

Mahalo.

HONORING THE CHRIS ANDERSON  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**HON. JOSH HARDER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2023*

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Riggio Elementary School's rededicating of the music and multi-purpose room complex to the Chris Anderson Center for the Arts. Mr. Anderson devoted 34 years teaching the gift of music to generations of students in Stockton. Over the course of his life, Mr. Anderson exemplified what it means to be a dedicated teacher, musician, and to lead a life of service.

Described as the "heart and soul" of Don Riggio Elementary School's music program, Mr. Anderson changed the lives of the countless students who had the pleasure of walking into his classroom. His love and passion for music was evident in every lesson he taught. Mr. Anderson is quoted saying, "most people would consider the sounds students first make on their instruments as cringeworthy. But to me, that is music to my ears, as it is the first time students give a voice to their instruments."

But Mr. Anderson did more than teach students how to give a voice to their instruments. He taught students how to use their own voices and express themselves creatively. Furthermore, Mr. Anderson fostered an encouraging and collaborative community in his classroom, where students strengthened both their musical voice and their own voice. His compassionate, yet disciplined, style of teaching reached every student, making sure that every child left his classroom with an appreciation for music. Mr. Anderson's teaching ability was recognized far beyond his classroom—in fact, Mr. Anderson was a quarter-finalist for the 2017 Grammy Music Educator Award.

When he wasn't playing "Lassus Trombone" with his band students, Mr. Anderson and his trombone were a familiar sight across San Joaquin County. He directed the Valley Concert Band for a decade and was a guest conductor for the Stockton Concert Band when it performed at Carnegie Hall. He also played with several musical groups, including Tropical Nights, the Swingaires, the Lodi Community Band, and he often appeared in Stockton Civic Theatre's orchestra pit.

Mr. Anderson's influence reverberates across San Joaquin County and beyond. He is missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

I am honored to celebrate Mr. Christopher Anderson, his contributions to our community, and his gift of teaching music.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE  
UNITED STATES CITIZEN PAUL  
WHELAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. TIM WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2023*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 272, and call on the Russian government to release United States citizen Paul Whelan. I thank my colleague, Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS, for her continued work on this important issue.

It has now been four-and-a-half years since Paul Whelan, a marine veteran and Michigan resident, was imprisoned in Russia.

After a sham trial, he was sentenced to 16 years in prison without proper evidence.

Vladimir Putin is focused on using American hostages as leverage against the United States.

We have seen prisoner swaps bring other Americans home but, tragically, Paul has been left behind in Russia.

As the Whelan family stated, the Russians are using Paul Whelan as an example of how America does not treat our citizens equally.

If there was ever a time for the U.S. Government to move decisively for Paul, it's now.

Congress can send a strong message today by passing this resolution, and we hope the administration will follow suit.

I've met with members of the Whelan family on many occasions.

Despite these long agonizing years, they continue to be pillars of strength.

It's time for Paul Whelan to come home to Michigan and be returned to his family.

HONORING SALVADOR RUIZ  
ESQUIVEL'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
HIS COMMUNITY

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2023*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a true artist, community leader, and mentor of young people throughout the beautiful Española Valley in northern New Mexico—Salvador Ruiz Esquivel. Growing up in his native Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, he never dreamed he would become an American citizen, a leader in the arts and in the greater community, nor least of all to be mentioned in the halls of Congress.

Salvador gave up his early years in dance when he came to the U.S. where he became a successful entrepreneur in the field of furniture and design. He returned to his true calling, though, when he and his life partner, former State Legislator Roger Montoya, joined together to found Moving Arts Española. Salvador had returned to dance when Roger asked him to teach Folklorico Dance and Visual Art in the public schools. Seeing that there were no after-school programs for the children, they co-founded Moving Arts Española to fill the void and serve children and families.

Moving Arts Española has served thousands of community members through its reg-

ular classes, after school programs, and teaching of all the arts. Numerous young graduates return to be teachers themselves—not as volunteers, but as paid staff. They relate to the students who see the possibilities for themselves in their young mentors. Also, all attendees receive a free hot meal.

The Española Valley is a different place because of Moving Arts Española and Salvador's work. This is an area where many live below the poverty line and too many have experienced the tragedies of addiction. It's a place where grandparents often help care for extended family members. Moving Arts Española has helped students become more engaged in their education. School dropout rates, drug usage, and crime involvement for these young artists are measurably lower than in the broader community.

Salvador's work has changed a generation of lives, and continues to do so. In 2019, Roger was nominated as a CNN Hero, and in 2022 Salvador received the Unisionario Award for his work. Salvador's role as both executive director and shepherd of the Moving Arts Española vision as well as his place in the community has made him one of my Congressional District's most outstanding citizens.

When Salvador was a young boy in Mexico he learned a strong work ethic from his father. Never in search of glory or fame, Salvador has worked hard and brought others along with him through his journey. A gifted dancer in his youth, Salvador gave up his art when the obstacles seemed too great. Now he and Roger work to make sure young people do not face the same obstacles that Salvador encountered in his youth.

Salvador always mentions that the best reward is, "Seeing the smiles on the children's faces." Today, we offer our gratitude to Salvador himself who is the reason for so many of those smiles and who continues to make the community a vibrant place.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL  
TREVOR J. BREDEKAMP

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2023*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding military service of Major General (MG) Trevor J. Bredenkamp of Niceville, Florida, for his tenure as Chief, Legislative Liaison (CLL) from June 9, 2021 to June 8, 2023. He has demonstrated a devotion to America by honorably representing the United States Army and bringing credit to Florida's First District while assigned to Capitol Hill. The job of CLL is a critical one as he is charged with effectively and efficiently bridging two branches of government as an advocate of the United States Army to Congress.

In 1992, MG Bredenkamp received his commission from the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Automotive Engineering.

MG Bredenkamp's previous command assignments include the United Nations Command/Eighth Army Honor Guard Company; A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg North Carolina and deployed as part of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM; Deputy Commander, 3rd Brigade Combat Team,

82nd Airborne Division; Commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division; Deputy Commander-Support, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia; and Commander of Train, Advise, Assist Command-South and Kandahar Airfield while deployed as part of OPERATION FREEDOM's SENTINEL.

His previous staff and special assignments include Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, and Battalion S-1 in the 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division; Platoon/Company/Battalion Observer/Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center; C3 Training Officer, 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg and deployed as part of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM; Operations Officer, 2nd Battalion 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment; Operations Officer, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg and deployed as part of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM; Aide-de-Camp to the Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command and subsequently the Commander, International Security Assistance Force, North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Deputy Director, Soldier for Life, Executive Officer to the Secretary of the Army; and the Chief, Programs Division, Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army.

MG Bredenkamp's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, four Legions of Merit, four Bronze Stars, six Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendations, and five Army Achievement Medals. He is authorized to wear the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Combat Action Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Ranger Tab, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

He holds a Master of Liberal Arts from Louisiana State University and a Master of National Security and Strategic Studies from the National War College. He has been happily married to MG Michele Bredenkamp for more than 26 years, and they are proud parents of two children.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2023*

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the Floor during today's roll call vote (No. 251) on H.R. 3099, the Special Envoy for the Abraham Accords Act. I strongly support this legislation, which builds upon President Trump's important work toward greater stability between the State of Israel and other countries in the region, and would have voted in support of it had I been present,

CELEBRATING STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2023*

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 75th an-

niversary of the creation of the Stockton East Water District. Over the past 75 years, the Stockton East Water District has played an integral role in supporting our region's agricultural industry and providing San Joaquin families with clean drinking water. On the 75th anniversary of the District's establishment, I'm honored to recognize its incredible level of commitment to our community.

The Stockton East Water District was formed in 1948 under the 1931 Water Conservation Act of the State of California. From 1948 to 1963, the District focused on water resource planning by evaluating groundwater conditions and determining requirements for supplemental water, but have since expanded their focus. In 1971, District boundaries were expanded to include the entire Stockton urban area. Stockton East Water District supplies not only surface water, but also develops sustainable groundwater for both urban and agriculture usage in San Joaquin County. The Central Valley's reputation of being the "food basket of the world" likely would not be without the Stockton East Water District's pivotal role in supporting our community's agricultural industry.

For decades, Stockton East Water District has also worked to protect and develop local habitats. The District partnered with the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 2001 to complete the Farmington Groundwater Recharge and Seasonal Habitat Study. The study was awarded the American Society of Civil Engineers Water/Environmental Project of the Year in 2003 and the San Joaquin Council of Government Regional Excellence award in 2004 for the establishment of 60 acres of recharge ponds and fields adjacent to The Dr. Joe Waidhofer drinking water treatment plant.

As we've seen over the past year, flooding has become a major issue in our community. Yet, in the face of this challenge, the Stockton East Water District has continuously worked day and night with local agencies and constituencies to redirect flood flows from the Calaveras and Stanislaus Rivers. Their constant perseverance in the face of new challenges reiterates the fundamental role that Stockton East Water District fulfills in San Joaquin County.

I am honored to recognize the Stockton East Water District for their service and commitment to San Joaquin County's water supply and congratulate the District for a successful 75 years.

#### CELEBRATING MRS. DESSIE RADU'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Dessie Radu of Bedford, Texas in celebration of her 100th Birthday.

Mrs. Dessie Radu is a valued member of the Bedford community who has bettered the lives of countless people throughout North Texas. Whether she is spending time with her large family, catching up with lifelong friends, or talking with someone she doesn't know yet, there is no doubt that she leaves a lasting impression on everyone she meets. Dessie spent years traveling the world with her hus-

band, Major (Ret) John Radu II, as he served our Nation for 24 years in the United States Air Force. Following in his father's footsteps, Dessie's son John Radu II served 4 years in the United States Air Force and was a Vietnam veteran. Today, we come together to recognize the 100 years Dessie has spent with us, and the impact that she has and continues to make on our lives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me—and Dessie's many family, friends, and loved ones—in recognizing Dessie and wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

#### VOTE AGAINST H.R. 3099, THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR ABRAHAM ACCORDS ACT

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2023*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address my vote against H.R. 3099, the Special Envoy for Abraham Accords Act.

The Abraham Accords fails to address the plight of millions of Palestinians who are working to build a peaceful future and who have been abandoned by Congress and the broader international community. Peace in the region can only be achieved by respecting human rights, especially the rights of children. By turning a blind eye to the ongoing mistreatment of Palestinian children living under Israeli occupation, Congress only contributes to the continuation of injustice.

I include in the RECORD my June 2016 letter to then-President Obama urging him to appoint a Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth to encourage diplomatic engagement with the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and human rights groups in the region to address the serious human rights abuses that have been well documented against Palestinian children who are living under Israeli military occupation.

I believe no U.S. military aid to Israel should be used to enable or support the military detention and torture of Palestinian children. The demolition of Palestinian homes, or the annexation of Palestinian lands. The American people expect that all children, including Palestinian children, are treated with dignity and have their human rights respected. If the United States is to play a role in ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we must end human rights abuses against Palestinian children.

My calls for a Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth have gone unanswered.

Enabling an ambassadorial level of U.S. representation for a Special Envoy for the Trump-era Abraham Accords, while ignoring the need for a Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth, is an affront to all those seeking to end the human rights abuses of Palestinian young people living under military occupation. Peace in the region will only be possible if we build a brighter future for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Therefore, I voted no on H.R. 3099.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Washington, DC, June 20, 2016.*

President BARACK OBAMA,  
The White House,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: We are deeply appreciative of your administration's efforts in