

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.

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

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**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.

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

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**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.

Jewel graduated from North Star Highschool in neighboring Rudyard before attending the University of Montana in Missoula. After graduating Cum Laude with a major in Psychology and a double minor in International Relations and Global Public Health, Jewel began to consider a career in public service. Jewel's impressive background could launch her into plenty of interesting opportunities, and I'm pleased that she decided on an exciting career with the U.S. Navy and joined their Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.

Jewel made all of Montana proud this spring, graduating with honors and earning her first commission as an ensign. Jewel's impressive career is a testament to herself, her family, and the entire state of Montana. I will follow her naval career with great interest as she pursues this thrilling new chapter of her life. I want to thank Jewel for her service to this country and it is my privilege to recognize her amazing accomplishments in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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RECOGNIZING DR. JEFFREY RAFN

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of retiring Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

(NWTC) President, Dr. Jeffrey Rafn. An exemplary member of the Northeast Wisconsin community who has had an incredible impact on higher education.

Dr. Rafn has held many roles during his 42-year career in education and is now retiring from his 26-year role as the president of NWTC. After earning his Ph.D. in sociology from Boston University, Dr. Rafn served as an educator and administrator throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Dr. Rafn set an incredible bar as an educator and administrator, eventually becoming the State Commissioner of the New Hampshire Community Technical College System before moving to Northeast Wisconsin in 1997 to begin his career at NWTC.

Dr. Rafn's time at NWTC has resulted in many major accomplishments from passing a \$46.6 million building referendum in 2001 to a \$66.5 million building referendum in 2015. During his career, NWTC also became the first college in Wisconsin to utilize e-textbooks and saw significant expansion by creating campus locations beyond just the original Green Bay campus—in Sturgeon Bay and Vlarinette. Dr. Rafn is an innovative leader who spearheaded meaningful advancements that drastically improved the NWTC learning experience for all students.

During his 26 years at NWTC, Dr. Rafn was an inspirational leader who garnered an impressive list of accomplishments and led the institution to new heights. Under Dr. Rafn's leadership, NWTC was recognized by Community College Weekly in 2003 as the fastest

growing large community college in the nation and more recently, in 2021 was recognized as a Leader College of Distinction by Achieving the Dream. Dr. Rafn won the Wisconsin Technical College System Eagle Management Award in 2019 and won the Lifetime Achievement Award from Vistage in the same year. Dr. Rafn's accomplishments throughout his career did not go unnoticed and his lengthy list of awards is demonstrative of that fact. I commend Dr. Rafn for his dedication and commitment to NWTC and to Northeast Wisconsin.

Outside of his responsibilities as president of NWTC, Dr. Rafn has been an active member of the community and has been committed to advancing education in all ways possible. He currently serves or has served on several commissions and boards such as: the Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis Council at UW Madison, the Brown County United Way Board of Directors, the Advisory Board of Community College Research Council at Teachers College at Columbia University, the Executive Committee on Advance Business Development, and many more. Dr. Rafn has truly applied his leadership skills and utilized his profound experience to better his community and higher education.

Dr. Rafn served close to 1 million students and created a legacy that will be admired by educators for years to come. Dr. Rafn's presence as President of NWTC will be missed and his distinguished career deserves the highest degree of recognition. I wish him and his family all the best in retirement.