

the approach Conservation Beyond Borders and Dr. Benjamin-Fink take to incorporate rural communities that live alongside wildlife into their work.

I commend Conservation Beyond Borders for their tireless work and advocacy to ensure wildlife across the world have the opportunity to flourish. I look forward to continuing to work with Conservation Beyond Borders and Dr. Nicole Benjamin-Fink.

RECOGNIZING AGEISM AWARENESS DAY

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saturday, October 7th, as Ageism Awareness Day. Ageism Awareness Day provides us all with an opportunity to recognize the existence and impact of ageism in our country.

We are fortunate to live in a time in which medicine and technology can allow individuals to live long and full lives. As society begins to grow older, however, too many individuals experience ageism, or stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination based on age.

Ageism is the most widespread and socially accepted form of prejudice. It can be found throughout society, from our workplaces to our health systems to stereotypes broadcast in the media. Not only is ageism harmful in and of itself, but it also exacerbates many of the other "isms", including racism, sexism, and ableism, which compound and worsen mental and physical health outcomes for affected individuals.

I am proud to represent Southern Nevada, a place that has long been a welcoming home to nearly 375,000 seniors. They enrich our community tremendously, and their value should not be diminished by undue prejudice and discrimination. Organizations such as Nevada Senior Services provide essential services to individuals across Southern Nevada as they age and ensure that aging is not viewed with fear or hostility. Nevada Senior Services not only operates the Adult Day Care Centers of Las Vegas and Henderson, but also Caregiver Support Programs, Respite and Personal Care, RAMP Home Modifications, Hospital 2 Home Assistance, and the Care Partner Institute.

I applaud and support the goals and ideals of Ageism Awareness Day which sheds light on the plight of many individuals and brings the Nation together to promote acceptance and appreciation of the gifts of aging persons. I thank all the family members, professionals, and volunteers who assist aging individuals every day and help fight the stigma of ageism.

RECOGNIZING SOCS (SEAL), DAVID A. KNESEK, USN, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present retired SOCS (SEAL) David A.

Knesek, USN, of Cameron, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Born in Texas, retired SEAL Senior Chief Knesek wanted only to serve his country as the "best of the best." Enlisting in the Navy's Delayed Entry Program, David earned a Criminal Justice degree from Blinn College in 1994. Passing SEAL boot camp later that year, he graduated in August 1995 from Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training at Coronado, CA with Class 200, one of only 8 of 140 candidates not failing a training segment. Assigned to SEAL Team Eight, David earned his trident and deployed to the Mediterranean in 1996, attached to the USS *Austin*. He remained at SEAL Team Eight for five years, deploying as an Ordnance Department Head to Germany in the NATO Bosnian Campaign, and with a 2000 STRIKE platoon to the Persian Gulf attached to the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*.

His eight SEAL deployments included instructor, protection, defense, and combat assault missions. With SEAL Team Two, he deployed twice to Baghdad, Iraq and twice to Ramadi, Iraq (including integrating 63 special operations personnel into a combat team completing 54 combat operations). In 2010 he took an instructor billet with Naval Special Warfare Group 2—but following 9/11, was asked to volunteer to take his SEAL Team Two Golf platoon to Afghanistan as Leading Chief Petty Officer. David remained with SEAL Team Two until retiring in 2014. His military honors include: 2 Bronze Star Medals with Valor, a Bronze Star Medal, Joint Services Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Services Commendation Medal, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Combat Action Ribbons, and a Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal.

In 2015 David joined FTW Ranch in Barksdale, Texas, a preeminent marksman-ship school training U.S. military and law enforcement groups, and hunters. A lead instructor, David uses his training to develop tactical skills in law enforcement personnel, and better and safer hunters. He has served as a 4-H Shooting Sports Coach. He shares personal safety and situational awareness knowledge with his local volunteer fire department and other organizations. David spends many hours sharing outdoors and hunting knowledge with young people and making Veterans Day presentations in local schools.

It is my honor to award retired SEAL Senior Chief David A. Knesek, "the best of the best," with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS' LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, many people are familiar with the passage of scripture found in First Corinthians Chapter 13, verse 4, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." However, fewer may remember verse 5 which states that love "always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." When the apostle Paul was inspired to write these words

so many years ago, I believe he had persevering and loving couples like Cleovis and Arwilda Whiteside in mind. Since 2019, the Whitesides have been recognized as Arkansas' "Longest Married Couple." This Sunday, September 24, 2023, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, they are being recognized for their 84th year of marriage.

On what I am sure was a hot and humid Monday, July 24, 1939, 17-year-old Cleovis and 13-year-old Arwilda made a lifetime commitment to God and each other that has endured the test of time. The next year, Mrs. Whiteside delivered the first of their 12 children. In an interview last year, Mr. Whiteside, who was 100 at the time, stated, "We've been together all this long time and I still love my wife. She still loves me, and we still get along just as good." Mrs. Whiteside added, "I ran to him since I was nine years old and I've run first to God, then him ever since." We find within these 2 statements the foundation of a strong, Christ-centered marriage that inspires me and countless people, in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, and the entire state of Arkansas.

At the end of the 13th chapter of Corinthians, Paul tells us that when all is complete, 3 things remain: "faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." I offer my most sincere congratulations to Mr. Cleovis and Mrs. Arwilda Whiteside on their 84 years of marriage. I thank them for exemplifying the greatest gift of persevering love.

HONORING AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S DAY

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of the Women Inspiring Women Leaders chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

ABWA's Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter held its first meeting on May 22, 2019. Since then, the organization has provided opportunities for local business leaders to network, empower one another, and focus on growing Virginia's economy.

Entrepreneurship is a defining characteristic of the American spirit. That's why I am proud to join them and their sister chapters in celebrating American Business Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fredericksburg Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter for their commitment to service, innovation, and empowering women in the business community. It is an honor to celebrate American Business Women's Day alongside them.

RECOGNIZING ELLEN M. BROOKS WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present Ellen M. Brooks of Crockett, Texas,

with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Her service to this nation and community speaks to the best of Texas.

Ellen enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1994. Recognizing her innate leadership capabilities, the Air Force sent her to officer training after only two and a half years as an enlisted Airman. During the five years she served as a commissioned officer, Ellen rose to the rank of Captain. Before leaving the U.S. Air Force in 1998, she served as Commander of a communications unit in Alaska. During her active service she was recognized with the Air Force Commendation Medal w/1 device, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award w/1 device, and the National Defense Service Medal, together with a Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, and Air Force Training Ribbon w/1 device.

Ellen has given much to her community. In 2007 she joined the Crockett Noon Lions Club and was instrumental in forming the Leo Club where she served as Sponsor. She established a new Evening Lions Club and served as its first President. She has spent countless hours investing in the lives of the members and youth, teaching leadership, character, and kindness. She is a member of First United Methodist Church. Whether working to keep her community clean or distributing food to the needy, Ellen can always be counted on. In 2020, the Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Ellen's service to the community with its highest honor, Citizen of the Year.

Her leadership will have a long-lasting effect on young people for years to come—and it is my honor to award Ellen M. Brooks of Crockett, Texas, a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2023

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Northern Mariana Islands Entrepreneurship Act of 2023, which would extend eligibility for the Small Business Administration's microloan program to the Marianas. My bill ensures that small businesses in our islands are treated equitably and have access to the same assistance available in other parts of our Nation.

The opportunity for people to find and grow small businesses is the pathway to achieving the American dream. The SBA's microloan program was created to help everyday Americans do just that—with loans of up to \$50,000, small business owners can jumpstart their dreams by investing the micro loan towards inventory, supplies, machinery, equipment, and more. And when our small businesses thrive, we all stand to benefit. According to a 2019 report from the SBA, small businesses create two-thirds of net new jobs and drive U.S. innovation and competitiveness.

Yet this opportunity is not available to all Americans. My home, the Marianas, is the only jurisdiction in the Nation that is ineligible for the microloan program.

My bill ends this inequity and provides a path to entrepreneurship for all small business owners, no matter where they choose to live in the U.S.

I thank my colleague, Ms. RADEWAGEN, who joined me in introducing this important bipartisan legislation.

HONORING PRESIDENT DEVON ADES

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Devon Ades for her leadership as President of the California Trucking Association and thank her for more than 30 years of dedication to California's trucking industry.

President Ades was first introduced to the trucking industry as a child by her father, Denny Wyatt, who served as the President of the California Trucking Association (CTA) in 2010. It was during her upbringing in the industry that President Ades realized her passion for trucking and the skill, hard work, and dedication required to succeed in the industry. President Ades began her career, much like her father's, at Apex Logistics, LLC, before moving to Inland Kenworth, a truck dealership where she spent time working in the company's sales, finance, and insurance departments. In 2005, she returned to Apex Logistics, where her knowledge of the industry and skillful abilities led her to become the company's Vice President in 2022.

As Vice President, Devon has consistently demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the challenges facing the industry. This past year, CTA's Board of Directors selected Devon to be the association's newest president. In this role, Devon oversees a vital component of California's economy and our nation's supply chain. Truckers transport highly demanded goods from ports and suppliers to our store shelves and homes. In the United States, truck drivers move about 71 percent of the economy's products throughout the country. As president, she continually displays incredible leadership in the California motor carrier industry and advocates at the local, state, and federal levels to ensure sound transportation policy for her membership.

As the 68th president of the CTA, she is only the third woman to hold the position. In her over 3 decades of involvement in the industry, President Ades has seen enormous progress in her industry. As she leads the organization, I know she will continue to grow CTA's membership and successfully guide CTA's "transition to the future."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking President Devon Ades for her commitment to the California Trucking Association. Her tireless service will have a lasting impact on the Central Valley and the Nation for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JERRY LEE LORTON, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present retired U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Jerry Lee Lorton, of Cameron, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His servant's life reflects the hard work and dedication that exemplifies the best of our Central Texas values.

Jerry Lorton entered active duty at Atlanta, Georgia in May of 1977—a young 20-year-old about to embark on a distinguished Army career that would span the next two decades of his life.

Retired Sergeant Lorton's Army career would take him on 5 overseas tours, including to the Persian Gulf War and 2 tours in Korea. His dedication was rewarded many times. Recognized for expert marksmanship with rifle, pistol, and grenade, he earned an Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3rd Award), National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars, Master Aircraft Crewman Badge, and an Air Assault Badge.

Since retiring in 1997, Jerry Lorton has been a dedicated servant leader in his community. For more than a quarter century he has helped protect his neighbors and community as a volunteer firefighter with the Cameron Volunteer Fire Department. He serves as a Deacon in his faith community, Cameron's Grace Church, where he continues to protect his neighbors as one of a four-person church security team. He works as a school bus driver for the Cameron Independent School District. A patriot and a leader, he currently serves as the Commander of Cameron's VFW Post 2010, having long been the kind of member that, in the words of the Texas District 28 Commander, "exemplifies everything the VFW wants in its leaders."

I proudly commend Sergeant First Class Jerry Lee Lorton, USA, (Ret.) to his friends, family, and colleagues, and salute his service to the Army and Texas by awarding him a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARK PITLIANGAS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Lieutenant Colonel Mark Pitliangas of the United States Air Force for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Lieutenant Colonel Pitliangas recently transitioned from his assignment as a Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs for United