

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 11, 2023*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Over the last seven decades, the U.S. Small Business Administration has played a vital role in supporting and empowering small businesses. Providing entrepreneurs important guidance on financial products, the SBA has proven to be an invaluable resource.

Small businesses and their employees drive growth and innovation and play an essential role in the American economy. In the United States, there are over 33 million small businesses that employ approximately 61.7 million Americans. In the past 28 years, these businesses have created 17.3 million net new jobs, which accounts for 62.7 percent of jobs created since 1995.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley District of the U.S. Small Business Administration serves 14 counties in south Texas. In 2020, over 179,000 jobs were supported by approximately 10,000 establishments in the 34th Congressional District alone. Through their various programs and initiatives, the SBA has provided small businesses access to capital, Federal contracting certifications and opportunities, and disaster recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I have witnessed the U.S. Small Business Administration open doors for and provide a lifeline to small business owners across south Texas and it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge this agency's invaluable contributions to our region and country.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF ALICE DAVIS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 11, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Alice Davis, a tenacious servant/leader, astute fundraiser and compassionate and committed humanitarian who is turning 100 this week.

A fourth generation Washingtonian, Alice Tompkins Davis is a product of the District of Columbia public school system, whose love of mathematics led to a Bachelor of Science degree from Miner Teachers College (now the University of the District of Columbia) in 1943 and graduate studies in mathematics at Catholic University. This career path of critical thinking helped refine her methodical, detail-oriented intellect and provided a background for organized planning and execution abilities—all of which make her an invaluable leader and team player on several local and national organization and association boards and committees. It is these specific talents and skills that served her well for decades and served the Howard University Medical Alumni Association (HUMAA) so well from 1982 to 1996 in her role as Executive Director.

While Alice Tompkins grew up in the segregated town of the District of Columbia, she was never handicapped by race or sex. She was a 20th century leader in women's rights, civil rights, children's rights, mental health and housing, by example. In recognition of her talents, she was chosen for several mayoral appointments including member on the DC Commission for Women, the DC Health Plan, State Health Coordinating Committee (SHCC) and 8 years on the District of Columbia Lottery and Charitable Games Board. Her extensive leadership roles on the national and local levels for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. began in 1945. One of her most significant achievements was the establishment of the Delta Housing Corporation of Washington, D.C. in 1977. This landmark development project, with HUD funding of over \$6.5 million, built affordable housing. It was the first of its kind awarded to a Black women's organization. To date, it has continued as an ongoing legacy.

As a member since 1948 and a past president of the Auxiliary to the National Medical Association, her work in health education and volunteer services set a national standard as did her National Youth Forum leadership in conjunction with the March of Dimes. Her service to the D.C. Mental Health Association began in 1967 with policy development and lobbying and being a media spokesperson and program coordinator. Her service contribution awards, spanning over 60 years, are numerous.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to wish Alice Tompkins Davis a happy 100th birthday, in recognition of her distinguished life of service to others.

TRIBUTE TO THE WHITLEY HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 11, 2023*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Whitley Heights Civic Association of Los Angeles, California.

The Whitley Heights Civic Association, founded in 1923 as a garden club, has represented the members of the Whitley Heights neighborhood for 100 years. This notable achievement also earns the association the honor of being one of the longest continually operating civic associations in Los Angeles.

The Whitley Heights community was established when major land developer Hobart Johnstone Whitley commissioned architect Arthur Barnes to begin the design and construction of a new Mediterranean-style neighborhood in the Hollywood Hills. The arched doorways and windows, iconic red-tiled roofs, and balconies were new to Los Angeles, inspired by Barnes' tour of the Mediterranean; in particular, Italy and its historic hillside towns. With many of the homes constructed between 1918 and 1928, Whitley Heights was one of the first Hollywood developments. The style and aesthetic of the homes as well as the secluded hillside setting, attracted many prominent residents, including Charlie Chaplin, Gloria Swanson, Bette Davis, William Faulkner, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. In fact, the neighborhood's design was so highly regarded that many ex-

terior features became popular in other contemporary Los Angeles developments.

Preservation of this iconic neighborhood has been a challenge in the decades since the initial development. Construction and alteration of the Hollywood Freeway divided the original development in the 1940's and 1960's, during which almost 50 homes were demolished. In the 1980's, after the demolition of a historic bungalow to make space for potential tract homes, actor Brian Moore, president of the civic association, began advocating for the historical preservation of Whitley Heights; this resulted in the neighborhood being added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, and later, into a Los Angeles Historical Preservation Overlay Zone. The civic association works with the residents, city agencies and elected officials to ensure the preservation of this beautiful neighborhood.

It is an honor to recognize the Whitley Heights Civic Association for its commitment to preserving a historic neighborhood of Los Angeles, and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating this organization upon their centennial anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 11, 2023*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on July 17, 2023, due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 329 for S. 111, Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act, and YES for H.R. 1418, the Animal Drug and Animal Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2023, and YES on Roll Call No. 330 for H.R. 813, the Global Investment in American Jobs Act.

RECOGNIZING THE EXCELLENCE OF THE MARCHING CENTURIANS

**HON. MIKE GARCIA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 11, 2023*

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Saugus High School's 2022–2023 Marching Centurions for their selection to represent California's 27th Congressional District in the National Memorial Day Parade held in our Nation's capital. Their designation as a distinguished participant in this year's festivities is a testament to not only their performative excellence, but their resilience through several years of challenges from which they have emerged stronger than ever.

It is important to recognize that this distinction is one that very few marching bands and color guards across the United States have the privilege of touting, and it is certainly one that is earned rather than given. For years leading up to their participation in the National Memorial Day Parade, the Marching Centurions of Saugus High School have distinguished themselves as a benchmark of virtuosity and dedication to craft. Time and time again, students throughout the years have

represented their fellow classmates with unmatched pride and skill and it is heartening to see this program be rewarded with such an honor.

I also want to pay special recognition to the members who graduated with the Class of 2023. Since they began high school in 2019, their graduating class has faced a gauntlet of trials and tribulations that many of their contemporaries or even most adults have not. After the tragic shooting in November of 2019, they were immediately confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns, and virtual learning which forced them to press on with rehearsals over Zoom. These challenges were of course coupled with the typical obstacles a teenager faces when navigating high school: homework, crushes, college applications, and anxiety about the future. As their representative in the halls of Congress, I could not be prouder of their resilience in the face of the impossible, and the manner in which they relied on each other to overcome the odds.

Once again, I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Marching Centurions for this great honor that they had to commemorate our Nation's heroes who have been killed in the defense of freedom on Memorial Day. As a Saugus alumnus myself, my heart swelled with pride seeing these students clad in blue and silver marching along the streets of Washington to honor our great country.

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V–J DAY 2023

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**HON. KEVIN HERN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 11, 2023*

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the end of World War II and the 78th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day, otherwise known as V–J Day. The sacrifices of our World War II veterans paid for the end to what was one of the most horrific wars in human history.

On this day in 1945, Japan signed the terms of surrender aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. This day marks the heroic triumph of American forces for the good of the whole world.

Our World War II veterans may be dwindling in number, but their legacy as the greatest generation continues to grow. We must continue to esteem the truly incredible men and women who showed what a unified America can do to secure hope and liberty in the face of the most formidable adversary.

I am grateful for the work of Frank Reisinger who recalls the celebrating of V–J Day in downtown Tulsa with his father as a young man. Frank has diligently held a celebration of this important day in Broken Arrow for the last 8 years so that his community understands the cost of war and the price of freedom.

May we never forget that freedom is never free and that we are but 1 generation away from losing what so many have fought and died to secure.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS,  
ADMIRAL MIKE GILDAY

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 11, 2023*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the diligent and honorable service of Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Mike Gilday. On August 14, Admiral Gilday is slated to retire from his four-year term as the U.S. Navy's 32nd Chief of Naval Operations, and it is more than fitting that this chamber take a moment to recognize his extraordinary record leading our Nation's Navy.

A New England native hailing from Massachusetts, Mike Gilday was raised in a family with a strong Navy tradition. His innate intelligence, his patriotism and his leadership qualities stood out at an early age, foreshadowing a promising career as a naval officer. Upon graduating high school, he received a congressional nomination to the U.S. Naval Academy, and after graduation was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer in 1985. During his career he continued his passion for learning and obtained an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School and an MS from the National War College.

Admiral Gilday's record at sea is impressive. He commanded the Destroyers USS *Higgins* and USS *Benfold*, was Commodore of Destroyer Squadron 7, and Commander of Carrier Strike Group 8. As Vice Admiral, he was the fourth commander of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command developing and enhancing the Navy's information network operations, offensive and defensive cyberspace operations, space operations and signals intelligence. In the 21st century, proficiency in cyber command—something which didn't exist until recently, provides an immense benefit to naval readiness. Admiral Gilday is the first to bring skill to the CNO position.

Ashore he served our Nation with distinction during a remarkable career. He completed several tours as a staff officer working for the Chief of Naval Operations and the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. He served as the executive assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and naval aide to the President.

His commitment to our allies and partners were not only reflected during his work as the Chief of Naval Operations, but during his distinguished service as the director of operations for NATO's Joint Force Command Lisbon and as Chief of Staff for Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO.

Appointed to the role of Chief of Naval Operations in August 2019, Admiral Gilday has, in conjunction with the Congress's constitutional mandate in Article One, Section 8 "To provide and maintain a Navy", done outstanding work to keep our fleet relevant and oriented to challenges across the globe. Equipped with his striking educational background, as well as his history of deployments and command, his competent service as the head of naval operations has come to no surprise. It speaks volumes that he was the first three-star admiral to be appointed, to the position of Chief of Naval Operations in nearly half a century.

Each of his prior missions have influenced a modernized national security perspective with-

in him, and by extension from the top of the U.S. Navy down. As our Nation has shifted emphasis of our security strategy toward the Indo-Pacific region over the last decade-plus, Admiral Gilday has been a pioneer in adapting cyber preparedness and how best to prepare for and respond to competition or challenges to our collective freedom of the seas. He has been a steady presence in touring our Nation's industrial base capabilities, testifying to the U.S. Navy's needs before the House Armed Services Committee and a particular spokesperson in successfully advancing the cutting-edge vision of the AUKUS alliance.

Mr. Speaker, as both Ranking Member and Chair of the House Armed Services' Seapower Projection Forces Subcommittee, I have had a front row seat to view his tenure. It was not an easy time, contending with an unstable budget environment, historic turnover in the Office of Secretary of the Navy from 2017 until 2020, and a global pandemic. Through it all, he maintained a steady hand on the helm of our fleet and the marine corps. Overcoming adversity is I believe the sternest test of leadership, and in my opinion, Admiral Gilday passed that test with flying colors. The weightiness of his sea legs will be incredibly difficult to replace, but we will welcome the new perspective brought on by the next Chief of Naval Operations. As Admiral Mike Gilday enters this new era of retirement with his wife, Linda, I ask that my colleagues in the House, and particularly those who serve on the House Armed Services Committee, to join me in recognizing his life of service to the Navy and the United States.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF LEE ANN  
EAGER

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 11, 2023*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today we gather to honor the remarkable contributions and career of Lee Ann Eager, a dedicated leader who has played a pivotal role in the economic development and growth of Fresno County. As she embarks on a new chapter in her life, retiring from her role as President and CEO of the Fresno County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), we take this moment to express our gratitude for her tireless efforts in building a thriving economic base and fostering long-term economic resiliency.

Throughout her tenure at the Fresno County EDC, Lee Ann Eager demonstrated exemplary leadership in guiding economic development and attracting investments to the region. Her visionary approach and strategic thinking allowed the EDC to expand its influence beyond the local sphere, engaging stakeholders from the private, public, philanthropic, and academic sectors at both national and international levels.

Lee Ann's dedication to supporting families in her community was evident throughout her career. Before joining the EDC, she championed the cause of survivors of sexual violence as the Executive Director of the Rape Counseling Services of Fresno, empowering and advocating for those in need. Her passion for making a positive impact on the lives of others continued in her work at the EDC,