

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

and hazardous waste permitting requirements, and rob Americans of much of their ability to make their voices heard against projects with serious environmental consequences for their communities.

This legislation would risk America's clean air, water, and public lands to line the pockets of big polluters who are already making record profits. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 182.

COMMENDING THE JOHN K. AND  
KATHERINE JOHNSON AUXILIARY  
ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2023*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the John K. and Katherine Johnson Auxiliary serving the Regional One Health Medical Center, the Memphis-based acute care hospital for the Mid-South region. On November 8, 1972, 54 women of what is now the Presbytery of the Mid-South met to discuss how they might best address the health care needs of women in our community, touring medical facilities to assess the situation. On April 9, 1973, 39 people gathered at Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Memphis to sign the charter forming the John K. and Katherine Johnson Auxiliary, named after Idlewild's late pastor, a hospital chaplain, and his wife. Its mission was ministering to the needs of patients, assisting staff, promoting community health and welfare, and providing a bond of understanding and service for people of all races and creeds. Starting off with just a cart of snacks and magazines for hospital patients, the auxiliary grew to provide volunteers in the pediatric clinic, offer CPR classes, provide teen pregnancy counseling, and assist sickle cell patients. Over time, the auxiliary supported purchase of neo-natal equipment, orthopedic clinic waiting rooms, and staff education and training. In 1978, the auxiliary created the Mary Love Clothes Closet for the families of patients who arrive in Memphis with only the clothes on their backs. In 1983, the auxiliary created a gift shop which has generated more than \$557,000 for various Regional One projects. One of the early initiatives of the auxiliary was a 1973 request to create a chapel for prayer and meditation. Eight years later, in 1981, the Alice H. Davies Chapel, named for one of the early founders of the auxiliary, was dedicated. I want to commend the generations of supporters of the John K. and Katherine Johnson Auxiliary for their selfless commitment to meeting both the critical needs and the incalculable hopes of patients and their loved ones. I also want to congratulate all associated with the auxiliary and its mission on this anniversary milestone.

HONORING FRAN LEMOS

**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 Fran Lemos whom I have

named the 2023 Woman of the Year for Napa County because of her service to our community in the region. 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.

Born in Vallejo, California, Ms. Lemos moved to American Canyon in 1948, back when it was known as Napa Junction. She has devoted her life since to building, transforming, and bettering the lives of American Canyon families. She did this first as director of the American Canyon Fire Board until 1992 and then as a board member of impactful nonprofits such as Boys and Girls Club and American Canyon Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Lemos also was an active volunteer for the Napa Valley Wine Auction and the Sutter Solano Thrift Shop.

Known as the "unofficial historian" and "matriarch" of American Canyon, Ms. Lemos' role in her community cannot be understated. She holds an extensive knowledge of the area, which she passes on to visitors during tours of the city. She also attends every city meeting and community event and has served in multiple American Canyon committees since before American Canyon was even a city.

Ms. Lemos has become a staple of American Canyon through her community service. Her work in starting the American Canyon Chamber of Commerce has helped local businesses get off the ground and thrive by providing support networks for them. She also helped reinvigorate the outdoor landscape of the city through her work in the American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation.

Ms. Lemos' work has had a tremendous impact in helping American Canyon grow from a small unincorporated part of Napa County, into the emerging city it is now. In doing so, she has helped the community and visitors learn more about the city and the history behind it.

Mr. Speaker, Fran Lemos has been a dedicated public servant in our community for decades. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Napa County's 2023 Woman of the Year.

REMEMBERING DOUG HARRIS

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2023*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressmembers GREG PENCE and VICTORIA SPARTZ, in remembrance of Doug Harris, who passed away on March 19 after a battle with brain cancer.

Doug was born in 1960 in Muncie, Indiana, and attended Ball State University where he received his BS and his MBA. Doug then graduated from the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin—Madison and received the Credit Union Executive Society CEO institute training at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business while simultaneously advancing his career.

Doug began his career at First Merchants Bank in Muncie and married the love of his life, Jan Harris. The family then moved to Columbus, Indiana, where Doug filled the roles of Senior VP and CFO at Centra Credit Union

before being promoted to President. He later served as President & CEO of Land of Lincoln Credit Union before moving East to Maryland where he finished his career as Senior VP and CFO for Tower Federal Credit Union.

In addition to his impressive career, Doug was a true friend and mentor to all who had the pleasure of working with him. Doug's passion for financial literacy and responsibility was also passed onto his family.

Outside of work, Doug could often be found wearing one of his several iconic tracksuits, planning family game nights, listening to his extensive iTunes library, or setting up trick-shot basketball contests. As one of the founders of the Muncie Baseball and Softball Association, Doug had a real passion for sports. He enjoyed competition whether it was a friendly game in the church softball league, playing in a tennis tournament, or spending hours on the course and at the range perfecting his golf swing. All of his children have also followed in his passion for sports.

Doug was a thoughtful and loving husband to his wife, Jan, whom he married on August 10, 1991; a loving father, and a dear friend and will be missed deeply by his family. He was a role model for Jan's three sons, Joseph, Malachi, and Zach, and their two children, Chase and MacKenzie. He is also survived by four loving grandchildren, Liam, Reese, Harrison, and AJ Greiner; and sisters DeAnn and Dana.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JAMES C.  
FLOYD

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2023*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of veteran James C. Floyd, known best as Clarence, who has been inducted into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame and has been a pillar of the southern Kentucky veterans' community for decades.

A longtime resident of my hometown of Somerset, Kentucky, Clarence spent 8 months fighting in the Korean War, and then spent another 7 months rebuilding what we now know as the De-militarized zone between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea.

Upon returning to the United States, Clarence became involved with American Legion Post 38 in Somerset, where he performs Chaplain duties. As Chaplain, Clarence serves as Post 38's spiritual leader, guiding veterans through tough times as needed. Clarence takes pride in using his position to help honor the lives and careers of veterans who have passed, ensuring their service and sacrifice are not forgotten.

Clarence has been involved in many laudable efforts through his work at the American Legion, including ensuring veterans fully access their benefits and creating designated parking spaces for veterans across Pulaski County, as well as my own Congressional office in Somerset. In fact, Clarence is responsible for every designated veteran parking spot at Lowes stores nationwide.

Indeed, Clarence's continuous service to the veteran community certainly justifies his induction into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame,