

far as D.C., a walk to freedom but not to equal citizenship. For generations, my family has been denied the rights other Americans take for granted. There are many other D.C. residents like me.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING DAVID AXELROD'S SERVICE AS DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor the decade of dedicated and distinguished service that David Axelrod has provided to the University of Chicago as the Director of its Institute of Politics (IOP). Ten years ago, Mr. Axelrod founded the IOP with a mission to inspire, challenge, and train young people to play an active role in American civic life. In Mr. Axelrod's tenure as Director, the IOP has been exceptional in delivering upon its mission through the development of the Pritzker Fellows Program that brings established practitioners to IOP to conduct weekly seminars with students; a Career Development program that places more than 250 students each year in public service internships; a Speaker Series program that brings prominent leaders to campus for large-scale public events; and a Civic Engagement program that provides pathways for students to activate their interest in public service.

Under Mr. Axelrod's energetic leadership, the IOP has become an integral part of the University of Chicago and raised the profile of both the university and region in the world of politics and public policy. As a nonpartisan institute, the IOP provides a space for thoughtful dialogue on contentious issues and has hosted leading academics, politicians, journalists, and activists from across the political spectrum. Yet, Mr. Axelrod's leadership is, perhaps, best illustrated by the countless students who have found candid guidance, thoughtful mentorship, and early career development opportunities at the IOP.

What Mr. Axelrod has accomplished is exactly what people living in Illinois and beyond have come to expect from him. Since graduating from the University of Chicago, Mr. Axelrod himself never stopped being an active participant in American civic life. He got the "bug" for public service after seeing John F. Kennedy give a speech near his childhood home in New York City. As a young journalist at the Chicago Tribune, Mr. Axelrod covered city and state politics. After meeting Barack Obama at the University of Chicago, Mr. Axelrod became the Chief Strategist for the future president's successful come-from-behind U.S. Senate Campaign and both of President Obama's stellar presidential campaigns. As Senior Advisor to President Obama, Mr. Axelrod helped the President respond successfully to the 2008 financial crisis and usher through Congress the groundbreaking Affordable Care Act. It is not an exaggeration to say that Mr. Axelrod is one of the greatest political strategists of our time. Mr. Axelrod has utilized his vast experience and knowledge to develop

the next generation of political leaders and public servants through the IOP, and his groundbreaking career serves as a guiding inspiration to the students and alumni of the university.

While Mr. Axelrod's leadership will be missed, the IOP has selected a new director who also embodies the kind of dedicated public service the organization instills in students. Former U.S. Senator and incoming IOP Director Heidi Heitkamp's years in state and national politics will certainly add to the intellectual richness of the organization and build upon the foundations established by Mr. Axelrod. Mr. Speaker, I extend immense gratitude to Mr. Axelrod for his esteemed service and look forward to his legacy being carried forward by the rising leaders he has supported and inspired.

RECOGNIZING DENISE ROY-PALMER'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Denise Roy-Palmer and her outstanding contributions over 25 years to the Wentworth Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO). Since 1996, Denise has been a tireless advocate on behalf of local businesses in the Eastern Lakes Region, where her efforts over a quarter century have turned Strafford and Carroll Counties into lively commercial hubs for locals and tourists alike. With a lifelong passion for giving back to her community, Denise embodies the value of service above self and has established WEDCO as a powerful economic driver for the region.

Since 1996, Denise has made it her mission to provide small businesses with the planning and resources necessary to succeed in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Her efforts have seen over 800 jobs created during her tenure, along with the distribution of over 113 loans totaling \$7,114,501 in direct lending which leveraged an additional \$35,473,001 in funding.

Despite her prolonged involvement with WEDCO, Denise will also be remembered for her steadfast commitment to a variety of local community initiatives, including the NH Alliance of Regional Development Corporations, the NH Economic Developers Association, Eastern Lakes Region Housing Coalition, the Wolfeboro & Farmington Economic Development Committees, Hugging Hospital Community Committee, and the advisory board for Makers Mill. Denise's indelible impact on these organizations will benefit Granite Staters for decades to come and ensure that New Hampshire businesses have the tools and guidance necessary to succeed in the 21st century.

I would again like to recognize Denise's 25 years of service and thank her on behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District for her commitment to ensuring that our state remains competitive and business friendly. I wish her all the best in retirement and look forward to seeing what her next chapter has in store.

CELEBRATING MRS. IRIS DARCINE BOWIE (ANDREW) THOMAS'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Mrs. Thomas's 90th birthday, which is on January 7th. Mrs. Iris Darcine Bowie (Andrew) Thomas R.N., was born on January 7, 1933, and grew up in Yellowpine, Texas. She graduated from Texas College where she was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Tau Chapter in 1951. With a heart and calling for a career in nursing, she attended Provident School of Nursing, Chicago, IL. She then met a young medical student, Dr. Andrew L. Thomas, and they married on June 12, 1960. They spent their honeymoon in Ghana studying tropical diseases, and later traveled to the People's Republic of China, Syria, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia to champion the cause of providing quality medical services to all people. Always concerned about access to care, Dr. Thomas launched Project Seventy-Five in 1966, a national effort to maintain and increase the number of minority students in the healthcare field.

Mrs. Thomas was also the first Black supervisor in nursing education at Michael Reese Hospital. Later, she was a teacher at the In Service Education Department at La Rabida Children's Hospital for the chronically ill, where she earned the Outstanding Nurse of the Year award. She retired from John Stroger (formerly Cook County) Hospital as Nurse Coordinator at the Referral Center in 2009.

She is the mother of 2 children, Mrs. Darcine Adelia (Howard) March, Beverly Hills, CA, and Dr. André L'ouverture (Pamela) Thomas, Orthopedic Surgeon, Del Rio, TX. And the grandmother of 5: Andrew L. Thomas, II, D.D.S. Howard University College of Dentistry anticipated in 2024, Maiah Lynette Thomas, 2022 graduate, Howard University, Chloe Thomas, Sophomore Howard University, Lalia Thomas and Gabriel March.

We have shared a fence for more than 50 years and Mrs. Thomas is the greatest neighbor I could have. On behalf of the First Congressional District of Illinois, it is my honor and privilege to recognize Mrs. Thomas on her 90th birthday and I wish her continued health and happiness.

CELEBRATING THE UNITED STATES SEPAK TAKRAW TEAM VICTORY AT THE 2022 ISTAF WORLD CUP

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the United States Sepak Takraw Team on winning gold medals at the 2022 International Sepaktakraw Federation (ISTAF) World Cup in Daejeon, South Korea. The team overcame many challenges and exceeded expectations when they won gold in Division 1 of the 3x3 and 4x4 tournaments.

The 2022 ISTAF World Cup hosted 13 participating countries and was held from November 25–29, 2022 after originally being scheduled for 2019 but delayed due to the COVID–19 pandemic. The United States team is coached by Jeremy Nathan Mirken, and was made up of 6 athletes of Hmong, Karen and Karenni descent: Ker Cha; Christ Blu Moo; Oo Reh; Jim Thao; John Thao and Yan Naing Soe. The team hails from 6 states across the country, and includes athletes from Saint Paul, Minnesota in the Fourth Congressional District.

Sepak Takraw also known as ‘Kick Volleyball’, is a team sport originated in Malaysia and commonly played with 2 or 4 players on a court similar to a badminton court. A popular sport in Southeast Asian countries, Sepak Takraw has slowly spread around the world and has gained popularity in Minnesota where we are proud to have a large Hmong and Karen community. The main objective of the game is to kick the ball to the other side of the net within the boundary of the opponent’s team, similar to volleyball, but players are only allowed to use their feet, knees, shoulders, chest or head to get the ball over the net. Game play is described in the very name of the sport—sepak is Malay for “kick” while takraw is Thai for “woven rattan ball” which is the type of ball used in the game.

United States team manager, Gao Chang, released a statement following the team’s victory where he stated his hopes that the continued success of Team USA would inspire younger generations of Sepak Takraw players. While today I celebrate the athletes that brought home victory for the United States in 2022, I share in the same hope that younger generations will continue to participate in this unique sport and represent the United States into the future. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the victory of the United States Sepak Takraw Team.

**HONORING PRIOR LAKE POLICE
CHIEF STEVE FRAZER**

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2023

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Prior Lake Police Chief Steve Frazer and his 34 years of public service and congratulate him on his retirement. Chief Frazer’s dedication to public safety and community service has been vital to Minnesota’s Second Congressional District. His law enforcement record spans decades and multiple departments including the St. Paul Police Department, Roseville Police Department, Ramsey County Sheriffs Office, and Prior Lake Police Department.

Chief Frazer retired after three and a half years as the Prior Lake Police Chief. He oversaw a plan to bring the department to full

staffing levels and increase officer morale. Chief Frazer also formalized officer training with a focus on de-escalation. It is an honor to have worked with Chief Frazer and I wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING PASTOR FRED WOLFE

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2023

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the massive impact Brother Fred Wolfe had not only on the City of Mobile, but the thousands of individuals across the country who had the opportunity to meet him and spend time with him. Brother Fred was more than a pastor to me. He was my friend, my mentor, and my spiritual guidance for decades.

Brother Fred had so many wise sayings, and I’ll always remember him telling me, “You went through what you went through, and people need to know that, so they know they can get past it too.” These words remind us that we all have a story to tell, and our stories matter.

God called Brother Fred to ministry during his study at the University of South Carolina. He went to work immediately, spending many of his days serving in small churches surrounding the university. Brother Fred went on to complete his Master of Divinity at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and later received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from what would become the University of Mobile.

Brother Fred’s pastoral career took him to numerous church establishments across the country, from his native South Carolina, to North Carolina, Texas, Georgia, and finally Alabama. He eventually settled in Mobile as pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church. Under the guidance of his 25 years there, the church saw attendance grow by thousands of members, and welcomed 5,500 baptisms.

Brother Fred’s ministry left a legacy of faithful service to his community. While we deeply mourn his passing, we have no doubt he heard “well done, my good and faithful servant” when he met the Lord face to face. His service and love did not disappear when he took his final breath on earth. It is the priceless gift he gave all of us to sustain us until we meet again.

**RECOGNIZING THE LOUDOUN
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2023

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Loudoun County Chamber of

Commerce on achieving 5-Star Accreditation status from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Incorporated on December 18, 1968, the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce has become the largest and most effective Chamber in Northern Virginia, with more than 1,000 members forming the premier network of business and community leaders in the nation’s most economically vibrant county.

The Loudoun Chamber’s diverse membership includes businesses, nonprofits and public-sector partners of every size and industry, and includes visionary entrepreneurs and leaders who are dedicated to making Loudoun a world-class community to live, work, and grow a business.

The Loudoun Chamber is an effective advocate for and partner with Loudoun’s Department of Economic Development and Visit Loudoun, a partnership that has earned local, national and international recognition, the latter for their collaboration on the “Loudoun Is Ready” COVID response campaign.

The Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE)—the nation’s leading association for Chamber industry executives—named the Loudoun County Chamber one of 4 finalists for Chamber of the Year in 2021, recognizing Loudoun’s Chamber for its performance and community impact.

Loudoun Chamber President & CEO Tony Howard has earned highly valued industry certifications from the U.S. Chamber’s Institute for Organizational Management (IOM) and ACCE’s Certified Chamber Executive (CCE), the Chamber industry’s top recognition for professional excellence.

Howard was also named Virginia’s Chamber Executive of the Year in 2015, by the Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (VACCE).

In recognition of the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce’s many years of industry leading programs, business advocacy and community impact, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce awarded the Loudoun Chamber 5-Star Accreditation.

This 5-Star Accreditation is the U.S. Chamber’s highest endorsement for a local Chamber’s performance. This places the Loudoun Chamber amongst the top 2 percent the 7,000 Chambers nationwide for the quality of its programs, policies and impact on the community.

U.S. Chamber’s Accreditation Program establishes standards for operational excellence and recognizes Chambers that achieve “best in class performance” in areas such as governance policies, financial controls, communications, public policy and programming. This extensive review took 6 months to complete. “To earn our industry’s highest distinction is reflective of the Loudoun Chamber’s staffs and leadership’s commitment to excellence in all your organization does to serve your community,” said U.S. Chamber Vice President Raymond P. Towle.