

names, which span from the Spanish-American War to present day, are organized by conflict, but are intentionally out of alphabetical order to evoke the chaos of war. As long as war is a reality, the lives and names of Coloradans will continue to be added to the memorial to honor the ultimate sacrifice they made in service to our Nation.

In the ten years since the memorial was dedicated, thousands have come to visit, pay their respects, and remember those who served. The Colorado Freedom Memorial is not only a solemn space for memorial services and ceremonies but is a place of grief and healing for families that never had a cemetery to visit the loved ones they lost.

I commend the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation and its volunteers for their ongoing effort to ensure that no Coloradan is forgotten.

CELEBRATING GWINNETT FLAG
DAY 2023

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to commemorate Flag Day 2023. Adopted by resolution of the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, this day celebrates the adoption of the flag of the United States. On the morning of Saturday, June 10th, proud citizens of Lawrenceville and the greater Gwinnett County community will gather at VFW Post 5255 to celebrate Gwinnett County Flag Day 2023.

Since the battle at Brandywine in 1777, the stars and stripes have flown over historic moments in the great American experiment, bearing witness to events such as the bombardment of Fort MCHenry and flying over Ground Zero on September 11th. To citizens of the world, this flag is a symbol of the highest ideals this Nation represents and the promise of untold opportunity. Under this flag, Americans of all colors and creeds have laid down their lives in the struggle against tyranny, the fight against fascism, and the defense against those who would betray the values upon which this Nation was founded.

In the great conflicts of history, it is the American flag that flew above Lexington & Concord. It is the American flag that survived the horrors of Gettysburg. It is the American flag that our Marines raised over Iwo Jima. And, it is the American flag that continues to represent the world's oldest Democracy, that symbolizes the sacrifice of millions of American servicemembers. We must diligently do our part to ensure that we honor their sacrifice by continuing to advance those ideals of freedom, justice, and liberty which the flag represents—ideals which must endure long after we are gone.

Therefore, I call on all residents of Georgia's Seventh Congressional District to observe Flag Day in accordance with the rich traditions that have been established through the years. May our flag continue to wave over this great Nation for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO OWEN BAILY, AN
ENVIRONMENTAL HERO

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memoriam of Owen Bailey. Executive Director of the Environmental Defense Center (EDC), who was a constituent of mine and a champion of our natural environment.

Owen was a compassionate leader of the EDC for over nine years and made an impact on everyone he came in contact with. His relentless passion and determination to tell EDC's story was unmatched and his vision and inspiration made an immense contribution to the strength of the organization.

His love for the environment originated while he was growing up in rural Connecticut, surrounded by a recovering forest with awakening wildlife. He attended the local university, University of Connecticut, where he met his wife, Laurie.

After traveling extensively, the two settled in Los Angeles, where Owen's enthusiasm for the environment turned to advocacy. He started volunteering for the Sierra Club, which quickly evolved into a paid position due to his unique ability to rally people around a cause by telling a story. His work with the Sierra Club culminated with his service in the position of Southwest Advancement Director.

In that position, he worked along the California Central Coast to protect the Oceano Dunes and to preserve the Hearst Ranch. He also worked tirelessly to stop the BHP Billiton liquefied natural gas proposal offshore Oxnard, California. His ability to communicate the threat of these projects to the community caught EDC's attention and a partnership was launched.

Owen's work ethic and humble communication style led EDC to offer him the Executive Director position which he took in 2013.

His work at EDC was critical in giving voice to the concerns and outrage of our community following the 2015 Plains All American Pipeline oil spill at Refugio Beach. He also helped lead the successful 2016 effort to oppose the Phillips 66 proposed rail spur that would have routed oil trains through Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Owen's integrity was unassailable, as his character was above reproach. When Owen spoke, everyone would listen as they knew he spoke the truth. Two of Owen's greatest gifts he has left us are his son Ben and daughter Nicola. Owen's joy and love for his family was always evident and his delight for them was unmistakable.

Although Owen left us too soon, he made an indelible mark on our community through his work and his commitment to many causes. I am honored to have known Owen, who was a testament that through courage and graciousness, you can be effective in achieving positive change.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring Owen Bailey, an exceptional individual and environmental hero from California's 24th Congressional District for his exemplary service to his community.

RECOGNIZING CLIVE FIRE CHIEF
RICK ROE FOR HIS 34 YEARS OF
SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO
THE PEOPLE OF CLIVE, IOWA

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable individual who has dedicated years of service to our community. Fire Chief Rick Roe will retire today after more than 34 years of service to the Clive area.

Throughout history, heroes have emerged from all walks of life, ordinary people who rise to the occasion when the extraordinary is demanded of them. Chief Roe exemplifies the spirit of those heroes. His leadership and steadfast dedication to public service have undoubtedly impacted the lives of countless individuals, both within the Clive Fire Department and the broader community he has faithfully served.

Firefighters are the epitome of selflessness, rushing into danger when others are fleeing from it, putting their own lives at risk to protect others. They are the guardian angels who provide solace amid chaos and bring hope to those facing unimaginable loss. Chief Roe has embodied these qualities with unmatched grace and resilience, inspiring all who have had the privilege to work alongside him.

Under his guidance, the Clive Fire Department has grown stronger, more efficient, and better equipped to face the challenges of a rapidly changing world. His ability to lead with compassion, intelligence, and integrity has raised the bar for excellence and fostered a sense of camaraderie and unity within the department, ensuring that every firefighter feels valued and supported.

His efforts to prioritize training, modernize equipment, and implement innovative strategies have enhanced the safety of our community, allowing the Clive community to face the most formidable emergencies with confidence and preparedness. Moreover, his commitment to outreach and education has empowered our citizens with the knowledge needed to prevent fires and respond effectively in times of crisis.

I offer Chief Roe my deepest gratitude for his years of service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication. His impact will continue to shape the future of our fire department for generations to come. I thank him for an extraordinary career marked by courage, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to the betterment of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, because of an extended flight delay which disrupted by travel back to Washington, DC on Monday, June 5, 2023, I was unable to attend the legislative session. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 246, and YEA on Roll Call No. 245.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NILS BENTSEN FOR HIS RETIREMENT FROM CITY MANAGER OF HESPERIA

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Nils Bentsen, as he retires from his position as City Manager of Hesperia after seven and a half years of service. Nils is the first Hesperia City Manager who is a native of Hesperia themselves and is a valuable member of California's 23rd district.

Nils attended and graduated from Hesperia Christian School and is a proud alumni of Victor Valley College. He was appointed as City Manager in 2015. Prior to his appointment by the City Council, he served as a Captain with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, with a career spanning over 27 years. Nils is also a veteran of the United States Navy, where he served his country for 5 years.

Nils life-long commitment to public safety has been driven by his passion for public service. He has been a city manager that leads by example and is committed to working with the community for the betterment of Hesperia and its residents. I wish Nils, his wife Paulette, and his 4 children all the best as he enters this next stage of life in the Mohave River Valley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal matter, I was not in Washington, D.C. on June 5, 2023, and as a result, missed two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 245, and YEA on Roll Call No. 246.

HONORING INAUGURAL CLASS OF DHS ICDF PROGRAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the inaugural class of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s Intelligence and Cybersecurity Diversity Fellowship (ICDF) Program. The ICDF program, authorized in the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, is targeted at helping DHS cultivate diverse talent to join the ranks of its intelligence and cybersecurity offices and components, including the Office of Intelligence and Analysis and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

The spring class of 2023 includes 15 fellows who represent over 10 States and territories, and universities small and large, including a minority-serving institution. I am proud to recognize these talented, future public servants and am confident that the country will become a better and safer nation because of their contributions.

Congratulations: Christine Atkins, Miriam Canales, Alexander Clark, Reyben Cortes, MacKenzie Finck, Chanel Hinton, Ethan Hwang, Nathan Kuruvilla, Veronika Kyles, Christian Lopez, Mya Miller, Denzel Montes-Melendez, Erin Sullivan, Baine Tanner, and Regina Thomas.

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 IOWA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Krystal Colbert who was selected as the 2023 Iowa Teacher of the Year.

Currently, a second-grade teacher at Mitchellville Elementary School, Krystal has 16 years of successful teaching experience, 14 of those years devoted to the Southeast Polk School District. Krystal embodies what it means to be a life-long learner and educator. She is a model teacher in the classroom and serves as a mentor for aspiring educators.

Krystal continues to put her students first by prioritizing collaboration and problem solving in her classroom. These skills undoubtedly set her students up for bright, successful futures.

I could not be prouder of Krystal, the work she has done, and the influence she will continue to have on students and educators alike. She has undoubtedly shaped the next generation of Iowans and serves as a beacon of light in the classroom and beyond.

I congratulate Krystal and thank her for exemplifying the power of education and support through her work.

RECOGNIZING SALLY CHEN FOR OVER TWO YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of Sally Chen, a remarkable staffer and integral part of the New Democrat Coalition.

Sally is transitioning from Capitol Hill this month to the White House, concluding over two years of exemplary service to our Coalition. Serving during my tenure as New Dem Chair and that of current Chair ANNIE KUSTER, Sally leaves behind a legacy that will undoubtedly make our Coalition stronger for years to come.

Sally's dedication to the New Dems was not merely a professional commitment, but a personal mission to drive meaningful change and progress for our nation. Sally was instrumental in our Coalition's efforts—from strengthening our economy and supporting working families to protecting our fundamental freedoms and defending our democracy. Without the dedication of committed public servants like Sally, we could not have accomplished nearly as much as we did and have.

More important than her daily work, Sally has been a kind colleague to all who had the

pleasure of working with her during her time on the Hill. Her presence at the New Democrat Coalition will be sorely missed as she moves into her new role. While I'm sad to see Sally go, I wish her the very best of luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LATE WILLIAM V. MEYERS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on September 24, 2022, we lost my dear friend, William "Bill" Meyers: a principled attorney; a proud alumnus of Suitland High School, the University of Maryland, and Georgetown University Law Center; and a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. We will always mourn his loss and miss his wit, candor, and conviction. But we will also continue to honor Bill's memory and to give thanks for the many ways he touched our lives and improved our community. In that spirit, I ask that all my colleagues join me in honoring Bill and in praying for his wife Karen, his 4 children, his 6 grandchildren, and his great-granddaughter. I also want to pay tribute to Bill by including in the RECORD the prepared remarks I delivered at Bill's memorial service.

REMARKS FOR WILLIAM V. MEYER'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer—October 5, 2022

Today, as we mourn the loss of our dear friend, Bill, I understand some of the same feelings that Thomas Jefferson wrestled with after parting with a friend when he left France in 1786.

In a letter to that friend, he mused that upon first glance, one might see friendship as a burden. After all, we volunteer to participate in our friends' pains, to devote our time and energy to caring for them, and to suffer immense grief when we eventually lose them.

Ultimately, however, he realized that these duties were not burdens but benefits, as we receive our friends' care, attention, and company in return. Indeed, Jefferson concluded: "friendship is precious, not only in the shade, but in the sunshine of life."

Today, we reflect on all that we gained from our bond with Bill throughout the shadows and sunshine of our own lives.

Over the sixty-seven years of our friendship, I came to admire Bill's abilities: his character and his talent as a lawyer, his charisma as lead drummer of Maryland's marching band, and of course, his penchant for pushups. Bill of course had other critically important traits that I admired and that made him the principled individual that he was.

The first was his loyalty. Above all else, Bill was a family man. He displayed deep devotion to his wife and life partner, Karen, and to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild, all of whom he loved greatly and without reservation.

His loyalty was not limited to his family. Whether at Suitland High School, the University of Maryland, or Georgetown Law School, and throughout my life, I always knew that I had Bill in my corner. No matter the milestone, I knew Bill would always be there to both celebrate and grieve with me.