

Mr. Logan's leadership is clear. In 2019, OSG was recognized as one of the 50 Fastest Growing Companies in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area. Additionally, Obsidian Solutions Group was listed as one of the most successful businesses on the INC 5000 list. And in 2020, Mr. Logan was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce. Today, we celebrate another achievement of many more to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tyrone Logan, the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2023 Small Business Person of the Year for the Virginia District Office.

**HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN MICHAEL GELLER UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Michael Geller of the 3rd Wing for earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, Senior Airman Michael Geller joined the servicemembers of the 349th Air Mobility Wing in meeting a challenge of colossal scale, when they helped execute the draw-down of forces from Afghanistan. Senior Airman Michael Geller and the 349th Air Mobility Wing played a critical role in the largest non-combatant evacuation operation in history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. They directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated in the United States Air Force.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed during Operation Allies Refuge. These valiant servicemembers, like Senior Airman Michael Geller, put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many and epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Michael Geller of the 3rd Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

**HONORING JULIA JACKSON**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Julia Jackson, whom I

have named the 2023 Climate Crisis Champion for Sonoma County because of the important work she has done to address the threat and impacts of the climate crisis on California's 4th Congressional District.

Ms. Jackson was born in San Francisco, California and attended Scripps College in Claremont, California where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Ms. Jackson's work is fundamental to our state and nation's progress in implementing clean energy solutions. She sits on the California Department of Food and Agriculture State Board, where her expertise on sustainable farming plays a critical role in developing new agriculture policy. Ms. Jackson also founded the philanthropic organization Grounded, which funds clean energy projects, develops nature-based approaches to lowering atmospheric carbon levels, and provides legal advances on indigenous and environmental rights.

Additionally, in partnership with the Department of Energy, she launched the Clean Energy Freedom campaign to create a workforce pipeline to fill 900,000 new clean energy jobs. This effort was an instrumental component of President Biden's executive order invoking the Defense Production Act to accelerate our nation's production of key clean energy technologies.

Ms. Jackson has also responded to the climate crisis with international action. As a co-founder of the Keystone Species Alliance, she partnered with government officials in Mexico to introduce legislation protecting keystone species such as bees, mangrove trees, and salmon. In further collaboration with the Mexican government, Ms. Jackson created a coalition of nations who committed to protect biodiversity to lower the amount of carbon in our atmosphere.

Ms. Jackson sits on the board of many environmental organizations whose missions include exposing criminals committing offenses against wildlife, educating the public on Arctic and ocean protections, and generating innovative green policies that will advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, as Chair of US Allies to Stop Ecocide, she endeavors to make the systemic, severe destruction of our natural environment a crime against peace at the International Criminal Court.

Mr. Speaker, Julia Jackson is a dedicated leader in energy and environmental advocacy. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Sonoma County's 2023 Climate Crisis Champion.

**HONORING SSGT. JAMES "REX" SHOUN**

**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2023*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent SSGT. James "Rex" Shoun. It was my honor to pin Staff Sergeant James "Rex" Shoun for his service to the U.S. Air Force.

SSGT. Shoun of Elizabethton, Tennessee enlisted in basic training which took him from Lackland, TX to Lowery, CO, and onward to Thailand as a member of the 635th Munition Maintenance Squadron.

He returned to the U.S. to receive additional training as security police and deployed to Texas, Okinawa, and Guam where he was responsible for guarding B52 strategic bomber aircraft and their munitions.

**HONORING WAYNE SCHMIDT AND HIS 14 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE**

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2023*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Senator Wayne Schmidt for his 14 years of service in Michigan's State Legislature. As a State Representative and Senator, Wayne's work had an immeasurable impact on the people of Northern Michigan, and his commitment to his community cannot be overstated.

After graduating from Traverse City Central High School and the University of Chicago, Senator Schmidt began his distinguished career in the Grand Traverse region, where he served for five terms on the Traverse County Board of Commissioners. In 2008 he was elected to the State House of Representatives, where he served for three consecutive terms before being elected as the State Senator representing the 37th District. His many legislative accomplishments during his time in office included streamlining government regulations, promoting job creation, and helping turn a \$1.5 billion state government deficit into a \$500 million surplus. Outside of his work in public office, Senator Schmidt has given his time to many local community organizations, including the Boardman Neighborhood Association, the Traverse City Kiwanis Club, the Economic Club of Traverse, the National Cherry Festival, the Downtown Traverse City Association, Grand Traverse Area Right to Life Association, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Wayne Schmidt for his lifetime of service to Grand Traverse County and his 14 years in Michigan's State Legislature. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Senator Schmidt and wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING SUPERINTENDENT KURT BROWNING**

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2023*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Pasco County Schools Superintendent Kurt Browning, who was recently named Superintendent of the Year by Magnet Schools of America. This is a tremendous accomplishment and exemplifies Mr. Browning's tireless work to expand school choice in Pasco County. Since being elected Superintendent in 2012, he has worked to provide quality learning experiences for all students. Superintendent Browning's team has facilitated the opening of 26 new magnet schools and other rigorous programs aligned to fields of study based on community need

and student interest. These enhancements have facilitated greater student success, as evidenced by an increase in the number of students earning college credit prior to graduation and the number of Cambridge and 1B diplomas earned. Additionally, during his tenure, more students have been able to attain the highest level of Bright Futures Scholarship—making college more affordable for these academic achievers.

I thank Superintendent Browning for his commitment to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to reach their highest potential, and I wish him continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2023*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I voted for H. Res. 311 on April 25, 2023, because I support the resolution's general goals to expand normalization agreements between Israel and its neighbors and encourage future cooperation between the United States and Israel on shared economic, security, and civilian priorities.

However, I was disappointed that H. Res. 311 failed to reaffirm bipartisan support for a two-state solution that respects the dignity of both the Israeli and the Palestinian people. As nations around the world confront their own struggles with democracy, H. Res. 311 also was a missed opportunity to emphasize U.S. support for a free and liberal democracy in Israel. I hope future efforts to recognize Yom Ha'atzmaut will fully address these important issues.

#### ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2023*

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six individuals for Asian Pacific Heritage Month for their contributions to the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. All of these individuals mentioned their humble beginnings and their love for America. Each of these honorees have made significant contributions to the District through selfless contributions and hard work to benefit others. By sharing their culture and helping others, they have benefitted all of America.

Nebraska State Senator Rita Sanders, a Philippine American born in Hawaii who resides in Bellevue, has been married to her husband for 25 years. Her grandparents immigrated from the Philippines to Hawaii, where her grandfather worked in the sugar cane industry and her grandmother in the coffee industry. They worked their way up and eventually owned a coffee farm.

Rita's father was born and raised in Hawaii, later joining the United States Army. While on deployment in Germany he met Rita's mother, where they later married and moved to Hawaii.

Senator Sanders is honored to be a member of the U.S. STRATCOM Consultation

Committee, the Offutt Advisory Council and the UNMC Board of Counselors. She served as mayor for the city of Bellevue from 2010 to 2018. While currently serving as the state senator for Nebraska's 45th district, Rita and her husband are commercial real estate developers in their spare time.

As mayor of Bellevue, Senator Sanders worked to return the famed "Bells of Balangiga" to the Philippines. While Filipinos have been one of the United States strongest allies since World War II, the return of the bells had been a friction point in relations with the Philippines.

The return of the bells started with a meeting she had with President Duterte of the Philippines, included a formal ceremony with Secretary of Defense James Mattis in Cheyenne, Wyoming announcing the authorization to return the bells, and ended with a ceremony she attended in Balangiga in East Samar, Philippines. After 117 years since being taken by the United States, they were finally returned home where they rightfully belonged, thanks to the hard work and leadership of Senator Sanders.

Dr. Joanne Li is a native of Hong Kong and became University of Nebraska Omaha's Chancellor in July 2021. She is the first woman of color to serve as UNO chancellor and the first Asian-American in the history of the University of Nebraska System to hold an executive leadership role. Dr. Li has a passion for serving learners of all ages among all social, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Dr. Li's parents escaped Communist China as young teenagers. Education was not something her parents could afford for themselves. At a young age, Joanne yearned for a desire to see the world. She enjoyed literature written in different languages and dreamed of being something bigger than herself. Being a rebel at heart, she took a chance to join one of her best friends from Hong Kong and came to the U.S. to start her higher education journey.

Receiving full ride scholarships throughout her higher education journey, Dr. Li graduated with summa cum laude with a major in finance and a minor in economics from Florida State University. Her Ph.D. is also from Florida State University, in Finance with a support area in Econometrics. As a Chartered Financial Analyst, Dr. Li's areas of research interests include corporate governance, executive compensation, banking and investments, and international finance. She has held faculty positions at institutions including Loyola University, Towson University, Wright State University, Florida International University, and UNO.

In addition to her accomplishments as an administrator in higher education, Dr. Li is also a highly engaged leader and scholar who lends her experience to a wide array of causes and organizations including Women in Business (WiBe), the CNBC's Financial Wellness Council, the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) Board of Trustees; the Board of Directors for the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU); the Board of Directors for Opera Omaha; and the Board of Directors of the Omaha Symphony. She serves as a member of the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) Global Network Americas Advisory Board; a founding member of the International Advisory Council of the Lisbon School of Economics and Management in Portugal and the National

Sun Yat-Sen University in Taiwan. Most recently, Dr. Li joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Board of Directors for the Omaha Branch.

The death of his father due to a cardiac event is what drove Indian American Dr. Deepak Gangahar to become a Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon with special emphasis on cardiac surgery. His mother, who had no formal schooling, was his confidant and trusted friend, ensuring Dr. Gangahar never felt lacking in any way.

Dr. Gangahar completed medical school in India and immigrated to America in 1971 for post graduate education in General Surgery. He then pursued a fellowship in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

Having grown up in a small town and in an agricultural state, Dr. Gangahar and his wife found shared social values, work ethics and ideal opportunities in Nebraska. Dr. Gangahar and his colleagues cofounded the Nebraska Heart Institute and the Nebraska Heart Hospital in Lincoln, which became the premium group in Mid-West in the field of Adult Thoracic and Cardiovascular diseases from catheterbased interventions to Heart & Lung Transplantation and Mechanical Hearts. Now retired, Dr. Gangahar works with TeamMates, a school based mentoring program founded by Coach Tom and Nancy Osborne. In addition, he enjoys working with new Start-Up companies, primarily in the medical field to make healthcare safer and efficient.

Dr. Gangahar credits who he is today to the value he got from his parents, mentoring from his teachers and elders, and the opportunity of freedom to choose from his country of choice, the United States of America.

Chinese American Hong Zheng came to the United States in 1992 at the age of 19. He opened his first Chinese restaurant in Missouri 1998 and subsequently moved to Omaha in 2000 to start new restaurants and a grocery business. He currently owns seven Asian restaurants and five Asian Chain Supermarkets across the Midwest region.

He has been an active member in Nebraska Chinese Association since 2008 and was elected as Chairman of Board for NCA for four years. He has been an Honorable Chairman since then and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Bellevue University.

Hong says he appreciates the opportunity to live the American dream, especially as he knows how difficult it can be for new immigrants to adapt and thrive in a foreign country. That is why he serves his community—to give back and assist other immigrants and help them succeed.

In 2019, Hong helped raise money for local flood victims and in 2020 he coordinated the donation of over 25,000 masks and PPE to local health clinics and hospitals. He sponsored the One Community Culture Festival in 2019 and 2022 to celebrate culture and diversity. Finally, he has sponsored scholarship programs at Bellevue University for local and international students in need since 2019.

Born and raised in Vietnam during the war, Huong Truong understood the importance of responsibility to her family and helping with household tasks while also attending school 5 kilometers away. She is an avid reader and sports enthusiast who gained a deeper understanding of American people, customs, and history. She was so impressed by the intelligence and emotional deaths of Americans,