

Since its opening in 1973, Mystic Aquarium's mission and capabilities have evolved impressively over the decades. From education, exhibition, conservation, to research, the team at the Aquarium has grown yet remained ever so dedicated toward advancing our respect for and understanding of marine wildlife.

As we celebrate what Mystic Aquarium has become after all these years, it would be impossible to recap all of the nonprofit's achievements. It has expanded interactive educational opportunities to accommodate roughly 800,000 visitors annually, a number which will only grow as it opens a new exhibit this year. The Aquarium is also engaging the local community through other means, including strengthening a volunteer conservationist network under its newer Ocean Ambassadors Program. Through its Animal Rescue Program and multiple freshly constructed veterinary facilities, Mystic Aquarium has also directly supported the rehabilitation of Long Island Sound area populations. The Aquarium even takes on cases from other rescue facilities, reducing pressure on our nation's veterinary system for marine wildlife.

The Mystic Aquarium has taken on greater efforts to become an advocate of conservation on the national stage. The organization actively studies opportunities to protect endangered species such as the African Penguins, Coral Reefs, Sea Turtles, Sharks and Rays. Its expert researchers have also notably been central in laying the groundwork for the establishment of the first federally protected monument in US Atlantic waters, the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. This monument is a hotbed of biodiversity that is now better protected from human activity because of the Aquarium's advocacy apparatus.

Over the years, Mystic Aquarium has grown into a major employer which significantly contributes to the Second District of Connecticut's economy and culture. I know countless success stories of youth who have taken up summertime, annual employment or internships, and have forged those early formative experiences into full-on careers.

Mr. Speaker, the work Mystic Aquarium takes on is community driven, compassionate, and highly technical. They have been tremendously valuable to both our region and nation which is why they continue to earn federal support. To that end, as Mystic Aquarium celebrates a half-century of outstanding service, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the legacy of their mission and its future relevance, and wishing them many more milestones to come.

RECOGNIZING DOLLY RABINOWITZ,
YIDEL PERLSTEIN, AND LT. IRA
JABLONSKY

HON. DANIEL S. GOLDMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month. As a proud American Jew and the Representative of one of the largest Jewish populations in a Congressional district in the country, Jewish Amer-

ican Heritage Month is particularly meaningful to me.

Jewish Americans have made countless contributions to our great Nation, and at a time when Jews continue to be the single most targeted religious minority in this country, I encourage all of us to take this month to recognize and appreciate the deep connections and rich history the Jewish people have to America.

I also rise today to recognize 3 prominent constituents of my district. They stand as exemplars of the achievements of American Jews and are befitting of this great honor.

Dolly Rabinowitz is a 94-year-old Holocaust survivor who has lived in New York since the end of WW2. She was born in Czechoslovakia to a rabbinical family and when she was 19, her family was told to pack up for an unknown village. From there she was forced to endure the barbaric cruelty of Auschwitz and the Death March to the Ravensbrück concentration camps. After experiencing unspeakable atrocities simply because of her faith, Dolly was liberated by the Allies in 1945. Following the war, Dolly emigrated to the United States and has lived in New York ever since, working as a bookkeeper and participating in Jewish life across the city. Dolly is one of a dwindling number of Holocaust survivors and we must pass along her story and others, so we never forget.

Yidel Perlstein is a local leader and the Chairman of Community Board 12 in Borough Park. He was the first Hasidic Jew to lead this impactful community organization and was just reelected after more than a decade in that position. With Yidel at the helm, CB12 has continued to lead many aspects of life in Borough Park—organizing voter outreach, community forums, and representing Borough Park's interests to elected officials across the country. On Jewish holidays you can find Yidel running food drives for needy people across Borough Park, demonstrating the spirit of giving that typifies the tight-knit bond of the Brooklyn Hasidic community.

Lieutenant Special Assignment Ira Jablonsky of the New York City Police Department has been on the force for over two decades. He grew up attending Brooklyn Yeshiva and was interning at the Office of Emergency Management on 9/11. After seeing the first tower hit, Lt. Jablonsky jumped into action, running into 7 World Trade and helping as many people as he could before they were ordered to evacuate. Lt. Jablonsky is a Brooklyn yeshiva graduate and has worked in the community his entire career to make it safer for New Yorkers and fellow Orthodox Jews alike. He demonstrates the importance of having Jews represented in law enforcement, working to catch several high-profile antisemitic vandals who threaten the safety and security of Jewish Brooklynites. His service to his community does not go unnoticed, and I am honored to give him this distinction today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage Month as well as these 3 outstanding Jewish Americans who represent the best of what our community offers their communities, their city and state, and their country.

HONORING COACH EARL SMITH,
JR. OF GARY EMERSON HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize Coach Earl Smith, Jr. and the alumni of Gary Emerson High School. The Emerson All Class Reunion Gala will take place on September 2, 2023, at Chateau Banquets in Merrillville, Indiana. During this special event, Coach Smith will be honored for his lifetime of dedicated service by former students, athletes, colleagues, and friends.

Coach Earl Smith, Jr. was a true mentor, leader, teacher, and advisor for the Gary Community School Corporation for over 56 years. His lifelong career includes numerous positions, culminating with his retirement as City Athletic Director in 2013. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Smith coached track and field, football, golf, and basketball at Tolleston, Froebel, West Side, Emerson, and Lew Wallace high schools, and he holds the distinction of being the first African American head coach at Froebel, Emerson, and Lew Wallace. His basketball teams won five conference titles, three sectional titles, three regional titles, and twice advanced to the elite eight at the Indiana State Tournament. In addition, Coach Smith's 1977 Emerson basketball team won the Hall of Fame Classic Tournament, reaching the number one ranking in the state polls during that time.

For his outstanding career and his unwavering dedication to the Gary Community School Corporation and beyond, Coach Smith has received many accolades. He has been inducted into the Indiana Track and Field Hall of Fame, the Indiana Football Hall of Fame, and the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Coach Smith was also honored with the prestigious Ray Crowe Excellence in Leadership Award by the Indiana High School Athletic Association for his superior standards of sportsmanship, exceptional ethical conduct, and high moral character. His outstanding and unwavering commitment to the community of Gary and Northwest Indiana is worthy of our highest commendation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Coach Earl Smith, Jr. and in recognizing the alumni of Emerson High School. For his noteworthy career and his remarkable dedication to youth sports and education, Coach Smith is worthy of the highest praise, and he serves as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING DETECTIVE AGNES
WATSON FROM THE CITY OF RI-
ALTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Agnes Watson from the City of Rialto Police Department. Detective Watson was awarded the Rialto Police Department's Meritorious Service Award for her tenacious work to secure the release of a juvenile

who had been held hostage in New York City. This is the second highest recognition award a sworn member of the Rialto Police Department may receive.

On May 2, 2022, Detective Watson began following up on a missing juvenile report. Her instinct, initiative and discipline led her to believe the girl's disappearance was not voluntary. Her determination led her to take extraordinary steps to notify local agencies and coordinate with the New York Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to save this child's life and fly her back to Rialto to be reunited with her family on Mother's Day.

Detective Watson's actions made national news, bringing credit to herself and to the entire Rialto Police Department. This is just one example of the outstanding job performance, high degree of initiative and ability in an extremely critical situation that Detective Watson demonstrates on a daily basis. That's why I am proud to recognize her.

**HONORING AIR FORCE VETERANS
BARRY AND DORIS RICE**

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituents, U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Barry Rice from Jacksonville, Alabama, and U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Doris Kimery Rice, a native of Greeneville, Tennessee for their distinguished military and civil service. They both joined the Air Force at the end of the Vietnam War.

The couple met in technical school at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado in 1974. After technical school, they went to their respective assignments of Robins Air Force Base in Georgia and Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota. TSgt Rice served as an avionics specialist, repairing radio and communication equipment; while SrA Rice served as a supply troop where she processed materials for arrival and departure.

They were married in November 1974 and after assistance from U.S. Senator John Sparkman of Alabama, they attained a joint spouse assignment at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. They then served together at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. SrA Rice completed her four years of enlistment and rejoined the civilian sector. She later pursued a vocation in elementary education when her children became school age. The family was assigned to Eglin AFB, in Fort Walton Beach, Florida where they worked and served for 14 years. During this timeframe, TSgt Rice pulled a remote assignment to Keflavik NAS, Iceland, and Saudi Arabia during the First Gulf War.

After TSgt Rice's retirement from military service, he worked as a computer specialist for a publishing company in Murfreesboro, TN. During the Yugoslav Wars, the couple served as relief volunteers, where they aided refugees resettling in Nashville. TSgt Rice then decided to join the U.S. State Department Foreign Service. The Rice family lived in the Washington, D.C. area with assignments to the countries of Zambia, Cyprus, Israel, and Lesotho, where TSgt Rice worked for the dip-

lomatic corps, while SrA Rice volunteered at soup kitchens, unwed mothers' houses, crisis pregnancy centers, and local missions. They are now retired and continue to serve others in their hometown of Greeneville, Tennessee. Please join me in honoring TSgt and SrA Rice for their long careers of service to our Nation.

**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BEEF
MONTH**

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, as National Beef Month ends, I rise to recognize the enormous impact that the beef industry has on Colorado, our nation's economy, and our western way of life.

The American beef industry is the world's largest producer of beef and accounts for 21.7 percent of the world's total beef production. With 91.9 million heads of cattle and roughly 720,000 beef farms in the United States, the beef industry accounts for the largest share of total cash receipts among agricultural commodities and accounts for 35 percent of all U.S. farms.

This multi-billion-dollar industry employs hundreds of thousands of hard-working American men and women, most of whom work for family-owned, small businesses. With cattle raised in all 50 states, beef has grown to be the second most popular choice of meat in the United States and has contributed greatly to both domestic and international economies.

Often a great source of essential nutrients such as protein, zinc, iron and B vitamins, high-grade beef provides our bodies with the strength needed to thrive and grow throughout all stages of life. Lowering bad cholesterol, building muscle, and improving cognitive health are among the many benefits derived from a healthy, balanced diet that includes protein-rich animals such as beef. For years critics have unfairly alleged that the resources needed to sustain such an industry have done damage to our environment and raised greenhouse gas emissions, when in reality, the beef industry has undergone tremendous technological, genetic, and management reforms in an effort to preserve our environment. As ranchers who rely on healthy soil and good seasons for the well-being of their cattle, cattle ranchers have long placed environmental stewardship at the forefront of their operations.

Today, I show my appreciation for the hard-working men and women of the American beef industry who rise before the sun each day and work tirelessly to provide food to our nation. Working alongside their partners in the agricultural sector, the American beef industry has been a key contributor to our nation's fight against food insecurity and has provided much needed, nutrient-dense food for the world's population.

The beef industry is deeply ingrained in American culture and has been a valued economic partner in many communities across the United States and the world. Eastern Colorado, which I represent in the U.S. House of Representatives, has the ten most agriculture producing counties in Colorado, with 2.85 million heads of cattle valued at over \$2.8 billion. This ranks Colorado 10th in the United States

for total cattle and makes it the 4th largest exporter of beef in the United States.

These hardworking men and women deserve our gratitude. I am proud to honor their work during National Beef Month.

**HONORING THE CAREER OF NANCY
RISTER**

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I commend the exceptional career of Williamson County Clerk Nancy Rister as she celebrates her 25th anniversary of outstanding public service to Central Texas. Her contributions have made the members of her community's lives better and have helped make Texas a great place to live and work.

Nancy's resume is one to be admired and respected. It tells the story of a woman unafraid to contribute both her time and energies to the highest levels of public service as well as to a multitude of organizations that rely on volunteerism and social engagement to make good communities great.

She has done what all public servants are honored to do: put the needs of the people first. Implementing physical records to an online forum that's available for all citizens, decreasing turnaround time for deeds, and improving the organization and professionalism of the County Clerk's office, are just a few examples of the accomplishments that Nancy has achieved in her esteemed career. Over her quarter century in office, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that Williamson County residents receive the world-class public service they deserve.

Nancy's anniversary is a testament to her admirable career and a milestone in a life of service. I join her colleagues, friends, family, and the citizens of Williamson County in celebrating and honoring her 25 years of hard work and dedication.

**APPRECIATING MISS ELLE EKMAN
FOR HER SERVICE ON MY STAFF**

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in appreciation of Miss Elle Ekman for her service to the people of California's Eighth Congressional District as a member of my staff. Miss Ekman joined my office in December 2021, having previously served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps. Her critical firsthand experience and knowledge of the needs of our servicemembers made her a natural choice as Military Legislative Assistant in my office.

The role of the Military Legislative Assistant is critical to my work serving on the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee. From developing innovative legislation to identifying the most pressing concerns facing our military, Miss Ekman's work each day ensured that I was able to effectively represent the brave men and women who put their lives on the line for our country.