

standard of living in historically underserved urban communities. Founded in 1975 as an affiliate of the National Urban League, the Urban League of Broward County is a community-based organization dedicated to empowering communities and changing lives.

The League helps our underserved communities achieve their highest true social parity, economic self-reliance, power, and civil rights. The organization promotes economic empowerment through education and job training, housing and community development, workforce development, entrepreneurship, health, and quality of life.

The League helps our community achieve these goals through a variety of programming—from their Summer Enrichment Program, which offers students the opportunity to create, discover, and learn, to ADVANCE-U, which offers a full range of essential economic resources for residents to help them succeed in the workforce, stabilize their finances and build assets.

The Urban League of Broward County's commitment to the health and wellness of Broward's families is extensive, impressive, and inspiring. I am grateful to the leadership and staff for their tireless efforts to fight for the rights of my constituents and all Americans to live with freedom, dignity, and prosperity.

I thank President and CEO, Dr. Germaine Smith-Baugh, and everyone at the Urban League of Broward County for improving the lives of those in Florida's 25th Congressional District.

HOMETOWN HERO GRAPEVINE  
POLICE OFFICER PATRICK O'NEAL

### HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Grapevine Police Officer Patrick O'Neal. In 2017, Officer O'Neal stalled working on a project to help law enforcement find any area or room on a school campus in an emergency, within seconds. After realizing this could be lifesaving for officers who are responding to an emergency at a school campus they may not be familiar with, Officer O'Neal embarked on his mission of numbering every door and hallway in Grapevine ISD, then creating digital maps of the floor plans to share across departments.

It took years to gather the information for all the schools in the district. The maps include detailed information about all doors, their accessibility to police, the most efficient points of entry and directions to specific classrooms, and even indicate which doors require keys to open. As a result of Officer O'Neal's work, Grapevine Police now have detailed maps of each campus in Grapevine ISD which the police department can access via a digital system on their phone.

Earlier this year, Officer O'Neal was honored with the 2023 State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Public Services at the State Capitol. I'd like to thank Officer O'Neal for his tireless efforts and profound dedication to keeping North Texas students and staff safe.

RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM "BILL" R. DAVIS, NEW HAMPSHIRE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William "Bill" R. Davis on his promotion to Brigadier General of the New Hampshire Air National Guard. With nearly 3 decades of dedicated service, William has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to keeping our country safe and secure.

His current work as the Chief of Staff—Air at the Joint Force Headquarters in New Hampshire speaks to his exceptional leadership skills. He has displayed substantial strategic planning abilities as he implements crucial policies in this role. He is also an advisor to New Hampshire's Joint Legislative Liaison team, consistently going above and beyond to ensure the effectiveness of our national security efforts.

Bill attended Boston University where he earned a degree in Business Administration in 1989. From there he attended basic training as well as U.S. Army Airborne School and RIARNG Officer Candidate School. In December 1996, he received his commission from the Rhode Island Army National Guard and joined the New Hampshire Air National Guard in 1998. He has since been a longstanding resident of New Hampshire, giving back to his community and residents of the Granite State. His dedication to public service and New Hampshire is evident through his previous roles, including Director of Staff—Air at the Joint Force Headquarters in New Hampshire.

In addition to his extensive service, Bill possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience, having successfully completed rigorous training programs such as Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College. His exemplary service has been recognized through his award of the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Bill's remarkable career also includes leadership roles as the Vice Commander of the 157th Air Refueling Wing, squadron command, deputy group command, and tours at the National Guard Bureau and U.S. Embassy in El Salvador. He has also served in leadership for the Director of Staff Advisory Council and the Regional Economic Development Center. While we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude we owe him for his honorable contributions, we recognize his decades of dedicated service and the profound impact he has had on our Nation.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I congratulate Bill on his promotion to Brigadier General and commend him for his tireless service to our Nation and the great state of New Hampshire. This promotion marks a significant milestone, and I eagerly anticipate the next chapter in his distinguished career.

HOMETOWN HEROES BRENDA AND DAVID HUGHES

### HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brenda and David Hughes, creators of the "Stay in the Light" Christmas light exhibit. Their award-winning "Stay in the Light" spectacle was started in memory of their son, Nathaniel, who struggled with depression. Nathaniel passed away in April of 2019, and the festivities that the Hughes' host are in honor of his memory. The Hughes family accepts donations of blankets and socks that are donated to Meals on Wheels Senior Services of Rockwall County for the elderly.

Food items and toys are also accepted for donation. Brenda and David commit over 100 hours and hang 60,000 lights to honor Nathaniel and give back to those in need within their community. I thank Brenda and David Hughes for bringing extra light to our North Texas community.

HOMETOWN HERO OFFICERS DANIEL GUTIERREZ AND MARK MERAZ

### HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes, Addison Police Department Officers Daniel Gutierrez, and Mark Meraz. On June 15, 2023, Addison Police Department Officers Daniel Gutierrez and Mark Meraz responded to a call regarding an injured person. When they arrived on scene, they found a man bleeding excessively from his arm after getting cut with glass. Officers Gutierrez and Meraz quickly placed a tourniquet on his arm while they waited for paramedics to arrive. The wounds were severe, and the man lost an extensive amount of blood due to his injuries. The tourniquet application by Officers Gutierrez and Meraz saved his life while waiting for paramedics to arrive on scene.

The Addison Police Department recently honored them both with the Preservation of Life Award. I thank Officer Gutierrez and Officer Meraz for going above and beyond to protect and serve North Texans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS FROM DISCRIMINATION ACT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Protecting Independent Contractors from Discrimination Act, which would extend to independent contractors the same federal anti-discrimination protections provided to employees. This bill would extend the following anti-discrimination statutes, which apply to employees, to independent contractors: Title VII of

the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 505 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 7 percent of workers are considered independent contractors. Independent contractors, who often do the same work as employees, have almost none of the workplace protections provided to employees, including health insurance, collective bargaining, retirement security and even antidiscrimination. This bill focuses only on discrimination, from which every worker is entitled to be free.

**HOMETOWN HERO AKSHAT  
ATHALE**

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Akshat Athale, who is not only a student at Coppell High School, but also the founder of Saksham, a non-profit organization that works to improve financial literacy among underserved youth communities. Saksham has worked with underserved and neurodivergent communities, on both the local and global scale, to provide them with workshops on a variety of financial literacy topics.

These workshops provide life-changing skills to communities in need and will have a lasting benefit. I was glad to have Akshat as a member of my Congressional Youth Advisory Council and I congratulate him on recently receiving the Congressional Award. Our North Texas community is made better by people like Akshat, who are dedicated to making a positive impact.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF NAZAR L.  
NAZARIAN**

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2023*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as family, friends, and community members gather to celebrate the life of Nazar L. Nazarian, I would like to join in paying tribute to his memory. Mr. Nazarian passed away on August 28, 2023, after a life filled with numerous professional and personal accomplishments.

Mr. Nazarian was a prominent member of the Armenian community, a successful businessman, and a fixture of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). From the Levon and Satenig Nazarian Primary School in Lebanon to the Levon and Claudia Nazarian Radiology Center, to name just a few, Mr. Nazarian's philanthropic endeavors support Armenians across the globe. Likewise, his vision to connect and promote the Armenian community led to the construction of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Lebanon and the AGBU Armenia building in Yerevan. He also focused his philanthropic endeavors to serve the Church, supporting the construction of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York and the St. Dertad chapel at St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan, among others.

His commitment to faith, culture and the arts, as well as social and humanitarian causes have left an indelible mark on the community. Mr. Nazarian lived his life in service to his community and his passion to help others is evident.

Born in Aleppo, Syria and raised in Lebanon, Mr. Nazarian immigrated to the United States in the 1950s. Together with his late wife Artemis Topjian, Mr. Nazarian instilled in their children the importance of hard work and community service. Mr. Nazarian leaves be-

hind a loving family, including his daughter Seta, son Levon and his wife Claudia, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren, who will no doubt continue the Nazarian legacy of charity and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Nazar L. Nazarian for his devotion to family, faith, and community. His generous spirit and impact on the Armenian community both here and abroad will continue to be felt for generations to come.

**HOMETOWN HERO EDDY  
KETCHERSID**

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eddy Ketchersid, who retired earlier this year as a Senior Minister at the Branch Church in Farmers Branch. Eddy has been a positive impact on the city of Farmers Branch and the North Texas community at large for 60+ years.

Eddy is an alumnus of Abilene Christian University and a true Texan at heart. He has served his community in various respects throughout his life. Eddy has served the city of Farmers Branch as a Community Minister, advocate and member of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, and head of the Metrocrest Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. He has led many bible studies and prayer groups for the ministry for over half a century.

I thank Eddy for going above and beyond for our community. His selflessness and dedication do not go unnoticed.