

This prestigious award stands as a testament to Ms. Murphy's hard work, unwavering dedication, and a relentless commitment to excellence within the government, municipal, and commercial construction sectors. Under her able leadership, City Enterprise has experienced remarkable growth and made significant contributions to the industry, earning the respect and admiration of our community.

The SBA 8(a) Graduate of the Year award is not just a recognition of City Enterprise's impressive growth, but also an acknowledgment of Ms. Murphy's commitment to social and economic development within the community. The impact of her contributions has been significant and enduring, and her success story serves as an inspiration to other entrepreneurs, motivating them to pursue their dreams with vigor and determination.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Murphy on this hard-earned recognition. Her dedication, leadership, and service to her community embodies the very spirit of American entrepreneurship, and I have full confidence that City Enterprise will continue to flourish and reach even greater heights under her leadership.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. NANCY ORPILLA

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mrs. Nancy Orpilla, longtime Solano County educator and Vallejo resident. Passing away at 56, Mrs. Orpilla leaves behind an indelible legacy of love, leadership, and service to her community and family.

Born in 1966, in San Luis Obispo, California, Mrs. Orpilla grew up appreciating the natural beauty of California and exploring the outdoors with her parents and two sisters. From a young age, Mrs. Orpilla demonstrated a hardworking and tenacious spirit, graduating with a bachelor's degree in business from California Polytechnic University in 1989. She then began an illustrious career as a Certified Public Accountant and her diligent work brought her around the world, allowing her to explore Los Angeles, Saipan, Hawaii, and San Francisco.

Following her extensive career as an accountant, Mrs. Orpilla's love for her children inspired her to earn her teaching credential and begin serving the youth of her community. For 10 years, Mrs. Orpilla taught 1st grade at Federal Terrace Elementary School in Vallejo. During her tenure as a teacher, she never failed to prioritize the youth of Solano County and ensure all students in her community had the resources necessary to achieve their full potential. Mrs. Orpilla demonstrated a steadfast dedication to the children of her community and was critical in providing a comprehensive early education to hundreds of students.

Mrs. Orpilla appreciated the beauty in every aspect of her life. She was an avid explorer of the outdoors, never forgoing an opportunity to enjoy California's natural environment. From hiking outdoors with her husband to embarking on cross-country camping adventures with her children, Mrs. Orpilla recognized the importance of our country's natural lands.

Mrs. Orpilla will be remembered not only for her years of service to Solano County, but also for her genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. Her willingness to lend an ear and a helping hand to anyone in need earned her the widespread respect and gratitude of her community. Mrs. Orpilla impacted the lives of countless students and educators in her community and her steadfast leadership, constant smile, and patient mentorship undeniably enhanced the lives of her fellow Solano County residents.

Mrs. Orpilla's enduring spirit will live on in her loving husband and 2 children. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Orpilla's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of Solano County, join me in celebrating her life and legacy.

HONORING THE LANCASTER LIONS CLUB

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lancaster Lions Club, which is celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year.

The Lancaster Lions Club received their charter on March 31, 1923. Over the past century, much has changed, but their mission of serving the community has remained the same.

Since 2000, the club has raised and donated over \$250,000 to more than fifty local organizations, including those that support the blind, those with childhood cancer, and organizations supporting the homeless.

Every month, for the past 10 years, the Lancaster Lions Club has assembled to clean the Conestoga Greenway Trail, supporting our environment and ensuring those utilizing the trail are able to appreciate nature and the beauty of the Conestoga River.

Mr. Speaker, we give thanks to service organizations like the Lancaster Lions Club, who truly make a difference in their community.

We congratulate and thank the Lancaster Lions Club for 100 years of service to our community and wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE AGING TOGETHER 5 OVER 50 AWARDS

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of Aging Together's 5 Over 50 Awards on May 17, 2023.

For years, Aging Together has worked tirelessly to coordinate care and services for our senior population and provide a valuable resource to our shared constituencies. For the past ten years, Aging Together has hosted the 5 Over 50 celebration to award five individuals from the region who exemplify the mission of their organization. Each recipient of this award has gone above and beyond in their commu-

nity, dedicating their time to their neighbors, and has made lasting impacts in the lives of many.

Today we recognize the five recipients of this honor: Mr. Perry Smiley of Culpeper, Mrs. Darlene Kelly of Fauquier, Mr. Scott Bennett of Madison, Mr. Lee Frame of Orange, and Mrs. Barbara Adolfi of Rappahannock.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating these five awardees of Aging Together's 5 Over 50 Award and recognizing these individuals for their lasting impact that they have made on their communities.

DEDICATION OF THE LILLIAN G. BURRY WOMEN'S WING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week in my district in New Jersey, veterans, leaders and local officials will be dedicating the Women's Wing at the Gordon H. Mansfield Veterans Community in Tinton Falls—and will be appropriately naming it in honor of my good friend and extraordinary public servant, Monmouth County Commissioner Lillian G. Burry.

For more than a decade, Commissioner Burry has been the quarterback in the push to meet the compelling housing and service needs of homeless veterans in our community.

When Lillian and I first heard of and met with John Downing of Soldier On more than ten years ago, we decided that's what we need in Monmouth County.

We quickly discovered that Soldier On created world-class housing opportunities coupled with vital services for homeless veterans, and the impact has been enormous and life changing.

In July 2012, we secured a million-dollar grant to Soldier On to provide housing assistance and stability to our veterans so that they could remain in their homes even when times are difficult.

Although there were many setbacks along the way—including an inability to secure space at Fort Monmouth—Lillian never quit and helped lead the way through some of the toughest road blocks. Ultimately, Lillian's dream of creating a homeless veterans housing initiative in Monmouth County became a reality in 2021 with the grand opening of the Gordon H. Mansfield Veterans Village.

Set on a six-acre village-like setting, this amazing community offers a wide-range of supportive services, general wellness, health and social opportunities in addition to permanent housing for those who have courageously stepped up to serve our great nation and have put their lives on the line to defend our fundamental freedoms.

This state-of-the-art complex for homeless veterans that provides 70 fully furnished one-bedroom apartments—including its special wing reserved for women—would not have been possible without Lillian's tenacity and skill in making it happen.

As a devoted military wife to U.S. Coast Guard Captain Don Burry for over 65 years, Lillian has long known firsthand the tremendous sacrifices made by our nation's service members and their loved ones.

Residents across Monmouth County have benefitted from Lillian's courage, tenacity, can-do spirit, wit and determination. Along with helping our veterans, Lillian has expanded services through her work for open lands, libraries, infrastructure improvements, the arts and much, much more. A former Matawan councilwoman, mayor of Colts Neck and the first female Director of the County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Lillian has greatly enhanced our quality of life in Monmouth County.

Thanks to Lillian's unwavering commitment to our veterans and her enduring perseverance, for the first time in years—even decades—many veterans finally have a place to live and hope and thrive in Monmouth County.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF GENE MAURECE HARPER

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Gene Maurece Harper.

Gene was born April 10, 1923, in Ontario, California. He grew up in Ontario and graduated from Chaffey High School. Just months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941, Gene had enrolled at Chaffey Junior College. Rather than staying to finish school, Gene felt called to serve and enlisted in the Naval Reserve. Beginning in June 1943, at 20 years old, he served aboard the LST 952 during World War II and was sent to sea in November 1944. On April 1, 1945, his ship sent Marines into Okinawa, Japan where they took Yontan Airfield, which served as an important victory for the United States. After the war, Gene completed his bachelor's degree at Colorado State University. He returned to Ontario, California and worked for the County of San Bernardino as an Entomologist, a scientist who studies insects. Eventually, he became the Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for the county. He and his wife, Ndala Grace Hall, have been happily married for 67 years. The couple have 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandsons.

On behalf of the 35th Congressional District, I congratulate Gene on this incredible milestone. It is my honor to represent courageous people like him. I am grateful for his service to this county. I hope that he enjoys much happiness in the coming year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on May 16, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 215, and NAY on Roll Call No. 216.

RECOGNIZING WORLD NF AWARENESS DAY

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize World NF Awareness Day. Each year, the Children's Tumor Foundation works to educate the public about this rare genetic condition that causes tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body. One in every two thousand children are born with some type of NF and I am grateful for the opportunity to join in the critical effort to raise awareness of this disease.

NF is a group of genetic conditions that cause tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body. The impacts of NF can lead to long term disabilities and other serious health complications, including blindness, deafness, disfigurement, chronic pain, and cancer. Public awareness is essential to promoting early diagnosis and treatment to mitigate further complications of NF.

NF affects each individual differently and listening directly to NF patients paints a fuller picture of the disease and the continued need for awareness. Mr. Alwyn Dias lives in New Jersey's Eleventh Congressional District with his wife and two children and is a powerful advocate for NF awareness, research, and treatment. Mr. Dias was diagnosed with NF as a child after finding a marble sized tumor on his back. He shared the pain he felt growing up feeling that he needed to hide NF from his peers and the strength he found later in sharing his story. I am grateful for his vulnerability in discussing the impact NF can have on mental health and for his continued advocacy with the Children's Tumor Foundation.

The Children's Tumor Foundation does essential work to support those living with NF. Whether by funding world-class medical research, improving patient experiences in treatment, or offering support groups to patients and their families, the Children's Tumor Foundation provides an invaluable service to our community. They live up to their mission to drive research, expand knowledge, and advance care for the NF community, while working to one day find the cure.

I am grateful to join the Children's Tumor Foundation in recognizing World NF Awareness Day and to support their efforts to make NF visible.

RECOGNIZING TAMIL GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day, an important occasion that holds great significance for the Tamil people around the world and for all those who advocate for peace, justice, and human rights around the world.

As the first U.S. legislator to officially acknowledge the Tamil Genocide in Sri Lanka and as a steadfast supporter of the Tamil

community in North Carolina and Sri Lanka, I'm proud to offer this statement in commemoration of this solemn day.

The Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day is observed on May 18th of each year to mark the events of mass atrocities that unfolded during the final stages of the Sri Lankan Ethnic War in 2009. It serves as a day of remembrance for the tens of thousands of innocent lives lost. It's a reminder that we must express solidarity with the survivors who continue to grapple with the painful memories and consequences of this devastating conflict.

The Sri Lankan Ethnic War, which spanned nearly three decades, resulted in immense suffering and loss of life. We must recognize and remember these tragic events to foster healing and justice and to ensure non-recurrence. The final months of the conflict were particularly brutal. Mullivaikkal, a small coastal strip in the northeastern part of the country, became the site of a large-scale offensive that led to the ethnic slaughter of tens of thousands of Tamil civilians.

We must acknowledge the pain and suffering endured by the Tamil People on the island and ensure that the voices of survivors are heard to foster healing, justice, and reconciliation.

I commend the Tamil Americans working tirelessly to promote awareness of the Tamil Genocide and advocate for the rights of the Tamil community. Their dedication and commitment to justice and peace are commendable.

As we observe Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day, let's remember the lives lost, the families torn apart, and the enduring resilience of the Tamil people. May this day remind us of our responsibility to stand against injustice and work towards a world where everyone can live in peace, equality, freedom, and dignity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bethel Baptist Church of Orange County, Virginia in honor of its 125th anniversary.

Founded in 1898, Bethel Baptist Church was founded to "satisfy and meet a spiritual need in the small community fondly known as Little Petersburg." The church immediately emerged as a critical site of community and spiritual enrichment for many Black residents of the area, including some who were formerly enslaved and others who served as soldiers during the Civil War.

Many decades later, Bethel Baptist Church continues its work of spiritual enrichment, community engagement, and social outreach under the stewardship of Reverend Dr. Willie Elder and First Lady Angenette Elder. From baptism services held in the Little Petersburg River to the rich pastoral lineage that has grown the church, the flame of spiritual service and community dedication is alive and well.

The resilience that is necessary to achieve a milestone of this order, 125 years of service,