton County, she founded adult literacy pro-

grams, served in the PTA, and volunteered in her community.

I am honored to know Jane Nelson and call her my neighbor and friend. I congratulate Jane on her retirement from the Texas Senate. A job well done. I know she will continue to deliver results for the great people of Texas in her new chapter of Public Service.

HONORING BOBBY EVANS

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James Robert "Bobby" Evans, known as the father of the Adopt-A-Highway program, who passed away last week.

Bobby served Texans as an engineer with the Texas Department of Transportation for 42 years. Throughout his career, he moved across Texas—from the valley to West Texas, to East Texas.

In 1984, while serving as the District Engineer in Tyler, Bobby developed the "Adopt-A-Highway" program, which encouraged volunteers to "adopt" segments of highway, keeping roadways across the State free of litter.

This program saw tremendous success and has been adopted across the country and around the world.

Bobby embodied the American spirit—working throughout his life in service to his community—working within his church, leading community groups, and encouraging men and women around the world to be good stewards of their local communities.

Bobby will be dearly missed, but his impact will never be forgotten. My prayers are with his family, loved ones, and his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I regretfully missed Roll Call vote No. 117. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 117.

RECOGNIZING MS. JOANNA
SANSOTERRA, OUTSTANDING
VETERAN ADVOCATE IN THE
52ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Joanna Sansoterra of the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families in the San Diego Region. As the Program Coordinator of the organization, Ms. Sansoterra has worked tirelessly on the Onward to Opportunity program, which helps veterans, members of the selected reserves, and military spouses transition from military service to civilian life.

Ms. Sansoterra has been instrumental in creating and enhancing the Onward to Opportunity program within San Diego's Navy Region Southwest area, with the goal of also partnering with private sector companies committed to training and hiring military talent and their spouses.

Ms. Sansoterra has dedicated her life to the service of our country. Before her work at the D'Aniello Institute, Ms. Sansoterra served in the U.S. Air Force, both in active duty and as a reservist, and she is now a 33-year veteran.

As a volunteer for her community, Ms. Sansoterra has served on the San Diego Re-

gional Chamber of Commerce's Defense, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee, as well as on the Board of San Diego Pride. She also volunteers for the Foundation for Women Warriors, which helps to honor and empower veteran women.

Ms. Sansoterra has also played a significant role in advancing equality. She was instrumental in pushing for the first military parade in uniform with San Diego Pride, and she was inducted into the San Diego LGBTQ+ Veterans Wall of Honor, recognizing LGBTQ+ veterans.

Ms. Sansoterra lives in the City of Imperial Beach, CA, with her wife, Stefanie, and she recently completed her Masters in Nonprofit Leadership & Management at University of San Diego.

Ms. Sansoterra was honored as the 51st District Constituent of the Month, during National Veterans and Military Families Month in November 2022, for her outstanding commitment to supporting military families and veterans, as well as all her service and efforts that have helped those in need build a brighter future.