

Last year's U.S.-Pacific Islands Summit in Washington and the Strategy for Pacific Partnership released at that summit built on prior versions of our BLUE Pacific Act first introduced by our Pacific Islands Caucus in 2019. They represented a confirmation of our shared histories and path and a full re-engagement on all fronts with the Pacific Islands.

Our BLUE Pacific Act reintroduced today updates our prior versions to account for portions already enacted through other vehicles as well as the U.S.-Pacific Islands Summit. It supports the tenets of the Pacific Islands Forum's 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, ensuring that our efforts are fully responsive to and synchronized with the expressed direction and needs of the Pacific Islands nations. It specifically codifies the Strategy for Pacific Partnership and requires updates to the strategy every four years. It also includes language encouraging the allocation of more staff to the Pacific Islands, and the facilitation of U.S. support for trade capacity building, environmental change mitigation, education, civil society engagement and security training.

These further initiatives support the significant strides we have made in recent years towards fully reengaging the Pacific Islands region across a range of common values and interests and in response to specific Pacific Islands needs. In this moment, as the Pacific Islands recover from the health and economic impacts of the pandemic and are confronted with increased environmental, security and other challenges, this re-engagement is vital. Our bill says to the Pacific Islands that the United States is a partner they can trust and rely upon over the long term.

For these reasons, I ask that my colleagues support our bill. Mahalo (thank you).

RECOGNIZING THE CAPSTONE AT
CENTERRA FOR THEIR WORK IN
PROVIDING ASSISTED LIVING
AND MEMORY CARE TO THE
PEOPLE OF COLORADO'S FOURTH
DISTRICT

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the opening of The Capstone at Centerra Senior Living in Loveland, Colorado. Capstone at Centerra is a leader in innovative housing and medical solutions for seniors in Colorado's Fourth District. As an organization, Capstone serves its residents at every stage of the aging process, providing assisted living, memory care, and respite care designed to encourage independence and support individuals with personalized care.

Colorado is one of the fastest aging states in the Nation, and by 2040, 1 in 4 Coloradans will be over the age of 60. With a rapidly aging population and a shortage of assisted living facilities and memory care services there is a critical need for more facilities, like Capstone, especially in rural areas like the Eastern Plains.

Organizations who face the healthcare crisis head-on and continue to provide high-quality, personalized, and innovative care deserve to be recognized and supported.

I am proud to recognize the Capstone at Centerra for improving the quality of life for seniors in Northern Colorado. I hope that their perseverance in advancing care will inspire other communities to provide continued, personalized housing and medical care for older adults.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL
J. FRAIOLI

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues Congressman JIM COSTA and Congressman RAÚL GRIJALVA, to pay tribute to our long-time friend and advisor Michael Fraioli, who passed away after a courageous battle with leukemia.

Mike was a devoted husband and father and is survived by his wife of 27 years, Carol Eickert, his beloved children Michelle and Matthew, and his brother Tom. A Central Valley kid, Mike was born in Modesto, California and was a long-time resident of Chevy Chase, MD. After working in his hometown of Modesto on the successful campaign electing Tony Coelho to the U.S. House of Representatives, Mike moved to Washington, D.C. to begin his long and successful career in politics as a strong Democrat.

Mike was the founder and owner of Fraioli & Associates, where he advised some of the highest-level Democrats in Congress and was a vocal advocate for a variety of labor organizations including IAMAW, IBEW, and AFL-CIO. Mike made an indelible impact on both my political journey and my life. I had the honor to work with Mike since 1996, a few months before I was elected to Congress. I spent thousands of hours with Mike over a period of 27 years—and I enjoyed every hour.

As I reflect on Mike's life, I am reminded of his unyielding belief in the power of organizing and the necessity of empowering individuals to shape their own futures. He was a tremendous advocate and friend. His passing leaves a void not only in the realm of politics but in the hearts of all who had the honor of knowing him.

We would like to extend our sincerest condolences to Mike's wife Carol, and his children Michelle and Matthew.

HONORING ANDRES SADA

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Andres Sada, my intern who is transitioning from my office to continue his mission.

A Florida native with Panamanian origins, Andres came to my office ready to impact the American legislative system. While in my office, Andres has pushed my agendas to great lengths—from drafting memos, to organizing information, and researching data.

In our time together, I have recognized that Andres is a force in policy. His passion has

been powerful over the semester as we have fought for the lives of underserved and disadvantaged communities. His commitment to international affairs has led Andres to organizing events regarding Latin American Politics at the George Washington University. Andres has successfully piloted the first GW Pride MUN conference for Out in International Affairs. Andres has and will continue to make a difference and leave his mark on public policy as he continues to fight for a better system.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Andres Sada for his exemplary accomplishments, dedication to public service, and trailblazing leadership.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
COMMANDER ALLAN RANDOLPH
TOPP, UNITED STATES NAVY,
RETIRED

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a life well lived. I'm saddened to announce the passing of an American hero, retired U.S. Navy Commander Allan Randolph ("Randy") Topp. I'm honored to help tell his story because I think it's a life that should be memorialized in these hallowed halls, and we here in Congress sometimes need reminding of what it is to lead a life well lived.

Born in 1953 in Atlanta, GA, Randy was known for his playful glimmer throughout his childhood. He decided to attend Vanderbilt University and graduated in 1975 with a double major in Economics and Latin American Studies. After graduating, he began a 20-year career as an officer in the U.S. Navy piloting P-3 Orions, serving on the USS *Constellation*, and leading Training Squadron Six (VT-6) as its Executive Officer and Commanding Officer. He retired from military service with the rank of Commander in 1996, but his professional life was far from over. Randy continued his career with the Raytheon Company in Tucson, AZ, before fully retiring in 2018 to spend more time with his family.

Throughout his career, Randy was a lifetime learner. He continued his education beyond the undergraduate level and received not 1, but 3 masters' degrees: the first, an MBA from the University of New Hampshire, the second, an MS in Electrical Engineering, and the third, an MS in Systems Technology (Space Systems Operations) from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. He is even a named inventor on multiple patents from his time with Raytheon.

What the accolades and accomplishments don't tell us is just how much of a positive effect Randy had on those around him. Upon hearing of his passing, one of his Navy shipmates commented, "Randy was . . . a great pilot, but also 1 of the fun guys every group needs to keep everything in perspective and moving together. I met him again years later while with Raytheon, and he was still the same great guy . . . Truly a man to be admired; I'm happy to have known him."

This same spirit carried through to his time with his grandchildren, with whom he was excited to experience life. He introduced them to

new adventures like horseback riding, white-water rafting, visiting the rodeo, and attending cowboy cookouts. He appreciated the lifestyle of Tucson, hosting family and friends to introduce them to the Sonoran Desert culture, including enjoying the occasional Sonoran hot dog.

Fair winds and following seas, Commander Topp. I thank him for his service to his family, to his friends and shipmates, and to this Nation. We are forever grateful to him for providing an example of what it means to live life to the fullest.

RECOGNIZING VIVIAN LITCHARD'S
SERVICE TO HER NATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vivian Litchard, a resident of Ypsilanti, Michigan on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Her lifetime of service to her family and to her Nation is worthy of commendation.

Raised right down the road in Belleville, Vivian and many other young women began working at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan in February of 1942. Eighteen years old and fresh out of high school, the women of the Sewing Department worked 54 hours a week hand sewing the covers of the B-24 Liberator bombers' ailerons, rudders, and elevators. It took a couple months for her to see the first completed bomber roll off the line, but soon the Willow Run Bomber Plant would be producing a completed plane every hour. After the war ended, most everyone was sent home. Shortly thereafter, the plant was sold and became the Kaiser Frazer car factory. Vivian said "I realized that I had grown

up at the bomber plant in the 3½ years that I worked there" and when Kaiser Frazer asked many of the wartime plant workers to come back, Vivian answered the call by driving the cars off the line and parking them in the lot.

After the war, Vivian met and married her husband, Lyle, who served in the Signal Corps during the war in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. Together they had a full and extraordinary life. They raised three children and traveled the world, with the only continent they failed to visit being Antarctica. Their legacy now includes six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. After Lyle's death in 1995, Vivian visited Europe with her seniors group, specifically the beaches of Normandy. This made the war much more real to her, and she became very involved with her fellow Rosie's, including an Honor Flight out to the capital in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 100th birthday of Vivian Litchard, a woman who answered the call of duty at the tender age of 18 and served our country with dignity in its darkest hours. Though she may say "It really wasn't a big deal, it's just what we all did", we know that without the skilled workers assembling B-24 Liberators in Willow Run, the result of the war may have been much different. We thank her for her service, and wish her much laughter and blessings in her 101st year. I thank Vivian.

MASON-DIXON FAIR

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Delta Cardiff Volunteer Fire

Company (DCVFC) on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Mason Dixon Fair.

In 1998, following the Delta Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company Carnival, thanks to the leadership of Delta Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company President Doug Farrington, the community came together to transform their annual carnival into a Pennsylvania-sanctioned State Fair. Land was purchased and building infrastructure was created to host the inaugural Mason Dixon Fair on July 12-17, 1999.

The fair's first year was held in acclaim by residents of Pennsylvania and Maryland, and this success has continued over the years. The leadership of the fair changed following the passing of Chief Doug Farrington in 2010, and for the next twelve years Fire Company Chief Jeff Griffith continued to build upon the fair's success. Now, Vice President Derek Macomber and his wife Becky lead the fair with assistance from numerous dedicated community volunteers.

Communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been built stronger thanks to the volunteer contributions of those who donate their time and talents to put on State Fairs, and that is true of the Mason Dixon Fair in Delta, Pennsylvania.

As they celebrate their 25th anniversary this year, I want to congratulate and thank all the fair volunteers, community members, and organizations including the brave and selfless members of the Delta Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company who have worked to make the Mason Dixon Fair a fun and successful community event. I wish them all continued success in the years to come.