

for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Corinne's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Warren Tech North and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Corinne James Bowden on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGIZING AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING ACT OF 2023

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I re-introduce the "Energizing American Shipbuilding Act" with U.S. Senator ROGER F. WICKER (R-MS). I thank U.S. Senator ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr. (D-PA) and Congressmen ROBERT J. WITTMAN (R-VA) and BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK (R-PA) for their support as the original cosponsors.

Our bipartisan bill would help to recapitalize America's domestic shipbuilding and maritime industries by requiring that increasing percentages of exported liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude oil be transported on U.S.-built, flagged, and crewed vessels. In total, our bill would require that 15 percent of total seaborne LNG exports by 2045 and 10 percent of total seaborne crude oil exports by 2037 be on U.S. vessels. This would result in the construction of more than 40 American ships: approximately 28 LNG carriers by 2045 and 12 oil tankers by 2037. This will support thousands of new, well-paying jobs in American shipyards, vessel component manufacturers, and across the U.S. maritime industry.

As President Vladimir Putin's unconscionable invasion of Ukraine has shown, continental Europe's overreliance on imported Russian oil and gas is both untenable and dangerous. While I support the global transition away from fossil fuels to fight the climate crisis, I also support increasing American energy exports to Europe to replace Russian imports in the near term. Unless Congress acts, all U.S. seaborne LNG and crude oil exports will be on foreign-flagged vessels, operated by foreign crews.

In 1995, Congress required that crude oil exported from Alaska's North Slope be transported on U.S.-flagged vessels to preserve the tanker fleet essential to our national defense. The "Energizing American Shipbuilding Act" would implement a similar requirement. The vessels built under our bill would be available to meet the U.S. military's sealift and supply needs around the globe.

I am deeply troubled that our military, namely the Defense Logistics Agency, relies on foreign-owned oil tankers including state-owned enterprises closely linked to the Chinese government. Our bipartisan bill also counters other export countries' similar requirements including the Russian-flagged vessel requirement for arctic oil and natural gas exports announced by the Kremlin in December 2018.

The United States was a net crude oil exporter in 2022 and is projected to become the top LNG exporting nation in the coming years. Exports of these two strategic national as-

sets—LNG and crude oil—should be on American vessels, which is exactly what our bill would require. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to cosponsor the "Energizing American Shipbuilding Act."

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and to congratulate the recipients of the 26th Annual Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award-winning, public-private coalition formed to fight drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Through educational and innovative public outreach programs, WRAP is credited with keeping local alcohol-related death rates consistently below the national average. Its programs educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. Through the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, individuals who are impaired can request a free cab ride home. Since SoberRide was launched in 1991, 80,047 safe rides have been provided in the Washington Metropolitan area, preventing potential accidents and deaths.

Since 1997, WRAP has sponsored an annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony to honor local law enforcement professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against drunk driving. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2023 Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention recipients:

Officer Zachary Anderson: City of Alexandria Police Department

Corporal Steven Yanda: Arlington County Police Department

Officer Ashley Kumar: Arlington County Police Department

Officer Zackery Lauw: City of Falls Church Police Department

PFC Maurice Anderson: City of Fairfax Police Department

PFC Brian Castello: Fairfax County Police Department

PFC Bryce Cooper: Town of Herndon Police Department

Deputy First Class Tyler Giles: Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Corporal Anthony Wallace: Maryland State Police

Officer Jeremy Brady: Metropolitan Police Department (Washington, DC)

Corporal Joshua Morris: Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department

Sergeant Patrick Keep: Montgomery County Department of Police

PFC Juan Rodriguez: Prince George's County Police Department

Officer Godson Vondee: Prince William County Police Department

Officer Aram Karapetyan: United States Capitol Police

Officer Kevin Brennan: United States Park Police

Trooper Jordan Corvin: Virginia State Police

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence and in recognizing WRAP for its 41 years of public service.

I commend the staff of WRAP under the leadership of President and CEO Kurt Erickson and Board Chairman Patrick Burke for their tireless dedication to eradicating underage drinking and drunk or drugged driving. Their efforts combined with the support of partner organizations and law enforcement agencies have saved lives and are deserving of our highest praise and gratitude.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT YESENIA MERCADO, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Sergeant Yesenia Mercado, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Her patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of Texas.

During SGT Mercado's service in the Army, she went above and beyond to serve her country. She completed the demanding training in elite specialties and served multiple tours in Iraq, earning numerous commendations including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism—Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and Overseas Service Ribbon.

The end of SGT Mercado's military service didn't bring about the end of her dedication to others. She commits her free time to a host of activities, ranging from helping those less fortunate, supporting families impacted by natural disasters, and contributing to our brave first responders. She stays active in local business development and her work has brought millions of dollars to Central Texas. These efforts speak to the character of devoted public servant unafraid to contribute her energies to the betterment of her fellow citizens.

I commend SGT Mercado's dedication to her community and Nation. I join her colleagues, family, and friends in honoring her career, saluting her commitment to public service, and celebrating her outstanding achievements.

FIDEL FLORES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

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

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

the way. Students like Fidel, 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 Fidel'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 Fidel Flores on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 5378—Lower Costs, More Transparency Act. I have long supported the critical medical and social services that community health centers provide and fully support their funding. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall No. 708.

TRIBUTE TO DAN BERGER

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize B. Dan Berger as he prepares to step down from his role at the President/CEO of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU) at the end of the year.

Dan first joined NAFCU in 2006 and helped the association become a strong advocate for credit unions in Washington. I have had the pleasure of working with Dan on several issues before the Financial Services Committee during that time.

Dan became the President/CEO of NAFCU in 2013. In a decade under his leadership, NAFCU has grown its membership by nearly 50 percent, while increasing assets and revenue. His final act for NAFCU will be leading it into a merger with the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) to create a new voice for credit unions—America's Credit Unions.

Dan earned a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from The Florida State University. He is a member of The Economic Club of Washington, DC, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, and was an adjunct professor at The George Washington University in the communications department. He also serves as Vice Chair of the conservation group Bonefish and Tarpon Trust and formerly served as Chair of The Florida State University Alumni Association.

I know the credit union community will miss Dan as he heads back to Florida to spend more time with his wife Aimee and daughter Shelby. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dan Berger and wishing him the best of luck with whatever comes next.

TRIBUTE TO ETHEL HAMILTON KELLY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a doting wife, devoted mother, and darling matriarch to many on her 104th birthday. Mrs. Ethel Hamilton Kelly of Charleston, South Carolina, will celebrate this milestone surrounded by family and friends on December 16, 2023. We joyfully celebrate her longevity.

Ethel Hamilton was born in 1919 in Colleton County, South Carolina, and was raised along with six siblings. She was joined in holy matrimony to Isiah Kelly, and together they had ten children. While Isiah worked various jobs, Ethel remained home to care for her large family. She instilled in all her children the importance of kindness and the ability to respectfully resolve disagreements with others. In addition to caring for her own children, Ethel regularly fed other children that frequented her home.

Ethel and Isiah raised all their children to be faithful servants of God. The Ten Commandments guide Ethel's life, and she believes adhering to them is of principal importance.

As Ms. Hamilton Kelly celebrates her 104th birthday, she remains in good health and retains her sharp mind. She continues to follow current events and votes in nearly every election. Her eight surviving children, twenty-two grandchildren, two sisters, and numerous other relatives will join her to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Ethel Hamilton Kelly. She continues to display her boundless maternal love to her family and others every day. We congratulate her on a life well lived and wish her continued good health and happiness in the days to come.

HENRY THOMPSON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

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

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

It is my honor to congratulate Henry Thompson on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING MAYOR MARK SENTER'S SERVICE TO PLYMOUTH, INDIANA

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Mayor Mark Senter, who is completing his tenure of dedicated service to Plymouth, Indiana at the end of this month.

Currently serving in his fourth term, Mayor Senter has advanced solutions that have made Plymouth a better place to live, work, and raise a family. In particular, Mark can and should be proud of his work in helping create downtown Plymouth's River Park Square, which hosts the popular "Mayor's Month of Music" event every August.

Prior to becoming Mayor, Mark served as a trooper and detective with the Indiana State Police for 28 years. Mark's service on the thin blue line has given him valuable firsthand knowledge of the public safety issues our communities face as well as the brave sacrifices law enforcement officers make in the line of duty every single day.

As he prepares to step down as Mayor, spend more time with his family, and write the next chapter of his life, I am proud to congratulate Mark on a distinguished career and a job well done. The Plymouth community and all of Marshall County is unquestionably better off thanks to this good man with a servant's heart.

I join Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second Congressional District in expressing our gratitude to Mayor Mark Senter for his service and in wishing him, his wife Leanne, and their family all the very best going forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I had to miss yesterday's vote series due to my attendance at an unscheduled meeting. During that time, I was unable to make roll call votes No. 707, No. 708 and No. 709. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: YEA on Roll Call No. 707, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 3224—Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023; YEA on Roll Call No. 708, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 5378—Lower Costs, More Transparency Act; and YEA on Roll Call No. 709, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 6503—Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023, Part II.

RECOGNIZING NHDOT WORKERS FOR SAVING DROWNING MAN

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of 12 New Hampshire individuals