

continues his journey here at the Capitol working for Congressman DAN MEUSER.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Peter Eibert for his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation. May God bless Peter as he continues his career in public service.

# HONORING THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CARLOS LEJNIEKS

## HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today, I join with my colleagues, Representatives DEAN PHILIPS, DEBORAH ROSS, and SETH MAGAZINER, to celebrate the extraordinary career and accomplishments of Carlos Lejnieks, the first Latino person to ever be elected President of the Brown University Alumni Association. Though his tenure as President may be coming to a close, the important work he does in and for the community will undoubtedly continue.

Born in New Jersey, Carlos has always been a compassionate and selfless individual. In the 1990s, Carlos dropped out of high school to help support his single mother by working at baseball-memorabilia shows. This is who Carlos is, a person always willing to step up for his loved ones and community.

Carlos was eventually encouraged by mentors to pursue higher education, which led him to Brown University in the Fall of 1996. He graduated from Brown in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in international relations and later, from the London School of Economics with a master's degree in 2004.

Carlos has spent his career giving back to the communities that put him on his path to success. In 2008, he became the CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties in New Jersey. Under his leadership, the organization went from serving approximately 100 youth in the community to serving more than 1,100 within four years.

Carlos returned to Brown University in 2015 to begin his service with the Brown University Alumni Association. He was selected to serve as the chair of the First-Generation and Mentoring Committee in 2017 and later as both the President and the Diversity and Inclusion Chair in 2019.

For the last 2 years, Carlos Lejnieks has greatly contributed to Rhode Island and the extensive Brown University Alumni network. Though his time as President may be ending, his impact at the University, in Rhode Island, throughout New Jersey, and all across this country will continue to be felt.

We look forward to seeing what is next for Carlos and extend to him our sincerest thanks for all he has done for our alma mater.

# RECOGNIZING GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS'S WOMEN'S HOCKEY NCAA DIII CHAMPIONSHIP

## HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2023 NCAA DIII Women's Hockey Champions: the Gustavus Adolphus Gusties from St. Peter, Minnesota.

Last week, the team won their first-ever national title in Amherst, Massachusetts in a triple-overtime match. The Gusties claimed the win with a 2-1 final score.

The championship game lasted more than 101 minutes, setting a record for the longest title game in NCAA DIII history. The Gusties' win marks the first NCAA title for a women's hockey team in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and the first for any team in the West region.

The team has been nothing but impressive all season, winning every major title and breaking a program record for wins in a season with a record of 27-3-0.

The national title is the first for Gusties Head Coach Mike Carroll, who currently ranks as Minnesota's second-winningest college hockey coach, with 492 total career wins.

It is my honor to recognize this year's NCAA DIII Women's Hockey Champions today. Thanks to the tireless leadership and encouragement from Coach Carroll, the team's staff, families, classmates, and community—these talented young women earned a state championship title and all of us across the First Congressional District are incredibly proud to call them our own.

Congratulations to Coach Carroll and his team on an unbelievable season.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE REBUILDING THE UNITED STATES-FLAG INTERNATIONAL FLEET ACT

## HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the bipartisan "Rebuilding the United States-Flag International Fleet Act". This comprehensive legislation would help to recapitalize the U.S.-flag international fleet of ocean-going, commercial vessels by guaranteeing government cargo during peacetime so that U.S.-flag vessels are available during wartime or emergencies.

The United States has the world's most capable navy able to operate in all five oceans, and we need an equally impressive fleet of commercial cargo vessels crewed by American mariners. For too long, Congress and both Democratic and Republican presidents have allowed the commercial fleet of U.S.-flagged, ocean-going vessels to dwindle. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the number of ocean-going U.S.-flagged vessels has declined more than 75 percent since 1985, following the 1982 treaty called the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The global supply chain crunch during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian invasion and blockade of Ukraine, and the People's Republic of China's island building in the South China Sea and saber-rattling in the Taiwan Strait have shown that the United States cannot remain reliant on foreign vessels flying flags of convenience.

The "Rebuilding the United States-Flag International Fleet Act" offers Congress the chance to enact the first comprehensive reform of cargo preference laws in decades. Our legislation incorporates recommendations for the Maritime Administration from the Government Accountability Office's report published on September 14, 2022, entitled "Actions Needed to Enhance Cargo Preference Oversight."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of the House to join me in cosponsoring this critical legislation to address this crisis facing the U.S.-flag international fleet.

# TRIBUTE TO RABBI DENISE L. EGER

## HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Denise L. Eger, who is retiring from her duties as Senior Rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami of West Hollywood.

Raised in Memphis, Tennessee, Denise taught religious school and was active in her synagogue as a teen. Although she studied opera and originally intended to be a voice major in college, Denise opted for a career in the religious field, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Religion from the University of Southern California and a Master's Degree from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion. She was ordained a Reform Rabbi in 1988, obtained her Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College in 2013 and was awarded an honorary degree in 2022 as a Doctor of Philosophy from Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

A social justice pioneer, Rabbi Eger has had many "firsts." She served as the first openly gay person and first woman as President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, and officiated at the first legal wedding of a lesbian couple in California in 2008. Denise was the first openly lesbian or gay President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the largest and oldest rabbinical organization in North America, and had an integral role in passing CCAR's March 2000 resolution in support of rabbis to officiate lesbian and gay commitment ceremonies. She was a founding President of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Interfaith Clergy Association and served on the boards of Equality for All/No on Prop 8 and the No On Knight/No on Proposition 22 Campaign, which fought against anti-same-sex marriage ballot initiatives. Believing that activism is a significant duty of her rabbinate, she has worked extensively with persons with AIDS, serving as a past Chair of the Spiritual Advisory Committee of AIDS Project Los Angeles and facilitating an HIV+ support group for over 30 years.

Rabbi Eger has received numerous accolades for her fierce commitment and tireless

advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community and other social justice issues. In 2008, she was named one of the Forward 50 by the Jewish Daily Forward, in 2011 she was given the Community Equality Award by the Human Rights Campaign, in 2014, the City of Los Angeles honored her with the Pioneer Award during Pride Month.

A noted author and speaker, Rabbi Eger was the co-editor of *Gender and Religious Leadership: Women Rabbis, Pastors and Ministers* and the editor of the trailblazing book, *Mishkan Ga'avah: Where Pride Dwells: A Celebration of LGBTQ Jewish Life and Ritual* and has written for several news periodicals. She is a frequent commentator on television and radio on the topics of spirituality, Judaism, family and LGBTQ+ issues.

I ask all members of Congress to join me today in honoring Rabbi Denise L. Eger for 3 decades of compassionate and dynamic leadership at Congregation Kol Ami.

#### RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2023*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Bangladesh Caucus I want to recognize that 51 years ago on April 4, 1972, the United States recognized Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan.

During the nine-month-long Bangladesh Liberation War, members of the Pakistan Armed Forces and pro-Pakistani militias killed hundreds of thousands of people and injured many more. The war for independence was a struggle for democracy and freedom led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The economic situation facing Bangladesh as it emerged from the war of independence was dire. The Bengali people faced widespread poverty, chronic malnutrition of the masses, the dislocation of over 10 million people who had fled from their homes during the conflict, fragile banking and monetary system and inflation, which ran between 300 and 400 percent, and low foreign exchange resources.

The war of independence had crippled the domestic transportation system with roads, railways and bridges lying destroyed and damaged. The young country was still recovering from a severe Bhola cyclone that had hit the area in November 1970 and caused nearly half a million deaths.

Bangladesh has made enormous strides in the last five decades from one of the poorest nations to having one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, with their GDP per Capita increasing to \$2,457 in 2021 according to the World Bank which now exceeds that of its regional neighbors. Since its independence in 1971, Bangladesh's economy has grown from \$9 billion to \$450 billion, life expectancy has risen from 47 years to 73 years, and the adult literacy rate has risen to more than 75 percent. The Nation has flourished in its independence.

Bangladesh, through the leadership of current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has made substantial socioeconomic progress in food

production, disaster resilience, poverty reduction, improved health, education, and women's empowerment. Bangladesh has successfully maintained a moderate Muslim society and curbed extremism in the country, and its people have sought to maintain support for democracy and rule of law rather than descending into authoritarian rule of gun.

The United States and Bangladesh have extensive cooperation on matters of regional and global security, counter terrorism, and climate change. The U.S. is the largest export market for Bangladesh and one of the largest sources of foreign direct investment in Bangladesh. The nation of Bangladesh has contributed to the U.S. economy through bilateral trade and international security cooperation in return.

Bilateral trade between the United States and Bangladesh has increased annually with the main American exports to Bangladesh consisting of agricultural products, aircraft, machinery, engines, and iron and steel products, while American imports from Bangladesh include apparel, footwear, textile products, toys, games, sporting goods, shrimp, prawns; and agricultural products.

Further, the American people appreciate the generous and indispensable role that Bangladesh performs in accepting and sheltering more than 1 million Rohingya people from a genocide perpetrated by its neighbor, Burma. The United States has contributed the largest amount of humanitarian aid to address this crisis, totaling more than \$2 billion.

The American people welcome that Bangladesh is one of the world's largest contributors to United Nations peacekeeping efforts globally. Both countries seek to enhance their people-to-people and government-to-government relationship for shared prosperity. Bangladesh has expressed their gratitude to the United States for contributing more than 100 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to the people of Bangladesh.

The U.S.-Bangladesh relationship is strengthened by the Bangladeshi American Community and the large number of Bangladeshi students who come to the U.S. to study. More than 200,000 Bangladeshi Americans have proven themselves to be hard-working, law-abiding, and patriotic citizens of the United States, contributing positively to their communities across the country.

Today, the American people recognize and commend the Nation and people of Bangladesh as they celebrate 51 years of independence. The United States extends its sincere determination to remain a constructive partner of Bangladesh in achieving mutual economic, social, and national security objectives now and into the future.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE HONORABLE JOSEPH L. RUSSELL

#### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2023*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, as family, friends, and the community gather to celebrate the life of the Honorable Joseph "Joe" L. Russell, Retired Attorney at Law and College Professor, former Military Judge and California Administrative Law Judge, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this ex-

traordinary and generous businessman, community and civic leader throughout the County of Sacramento and the State of California.

Mr. Russell entered eternal rest on Monday, March 13, 2023 at the age of 80 with wife and family at his side. Today he is being celebrated at the historical landmark Shiloh Baptist Church in Sacramento, California, the Reverend Anthony R. Sadler Pastor presiding.

Born November 17, 1942, in Birmingham, Alabama to Arlee and Eva Lou Russell where he attended; was ranked high in his class and graduated from Parker High School. Joe earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Government at Howard University, in Washington DC. Joe earned his Jurist Doctorate Degree at Howard's School of Law. Upon graduating, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force where he was promoted to the rank of Captain prior to completing his tour of duty in the service of our country.

Joe met Ida P. Avant in 1963. They were married in 1966 while she was completing her undergraduate degree at Howard University, and he was completing his first year of law school. After concluding his tour of duty with the Air Force, the young couple relocated to Sacramento, California in 1972 to join fellow law school graduate, the late Judge Jimmy Long. They have resided in Sacramento since relocating to the City where they raised their two sons: Joseph Russell, Jr. and Michael Russell.

Joe was licensed and admitted to practice law before the following courts: United States Supreme Court, United States Court of Appeals, United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, United States District Court—Eastern District, United States District Court—Northern District, United States Military Court (Attorney and Judge); United States Military Court of Appeals, Alabama State Bar Court, and the California State Bar Court.

He has served the Sacramento Community, State of California and the United States of America as: a well-respected and beloved Military Judge, California Administrative Law Judge, Professor of law courses at California State University, Sacramento for more than 35 years, Attorney at Law, par excellence, for more than 40 years including private practice and as a Senior Deputy City Attorney/City Prosecutor for the City of Sacramento, Civil Leader, Deacon of Shiloh Baptist Church where he has been a very active member and faithful servant of the Lord for nearly 50 years. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, brother, uncle, mentor and friend to a multitude and with wife Ida, he was a world traveler.

A partial list of Joe's community and civic service to our community include the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, the Sacramento Urban League, Sacramento Big Brothers and Sisters, the Brotherhood and Deacon Board of the Shiloh Baptist Church, and so many more. Many of Joe's contributions to make a safer and better place in which to live, work, recreate and worship freely are unknown to the public heretofore because he was such a humble person. Joe's passing is a great loss to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to stand with me today to honor the Honorable Joseph L. Russell for his life legacy and contribution to the Sacramento community.