

Beginning as a Math Teacher in 1985, he swiftly rose through the ranks, serving as Dean of Students at North High School in 1991. His leadership journey continued with roles as Assistant Principal and as Principal in 1998. In 2010, Dr. Schaefer assumed the role of Assistant Superintendent, and in 2014, he ultimately accepted the role of Superintendent, guiding the district with prudence and dedication. Beyond his contributions within the Kern High School District Dr. Schaefer extended his impact to higher education, serving as an adjunct faculty member for Point Loma Nazarene University—Bakersfield Regional Center for over two decades.

Though Dr. Schaefer has an impressive list of achievements in educational leadership throughout his 38 year career, his greatest legacy can be found in his diligent and ambitious mission for student education and personal growth. His commitment to providing quality education in Kern County has left an enduring impact on the community, shaping the future of countless students.

I know that Dr. Schaefer is looking forward to this next chapter of his life and spending mom time with his wife Beth, two children Shannon and Haley, and granddaughter Delilah. On behalf of the 20th Congressional District of California, I would like to congratulate Dr. Bryon Schaefer on a well-deserved retirement, a successful career in education, and for his many contributions to our community.

BAILEE TELL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

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

Bailee has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Bailee, 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 Bailee's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen rescheduling conflict, I was unable to vote on the Motion to Recommit and passage of H.R. 357 on December 12, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 716, and Yea on Roll Call No. 717.

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 NORTHEAST WISCONSIN VETERAN OF THE YEAR, JOHN GILLESPIE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Northeast Wisconsin's 2023 Veteran of the Year, John Gillespie.

The Northeast Wisconsin Veteran of the Year is chosen annually by a selection committee of veteran and civilian community members. It recognizes veterans in Northeast Wisconsin who continue to demonstrate service, excellence, and dedication in all they do.

John's service began in 1955 at the University of Wisconsin, where he first signed up as an ROTC student with the Army Corp of Engineers. His career of service would see him honorably discharged from the United States Army and rise to the rank of Captain in the United States Army Reserve. His service extended far beyond his time in uniform, however, as he was appointed to Gov. Tommy Thompson's Juvenile Justice Commission in 1991 and in 1992 to the National Child Labor Committee.

A longtime resident of Northeast Wisconsin, John's service to our country and community went far beyond his time in uniform. In 1965, John and his wife Jan began the Rawhide Boys Ranch with the fundraising help and support of a quarterback some may know, Bart Starr. This support allowed John and Jan to help turn around the lives of numerous at-risk youth throughout Wisconsin. The ranch was more than just housing and mentor assistance for these youth. It became an integral part of the community, establishing a firefighting service that served the nearby municipalities at no charge. Today, through their car donation program, residential services, and youth counseling programs, they serve over 750 at-risk youth across Wisconsin. They operate several family services centers, three equine therapy centers, and over 40 full-time therapists stationed at public high schools serving at-risk youth.

But John's commitment to our community went beyond the ranch. He dedicated much time and effort to projects like establishing Plamann Park, spent countless hours volunteering with American Legion Post 38 in Appleton, where he is a 30-year member, and also spent years advocating for a local veteran whom he kept in contact with after his two years at Rawhide as a youth, Jerry Monson. He worked tirelessly to ensure Jerry received the VA benefits he deserved and went so far as to compile donations from local builders to get Jerry back on his feet after he found himself homeless. John enlisted the help of 45 local builders and suppliers to build Jerry a home free of charge.

In every walk of his life, John and his family have led a life of selfless service and sacrifice. The lives he has changed through his work in our community can never be quantified. John continues to demonstrate the highest degree of service, dedication, and excellence in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I once again congratulate John Gillespie for his service to Northeast Wisconsin and the veteran's community and for being the 2023 Northeast Wisconsin Veteran

of the Year. Northeast Wisconsin can be proud of the many great veterans who call Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District home. I urge all colleagues to join me in recognizing these outstanding men and women.

GRACIELA MENENDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

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

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

BIDEN AND UKRAINE NEED A SENATE DEAL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an Editorial: Biden and Ukraine Need a Senate Deal, by William Galston from the Wall Street Journal to underscore the need for a deal on supplemental aid funding before Congress leaves Washington.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 12, 2023]

BIDEN AND UKRAINE NEED A SENATE DEAL

(By William A. Galston)

The West's security and his presidency require a compromise on border policy.

If the continuing Senate negotiations on border security fail, U.S. economic and military aid to Ukraine will end. And if this happens, a pillar of President Biden's foreign policy will collapse, Ukraine's ability to resist Russian aggression will diminish, and Vladimir Putin will broaden his mission to reconstitute the Russian empire.

Mr. Biden must take charge. He should invite Senate negotiators, who are steeped in the issues, along with Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, to Camp David and keep them there until they reach agreement.

Mr. Biden's entire career—his 36 years in the Senate, his chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee, his role during the Obama administration as chief negotiator with Mr. McConnell—has prepared him for this moment. He will fail only if he flinches.

To be sure, this won't be an easy deal. Since winning the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, Mr. Biden has relentlessly pursued party unity, first as an electoral strategy, then as a governing philosophy. Giving ground on immigration would weaken his party's unity and provide more ammunition to the left-wing insurgency that has erupted over his support of Israel.

Nevertheless, he must try. Americans have long since decided that Mr. Biden's immigration policy is a failure, and their judgment has become harsher over time. In the most recent Economist/YouGov survey, only 33% of respondents approve of his handling of this issue, a figure that drops to 27% among suburbanites and 21% for independents. Cities across the country, many governed by Democrats, are struggling to cope with a record flow of immigrants who can't legally work. When the cost of feeding and housing them forces city leaders to cut vital services to their constituents, those leaders pay a political price. New York Mayor Eric Adams's approval rating has fallen to 28%.

A Senate agreement will be successful only if it can pass the House. This means it must have the support of a solid majority of Republican senators, including the leadership team, not only the bare minimum of Republicans needed to give the measure the 60 votes it needs to survive a possible filibuster. Only Mr. McConnell can give Mr. Biden the assurance that an agreement would have sufficient backing.

Time isn't on the president's side. If this matter isn't resolved before the House and Senate adjourn in January, the results of the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 15 could convince Republican officials looking for an alternative to Donald Trump that no one is likely to defeat him for the party's nomination. Mr. Trump, who openly opposes linking border reform to Ukraine aid, would likely view Republican cooperation with Mr. Biden on this issue as a career-ending transgression.

This is why the president must begin negotiations immediately and insist that the Senate remain in session until it passes a package that contains border reforms and aid to our allies, including Ukraine. Once this happens, he should deliver a prime-time address from the Oval Office to explain why this package is in the national interest and call on the House to enact the Senate bill.

Though Speaker Mike Johnson has reiterated his support for Ukraine aid, anti-Ukraine Republicans will likely pressure him to adjourn for the year without taking up the Senate bill. To counter such a move, Mr. Biden should make clear that he is prepared to use his constitutional authority to call the House back into session. If the speaker fails to persuade a majority of the Republican caucus to back the measure, he would face by far the most consequential decision of his career—whether to bring the bill to the floor anyway, which would probably cost him the speakership, or let the bill die, along with Ukraine's hopes of prevailing against Russia.

It's a high-stakes gamble for the president, but the alternative is worse. If Mr. Biden can't secure the continuation of American aid to counter Russian aggression, the already dicey prospects for more European aid to Ukraine would darken.

The fate of Ukraine, the peace of Europe and the future of the Western alliance hang in the balance, as does Mr. Biden's presidency. After the fiasco of the Afghanistan withdrawal, defeat in Ukraine would undermine what is left of his reputation as an effective steward of American foreign policy. As public support for his re-election shrinks, the last thing he needs is another failure.

HONORING THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative JARED HUFFMAN and Representative JOHN GARAMENDI, to honor the Redwood Empire Chapter of the California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution which is celebrating 50 years of work to honor the patriots of the American Revolution.

The Redwood Empire Chapter was chartered on September 29, 1973, and serves the communities in Mendocino, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. The organization, its members, and its partners in the Daughters of the American Revolution are dedicated to the promotion of democratic values, to serving our nation's veterans, and to educating and inspiring future generations with the founding principles of the United States of America.

The Redwood Empire Chapter provides service and support to worthy causes in the North Bay and extended region. They are a community partner of the Department of Veterans Affairs San Francisco Health Care System participating in events to uplift the veteran community and increase their access to health care. In addition to working with youth serving organizations to provide speakers and presentations on American history, the Redwood Empire Chapter helps young people, including the descendants of patriots and Eagle Scouts, to apply for college scholarships through the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Preparations are underway for the United States' Semiquincentennial Anniversary in 2026, and the Redwood Empire Chapter is leading an important project to identify and recognize the patriots buried throughout California including those who served in the Spanish Frontier Militia. We are honored that our district is home to the final resting place of such patriots like Captain William Smith of the Virginia Navy at the Sonoma Mountain Cemetery. Each year, the Redwood Empire Chapter helps honor Captain Smith during Wreaths Across America Day.

Mr. Speaker, the Redwood Empire Chapter of the California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is greatly appreciated for their 50 years of service. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor their chapter here today.

WREN MCCORMICK

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

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

Wren has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Wren, who strive to make the most of their education, develop cru-

cial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Wren'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 Wren McCormick on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF LEAH CURRY

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, after 26 plus years of service with Toyota Motor North America, Leah Curry, plant president, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana, Inc. (known to us in the Hoosier state as "TMMI Princeton"), is retiring. In her role as president, TMMI, Leah oversaw all production and administrative functions related to the assembly of the Toyota Highlander, Highlander Hybrid, and Sienna. In 2023, Leah and her team led the transformation for TMMI to assemble two all-new vehicles, the Toyota Grand Highlander and TMMI's first Lexus vehicle, the Lexus TX.

During her career, Leah has served in many leadership positions at TMMI and served as president, Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia from 2017 through 2019. In 2013, Leah received the Manufacturing Institute Step Ahead award, recognizing female leadership in manufacturing, twice named as one of the 100 leading women in NA Automotive by Automotive News. In 2022, she was inducted into the Women of Manufacturing Hall of Fame and was named one of the top 250 most influential business leaders in Indiana by IBJ media.

Leah studied Industrial Electronics at the University of Evansville and Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville, Ind. She holds a TPC Certification in Industrial Electronics. She has served on the National Board of Directors of the Manufacturing Institute and is a member of the Education Alliance, a private, non-profit organization that advocates for public school student achievement.

Leah Curry's outstanding leadership, personal initiative, and devotion to the greater community of Princeton, Indiana, reflect great credit upon herself, the Hoosier State, and the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL AMOS E. PIERCE, JR. A WORLD WAR II VETERAN, BUFFALO SOLDIER, ARMY 24TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ATTACHED TO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand to honor the life of an exceptional New Orleans Serviceman, United States Marine Corporal Amos E. Pierce, Jr., who was