

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,

whereupon he entered into a Senior Judgeship within the County of Bucks. Judge Rufe was dedicated to serving the residents of Bucks County, and during his years of service he always looked forward to a day's work at the bench. During his tenure as a Senior Judge presiding over drug court, Judge Rufe fully supported and advocated for efforts to meaningfully help the rehabilitation of those suffering from addiction throughout Bucks County.

Judge Rufe left the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas in December 2018, leaving behind a profound legacy that touched so many lives. Judge Rufe will be remembered for his commitment to serving the residents of Bucks County and for his dedication to learning from the past and to confronting the challenges that our community will face in the future.

Judge Rufe will always be remembered as a loving Husband, Father, and Grandfather and we are all incredibly grateful for the positive impact he has had on our community. Let us continue his legacy of public service each and every day.

COMMEMORATING THE 6TH ANNIVERSARY OF BORICUACTIVATED

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when most people imagine American democracy, they picture the House, Senate, or the President and the work that we do as lawmakers to enact critical legislation to carry out the Nation's business. Or maybe they imagine themselves and their friends and neighbors in the voting booth, casting ballots that will determine the make-up of government at the state, local, and federal levels.

To me, however, American democracy also takes another form: the ongoing dialogue between citizens and public servants like us they elect to represent them. In these conversations we learn our constituents' hopes and dreams for the future, learn to make their priorities our priorities, and live up to our founders' ideal that the people should be allowed—and encouraged—to petition their government.

That is true civic engagement; and that idea is at the heart of BoricuActivatEd, a stellar, Philadelphia-based volunteer-run organization that is now celebrating its 6th year.

The organization was created during the tragedies of Hurricanes Maria and Irma which struck Puerto Rico in 2017, killing an estimated 3,000 people and leading to the longest power blackout in U.S. history. The group was created to mobilize people across the country to advocate for needed disaster aid and was immediately successful in marshaling the combined voice of the Puerto Rican Diaspora. They made their power felt and demonstrated that civic engagement works.

Through their civic engagement workshops, BoricuActivatEd has provided over 4,000 individuals with the tools they need to make their voices heard. Thanks to BoricuActivatEd's tireless efforts, countless more high school students, former juvenile offenders, and community members from across the country will have the opportunity and ability to advocate for the issues important to them. And their elected officials are listening. Indeed, I can personally attest, having participated in their workshops, how effective and valuable these sessions can be.

As it enters its seventh year, BoricuActivatEd continues to grow its programs, developing new curricula for high school students—including the Esperanza Academy in my district—and expanding their programs into new cities, to empower the next generation of Americans.

By training people of all ages and securing the participation of elected officials at all levels

of government, BoricuActivatEd embodies civic engagement and community empowerment at its finest.

I am proud to congratulate BoricuActivatEd on their 6th anniversary and wish them every success as they embark on new accomplishments in the years ahead.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 14, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the future of arms control and deterrence.

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