

by the New Orleans Housing Authority. Through the kindness of Rev. C. H. Hayes and the members of Wesley Methodist Church, they worshiped in their church edifice up until March 1, 1964, when they moved to their current edifice at 2505 Marengo Street. The fine Christian spirit and friendship that was exhibited by this pastor and congregation will always be remembered with grateful hearts by those members of their church who experienced this display of Christian charity. May God forever bless them.

Over the years, God has made Historic Second a Beacon Light of Gospel Truth to this community and communities beyond. In respect to its witness to communities beyond, God not only gave our late Pastor Washington a vision to broadcast the Gospel Message over the airwaves, but also provided sufficient grace to keep the broadcast for 55 years through August 28, 2005. Begun in 1950 on WWEZ, the radio airwaves carried our services live from 10:00–11:00 p.m. People in all areas of the city began to follow the Radio Broadcast of Historic Second Baptist Church and its dynamic young pastor. As a result of these many years of broadcasting, many members were added to the church.

As a much-respected spiritual force in this city, Historic Second Baptist Church has worked to educate, equip, and empower its members and our city's residents to perform their civic duties and responsibilities. In the 1960's, under the leadership of Pastor Washington, voter registration classes were held at the church to teach citizens of color how to register to vote. Their famed Radio Choir desegregated the Municipal Auditorium with its Annual Musicals, successfully fulfilling 21 contracts. Each time 5,000 to 8,000 people gathered to hear Pastor Washington and the Radio Choir at its best. One year, the Radio Choir was accompanied by the New Orleans Philharmonic Orchestra—a night long to be remembered. And it was their own late Rev. Avery C. Alexander who was dragged up the steps from the basement of City Hall, as he attempted to desegregate the City Hall cafeteria. The importance of Historic Second Baptist Church is felt to this day in our community, as countless individuals seeking public office still make their way to the church on Sunday mornings to appeal to this congregation for their support.

Through the years, Historic Second Baptist Church has stood as a symbol of pure idealism in the sense of what Jesus of Nazareth characterized in His teachings. As an institution and a definite entity of the Church Universal, this assembly, in golden purposes and architectural design, represents the fulfillment of the need for the true spirit of the changing times of this ultra-modern age—that is, the promotion of institutionalized Christianity to meet the needs of children, young people, and adults.

RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL MATTHEW WARD HIGER ON THE OCCASION OF THIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AT EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

### HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Matthew Ward Higer's retirement from our United States Air Force. His final assignment on Active Duty was as Commander of the 412th Test Wing at Edwards Air Force Base, California. In this role General Higer led nearly 8,000 personnel in the developmental test and evaluation of the KC-46, KC-135, KC-10, C-17, C-5, F-35, F-22, F-16, B-1, B-2, B-21, B-52, T-7A, RO-4, and numerous other emerging technologies. General Higer also served as the Installation Commander of United States Air Force Production Plant 42 and Edwards Air Force Base, globally recognized as the center of the aerospace testing universe.

General Higer has proudly served our country as a military officer since he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on May 7, 1993, through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Detachment 060, at the University of Southern California. He served our nation as an F-16 instructor pilot and an experimental test pilot amassing 3,000 military flight hours in 40 different aircraft. His 30-year career encompasses two combat deployments, countless nights away from family, and fifteen assignments at diverse locations well beyond California including Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Texas, South Korea, and right here in Washington D.C. His leadership potential and demonstrated commitment to integrity, service, and excellence resulted in his promotion to Brigadier General on December 2, 2020.

General Higer exemplifies the very best of our High Desert community and our nation's commitment to building servicemembers dedicated to the profession of arms. His superior leadership and devotion to duty has not gone unrecognized. He is the recipient of decorations including the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and upon his retirement he will be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

General Higer's active duty military service to our nation would not have been possible without the love, support, and encouragement of his family. His wife of 22 years, Leslie—also an Air Force veteran, and children, Alex and Zev, are also each deserving of our deepest gratitude for their support of the General throughout his service to our country. Heather and I thank the General and his family for their devotion, service, and sacrifice.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Brigadier General Higer for his three decades of selfless service to our Nation, in commending him for his steadfast dedication to our Constitution, and in wishing him many years of joy and peace in his well-earned retirement.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF REAR ADMIRAL MARTIN JANCZAK, U.S. NAVY, RETIRED

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to Rear Admiral Martin Janczak, U.S. Navy, Retired. Throughout his life, he has dedicated himself to his country as he embodies the Navy's storied code of honor, courage, and commitment.

RADM Janczak was stationed all over the world during his 30 years of naval service, ranging from places like Vietnam, Hawaii, Guam, and South Korea. As the Navy force shore commander responsible for United States Navy activities in Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and the surrounding islands, he supported American force projection in the Pacific. His superb work was recognized with various awards including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, and Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

RADM Janczak's life and career reflect hard work, activism, and dedication to what's best for Central Texas. He devotes his energies to numerous organizations, has served in both elected and appointed leadership positions, and continues advocating for our nation's heroes. He has made lasting and positive contributions to the place we're all glad to call home.

MDM Janczak's Congressional Veteran Commendation is a small token of our appreciation for his contributions to the military and his community. I join his colleagues, family, and friends in honoring his career, commending his commitment to public service, and wishing him nothing but the best in the years ahead.

MR. TERRY GENDRON

### HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and proud to recognize Mr. Terry Gendron (Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Retired) upon the occasion of his retirement after invaluable years of tireless, faithful, and selfless service to our Nation.

Mr. Gendron comes from a family of service. Not only did his mother serve in the Army as a frontline surgical nurse in World War II, and his father was career Army Infantry who served in WWII and Korea, but he and all three of his brothers wore the uniform as well. While Terry would rather talk about his family over himself, his service warrants its own illustrious recognition.

Terry enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1975. He graduated Officer Candidate School in 1977, and served in myriad command and staff positions until he earned an Honorable discharge after more than 22 years of loyal service on December 31, 1997. His awards and honors include—but are not limited to—the Meritorious Service Medal (4th Award), Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award), Army Good Conduct

Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), Expert Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge.

After several years in the private sector, Terry accepted an opportunity to serve our Veterans in the capacity of Department Service Officer for the Pennsylvania American Legion, wherein he assisted Veterans all over central Pennsylvania. In 2016, he continued his service to our Nation and Veterans by earning the position of Director of Veterans Affairs in York County, where—amongst various other missions—he maximized benefits for Veterans and Family members to improve their quality of life. He tirelessly worked to ensure that every Veteran in York County (or surviving spouse) had a conversation with an accredited service officer to ensure any earned military/medical/health benefits were realized ASAP. His dedication to our Veterans continued via positions on several boards and memberships, to include York County Veterans Outreach, Veterans Memorial Gold Star Health and Peace Garden, Four Chaplains Memorial of York County, and Pennsylvania American Legion Post 945.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Terry dedicated himself to education. He's earned a Bachelor's degree in Resource Management from Troy University, a Master of Science in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, and graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and humbled to commend Terry Gendron (LTC, USA Ret.) on his well-earned retirement. His vast record of nearly 50 years of faithful, tireless, and selfless service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America sets the standard by which we all should be judged. I wish him Godspeed on his pending cycle trek across our beautiful Nation, and for many more years of great adventure, health, happiness, and prosperity.

THANKING JOHN CAUPERT FOR HIS 17-YEAR CAREER AS DIRECTOR OF NCERC AT SIUE

### HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Caupert, the outgoing Director of NCERC (National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center) at SIUE. John's 17-year journey has been marked by extraordinary achievements for SIUE and the agricultural research field.

John has presided over several significant accomplishments and advances during his 17 years at NCERC. Some of the most notable achievements include transitioning NCERC into a self-sustained center funded by research grants, serving as a pathway for more than 80 technologies, which have generated billions of dollars in revenue, and helping to lead the fight against COVID-19 by producing the first WHO sanitizer from corn-based ethanol. All of these accomplishments, along with many that NCERC has produced during his tenure, are a testament to John's dedication to his work.

I want to thank John for all of his contributions to the field of agricultural research. I wish John and his family all the best as he finds new ways to contribute to the field of agriculture research and communities across Central and Southern Illinois.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT JASON HOWARD, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Jason Howard, U.S. Army, Retired, has always been there to lend a helping hand to his fellow citizens and his efforts to make his beloved community a better place has made a lasting, positive impact on the region. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

SGT Howard has extensive military experience including serving at Fort Cavazos and deployments in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He worked closely with our Kurdish allies and even met with future Iraqi President Jamal Talabani. His great work didn't go unnoticed as he was awarded a Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and among others.

After retiring from the Army, SGT Howard found his way back to Central Texas. Fueled by his passion for wanting to serve and lead others, SGT Howard serves as the Alderman for the Village of Salado while giving back to his community through numerous volunteer opportunities. He pours himself into making Salado a great place to work and call home, all while ensuring that the voices of residents are heard in the halls of government. His actions reflect the commitment of a devoted public servant.

I commend SGT Howard's incredible contributions. His patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of Central Texas. I join his colleagues, family, and friends in honoring his career, commending his commitment to public service, and celebrating his outstanding achievements.

CELEBRATING THE HMONG COMMUNITY'S 2024 NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES

### HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Hmong community's upcoming 2024 New Year festivities in Merced County.

The story of the Hmong people in the United States begins with the tens of thousands of Hmong soldiers who stood side-by-side the United States in steadfast courage against communism in Indochina.

As the Vietnam War spread, the CIA recruited and trained thousands of Hmong men to fight, with over 30,000 engaging enemy troops both on the ground and in the skies. Hmong soldiers regularly conducted raids and

sabotage operations on the Ho-Cho-Minh supply trail and went deep behind enemy lines to gather intelligence and rescued American soldiers. As a result of the fighting, Hmong soldiers suffered immense casualties—ten times higher than their American counterparts.

After the United States withdrew its forces at the conclusion of the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Hmong fled as refugees to the United States. Those who were unable to escape faced brutal oppression and massacres.

Today, over 360,000 Hmong-Americans call the United States their home, and California's 13th Congressional District is home to one of the largest Hmong communities in the United States. Hmong-Americans continue to serve our nation whether in law enforcement, the armed forces, non-profit programs, or in elected office. They play pivotal roles in our schools, our hospitals, and our businesses, and through it all, the community has continued to preserve their vibrant language, culture, and traditions.

As they have done for decades, the Hmong community of the Central Valley will gather at the Merced County Fairgrounds from December 15–17 to celebrate the 2024 Hmong New Year, which will include traditional Hmong attire and cuisine, cultural dance competitions, traditional sports tournaments, and an exhibit of Hmong art and entertainment.

I am honored to represent the Hmong-American community of the Central Valley, and I wish every Hmong-American a very Happy New Year.

RECOGNIZING SHERRI SAGER

### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sherri Sager, Senior Vice President and Chief Government Relations Officer of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, for her more than 30 years of advocacy for children and their families.

Sherri was born in Los Angeles and has a younger brother and sister, three nieces, and a nephew. With a passion for political advocacy at a young age, Sherri earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Santa Clara University and a master's degree in public administration from San Jose State University.

Prior to joining the Packard Children's Hospital in 1994, Sherri worked as a legislative assistant to a member of Congress and later as a consultant to several political candidates and elected officials. She also served as the Assistant Director of the Valley Medical Center Foundation.

During her tenure at Packard, Sherri organized and managed the government relations program, monitored proposed laws and public policy that may impact the hospital, and oversaw various departments. Sherri prioritized three health needs for patients through her advocacy: improving access to primary health care services, prevention of pediatric obesity, and improving youth social, emotional, and mental health.

Sherri serves on many nonprofit and regional business association boards. She is