

pick up their kids from school, accomplish work tasks, or anything else they need to take care of in a busy week. It was clear to the Rotary Club of Golden that they care deeply about their customer experience—providing enthusiastic service and connecting with each customer and their dog. Additionally, they treat their employees with that same care and respect, helping to build a cohesive and passionate team.

It is my honor to congratulate Hike Doggie, Inc. on achieving the Ethics in Business award and to thank them for the excellent service they provide to our community.

HONORING MELINDA M.  
MENDELSON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Melinda M. Mendelson for her dedication to serving the community of Napa County.

In 2006, Ms. Mendelson organized the Napa County community to address the lack of access to affordable health insurance and healthcare for children. Her enthusiasm for healthcare accessibility led to the establishment of the Community Health Initiative, formerly known as the Children's Health Initiative, which is a coordinated outreach and retention effort designated to improve families' participation in health coverage programs. Eighteen years and 28,000 Californians later, Community Health Initiative continues to navigate affordable health insurance and benefits in Napa, Solano, Santa Clara, and Los Angeles Counties.

Ms. Mendelson's advocacy goes beyond healthcare through her support for educational development. She worked for ten years as the Director of Development for private and public universities. Notably, the application of Ms. Mendelson's expertise led to a twenty percent increase in contributions for the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. Ms. Mendelson was also a member of the English Center for International Women at Mills College in Oakland, CA. In addition to these persistent advocacy involvements, Ms. Mendelson further participated in the Napa community through the Napa Valley Vintners Auction, Napa Valley Art Council, and Napa Valley Opera House.

In 2014, Ms. Mendelson formally retired. However, Ms. Mendelson continues to display her commitment to public service and the local community through advocacy and support.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that Melinda M. Mendelson has contributed to the Napa Valley community and beyond.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
JERRY OSTER

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2023*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jerry Oster on

his 49 years of broadcasting in South Dakota. Mr. Oster is retiring from his current position as News Director of WNAX in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he has become known across five states as the voice of the station.

Following his graduation from USD-Springfield, Mr. Oster took hold of the opportunity to start in the broadcast industry at the young age of 23. With his career spanning nearly five decades, Mr. Oster has covered some of the state's biggest stories and personalities.

It is now at the age of 70 that Mr. Oster has decided to retire. Throughout his career, Mr. Oster has dedicated an incredible amount of time, talent, and service to the state of South Dakota and to his loyal listeners, whom he says are the reason he stayed in the industry for as long as he has.

Mr. Oster leaves behind a legacy of reaching out and making a difference in the lives of his listeners. A legacy modeled after his inspiration, former SDSU football coach John Stiegelmeier and his "Make a Difference" Book.

I am proud to stand today and recognize Mr. Oster's dedication to his community in South Dakota and thank him for his hard work. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. M. ROY WILSON'S SERVICE TO THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. M. Roy Wilson, the president of Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan at the end of his tenure. His contributions to the lives of students and staff at Wayne State and universities across the Nation are worthy of commendation.

Prior to joining Wayne State, Dr. Wilson served as the deputy director for strategic scientific planning and program coordination at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health. Previously, Dr. Wilson was vice president of health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at Creighton University, president of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and chancellor of the University of Colorado-Denver while simultaneously serving as chair of the board of directors of the University of Colorado Hospital.

Under the leadership of President Wilson for the last decade, Wayne State has seen an era of growth and prosperity. Before my time in Congress, I served as Chair of the Wayne State Board of Governors, where I was able to see firsthand President Wilson's hard work in many different areas. In 2018, Wayne State won the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Degree Completion Award, which recognizes innovative and successful approaches to improve degree completion and ensure educational quality. Improvements were particularly seen among first-generation, low-income and minority students. As a result of efforts to promote the recruitment and retention of those who represent our global community and create the best clinical experience within our cities, the School of Medicine saw

a tenfold increase in the number of traditionally underrepresented students from 2014 to 2020.

President Wilson's tenure also saw a drastic improvement to Wayne State's campus. In 2018, Wayne State opened the new Mike Illitch School of Business in downtown Detroit, made possible by a generous donation from Mike and Marian Illitch. That same year, groundbreaking took place for two major projects: the Hilberry Gateway Performance Complex for theatre, music, dance, and the arts, and the renovation of an unused science library into the STEM Innovation Learning Center, an instructional learning environment for undergraduates that opened in Fall 2021. The university established a partnership with the Detroit Pistons to construct a new \$25 million arena for Wayne State's men's and women's basketball teams, which opened in fall 2021. The arena also serves as the home of the new NBA G League affiliate in Detroit. Lastly, the university invested \$4 million to upgrade and refresh Wi-Fi across campus to improve connection reliability and speed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the lifetime of work that Dr. Wilson has accomplished. Though his legacy will certainly live on at Wayne State University, this is simply the most recent chapter in a long and successful career in education for Dr. Wilson. I thank him for his service and wish him the best in any future exploits.

TRIBUTE TO DR. VAN DO-REYNOSO—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2023*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Dr. Van Do-Reynoso of Santa Barbara, California.

Dr. Van Do-Reynoso is an exemplar of public service, both as a professional and as a volunteer, and as a health equity professional who has led the Santa Barbara region in advocating for the needs of all, but especially of those on the margins. Dr. Do-Reynoso came to this country from Vietnam at the age of 9, with an older sibling and no English. Nonetheless, she quickly adapted, receiving first a degree from UC Santa Cruz, then a Master's from UC Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Public Health from UC Merced.

Dr. Do-Reynoso has made health equity her mission; it was the reason she went into public health, and ultimately why she worked for and received her doctorate, all while raising three girls and holding increasingly demanding 'day jobs' as she rose through the ranks in public health, serving in both Madera and Tulare Counties.

She ultimately ended up as the Public Health Director for Santa Barbara County, taking on a demanding, large department that serves a wide range of communities.

Santa Barbara County has one of the highest child poverty rates in the state, as well as

large numbers of migrant workers who speak neither English nor Spanish. Dr. Do-Reynoso came to ensure that these residents received quality services.

In 2020, when the pandemic hit, Dr. Do-Reynoso rose to the challenge, leading the department response to a once-in-a-century global pandemic. She did far more than just ensure that the County responded to the need for education and services; she spearheaded the creation of the Latinx & Indigenous Migrant COVID-19 Response Task Force, which ultimately pulled together over 100 governmental and non-profit agencies to address health inequities and reach the most at-risk and endangered residents of the region.

She quickly came to be the face of equitable public health on the Central Coast. Dr. Do-Reynoso recently moved over to CenCal, to serve as Chief Customer Experience Officer. Given her openness to others, her collaborative work style, and her commitment to inclusivity, her sendoff at the last Board of Supervisors was a tribute to the love and respect that all feel for her as a leader, colleague, and friend.

I am honored to recognize Dr. Van Do-Reynoso, for her exemplary leadership during a global pandemic and ensuring the resources and information was available to everyone in the Central Coast. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Dr. Van Do-Reynoso, for her incredible service to her community.

#### RECOGNIZING MR. KELLY RICHERS

##### HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2023*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Kelly Richers for his 35 years of service to the California education system and to congratulate him on his retirement as the Superintendent of the Wasco Union Elementary School District. Mr. Richers' long-standing career as an educator and administrator in the Wasco Union Elementary School District began in 1986 at Norris Middle School in Bakersfield, where he taught Science. Over the next two decades, Mr. Richers was Vice Principal and Principal at various schools across the district, first as the Vice Principal of Thomas Jefferson Middle School, then as the Vice Principal and later Principal of Palm Avenue Elementary School, and lastly returning to Thomas Jefferson as the Principal in 2007. During his tenure, student outcomes across all schools improved immensely. In 2009, Mr. Richers became the Director of Categorical Programs and Special Projects for the school district. In this role, he coordinated a Migrant Resource Teacher program, implemented Parent Notification Letters, and established several community partnerships for the district's families. Throughout his four years as Director, Mr. Richers was focused on providing students and families of the district with the programs they needed to be successful. Mr. Richers was promoted to district Superintendent in 2014, where he oversaw a student body of more than 3,500 students, 500 personnel, and a yearly budget that exceeded \$50 million. He supervised the passage of

bonds totaling \$36 million, the construction and renovation of several new school buildings, and the addition of special education buses and school nursing staff. As Superintendent, he has routinely demonstrated his commitment to Wasco Union Elementary School District's mission of excellence for all. Throughout his career, Mr. Richers has received many accolades for his leadership across the district. He was named Administrator of the Year by the Association of School Administrators and in 2009, was selected as the California Middle Grades Principal of the Year. Mr. Richers' immense contributions to the school district will have a lasting impact on the Wasco community for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Kelly Richers' service as an educator in the Central Valley. I wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE ELIGIBILITY TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S SOLID WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RECYCLING GRANT PROGRAM

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to provide the District of Columbia comprehensive eligibility for funding under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant program. The program is authorized under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act.

The program was intended to provide grants to both states and municipalities to ensure the comprehensive management of post-consumer wastes and plastics and to prevent the continued contamination of our nation's waters by these materials. In its implementation of the program, the EPA created two separate grants—one for states and one for municipalities. The EPA made D.C. eligible for the state program, as required by the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, but not the municipality program, even though it should have been eligible for the municipality program, too. The EPA has misinterpreted the definition of municipality in the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act and is depriving D.C. of funds to which it is entitled.

Making D.C. eligible for both grants—both as a state and as a municipality—is consistent with the overall intent of the program and would enable D.C. to utilize funding both for the development of a comprehensive strategy to improve post-consumer materials management and recycling, and for implementation of specific collection and treatment measures to remove these wastes from the wastewater stream.

The Save Our Seas 2.0 Act defines the terms "state" and "municipality" for the purposes of the program. Section 2 of the Act defines the term "state" as specifically including D.C. Section 302(c) of the Act utilizes the definition for "municipality" in section 502 of the Clean Water Act, which includes "a city, town,

borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body . . . having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes." D.C. falls under the definitions of both terms and therefore should be eligible for both grants under the program.

Given that D.C. operates as the functional equivalent of a joint city, county and state, D.C. is analogous to a municipality that has jurisdiction over publicly owned treatment works under section 302(c) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, as well as being explicitly defined under section 2 of the Act as a state. Exclusion of D.C. from either portion of the program is inconsistent with the comprehensive nature of post-consumer waste management under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and would leave D.C. poorly positioned to address the challenges of post-consumer wastes in our Nation's waters.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL VALOR

##### HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2023*

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of El Valor, a multicultural non-profit organization whose mission is to support children, people with disabilities, and their young families to achieve excellence and participate fully in life throughout the Chicagoland area and Cook County, Illinois.

El Valor was founded in 1973, when Guadalupe Reyes could not find quality care for her son with mental and physical disabilities. It was this need for a place that was welcoming and supportive for the most marginalized members of our community that led to the inception of El Valor.

Over the past five decades, El Valor has been a home and place of belonging. From early childhood education programs in English and Spanish to adult programs for individuals of all abilities, and professional development opportunities for rising community leaders, El Valor supports people in achieving their full potential.

I am honored to commemorate El Valor on their 50th Anniversary. Congratulations (!Felicidades!).

#### TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN MINCK—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

##### HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2023*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Kathleen Minck of Arroyo Grande, California. A retired teacher who has dedicated her life to service. Kathleen has been a leader