

the State's Department for Children, Youth and Families Citizens Review Panel, which develops and recommends actions aimed at protecting youth and preserving families.

I am proud to shine a spotlight on such a fierce advocate for youth, students, and families here in our South Sound community.

HONORING JASMINE PALMER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jasmine Palmer whom I have named the 2023 Woman of the Year for Sonoma County because of her service to our community. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Palmer was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and grew up in Sonoma County where she still lives today with her two daughters. She is a distinguished community member who has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of vulnerable populations in our community.

Ms. Palmer has developed numerous programs to enrich the community, such as Art in the Park for our Unhoused Neighbors and the annual Breakfast Burrito Feed, both of which support at-risk populations with food and care packages. She has been involved in community projects for the past ten years, supporting incarcerated and unhoused individuals, and facilitating educational support groups for those dealing with these issues. Jasmine is committed to bringing more compassion and kindness into the world, as she knows firsthand the impact it can have on someone's life.

Last July, a major Residential Treatment Facility in Sonoma County called Athena House, was threatened with closure. Athena House provides housing and care for women and children who struggle with substance use. With its closure, the home's residents were at risk of losing their housing and medical treatment entirely. After hearing this news, Ms. Palmer, having been a part of the Athena House program, and her counterpart Brooke Igleheart Ross worked tirelessly to save this vital treatment center. They dedicated themselves to informing the community of how devastating the loss would be for those who need treatment, while also raising money to buy the property. Before the facility closed, they were able to help secure the funding, that made it possible to not only keep but also expand and enhance the program by partnering with Bucklelew Programs.

Ms. Palmer is a tenacious and loyal community member who has been a fierce advocate for the needs of those struggling with substance abuse. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Sonoma County's 2023 Woman of the Year.

HONOR FLIGHT OF SOUTHERN OREGON

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Veterans from Oregon's Second Congressional District who, through the efforts of Honor Flight of Oregon, are visiting their memorials on the National Mall. When I meet these heroes, I am reminded of the enduring words of Abraham Lincoln, who said, "Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor also to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field, and serves, as he best can, the same cause—honor to him, only less than to him, who braves, for the common good, the storms of heaven and the storms of battle." These words, Mr. Speaker, still ring true today. Those who value liberty are indebted to these heroes, for each one of them defended our freedom through acts of service, sacrifice, and bravery all on behalf of our country. It is my privilege to include in the Record their names.

The Veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are: Carlo Pelaccio, Navy; Richard Azhocar, Air Force; Arden Baker, Air Force; Charles Bamber, Navy; William Barry, Army; Stephen Bonebrake, Navy; Robert Bruton, Army; Brian Busch, Marine Corps/Army; Robert Crum, Navy; Larry Dickson, Army; George Eisenhauer, Army; Frank Escalante, Army; Carl Hanhart, Navy; Theodore Henderson, Army; Edward Hill, Marine Corps; James Jackson, Army; Robert Keller, Navy; Robert Kohlhoff, Navy; Jack Lillard, Army; Gary Lowe, Navy; Walter McPherson, Marine Corps; Robert Miller, Army; Michael Myers, Marine Corps; Riley Terrance, Army; David Roberts, Marine Corps; Douglas Schruth, Army; Kelly Toller, Marine Corps. These heroes join over 240,000 Veterans, who since 2005, have been honored through the nationwide Honor Flight Network of volunteers. I would also like to recognize the volunteers and guardians traveling on this trip who have also served our country: Paul Mills, Army; Robert Crum, Army; Douglas Hanhart, Navy; Michael Whitfield, Army; Robert Allen, Army; James Scroggins, Marine Corps; Earl Snellings, Navy.

Mr. Speaker, in his 1983 radio address to the Nation, Ronald Reagan said, "Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they've suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us." As a Nation, we must never take for granted the liberties we enjoy today, recognizing that these freedoms have been hard-won by the honor, commitment, and sacrifice of our Veterans. Each Member in this chamber and citizen in these United States should be humbled by the courage of the brave Veterans who voluntarily underwent the dangers necessary to preserve our country. Colleagues, please join me in thanking these Veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their remarkable service and devotion to our great country.

TRIBUTE TO CONGREGATION KOL AMI

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Congregation Kol Ami of West Hollywood, California, upon its 30th anniversary.

Established in 1992 by Founding Rabbi Denise L. Eger as a Progressive/Reform Synagogue, Congregation Kol Ami has been faithfully serving the LGBTQ+ and Jewish community for three decades, where it is committed to advancing diversity, social justice, Jewish traditions, and progressive spirituality.

Congregation Kol Ami, which in Hebrew means "the voice of my people," numbers around 225 households, with members representing a diverse spectrum of gender identities and Jewish backgrounds. The synagogue has been known internationally for its advocacy of LGBTQ+ rights and for being a refuge for persons with HIV and AIDS.

Aside from Jewish Holy Day and Shabbat worship, the congregation offers a monthly HIV+ support group, DocJewmentary film series, access to classes at a religious school for children from kindergarten to 12th grade, free career coach services, social worker services through the EZRA Network, and various other lectures and classes. In 2021, Congregation Kol Ami hosted a special interfaith observance in honor of World AIDS Day and partnered with the National AIDS Memorial to host the 50,000 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in West Hollywood.

The synagogue was awarded with the Los Angeles Blade's Best House of Worship Award for several years, along with winning the Editor's Choice Award in 2020.

It is my privilege to recognize Congregation Kol Ami on its 30th anniversary of upholding Jewish tradition and fostering an active community. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in wishing Congregation Kol Ami and its congregants continued prosperity.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. JOHN MORDASKY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Mr. John Mordasky of Stafford, Connecticut. The Town of Stafford, State of Connecticut and our nation lost a giant whose example of public service citizenship will leave a gigantic footprint with his passing at age 97 on April 1, 2023. John's amazing life could be the script of a Hollywood movie, given his courageous service as a decorated World War II combat veteran, Connecticut state representative, his lifelong vocation as an iconic New England dairy farmer, and his deep devotion to his beautiful family. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor to know John as a friend for 36 years and to serve with him in the Connecticut General Assembly for eight years. He will always stand out to me as the quintessential model of public servant who always put the public interest and the public good above petty, political or personal gain.

Born 1925 to Francis and Sophia Mordasky in Stafford, John, like many who have woven themselves into the American story, formed the strongest of roots out of his identity as a first generation American and eastern Connecticut native. The loyalty he discovered through this identity and from his parents' upbringing formed a ferocity within John not to be matched by many. He was tough as nails. At age 17, following the United States entry into World War II, John did not hesitate to enlist in the war effort and was at the forefront of the Allied effort to defend democracy. He was assigned to the US Army Air Corps and became a B29 tail gunner—one the most dangerous, high-risk duties in the bomber fleet. John experienced intense combat defending his aircraft and crew in more than 22 frontline missions from direct enemy fire. John's planes crash landed twice during individual missions, fortunately on the reclaimed island of Iwo Jima in the final months of the Pacific campaign.

Upon the conclusion of the War, John returned home to eastern Connecticut from half a world away. His devotion to serving his community did not end however when he hung up his uniform for the last time. In his immediate post-war life, he went back to school on the GI Bill and attained a bachelor's in animal sciences from the University of Connecticut's flagship College of Agriculture, where he also met the love of his life, Louise Rosemary "Rosie" Rossiter.

Equipped with an education, John and Rosie found property back in Stafford and started Pinerise Dairy Farm. Together, their life in agriculture existed as a platform to launch broader involvement in the community. For John, he became an active member in the Connecticut agricultural community: from 4H, to the Connecticut Milk Producers Association, to his honorary membership in Future Farmers for America. John also notably served on Stafford's Board of Selectman and Zoning Board of Appeals. Each of these involvements were pursued as the two raised six children: Rose, Frances, David, Bill, John, and Maureen; and housed, at one point, more than 600 dairy cows.

As if his impressive family-owned farm, an economic driver within the region, and local involvement were not enough, John still felt a higher calling to serving the public. In 1979, John successfully ran for a bid to represent the 52nd District in the Connecticut General Assembly as state representative. Maintaining his permanent job as the head of a full-scale dairy operation, John's pulse reflected that of the area. He performed this additional role with a herculean level of energy, literally commuting to and from Connecticut's State Capitol to make sure the farm's animals were attended to, for 22 years. During his tenure in the Capitol, he came to be a bipartisan leader on several committees including the Assembly's Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, as well as a well-respected colleague as the House chamber's Assistant Majority Leader. In 1996, John was recognized by the Connecticut Council of Small Towns as Legislator of the Year. Mr. Speaker, as a fellow recipient of this award in a separate year, who also had the privilege of working with State Representative Mordasky, I can attest that this recognition was not only well-placed, but also well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, John was simply an amazing person and the brightest reflection of what

eastern Connecticut has to offer to our country. A child of immigrants, John lived the American Dream and worked hard to serve the land from which he was born and raised. He will be remembered and missed dearly by his wife of 74 years, Rose, six children, the entire sprawling Mordasky Clan, as well as the entire northeastern Connecticut region. He should also be remembered by the nation. To that end, Mr. Speaker, now that this one farmer's worries are over, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring John Mordasky and thank him for his honorable and distinguished life and contribution to his Nation.

HONORING BROOKE IGLEHEART ROSS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Brooke Igleheart Ross whom I have named the 2023 Woman of the Year for Sonoma County because of her excellent work in our community. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Igleheart Ross grew up in Southern California and San Luis Obispo County with her mom, dad, and little sister Hilary. She received a degree in Merchandise Marketing from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, California, before moving to Sonoma County.

Ms. Igleheart Ross is a prominent leader in the business and recovery communities because of her passion for supporting others who have overcome alcohol and substance abuse challenges. She is an outstanding member of our community, helping those who struggle with substance abuse to reintegrate into the workforce.

Last July, a major Residential Treatment Facility in Sonoma County called Athena House, was threatened with closure. Athena House provides housing and care for women and children who struggle with substance use. With its closure, the home's residents were at risk of losing their housing and medical treatment entirely. After hearing this news, Ms. Igleheart Ross, having been a part of the Athena House program, and her counterpart Jasmine Palmer worked tirelessly to save this vital treatment center. They dedicated themselves to informing the community of how devastating the loss would be for those who need treatment, while also raising money to buy the property. Before the facility closed, they were able to help secure the funding, that made it possible to not only keep but also expand and enhance the program by partnering with Bucklelew Programs.

Ms. Igleheart Ross currently lives in Sonoma County with her husband Robert, stepdaughter Natalie, and black lab Harley. A small business owner, marketing director, and real estate agent, Brooke has contributed to her community through a variety of professions.

Ms. Igleheart Ross is a tenacious and loyal community member who has been a fierce ad-

vocate for the needs of those struggling with substance abuse. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Sonoma County's 2023 Woman of the Year.

HONORING GAZELL JACKSON'S LIFE AND LEGACY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mrs. Gazell Jackson of Grand Prairie, Texas. Mrs. Jackson was born on May 5, 1925, in Timpson, Texas. She was educated in New Prospect before attending Franklin Beauty College in Houston. There, she met her husband, the late Mr. Bernice Tolliver, Sr. In the 1950s, the couple settled in Grand Prairie, where they raised their six children and became pillars of the Dalworth Community.

Friends and family know Mrs. Jackson was the chief owner and operator of Crown's Barbeque for over 40 years, and she was known to friends and neighbors as "Mrs. Crown." She never missed an opportunity to help those in her community who needed it. A walking act of kindness, Mrs. Jackson always had food to spare for those who couldn't afford it and prepared meals for local families in grief. She spread love throughout her life.

Mrs. Jackson's life was not without challenges. She will be joining her husband, Bernice, as well as her three late children, Danny Lee Jackson, Berdell Toliver Morales, and Jay Vance Jackson. She resiliently stood by their sides through the years.

In the time leading up to Mrs. Jackson's death, she was surrounded by the people that love her the most. Her granddaughters, Amber and Lowneka Calton, stayed by her side for weeks as she fell ill.

Mrs. Gazell Jackson leaves behind a big, beautiful family that will have their roots in Texas for generations to come. My condolences are with her 3 children, 10 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, 5 great-great grandchildren, as well as her devoted aunt, cousin, and all of her nieces, nephews, friends and extended family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to cast my vote against H.R. 1 on March 30, 2023 due to my ongoing recovery from cancer surgery.

Last year, House and Senate Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act to bring down household energy costs and create good-paying jobs in the growing U.S. clean energy sector.

Instead of building from that progress, House Republicans have chosen to champion H.R. 1—an extraordinary piece of corporate welfare that would weaken enforcement of nearly all environmental and public health laws, exempt big polluters from Clean Air Act