

HONORING DR. ELLEN JUNN

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great admiration and respect to honor Dr. Ellen Junn, the esteemed President of Stanislaus State. Dr. Junn's unwavering commitment to excellence in education and her outstanding leadership have had a profound impact on the university community, its students, and California's Central Valley.

Throughout her tenure, Dr. Junn has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the transformative power of education. Under her guidance, Stanislaus State has flourished, reaching new heights in academic achievement, student success, and community engagement. Her vision and dedication have paved the way for innovative programs and initiatives that have enriched the educational experience for students and provided them with the tools to succeed in the modern world.

Dr. Junn's commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive campus environment is truly commendable. She has championed access to quality education for all, ensuring that every student has an equal opportunity to thrive. By prioritizing the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students, faculty, and staff, she has created a campus that celebrates the unique perspectives and experiences that each individual brings to the table.

Under Dr. Junn's leadership, Stanislaus State has forged strong partnerships with local industries, government agencies, and community organizations. By fostering these collaborations, she has created numerous opportunities for students to gain real-world experience and develop the skills needed to excel in their chosen fields. This commitment to experiential learning has not only enhanced the educational experience but has also strengthened the university's ties to the community it serves.

Dr. Junn's impact extends far beyond the walls of Stanislaus State. She has been an influential voice in higher education, advocating for policies and initiatives that benefit all students and institutions. Her leadership has been recognized and respected at the state and national levels, further solidifying Stanislaus State's reputation as a force for positive change in the education landscape.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Dr. Junn is known for her compassion, approachability, and dedication to the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. She leads by example, embodying the values of integrity, resilience, and empathy. Her genuine concern for the success and happiness of those around her has created a vibrant and supportive campus community.

As we honor Dr. Ellen Junn, we express our gratitude for her transformative leadership, unwavering dedication, and remarkable achievements. Her vision and passion have made a lasting impact on Stanislaus State and the lives of countless individuals who have had the privilege of being a part of this remarkable institution. We wish her continued success in her future endeavors, knowing that her legacy will continue to inspire and shape the future of education.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EVELYN
DIXON WILLIAMS**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to recognize the remarkable life of Evelyn Dixon Williams, who sadly left us at 107 years old.

As a woman of faith, Evelyn Williams was a leader and lifelong member of New Jerusalem First Missionary Baptist Church where she served as a Deaconess and Sunday School teacher. Mrs. Williams was a compassionate and generous person, regularly visiting home-bound and nursing home residents in the Dania/Liberia community; sharing food, gifts and spiritual encouragement.

Mrs. Williams was active in community organizations such as the Broward Civic Improvement Association, which focused on improved housing and roadways, black business and employment opportunities, and equity in public accommodations. She served in the Order of the Eastern Star—devoted to religious, charitable and educational work. An ardent supporter of education, Mrs. Williams financially assisted area youth in pursuing their higher education and professional goals. She and her husband Alonzo were business owners with rental property and gas stations including a station in Dania.

The Broward County Historical Society and the City of Dania Beach have recognized Mrs. Williams for her many years of community service and activism, which included registering voters and serving as a dedicated elections poll worker for more than 50 years.

Truly an inspiration, Mrs. Williams is remembered for her quiet dignity, kind and generous spirit, and legacy of service to family, church and community. My heart is with her family in mourning the loss of this kind, generous, and compassionate soul. We were forever privileged to have shared this time with her. May her memory be for a blessing.

**HONORING HELEN O'CONNOR AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR ASIAN
AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH**

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Helen O'Connor as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Daughters of South-Asian mothers know the pressure for perfection, the grind toward pleasing others, especially mom. Helen's family expected her to follow traditional Filipino ways—for the daughter to stay in her parents' home and take care of them until their passing. Facing potential shame, Helen left. She knew her gifts existed for her community and not for mom alone.

Within an international English school and Valencia College, Helen O'Connor has collaborated with professors, exploring ways to

improve instructional approaches and reflect on unknowingly harmful practices. She actively seeks inclusive approaches to hiring and designs and builds new standard operating procedures that remove overlooked barriers to student success. Helen championed this in PERT outreach programs, emphasizing the necessity for learner-centered activities. This engaged students who had not met qualifying scores in reading or writing and led to 84 percent of attendees making qualifying writing scores and the majority making qualifying reading scores.

Her ripples in the community go beyond Central Florida. Helen joined Writing Center leaders, introducing strategies to incorporate Linguistic Justice with Writing Center directors internationally. She also influenced ways to better center agency to their tutors and students' voices alike. Through her ideas, Helen brings consistency and structure. She normalizes compassion and vulnerability by inviting others to be their authentic selves in the workplace.

By encouraging healing spaces and embracing the complexity of intersectional identities, Helen spreads compassion while building her own path. She didn't stay in her mother's home but brought her mom to hers. She learned the constant pressure and ridicule her mother faced and the struggle between loving one's culture and being shamed because of it. This duality drives Helen, and she works without rest to ensure others can find clarity in their own identity, and above all, their voices.

**HONORING THE FEARLESSNESS,
PERSEVERANCE AND LEGACY OF
JAMES "JIMMIE" MATTERN**

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of James "Jimmie" Mattern.

Jimmie was born in Freeport, Illinois on March 8, 1905. From an early age, he was fascinated with mankind's newfound ability to take to the skies. His fascination quickly turned to passion, and in 1926, he embarked on his first solo flight. Jimmie spent the next several years as a pilot for cargo, passenger, and stunt planes, before changing course and setting his ambitions on breaking world records.

In June of 1933, less than a year after an attempt at a tandem world speed record that ended with a crash landing in Belarus and a brief imprisonment in a Soviet prison, Jimmie set out from Floyd Bennett Field in New York to complete the first-ever solo flight around the world. Unfortunately, Jimmie once again crash landed in the USSR and had to navigate the frozen wilderness of Siberia before being rescued by nomadic fur traders. This year marks the 90th anniversary of Jimmie's historic solo flight.

Following his awe-inspiring escapades, Jimmie became an international celebrity, spending the next several years touring the world recounting the epic true tales of his adventures.

Jimmie's courageous attempt to challenge the limits of human capabilities inspired a generation of American aviators to reach for new

heights. Quoting astronaut Wally Schirra, Ronald Reagan remarked in a tribute upon Jimmie's death, "We stood on your shoulders to reach the stars." Astronaut Neil Armstrong held similar admiration toward Jimmie, bringing both Jimmie's watch and license into space with him.

During WWII, a patriotic Jimmie Mattern served as the engineering test pilot for the famed Lockheed P-38 fighter jet and invented the "piggy-back" method of training pilots in the single pilot plane, ensuring American aviators were well-prepared to handle the complex and cutting-edge aircraft.

As a result of his remarkable career and impact, Jimmie received numerous honors and awards throughout his life, including being welcomed into the Oval Office by 4 United States Presidents. He also received the Navy League Award and was awarded a one-of-a-kind United States Air Force citation for his work teaching young pilots.

Today, Jimmie's legacy lives on through his 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. His daring attempt to circumnavigate the globe, along with his many other contributions to American aviation, has inspired generations of young aviators to follow in his footsteps. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the life and contributions of James "Jimmie" Mattern.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT DR. LAURIE
NICHOLS

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Laurie Nichols on her retirement. Dr. Nichols is retiring from her current position as President of the Black Hills State University, where she says the highlight of her role was returning to the same region where she began her career nearly 40 years earlier.

Dr. Nichols has also served the education community as President of the University of Wyoming and held leadership roles at South Dakota State University and Northern State University.

During her term as President of Black Hills State University, she expanded the Rapid City campus, strengthened partnerships with the nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base, and continued to build on the academic partnerships with American Indian University of North America.

I am proud to recognize her accomplishments throughout her career and service to her community in South Dakota.

HONORING TOM LIN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023 I recognized Tom Lin as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Tom's family origins are from the Tai Po and Yuen Long districts of Kowloon in Hong Kong, China. His father was a scientist in the U.S. government who helped direct him to a career path. Tom's academic studies included police science, criminology, and psychology. Tom is married to his wife Paula and has four children.

Tom started in the U.S. government in 1978 working at the FBI in Washington, D.C. He eventually transitioned to law enforcement in 1982 at the Alexandria City Police Department, where stigmatism towards Asians still continued in society. Tom left Virginia and the D.C. area in 1988 and was hired at the Orange County Sheriff's Office, where he presently works.

With over 40 years in law enforcement, his work experience has included general police duties and court appearances. He also worked in vessel handling to include airboats in the Marine unit. Tom was a master diver on a dive/recovery unit, an aviation flight officer, and a fugitive/warrant agent. He also worked in vehicular and economics investigations. Tom's last assignment was a school resource officer for five years and was certified in crisis intervention and firearms instructing.

In 2022, at the direction of Sheriff John Mina, the inception of the OCSO Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Liaison Group came to fruition. Tom accepted a team leader role which continues to this day, with visions of building a stronger relationship between law enforcement and the AAPI community. His success has always been predicated on the strong leadership ranks of the AAPI community that he serves, striving to recognize the growing AAPI community and safety needs. In Orlando/Orange County, Florida the AAPI community numbers around 6 percent of the 1.4 million population, with the state of Florida at 2 percent of 21 million and rising. The outreach and networking through public events had been invaluable.

Tom has been affiliated and member of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce for 15 years and currently serving on the Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 term. He has worked in conjunction with the Orange County Mayor's Office's Orange County Asian Committee, among various other AAPI organizations, to promote further expansion of business networking initiatives and resources which better resonate with the community. Tom looks forward to being a continued resource for AAPI community members in Orange County and Central Florida.

HONORING MS. DEBBIE WARREN AS MOORE COUNTY SCHOOLS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Debbie Warren as the Moore County Schools Principal of the Year.

Ms. Warren is an experienced educator who has devoted her career to fostering excellence in education for the youth in our community. She began her impressive 36-year tenure with Moore County Schools as an exceptional children teacher at Robbins, Westmoore, and Pinehurst elementary schools. She has since served as assistant principal at Southern Pines Elementary School, Pincrest High School, and West Pine Middle School and as a principal at Aberdeen Elementary School and Southern Middle School prior to her position as principal at Carthage Elementary School. In addition to this prestigious award, Ms. Warren was previously recognized as the Pinehurst Elementary School Teacher of the Year as well as the school district's Exceptional Children Teacher of the Year on account of her outstanding service and leadership.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Warren has made a significant impact on our community both as a teacher and an academic administrator. Carthage Elementary School and other schools throughout the district are better today because of her passion, hard work, and dedicated leadership which set an example for all to follow. It is imperative that we acknowledge those who continue to assume the high calling of serving in North Carolina's public schools. As the son of a retired schoolteacher, I have seen the tireless work that these individuals put into developing our youth for a successful future. I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation for her dedicated service and wish her the best as she continues to lead and inspire those in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring and congratulating Ms. Debbie Warren for being named Moore County Schools Principal of the Year.

CONGRATULATING JEWEL WICKS OF INVERNESS, MONTANA FOR HER COMMISSION AS AN ENSIGN IN THE U.S. NAVY

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, each year, countless Montanans answer the call to service and join the ranks of our military. Nearly ten percent of Montanans are veterans, and the Treasure State has a long tradition of protecting our country.

Even in the small towns that dot Montana's Hi-Line, there is no shortage of servicemembers eager to defend our nation. Today I'm proud to announce that my good friend Jewel Wicks of Inverness, Montana is carrying on this tradition and has just been commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy.