

a citizen who served his community. We are a better Nation because of him.

TRIBUTE TO RHONDA REYNOLDS—
30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Rhonda Reynolds of the Echo Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born and raised in Indiana, Rhonda attended Indiana University Bloomington, where she met her future husband, Rob Rowe. After graduation, she moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she was a founding member of a theater company. In 1993, Rhonda moved from Chicago to Los Angeles, and she and her husband first settled in Silver Lake, and then in 2000, into their home in Echo Park.

In 2004, Rhonda and Rob opened Masa of Echo Park Bakery and Cafe, a family-owned restaurant that specializes in Chicago-style pizza. Masa is a beloved community-minded restaurant that "feels like home" for employees and customers, a place for friendship and food. Rhonda is honored and grateful to share in the lives of the Masa family. Through first dates and chance meetings at the restaurant that have turned into engagements and marriages, the people at Masa bring her great joy and have become her extended family.

Crediting her teacher parents' philosophy of embracing a larger sense of community, Ms. Reynolds is actively involved in her neighborhood, working to nurture growth and foster relationships with fellow business owners, schools, and neighborhood groups. She has devoted countless hours volunteering on local committees and non-profit organizations. Rhonda is President of the Echo Park Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Rampart Community Advisory Board, a member of the Preserve Echo Park Lake group, and a Board Member of a children's literacy/animal welfare non-profit, Reading to the Rescue.

Past involvement includes serving on the Dodgers Neighborhood Community Advisory Board, the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council's Governmental and External Affairs Committee, the Echo Park Film District Planning Committee, the FILM LA Community Relations Subcommittee representing Echo Park, and a block captain for the UNTAG—Uniting Neighborhoods to Abolish Graffiti—program. In addition, Rhonda and her husband donate food and supplies from their restaurant to numerous nonprofit events. Rhonda and Rob have 2 mixed-breed rescue dogs, Mimi and Marty.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Rhonda Reynolds.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GEORGE GLEN PRIETTO

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate the life and legacy of George Glen Prietto, Kumeyaay Native and Sycuan Tribal Elder from the 48th District of California.

Mr. Prietto was born on January 26, 1931, at the Soboba Indian Hospital. He moved to the Sycuan Reservation and attended Dehesa School and Grossmont High School.

Before he was 18, Mr. Prietto joined the U.S. Army as an infantryman and served with distinction during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged after 4 years of service.

After his military service, Mr. Prietto became a proud farmworker in Yuma—picking lettuce in the sun and train-hopping to Lodi to pick grapes. After years of painstaking labor, he transitioned to driving big-rig trucks.

Mr. Prietto eventually returned to the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation and co-founded the Sycuan Fire Department with Hank Murphy. He served as a dedicated firefighter on the reservation, including transporting patients for the Southern Indian Health Clinic, for which he was celebrated upon retirement.

Mr. Prietto dedicated himself to preserving and teaching the Kumeyaay language. He taught hundreds of children, stressing the importance of family values and celebrating their culture.

Mr. Prietto loved spending time with his lifelong friends, including Kenny Meza, Leroy Elliott, Paul Cuero, Jr., Steve Banegas and Bobby Wallace. His family meant everything—especially his marriage to Terri and spending time with his nephews Raymond and Joe Sandoval.

While we mourn the loss of a great leader, tribal elder, family man, and veteran, we can find solace in the fact that Mr. Prietto's legacy will continue to enrich the lives of generations to come.

HONORING SGT./REV. JESSE C.
TULL, SR.

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, Jesse Commasel Tull, Sr. Mr. Tull fought for freedom as a soldier in the United States Colored Troops as a member of Company C, 119th U.S. Colored Infantry. Tull's Company C was 1 of 8 U.S. Colored Troops regiments assigned to various locations in Kentucky, including Camp Nelson, located in Jessamine County near the Kentucky River. Attaining the rank of Sergeant, Tull performed guard, garrison, and recruitment duties at various points across Kentucky. He helped to enlist and emancipate many men and their families and thus aided his country to ultimate victory in the Civil War.

In addition to his important military service, Mr. Tull became a Reverend in Jessamine

County, ministering to many believers. He organized the Historic First Baptist Church of Camp Nelson, Ky. This church, located at the Camp Nelson Refugee Camp where soldiers' wives and children lived, was 1 of 3 African American churches organized in the area to minister to African Americans in their transition from slavery to freedom.

Sgt./Rev. Jesse C. Tull served his country as a soldier and served God as a preacher. His descendants include his great grandson the Rev. R.P. Gates, Sr., current pastor of the Historic First Baptist Church at Camp Nelson. Rev. Gates has helped keep the story of Jesse C. Tull alive as he is remembered as an important part of our Nation's history.

I am humbled to honor the memory of Sgt./Rev. Jesse C. Tull, Sr. before the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXA ILES
SKARPELOS—30TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF
THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Alexa Iles Skarpelos of Hollywood, California.

Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, Alexa studied design at Western Washington University and spent the next two decades working as a Design Director for global brands such as Guess and Levis. In 2000, she and her husband, George moved to Hollywood and welcomed their daughter, Athena a few months later.

Ms. Skarpelos is dedicated to creating opportunities for civic engagement by developing meaningful partnerships between the community and government officials, and providing space for productive and candid communication. A tireless volunteer, she is the organizer of many successful annual community events. For several years, she has led the Hollywood Dell Summer Block Party and Pet Parade, now in its 17th year, and the Hollywood National Night Out event. Alexa has also coordinated an annual neighborhood Halloween celebration, a Hollywood Dell Art Show and neighborhood cleanup days. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she encouraged her neighbors to create and display artwork in front of their homes made from materials on hand for the "Hollywood Dell Shows the LOVE" campaign and shared some of her "Recipes for Disaster" in neighborhood email news updates.

Alexa belongs to several civic organizations, including the Hollywood Dell Civic Association, where she served as Secretary for eight years, and currently serves as President. She also served as Secretary for several years and was recently appointed as the Civilian Co-Chair for the Hollywood Community-Police Advisory Board.

Among her numerous community achievements, Ms. Skarpelos led the grassroots effort

to preserve a beloved neighborhood trail that was slated for development. As Co-Chair of the Friends of La Rocha Trail, she raised awareness and funds to preserve it as a dedicated green space under the supervision of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. Alexa also joined in the effort to establish the Franklin Ivar Park located on a former neglected empty lot.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Alexa Iles Skarpelos.

**HONORING THE SANTA MARIA
MADDALENA SOCIETY ON THE
OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNI-
VERSARY**

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, for generations, the Wooster Square neighborhood of the City of New Haven has been the cornerstone of its Italian American community, and Wooster Street has been its heart. Along this street you will find many icons of the community—Sally's Apizza, Libby's Italian Pastry Shop, Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana, and the Society of Santa Maria Maddalena. Often referred to as simply "the club", the Society remains a gathering place where members can meet, share a meal, discuss community issues, and build lifelong friendships.

This year the Santa Maria Maddalena Society celebrates its 125th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this very special organization. Founded on May 1, 1898, the Society of Santa Maria Maddalena is the oldest Italian American fraternal organization in Connecticut—whose purpose is all about the community. Named for the patron saint of Atrani, the Society of Maria Maddalena was originally established to assist fellow Atrani immigrants with housing, employment, English translating, and legal matters. In a time when such government assistance did not yet exist, the Society acted as the original social safety net for the community.

The Society of Santa Maria Maddalena has preserved the traditions, heritage, and culture of our members' ancestors—while also maintaining the ties from the town of Atrani—in the Salerno Province of Italy—who settled in Wooster Square. During the week of July 22, a replica of the original statue of the saint, which was brought to the United States in 1914, is carried through the streets of Wooster Square. The saint is adorned with jewelry provided by the original members of the society. The feast procession culminates at St. Michael's Catholic Church where a high mass is celebrated. The feast celebration extends for 4 days with Italian music and food, and on Saturday evening, Neapolitan music is featured. The holiday is a time for reuniting with friends and providing younger generations with opportunities to learn about their culture. Year after year, for 125 years, Society members have ensured that the special tradition of the procession and celebration of Saint Maria Maddalena continues—that we continue to gather to celebrate our rich history and strengthen the bonds of our community.

Since its founding, the Society has been a place where families faced with the many challenges of starting a new life in a new country could turn for support, comfort, and friendship. Over the years, the Society's purpose has become even more community oriented, helping any worthwhile cause or individual regardless of ethnic background. It has donated tens of thousands of dollars to numerous charities and organizations in New Haven and across the State. St. Michael's Church in New Haven, the Salvation Army, Columbus House, Connecticut Hospice, and Iwo Jima Survivors are just a few of those organizations who have benefitted from their generosity. The Society provides scholarships to inner city youths—as well as assistance to the church in Italy.

People across the country struggle to create a sense of community—a sense of belonging. Over the course of its 125 years, the Society of Maria Maddalena has helped the families of Wooster Square do just that. The bonds of community that the Society has helped to shape will continue to impact generations to come. The Society over the years, have aided multiple generations—and have become more integrated and more mobile in our community. I applaud the Society's role in the Italian American community, particularly those from Atrani, for pursuing a simple mission to make sure that this new generation is aware of their past as well as their responsibility to the future.

For their many invaluable contributions as well as their continued support and friendship, I am proud to stand today to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members, past and present, of the Society of Maria Maddalena. As we say in Italian—C'ent Anni!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the chamber on July 20, 2023 due to official travel with President Biden to the Philadelphia Shipyard. Had I recorded my vote, I would have voted:

"Yes" on Roll Call No. 361, on the question of agreeing to the Amendments En Bloc No. 4 offered by Mr. GRAVES (OH);

"No" on Roll Call No. 362, on the question of agreeing to amendment No. 76 offered by Mr. PERRY; "No" on Roll Call No. 363, on the question of agreeing to amendment No. 77 offered by Mr. PERRY; and

"Yes" on Roll Call No. 364, on the question of passage of H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act. This bipartisan bill will improve safety, travel experience, and consumer protections for passengers and contribute to our economic recovery by addressing workforce shortages in the aviation sector.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, of which I am a member, was meeting for official committee business when the vote series on 7/20/23 began. Chairman JIM JORDAN kept the committee in order despite votes being called. The committee eventually recessed but the vote was held open long enough for me to cast my vote on the first 2 votes of the series, through no fault of my own.

For Roll Call No. 361, I would have voted NO, and for Roll Call No. 362 I would have voted NO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 323 on H.R. 2670, I mistakenly recorded my vote as No when I should have voted Yea.

**RECOGNIZING MASTER GUNNERY
SERGEANT SCOTT STALKER FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS**

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Master Gunnery Sergeant Scott Howard Stalker of the United States Marine Corps for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. After 31 years of service to the United States Marine Corps, Master Gunnery Sergeant Scott Stalker is retiring from active service culminating as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader of United States Space Command.

A native of Lebanon, New Hampshire, Master Gunnery Sergeant Stalker earned the title "Marine" on January 20, 1993. As a Command Senior Enlisted Leader, in addition to his current assignment, he has serviced for the Defense Intelligence Agency, United States Cyber Command, the National Security Agency, and as the Intelligence Chief for Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

He has completed a total of 5 combat deployments to Somalia (1) and Iraq (4), and several deployments to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos as an assistant team leader for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Stalker earned his B.A. in Intelligence Studies from American Military University, and his M.S. in Cybersecurity from American Public University. He also attended certificate programs at Harvard Kennedy School of Government and John Hopkins University.