

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

States Transportation Command to fly the KC-46 Pegasus at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey as Chief of Safety, 305th Air Mobility Wing.

Lt Col Pitliangas is the first member of his family to serve in our U.S. Air Force. Mark attended the United States Air Force Academy and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 2008 before attending pilot training. From there, he went on to fly the mighty C-130 Hercules, otherwise known as the "Four Fans of Freedom" and honorably served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a combat pilot over 3 deployments. Lt Col Pitliangas has held numerous leadership positions in a variety of units, highlighted by serving as the Director of Operations for the 386th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron in Kuwait. During that time, he enabled 29,000 airlift and air refueling missions directly supporting Operations INHERENT RESOLVE and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL flown from our busiest airfield in United States Central Command.

In the winter of 2020, Mark was selected to serve as Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs under the United States Transportation Command. As the primary liaison between Members of Congress, congressional staff, committees, and USTRANSCOM, he provided valuable insight and understanding of transportation policies, actions, operations, and requirements. His first-hand knowledge of the military, its culture, and traditions has been a tremendous benefit to our Congressional offices. His dogged determination and exceptional coordination enabled the USTRANSCOM Commander to accomplish over 40 office calls with Members and Staff in preparation for her annual posture testimony.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Lieutenant Colonel Pitliangas during his time representing the United States Transportation Command on Capitol Hill. On behalf of our grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Mark, his wife, Eleni, and their children, Stephanos, George, and Nicholas. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in our United States Air Force. They have dedicated their lives to the service of our great Nation.

Aim High . . . Fly, Fight, and Win.

HONORING BICOL ASSOCIATION OF GREATER JACKSONVILLE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to each and every member of the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville on this momentous occasion of their 40th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment, unity, and tireless dedication of the association in fostering camaraderie and enriching the cultural fabric of our community.

Founded 4 decades ago, the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville has demonstrated an exemplary devotion to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Bicol region.

Their collective efforts in organizing cultural festivals, educational workshops, and chari-

table endeavors have left an indelible mark on the Jacksonville community. The cultural exchange and mutual understanding facilitated by their association have created bridges of friendship and cooperation that transcend borders and enrich the lives of all who call this great city home.

As a representative of Florida's 4th Congressional District, I am inspired by the dedication and passion exhibited by the members of the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville. Their tireless work in preserving their heritage while actively contributing to the progress and prosperity of our community serves as a shining example for us all.

I encourage all citizens to join me in celebrating 40 years of invaluable contributions of the Bicol Association of Greater Jacksonville to the cultural tapestry of our city.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN LEE CREWS 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 Brian Lee Crews of Lufkin, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service to his Nation and community speaks to the best of Texas.

A Lufkin native, Brian enlisted in the Marine Corps delayed entry program in 1980 when only a high school junior, drilling monthly with a Marine Reserve Unit in Shreveport, Louisiana throughout his last two years in high school. In 1981, Brian reported for "boot camp" at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California; he then underwent infantry training at Camp Pendleton, California. He served as a First Platoon Radio Operator, then transferred to Marine Reserve Unit Fox Company, 2D Battalion, 23D Marine Regiment, Salt Lake City, Utah as the Commanding Officers Radio Operator. Transferred to the 4th Tank TOW Co., LT 4th MARDIV in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Brian served as a squad leader, section leader, and TOW Trainer. While in the TOW Unit, he was chosen to lead the detail charged with performing funerals/honors for Marines killed in the Beirut barracks bombing. Brian served with the Toys for Tots campaign at all duty stations. He attained the rank of Sergeant, receiving his honorable discharge in 1991. He earned the Organized Marine Corps Reserve Medal, Rifle Expert (3), and Pistol Expert (3).

A Lufkin ISD "Teacher of the Year," Brian has taught Graphic Design/Printing Technologies at Lufkin High School for more than 30 years. The founding member of the Lufkin Detachment of the Marine Corps League, chartered in 2010, he was instrumental in starting the local Toys for Tots campaign in 2011 and serves as the Campaign Coordinator. He founded the Military Association Resources Disaster Emergency Team in 2017 during Hurricane Harvey, using surplus military vehicles and equipment to provide search, rescue, and recovery during national disasters. Brian founded and produced the Angelina County AirFest, a local aviation event with proceeds benefitting the local Toys for Tots. He is a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Club, and a LOVE INC. Volunteer of the Year recipient.

It is my honor to award Brian L. Crews with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S FINDLAY CAMPUS

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Owens Community College's Findlay Campus in Findlay, Ohio. Throughout the years, Owens has been a comprehensive community college providing educational opportunities and training to the residents of our communities. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of students and faculty have made Owens an outstanding educational institution.

Originally, Owens Community College was founded in 1965 in Wood County. The college was named after Michael J. Owens, a Toledo-based inventor of automated glass bottle-making technology. In 1983 Owens opened their Findlay Campus which occupies more than 60 acres. With their new campus, Owens was able to expand its coverage and continue to provide education to students from all walks of life. Currently, Owens's service district includes Lucas, Wood, Hancock, and parts of Ottawa counties.

Owens Community College offers more than 160 programs and certificates to its students who are preparing for a career, retraining for a new career, seeking professional development, or obtaining credits to transfer to a 4-year college or university. Their dedicated faculty members bring industry knowledge, information, and ideas into the classroom to provide students with a better understanding, how studies will translate into careers. Outside the classroom, students can experience an enriching campus life through student activities, clubs and organizations, athletics, and volunteer activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Owens Community College and its students, faculty, and administration on this remarkable occasion. By celebrating the 40th anniversary, community members and Ohio residents recognize Owens's contribution to its students and the surrounding communities. Congratulations to Owens Community College on this significant milestone.

RECOGNIZING DORSEY O'NEAL WALKER, ONE OF THE OLDEST LIVING SURVIVORS OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dorsey O'Neal Walker, a Texan who valiantly served our Nation during some of the darkest hours of WWII.

Dorsey grew up in Ora, a small Angelina County community, graduating in 1942 from Huntington High School. Drafted during WWII,