

RECOGNIZING MS. TINA
MATTHIAS, CONSTITUENT OF
THE MONTH

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Tina Matthias, outstanding sustainability advocate and community member in the 52nd Congressional District.

Ms. Matthias is being honored for her long-time advocacy for the sustainability of our planet and commitment to environmental issues. She created the nonprofit organization, South Bay Sustainable Communities Network.

Ms. Matthias originally founded the South Bay Sustainable Communities Network in 2020 and in 2022 established the "Youth 4 Sustainable Future" program at local high schools, providing students and youth with environmental education and tools to take action to reduce the impact of climate change. As Founder and Executive Director, she works directly with the South Bay community advocating for the importance of how to lead a sustainable lifestyle through composting, organizes community clean-ups, hikes and hosts monthly educational zero waste workshops. The nonprofit organization has worked directly with 16 local neighborhoods to compost 49,800 pounds of food waste which prevented 1,992 gallons of gas used in waste transportation, and 33,665 pounds of Carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions from landfills.

Ms. Matthias began her career at the Living Coast Discovery Center as the Volunteer and Programs Manager, serving for more than 32 years. For her dedication, Tina Matthias was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for Dedicated Humanitarian Services from the Lions Club International Foundation and her nonprofit received the Organization Award for Sustainable Champion from the City of Chula Vista.

Ms. Matthias is being honored as the 52nd District Constituent of the Month in April 2023, during the month of Earth Day. She is recognized for her decades-long commitment to bring awareness of long-term solutions to address climate change, as well as education about sustainable practices to use in our everyday lives.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHRISTOPHER JUILLERAT

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Christopher Lee Juillerat and to commend the inspiring work done by his mother, Theresa Juillerat, in light of Chris's passing.

Three years ago this week on May 12, 2020, at just 23 years old, Chris lost his life to fentanyl poisoning. A graduate of North Side High School in Fort Wayne where he played baseball, he was survived by his young son, Jaxon, and many other family members and friends who miss him dearly.

In the years since, Theresa has been tireless in her efforts to educate other parents and youth about the dangers of synthetic opioids like fentanyl. This is so important, as fentanyl has devastated so many other families across Northeast Indiana and the Nation.

In Psalm 147:3, Scripture tells us of the Lord, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." In the wake of her own loss, Theresa has dedicated her life to saving families from enduring the same.

This is a testament to Chris's life and to the selfless service of his mother, Theresa, to save the lives of others. Please join me in praying for the Juillerat family and for all families who've lost a loved one to the fentanyl crisis.

HONORING MENDOCINO COLLEGE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative MIKE THOMPSON in recognition of Mendocino College on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, and in appreciation for decades of quality education provided to the communities of Mendocino County and Lake County.

Over the last half century, Mendocino College has transformed from initially offering instruction in spare classrooms at Oak Manor Elementary School in 1973 to the dynamic institution we know today, proudly serving an area encompassing more than 5,207 square miles, including 51 towns and cities and 14 federally recognized Indian reservations.

Mendocino College was founded in 1972 by a vote of the citizens of Anderson Valley, Laytonville, Potter Valley, Round Valley, Ukiah, and Willits Unified school districts. The first students would attend classes in Ukiah in 1973, making the College the first and only public institution of higher education in Mendocino County. The College would go on to serve over 1,000 students at temporary facilities at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds, and by voter initiative in 1974, expanded to serve communities across both Mendocino County and Lake County. By the 1980s, the College began offering distance learning options in response to community needs. The Ukiah campus opened its doors in the summer of 1985 and is still in operation today.

The College has continually invested in its educational infrastructure over the decades, with the strong support of the surrounding community and public funding. In 2012, the College completed construction of the Library and Learning Center, an innovative 48,000 square foot facility on the Ukiah campus. Always striving to reach as many potential students as possible, Mendocino College welcomed its newest satellite campus in 2017, the Coast Center in Fort Bragg.

Mendocino College has been a pioneering institution in our region for decades, renowned for its strong dedication to student success and equity. In 1984, Mendocino College President Dr. Lee Lowery, with education advocates Sybil Hinkle and Gabrielle Thomas, formed the Mendocino College Foundation, an independent organization dedicated to helping students in need. Today, the Mendocino Col-

lege Foundation supports students with hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships each year, directly contributing to the College's mission of creating opportunities and enriching students' lives.

Mendocino College continues to adapt and innovate to provide programs to support students from rural communities, including English language learners, veterans, and Native Americans. Through its federally funded High School Equivalency Program and College Assistance Migrant Program, the College is delivering significant and impactful services to underserved, Latino, and migrant students. The College was designated a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education in 2014, and was just awarded a \$2.6 million Hispanic Serving Institutions grant from the U.S. Department of Education through a highly competitive process.

Over the last five decades Mendocino College has awarded nearly 15,000 students with degrees and certificates and supported nearly 350,000 students on their academic journeys. A vital institution of higher learning for Mendocino County and Lake County, Mendocino College is worthy of highest commendation. Mr. Speaker, please join us in recognizing Mendocino College on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary and offering the College our best wishes for another 50 years of serving the community.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
BRENNA PAYNE ON HER OFFER
OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND
THE UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Brenna Payne of Luckey, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Brenna's offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2027. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Brenna brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2027. While attending Eastwood High School in Pemberville, Ohio, Brenna participated in marching band, concert band, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and was a member of the National Honor Society. Throughout high school, Brenna was involved with Eastwood Gymnastics and YMCA Gymnastics, earning a varsity letter. I am confident that Brenna will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brenna Payne on her offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available,

and I am positive that Brenna will excel during her career at the Military Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING IGA NEPHROPATHY
DAY

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May 14th as IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day. IgA Nephropathy (IgAN) is a rare autoimmune disease that causes a person's immune system to attack the kidneys. Fewer than 200,000 people are diagnosed with this incurable condition per year in the United States, yet it is one of the most common diseases affecting the kidneys other than those caused by high blood pressure or diabetes.

IgA Nephropathy is a condition characterized by an abnormal build-up of a protein called immunoglobulin A (IgA), which causes the immune system to attack the kidneys, often leading to kidney damage or failure. The deposits of IgA cause a breakdown of the normal filtering mechanisms in the kidney, leading to hematuria, proteinuria, and a progressive loss of kidney function. The cause of abnormal IgA build-up in patients with this condition is unclear, although genetic factors likely play a role. While IgA Nephropathy impacts women and men of every ethnicity, it is most prevalent in those of Asian ancestry. In fact, kidney failure among Asian Americans is 5 times more likely to be the result of IgA Nephropathy than among Caucasians, and 15 times more likely compared to African Americans. It is fitting that IgAN Awareness Day occurs during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Although IgA Nephropathy can develop at any age, the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) notes that it most often affects younger Americans, usually appearing between the teen years and the late 30s. Tragically, according to the IgAN Foundation, as many as half of those affected by IgAN will develop end-stage kidney disease and eventually require dialysis or a kidney transplant. Sadly, IgAN can recur in the transplanted kidney and, after a period, of increased quality of life families find themselves in yet another familiar battle.

As is often the case with rare diseases, the diagnostic journey to IgA Nephropathy tends to be long. There are usually little or no immediate signs and symptoms. The disease causes inflammation that can trigger complications, including high blood pressure and chronic kidney disease. In fact, many patients are not diagnosed until they show some of these complications and blood or protein in the urine.

IgA Nephropathy was first identified in 1968, and it is viewed as a condition without a cure. While some patients have been able to delay kidney decline and failure through lifestyle changes, supplements, and medication, many others have seen no effective treatments for almost four decades.

However, this is all beginning to change, and IgAN patients finally have the tangible

hope of new treatments here today. The number of clinical trials is growing, and the FDA approved the first-ever medication for IgA Nephropathy in late-2021. Earlier this year, the FDA approved another new drug therapy which proved to demonstrate rapid and sustained proteinuria reduction—a key to maintaining healthy functioning of the kidneys.

These advancements in IgA Nephropathy treatment and hope for more therapies on the horizon provide life-changing options for patients struggling with this chronic disease. It's important we raise awareness of this condition to counter the fear and uncertainty that can come with an IgA Nephropathy diagnosis. More must be done to develop the means for patients to manage their conditions and live normal lives, even while dealing with this cruel disease.

I also want to salute by name the IgA Nephropathy Foundation. On May 14, 2004, Bonnie Schneider and her husband established the IgA Nephropathy Foundation from their home. Eddie, their 13-year-old son, had been recently diagnosed with the condition, and they saw firsthand the unmet need for answers, resources, and a supportive community for individuals with IgAN.

In addition, I am proud to say that California's 36th Congressional District is fully engaged in this effort, as IgA Nephropathy Foundation Board Secretary Mary Schneider is from Venice in my district.

So on May 14th, the 19th anniversary of its founding, the IgA Nephropathy Foundation and the entire IgAN community and partners will come together to raise awareness about this disease, while also celebrating the strength of the patients and caregivers who battle the condition every day. Their hope is that this important day will drive people to assess their risks and recognize symptoms. With improved awareness among physicians, a strong network of support for patients, and further research to build on existing therapies, we can improve the lives of IgA Nephropathy patients—and one day find a cure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the IgA Nephropathy Foundation for creating this important day of awareness. I am proud to stand with the brave Americans and their families who must battle this disease and who continue in their efforts to educate the public on IgA Nephropathy. On May 14th, we honor them and all their efforts as we once again recognize IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL JON
A. HILL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation in tribute to Vice Admiral Jon A. Hill.

Whereas, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Navy, I wish to recognize Vice Admiral Jon A. Hill for nearly four decades of military service to this great nation. In his most recent assignment as the Director of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), Vice Admiral Hill made significant contributions to the successful development and fielding of a layered Missile Defense System in order to

protect the U.S. homeland, deployed U.S. forces, our allies, and international partners. The significance of his contributions to the Nation's defense is powerfully highlighted as we witness the ever more aggressive development of offensive ballistic missile capabilities by our adversaries and the spread of increasingly diverse missile threats, to include maneuvering and hypersonic threats.

Whereas, prior to coming to MDA, Vice Admiral Hill distinguished himself during his first Flag Officer tour as Program Executive Officer (PEO) for Integrated Warfare Systems. In this role, he was accountable for developing and certifying the deployment of all surface ship combat control systems, radars, missiles, launchers, electronic warfare, naval gunnery systems, and surface and subsurface anti-submarine warfare mission capabilities within the Fleet and joint force. He held several other high-profile leadership and acquisition engineering positions, including Aegis Shipbuilding (PMS 400), Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Dahlgren Division and Port Hueneme Division, and PEO Theater Surface Combatants. He also served on the Assistant Secretary of the Navy staff for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN RD&A).

Whereas, I would like to make special note that, Vice Admiral Hill, having previously served as Deputy Director for nearly three years, came into the Director position recognizing the need for significant updates to the Agency's mission, organization, and processes in order to position the Department on a path to counter advanced ballistic, hypersonic and maneuvering missile threats. During his tour as MDA Director, the Department of Defense made significant progress in addressing current and emerging ballistic and hypersonic missile threats by fielding, upgrading, integrating, and improving missile defenses to provide U.S. Combatant Commands and the Services a highly effective missile defense capability to defend the United States and its deployed troops, allies, and international partners around the world. He implemented a clear strategy focusing on increasing capability and capacity of fielded missile defense systems and making measured investments in advanced technologies, balancing rapid development and fielding of capabilities with leap-ahead technologies for the future system.

Whereas, to meet the rising threats to national security, Vice Admiral Hill focused the urgency of the Agency on homeland defense, to include the defense of Guam, and countering hypersonic missiles. For four years, Vice Admiral Hill pursued a strategy to improve the reliability, enhance the discrimination capability, and expand the battlespace of U.S. homeland missile defenses. In response to the growing North Korean ICBM threat, in 2021, he oversaw the completion of Initial Fielding for the Long-Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR) at Clear Space Force Station in Alaska and planned delivery of the highly advanced homeland defense radar to the Space Force for operational acceptance in 2023. Once operational, LRDR will support the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMO) capability against Pacific theater long-range missile threats, improving homeland missile defenses against an increasingly dangerous North Korean threat.

Whereas, under Vice Admiral Hill's guidance and leadership, he oversaw improvements to homeland defense and delivered new interceptor capabilities. Vice Admiral Hill ensured