

where he obtained an associate degree. After retirement, he returned to Anniston once again and began seeking other employment. He was employed at Federal Mogul Corporation in Jacksonville, Alabama, prior to applying for a position at General Dynamics. After working at General Dynamics for roughly a year, Jerry decided to apply for a position at the Anniston Army Depot. During his employment at the Depot, Jerry has worked in several different positions and after 21 years of service he has decided to turn in his "I.D. Badge" and retire. Throughout Jerry's career he has met many wonderful people and is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the ANAD family.

In June 2002, Jerry married Melinda Mad-den, a psychology major who works in the social service field. They have one son, Travis J. Fowles, and two beautiful grandchildren Gabriel (6) and Summerlyn (4) Fowles.

Jerry and Melinda are both members of World Changers Church International. Jerry is also a member of a community group called Kingdom Men's Fellowship Ministry. This ministry consists of men from the community who spread the gospel of Jesus Christ while helping those in need. Some of Jerry's hobbies/interest are reading his Bible, spending time with his wife and watching Alabama Football. Roll Tide!

The past 42 years have truly taught some valuable lifelong lessons, yet Jerry leaves Bynum knowing his years of government service have ended. Retirement will be an opportunity for him to begin a new chapter in his life. In the book of Philippians 1:6, one of his favorite scriptures, speaks to being confident in knowing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day in which Jesus Christ returns. Jerry has now completed his time of government service and now will be able to enjoy retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Jerry for his service to our country. Wishing him the best in retirement.

ANDRE GURULE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Andre has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Andre, 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 Andre's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

HONORING BETSY JANE FLENNER

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Mrs. Betsy Jane Flenner for 16 years of dedicated service to our country.

As a Lead Congressional Correspondent and Security Manager in the U.S. Navy Office of Legislative Affairs, Betsy has helped answer thousands of questions from the American people. In the office, she is known for her willingness to take on any question and find an answer, no matter how easy or how complex.

Betsy is admired and respected by her colleagues—her work ethic and heart for service have made her an asset to her team and to the many Virginians who have benefitted from her help. She has built long-lasting relationships with staff in the halls of Congress, an example of her exceptional service and her willingness to go above and beyond her job description.

Throughout the last eight Congresses, Betsy has been a standout team member. Her commitment to providing excellent service has earned her the Superior Civilian Service Award—one of the highest honorary awards under the Department of the Navy Civilian Awards program. Her enthusiasm for providing our Veterans and servicemembers with the answers they need will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Mrs. Betsy Jane Flenner and in wishing her the best in her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 11, 2023, I was unable to be present for the recorded votes on Roll Call Nos. 707, 708, and 709. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on Roll Call No. 707—H.R. 3224, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act, as amended; NO on Roll Call No. 708—H.R. 5378, Lower Costs, More Transparency Act, as amended; and YES on Roll Call No. 709—H.R. 6503, Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023, Part II.

AMELIA GORDON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Amelia has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Amelia, 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 Amelia'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 Amelia Gordon on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE FIRST BLACK JUDGE IN VIRGINIA'S 24TH DISTRICT

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eugene Butler.

Eugene Butler was recently appointed to be a judge in Virginia, for the 24th judicial district. He will be focusing on Juvenile and domestic relations.

As impressive as that is, he now is the first black judge to hold that position in that district.

Originally from Washington, D.C., where he attended Patrick Henry High School, he later graduated from Washington & Lee Law School. Judge Butler has been practicing law for 20 years and is the former president of the Lynchburg Bar Association. Judge Butler is the son of a Methodist minister, and the brother of D.C. resident Brian Butler.

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Judge Butler and his family and I wish him continued success in his legal career.

HONORING MR. STEPHEN VIRAY OF FLORIDA, NEW YORK FOR HIS SUCCESS

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stephen Viray for winning this year's Congressional App Challenge.

The Congressional App Challenge encourages creativity for high school students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) related education fields. This nationwide contest allows these students to compete against their peers by creating and exhibiting their software applications.

While in school, Mr. Viray created an app called District Insights, dedicated to being a resource for anyone who wants to know more about their own congressional district.

The opportunity to explore, understand, and engage in local government allows users to get involved and stay up to date on legislation that directly impacts their community.

District Insights simplifies the process of identifying your congressional district. Its intuitive map and user interface makes it effortless for users to pinpoint their district, ensuring they stay informed about their representatives, and issues that directly impact their lives. District Insights provides a wealth of statistical information, giving users a comprehensive understanding of the factors that shape their community.

This year's Congressional App Challenge was exceptionally competitive this year. Within

the district, Stephen's app was challenged by eight other impressive software applications. I am always glad to see these yearly submissions from bright, young students who have been able to combine their interests with their impressive coding skills.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Stephen Viray. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his extraordinary work.

HONORING THE CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representatives JOHN GARAMENDI and JOSH HARDER, to recognize the contributions of the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) on its 75th anniversary.

For 75 years, 4CD has been a vital part of Contra Costa County. Founded on December 14, 1948 by a countywide vote, 4CD was the first countywide junior college district in California. Since its inception, 4CD has committed itself to providing quality and affordable higher education to students of all backgrounds. Serving over 45,000 students each year at their campuses in San Pablo, Pleasant Hill, Pittsburg, San Ramon, and Brentwood, 4CD creates an academic environment that promotes cultural competency, diversity, and community engagement.

The district offers a wide range of courses allowing students to pursue an associate degree, transfer to a four-year university, or hone in on their professional skills through specialized vocational and technical trainings. 4CD also offers a number of courses that use open educational resources, helping to cut costs on textbooks. 4CD's more than 3,600 employees are devoted to empowering all students to fulfill their educational and career aspirations by providing accessible, equitable, innovative, and outstanding higher education learning opportunities and support services.

Please join me and Representatives JOHN GARAMENDI and JOSH HARDER in recognizing the Contra Costa Community College District for their many contributions to our community and in congratulating them on their 75th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF TIM LESLIE

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sheriff Tim Leslie on his retirement from the Minnesota Sheriff's Association and wish him well as he begins his next chapter.

After getting his start in law enforcement with the St. Paul Police Department, Tim went on to be appointed Assistant Commissioner

for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. He then served within the Dakota County Sheriff's Office for over 20 years and spent the last year helping the Minnesota Sheriffs Association with government affairs work in St. Paul after a decorated law enforcement career. It was my honor to work with Sheriff Leslie during his tenure as Dakota County Sheriff.

Sheriff Leslie served as Sheriff of Dakota County from 2015 to 2022, where he led the department through challenges with the opioid epidemic, the COVID-19 pandemic and increased community policing efforts. He remains a pillar of the Minnesota Law Enforcement Community. I'll always appreciate Tim's advice and counsel on law enforcement legislation and am proud to have worked together to pass the bipartisan Public Safety Officer Support Act in the 117th Congress.

I wish him the best in retirement and hope he can spend some more time with his grandkids and a little more time fishing.

RECOGNIZING LISA ROYBAL

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and advocacy of Lisa Roybal, and congratulate her as she embarks on a well-deserved retirement from VA Loma Linda Healthcare System. Lisa is a true champion for women veterans in California's 39th Congressional District, the Inland Empire, and beyond.

Lisa has a long history of public service, first serving in the United States Navy for 20 years before joining the staff of VA Loma Linda. As a Nurse Practitioner and the Women Veteran Program Manager for the newly established Women's Health Center at VA Loma Linda, Lisa championed the well-being of veterans throughout her career.

In 2006 at the beginning of Lisa's civilian career at VA Loma Linda, women veterans' enrollment constituted roughly 2,500 patients. Under Lisa's direction, this number has increased remarkably with more than 10,000 women veterans enrolled this year. The development of the Women's Health Center at VA Loma Linda, from its inception at the Redlands Based Outpatient Clinic, its relocation to the Juliet clinic, and its current establishment as a stand-alone fully operational clinic reflects Lisa's unwavering commitment to expanding accessibility to meet the evolving needs of women veterans.

Lisa's resolute leadership has played a pivotal role in establishing an inclusive and supportive environment for all women veterans. Her efforts have not only broadened access to VA services but also cultivated a deeper sense of community and belonging for all who have served our nation. Lisa is undoubtedly a champion for women veterans throughout our community, and a true hometown hero who utilized her experience in the U.S. Navy and applied it for the well-being of her peers. I commend Lisa for her tireless commitment, perseverance in providing healthcare for women veterans, and her courageous service to our Nation; I wish Lisa a well-deserved and happy retirement.

MR. OHIO SOCCER, BRADLEY POPPELL

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bradley Poppell, a senior at Archbishop Moeller High School, on being named Mr. Ohio Soccer by the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association.

The Men of Moeller amassed a 24-0-1 record, being ranked number one in the country for three weeks during the season. The team only allowed one goal during the regular season and would go on to be state runner-up in Division One.

Bradley led his team with 23 goals and six assists this season as the team captain. Alongside his play at Moeller, he plays on the Cincinnati United Premier U19 team, which is ranked number one in the state of Ohio.

In the classroom, he is ranked near the top of his class with a 4.7 GPA and is also a school captain. This is alongside his high test scores and multiple AP-level courses.

I am excited to nominate Bradley to the United States Air Force Academy, where he will be a member of the men's soccer team. He hopes to receive a pilot slot, just as his grandfather did in the Class of 1970.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to family obligations, I regret missing the 3 votes on December 11, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 707, YEA on Roll Call No. 708, and YEA on Roll Call No. 709.

HONORING MICHELLE Y. CROMWELL ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished public service and career of a hardworking, talented, and principled Marylander from my district: Mrs. Michelle Y. Cromwell. I thank her for her 43 years of dedicated service with the Department of Defense, more specifically, the Department of the Army from December 29, 1980, to December 31, 2023. Throughout her career, Mrs. Cromwell has served the Department of the Army faithfully and personified the Army's values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. As the Chief of the Congressional Inquiry Division within the Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison (OCLL), Mrs. Cromwell worked with many Congressional offices on a wide variety of Army issues and programs with the