

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

highest degree of professionalism and outstanding resourcefulness. We all ought to recognize and celebrate her many accomplishments.

Mrs. Cromwell began her career working for OCLL's Congressional Inquiry Division on December 29, 1980, as a Clerk Typist. Mrs. Cromwell has served in many positions within the Congressional Inquiry Division, including a two-year stint in the Senate Liaison Division on Capitol Hill. She has worked her entire federal career in the OCLL, supporting and responding to countless inquiries from Members of Congress and their staffers, the Army Senior Leader, and constituents. Mrs. Cromwell has also helped with the release of Army contract and casualty announcements to Congress, ensuring the needs of contractors, civilians, soldiers, and their families were met. Additionally, she was tasked with several special missions directly supporting the Secretary of the Army. From these successes she was ultimately promoted to Chief of the Congressional Inquiry Division in 2018. During her tenure, Mrs. Cromwell has guided the division and organization through numerous major events.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Cromwell has loyally served the Department of the Army throughout the Cold War, Operations Just Cause, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Noble Eagle, the September 11, 2001 tragedy, Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel. For her indelible contributions to our country, Mrs. Cromwell received the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, Superior Civilian Service Award, Commander's Award for Civilian Service, and the Civilian Service Achievement Medal. She did not serve because she wanted awards and accolades, however. She served because she believed in the vital importance of her work.

Mrs. Cromwell has been an invaluable asset to our government, our men and women in uniform, and the American people. Although many will be sad to see her departure, she deserves a long and happy retirement. As she starts this next chapter, I wish her, her husband Stewart, her two sons, and the rest of their family and friends well. I am certain that all my fellow Members of the House will join me in thanking Mrs. Michelle Cromwell for her commitment and contributions to our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on rollcall No. 716, and YEA on rollcall No. 717.

RECOGNIZING ABRAHAM SCHNITZER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of First Lieutenant Abraham "Abe" Schnitzer of Houston, Texas, and his service as a navigator in the United

States Army Air Corps during the Second World War.

Mr. Schnitzer was born in Port Arthur, Texas, on August 18, 1923. After graduating from Port Arthur High School, he went to work for Bethlehem (previously called Pennsylvania) Shipyard in Beaumont, Texas. In 1942, while working as a foreman overseeing shipbuilding operations, Mr. Schnitzer felt called to quit his "safe job" and join the military to defend his country. He did so and was commissioned in the United States Army Air Corps.

He specialized as a navigator on the B-17 Flying Fortress. He was first assigned to the 445th Bombardment Group of the 2nd Air Division of the Eighth Air Force to continue training on B-17 bombers. He was soon designated the lead navigator of the entire group and guided many bombing missions over Nazi-occupied France and Belgium.

As the war continued, he was eventually placed in the B-24 Liberator, where he and his crew carried out 20 dangerous missions over Germany. In fact, his bombardment group led the first bombing mission on Berlin. American actor and icon Jimmy Stewart was one of the officers in that group, and he would join Mr. Schnitzer and the other airmen in their downtime.

During his time in the European Theater, Mr. Schnitzer flew 24 combat missions and accumulated 165 combat flight hours. According to his service records, he "navigated B-24 aircraft over land and sea by dead reckoning, pilotage, celestial, and radio navigation." For his military duty, Mr. Schnitzer was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars, and a commendation from the French government.

Interestingly, two of Mr. Schnitzer's missions over Kassel, Germany, carry personal significance, as it was the very town that his future wife and her Jewish family fled during the early years of what would be known as the Holocaust in 1937. He met Edith Isenberg as an Air Force Cadet in 1942 and sent her a daily postcard from Europe until he returned home in 1945. They were married for 68 years and had three children: Robert, Dinah, and Alan.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Abraham "Abe" Schnitzer, a centenarian and distinguished patriot of our great Nation. May God continue to bless Mr. Schnitzer—a proud member of the Greatest Generation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall No. 707, Bill Number H.R. 3224; NAY on rollcall No. 708, Bill Number H.R. 5378; and YEA on rollcall No. 709, Bill Number H.R. 6503.

ALONZO MEDINA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a serious illness that required medical attention, I missed several votes last week. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted: NAY on rollcall No. 692; NAY on rollcall No. 693; YEA on rollcall No. 694; YEA on rollcall No. 695; YEA on rollcall No. 696; PRESENT on rollcall No. 697; YEA on rollcall No. 698; NAY on rollcall No. 699; YEA on rollcall No. 700; NAY on rollcall No. 701; YEA on rollcall No. 702; NAY on rollcall No. 703; NAY on rollcall No. 705; and NAY on rollcall No. 706.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, I was not present in the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall No. 716, and NAY on rollcall No. 717.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEGACY OF JUDGE JOHN J. RUFÉ

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of a notable constituent from my district and friend, the Honorable John J. Rufe, who passed away on November 18.

Judge Rufe had served the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County as a judge since 1989, serving in a full-time capacity until 2009,