

was promoted to Command Sergeant Major and stationed at Camp Butmir, Bosnia until a retirement that didn't last long as he continued his career in Iraq supporting our military as a civilian contractor. Presently he is a volunteer for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in the State of Tennessee and serves as the Ombudsman Director. TN ESGR develops supportive work environments for Service Members in Reserve Components through outreach and education to increase awareness of applicable laws. He also serves with Chapter 18-12 of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association which promotes Vets Helping Vets and the Special Operations Association (former MACVSOG members) as a member of its Board of Directors.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. "MUZ"
MURRAY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of a dedicated and exceptional American patriot, Robert A. "Muz" Murray.

Born on September 2, 1935, Robert was a beloved native of South Boston and a resident of Quincy and Hull.

As a middle-school student at St. Brigid School, 12-year-old Robert entered a congressional essay contest entitled, "America, What it means to me,"—sponsored by Speaker John McCormack of Boston. Fittingly, Robert's impassioned and patriotic entry on the ideals and struggles embodied by our Nation earned the honor of first place—along with a special invitation for Robert to join President Harry Truman for lunch at the White House.

In the enduring spirit of his essay, Robert dedicated each day of his 87 years to personifying the principles and values that he held dear as an American. Inspired by our shared commitment to liberty, democracy, and humanity, Robert devoted his life in service to his country, his community, and his family. As a veteran of the United States Army and a devoted husband, father of three, and grandfather of five, Robert also instilled service and dedication in all that knew him.

Robert Murray passed away peacefully on December 23, 2022. It was at his funeral mass that his 1947 essay was read publicly for the first time, as the closing words offered by his youngest daughter, Erin. Include in the RECORD Mr. Murray's essay.

AMERICA, WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

To me, America means homeland. It means my country blessed beyond all countries with the beauty and natural resources, with its inland seas and coursing rivers, teeming with food; its towering mountains, piled high with the riches of the earth; its fertile fields yielding harvest that might feed the world; its cities and towns all throbbing with human life and industry. America means all this but it means much more, much more than the country's materials wealth and power.

To me, America means the land of liberty—a land whose democracy, whose ideals of religion, freedom and equality make it pre-eminent among the nations of the earth. In this land, my homeland, the land of liberty, every man has the ownership of himself. He is free to enjoy the results of his la-

bors, to declare the convictions of his mind, to share in the making of its laws, and in selecting the rulers of the nation.

America is the land of the free, where every man, no matter how lowly, is a free man in the free country, free to enjoy all its rights and liberties.

To me, America means the struggles, the sufferings, and the sacrifices, which paid the price of these liberties I enjoy.

It is symbolized by the flag I love—the red, white and blue flag; its rich red for American patriots' blood; the white for America's high ideals and purposes; its blue for the boundless hopes America awakes in humanity. That is what American means to me.

Mr. Speaker, may Robert Murray's words serve as a great reminder of who we are as a Nation.

HONORING SUSANNAH SCARONI'S
WIN AT THE BOSTON MARATHON

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Susannah Scaroni, a graduate from the University of Illinois, for winning the 127th Boston Marathon and a successful World Marathon Majors season.

Susannah was born on May 16, 1991, in Burns, Oregon. Growing up Tekoa, Washington, a car crash would leave her paralyzed at the age of five. Susannah would persevere with the support of her community, eventually graduating from Tekoa High School in 2009 and coming to the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. Susannah would graduate from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) with a bachelors degree in food science and human Nutrition in 2014 and earn a master's degree in Nutritional Sciences in 2022.

Throughout her education, Susannah would represent the United States in international competition and race in major marathons. Susannah has competed in the last three Paralympic games, earning a gold medal in the 5,000-meter race and a bronze in the 800-meter race in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Susannah would win the Los Angeles Marathon early in her career, however, coming short of winning a world major until recently.

After battling through a career-threatening back injury six months prior, Susannah would win the 2022 Chicago Marathon in October and the New York City Marathon in November. Her streak of wins would only end in Tokyo due to missing the marathon after contracting strep throat, but she would bounce back in April. After competing in the Boston Marathon eight times, with several bronzes being her best accomplishment in years prior, favor would shine her light on Susannah. She would win with a time of 1 hour 45 minutes 45 seconds, holding a lead of five minutes on the previous winner.

With the six recent World Marathon Majors now passed, Susannah has won three out of the six, and medaled in four. I am both proud and honored to recognize my fellow Fighting Illini graduate on today.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND RECOGNIZING MR. DANIEL "DANNY" HERNANDEZ, OUTSTANDING CITIZEN

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. Ray Daniel "Danny" Hernandez, an outstanding Chicano advocate in the 52nd Congressional District.

Mr. Hernandez was a committed and respected community leader who believed in the power of community to invoke equitable and long-term change. He worked tirelessly to uplift, empower, and serve our Latino/Chicano, multicultural and other diverse communities. Mr. Hernandez was one of the founding members of the Chicano Federation's Latino Leadership Institute in 1985, whose mission is to establish the next generation of Latino civic leaders.

Mr. Hernandez made valuable contributions to organizations including San Ysidro Health, the National City Chamber of Commerce, La Maestra Community Health Centers, MANA de San Diego, and Project New Village. He was the Director of Community Relations for San Ysidro Health and, over the years, provided extensive contributions in developing a wide array of outreach, community awareness, and promotional programs to provide access to high quality and affordable healthcare. Mr. Hernandez also supported the advancement of Latinas and assisted MANA de San Diego to increase membership, create awareness of their programs, and connecting the organization with donors.

On behalf of the residents of California's 52nd Congressional District, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Ray Daniel "Danny" Hernandez. He is survived by his wife, Leticia Ibarra, and his sister, Christine Rosa Maestas. Furthermore, I would like to formally extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Hernandez for his unwavering commitment to providing equitable and accessible resources to our region throughout his nearly 45-year long career as an advocate and leader. His legacy will continue, as he inspired many.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. STEVEN HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Infertility Awareness Week, founded in 1989, to salute the parents, doctors, researchers, and others for the extraordinary progress over the last four decades to destigmatize infertility and bring awareness to the many barriers people face when trying to start and build their families.

Most Americans are not aware that approximately one in five Americans are impacted by the disease of infertility. The disease affects men and women of all races, religious backgrounds, and economic status; it knows no barriers and impacts millions of individuals.

Through the revolutionary contributions of research scientists and considerable medical advancements, fertility treatments have vastly improved since the first successful IVF pregnancy and live birth occurred in 1978. Such advancements include early infertility detection through detailed and data-driven testing, advanced egg-freezing technology, and progressive procedures that allow young cancer patients to preserve their fertility before undergoing lifesaving chemotherapy treatments. Organizations like RESOLVE: the National Infertility Association, advocate for millions of individuals and couples in this country who need medical assistance to have a family. Other groups, such as the Military Family Building Coalition (MFBC), have focused on raising awareness for active-duty service members and their spouses facing unique challenges with family building. They are actively working to bring awareness to these unique challenges and advance laws and policies to help our servicemembers sacrificing for our country achieve their dream of building or expanding their families. There are also organizations, such as the Alliance for Fertility Preservation, that stand up to voice the importance of affordable fertility preservation options for individuals undergoing cancer treatment. In fact, without comprehensive and reliable fertility preservation and family-building healthcare coverage, the option of having children may not otherwise be available for millions of Americans without the financial assistance of organizations like RESOLVE, AFP, MFBC, and countless other worthwhile organizations.

Since 1978, and because of extraordinary medical advancements and steadfast advocacy organizations, millions of Americans have received life-affirming treatments that have resulted in the delivery of babies. And while advancements have been a substantial step forward for family building, significant medical, financial, and health equity barriers still exist for others who require medical assistance to combat in fertility.

During this National Infertility Awareness Week, I am calling on my colleagues in Congress to do more to remove many of the barriers currently existing for those experiencing infertility challenges in their pursuit of having a child. The ability to have children and the timing of building a family is a fundamental human right. Thus, we must work together to pass legislation to create a path for these American families. I also applaud my colleagues, including Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Congresswoman BROWNLEY, Congresswoman DELAURO, Congresswoman STRICKLAND, and Congressman RICK LARSEN, for introducing legislation to eliminate obstacles to building families. I salute the millions of infertility warriors throughout the country and the world who advocate on behalf of that most precious of gifts, that of family.

HONORING JOHN SIMS

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, and renowned East Texas radio personality, John Sims, who tragically passed away the morning of Friday, March 31.

John was a proud Philadelphia native who fully embraced his adopted home of East Texas, where he served our community on air for over forty-three years, most recently with KTBB.

Through his reporting and commentary, John played a direct role in our daily lives, filling an otherwise silent morning commute with community updates, state and national news, guidance, and laughter.

When John wasn't filling the radio waves, he was out in our community. John was active in many civic organizations, working with those in need and those with disabilities.

In particular, John was devoted to his work with the Tyler Together Race Relations Forum, in addition to the League of Women Voters, the March of Dimes, the Tyler Church and Community Network, and East Texas Wheelers and Walkers.

Even further, John was also the former president of Leadership Tyler and the Smith County Community Partnership Council, raising up new leaders in our community advocating for its success.

A devout believer, John always prioritized his time serving with the church and other community groups.

John's un-timely passing will undoubtedly take a toll on East Texas.

I am proud to join his family, his friends, his colleagues, and the entire First District of Texas in remembering John and honoring his lifetime of service. He will be sorely missed.

HONORING THE BASILICA SHRINE
OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACU-
LOUS MEDAL

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Miraculous Medal Shrine, a Marian devotional destination and ministry of the Vincentians of the Eastern Province in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, as it has been elevated by the Vatican to Minor Basilica status. This designation is shared by only one other church in the City of Philadelphia, the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, and 91 others across the United States. The Shrine, along with the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception that houses it, are now known as The Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

The new designation follows a multiyear application that culminated in a decree issued by Pope Francis. The Shrine is now promoted as an exemplary site of liturgical and pastoral activity within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Minor Basilicas are given prominence among other churches and shrines, receive certain honorifics, and are tasked with special responsibilities.

The Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, a ministry of the Vincentians of the Eastern Province of the United States, is a sanctuary of prayer and an inspiration of Marian devotion for Roman Catholics throughout the world. Established in 1927 on the grounds of Saint Vincent's Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Shrine, and the Romanesque church that houses it were elevated to a Minor Basilica by the Vatican in 2023.

Visitors come to the Basilica Shrine daily for Holy Mass, solemn prayer and meditation, and pilgrimage to God and the Blessed Virgin Mary, while beholding its breathtaking artwork, sculptures, stained glass, altars and architecture. The Basilica Shrine is also home to the Perpetual Novena, a prayer of devotion to Our Lady recited in person.

It is indeed an honor to have such a prestigious decree bestowed upon one of Philadelphia's faith based institutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on April 27, 2023 due to a family medical situation.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 201.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 201, I mistakenly voted YEA when I intended to vote NAY.

HONORING E-4 RICHARD DEAN
WHITE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent E-4 Richard Dean White of Mountain City, Tennessee.

E-4 Richard White served in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 until 1975 and was one of 70 chosen to serve in the USAF Security Command. He was stationed at many air force bases such as Lackland, TX Goodfellow, Iraklion in Crete, Greece, and Andrews Air Force Base. He was present on August 9, 1974, when President Nixon resigned and departed from Andrews Air Force Base.

Following his discharge, E-4 White attended college and pursued a career in Law Enforcement, continuing his calling to serve.

RECOGNIZING BECKY HATTAN FOR
HER SERVICE

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to thank Becky Hattan of Lincoln for her service to my office.

Becky has worked over the last several months as a constituent services representative.