

In Holyoke's industrial infancy, the Sisters began their mission, filling a void by providing essential care to the underprivileged, setting a firm foundation of charity that resonates deeply with the principles of the American Dream.

Their presence in our community has led to a myriad of invaluable initiatives; from establishing hospitals and nursing homes to spearheading programs that cater to the needs of the homeless, the Sisters have acted as an embodiment of selfless service and as a symbol of hope and healing in the Holyoke community since 1873.

As they celebrate this significant milestone with the symbol of the "Tree of Hope," I am reminded of the spirit of togetherness that has been a cornerstone in the journey of the Sisters of Providence. This celebration is not just a reflection of a rich history, but a beacon lighting the way for future generations, illustrating unity, healing, and boundless possibilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with heartfelt pride and admiration that I extend my congratulations to the Sisters of Providence as they mark 150 years of selfless service. As we honor their past, let us also embrace the future with a spirit of optimism and a commitment to nurturing a society grounded in their principles of love, empathy, and service.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINE HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing October as National Spine Health Awareness Month.

In the U.S. 100 million people suffer from neck or back conditions every year according to the CDC. Back pain is the number one cause of missed workdays, the leading cause of job-related disability and pain in the U.S., and the most common non-cancer related reason for an opioid prescription in the U.S. In addition, those with back and neck pain are four times more likely to become clinically depressed.

The National Spine Health Foundation located in my district in Reston, Virginia, is the only national patient-centered non-profit dedicated to helping patients overcome debilitating spinal conditions and take back their lives. During the past 5 years, the Foundation has renewed its commitment to and has developed award winning patient education, advocacy, and research work to give patients the tools they need to make informed decisions about their spine health and navigate their own treatment journeys with confidence.

I would like to congratulate the National Spine Health Foundation on its award-winning year in patient education and clinical research. NSHF received a 2023 Digital Health Award for its patient education videos, the E Healthcare Leadership Award for best healthcare podcast, and the Global Spine Congress award for best research paper for work on examining augmented reality for improving spine surgery. In addition, NSHF received the best paper award from the Inter-

national Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery for their work on the nation's only prospective, multi-center spine robotic surgery study.

The Foundation is strongly committed to spine health research. Patient reported outcomes have been part of the fabric of NSHF since its inception. As they are deeply invested in supporting evidence-based health care decision making, it is important to be part of the process of creating the evidence. Their cloud-based research tool called 'Spine-online' enables them to conduct multi-center studies and partner with research teams both in the U.S. and internationally. Active studies are currently occurring on robotic surgery, enhanced surgical recovery, augmented reality, genetic basis for personalized spine treatments, stem cell therapy, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the importance of good spinal health, supporting individuals who suffer from spinal issues, and thanking the NSHF and the health care providers who help not just in October, but all year long.

RECOGNIZING TAMMY VAN DYKE

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the distinguished career of retiring Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners Principal, Mrs. Tammy Van Dyke.

Mrs. Van Dyke has held several leadership roles throughout the education system in Northeast Wisconsin. Prior to assuming the role of Principal at Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners, Mrs. Van Dyke was the Principal at Nicolet Elementary School in Green Bay. During her time at Nicolet, she played an instrumental role in improving leadership skills in students and developed the LIONS (Leaders in Our Neighborhood and School) Club, which provided opportunities for students to interact with guest speakers, learn, and organize events for the school.

Throughout her impressive career, Mrs. Van Dyke has been committed to bettering the lives of her students and their families. Her knowledge and leadership led to the growing enrollment rate at Green Bay Area Public Schools, which played a significant role in the recruitment and retention of both gifted teachers and students at Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners. Mrs. Van Dyke's expertise and knowledge will surely be missed by her students, peers, and the entire Green Bay community.

While Mrs. Van Dyke is leaving behind a notable legacy that will be admired by educators for years to come, I am confident that she will continue to be a valuable member of the Northeast Wisconsin community. Her dedication to Northeast Wisconsin has been truly remarkable, and I extend my sincere thanks to Mrs. Van Dyke for her years of service. Mrs. Van Dyke's distinguished career is deserving of the highest degree of recognition, and I wish her all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING RONALD E. MYERS

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Ronald E. Myers, upon the auspicious occasion of his retirement on October 1, 2023 after 32 years of service as Director of Maintenance for the Graham Capitol Corporation.

Mr. Myers enlisted in the Army on October 31, 1978, after graduating high school in Lower Dauphin. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and became qualified as a helicopter mechanic at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Then-Sergeant Myers specialized in the UH-1/Iroquois ("Huey") aircraft (his favorite), the critical aircraft for troop and logistics transport, and direct combat gun support capabilities. Sergeant Myers' performance and duty as a mechanic of these premier and complex aircraft was critical to the Army mission.

After his service in the active component Army, Sergeant Myers honorably served in the Pennsylvania National Guard, wherein he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6) and continued to serve our Nation for 22 years. In May 1991, after his military retirement, he transitioned to the civilian/private sector, wherein he became Director of Maintenance for the Graham Capital Corporation flight department, now culminating his duties after 32 years on October 1, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I'm privileged to commend former Staff Sergeant Ronald E. Myers for his tireless and selfless service to our communities, Commonwealth, and Nation. I wish him Godspeed, and great health, prosperity, and happiness in his future adventures.

HONORING OFFICER JAMES BROWN

**HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer James Brown for his devotion to Eastern North Carolina as a police officer. Officer Brown has served for more than 65 years within the Jacksonville Police Department and received the lifetime achievement award from NC Project. Recently, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Officer Brown at the Homeland Heroes Banquet, an event recognizing first responders and law enforcement.

Residents of Jacksonville witness Officer Brown's dedication to his community every day as he manages traffic and leads local students across the City's busiest neighborhood streets. He is undoubtedly a man to admire as he is the oldest serving officer in Jacksonville's police department. In fact, he is thought to be the most senior serving officer in the United States.

I would be remiss if I failed to honor Officer Brown's service to our Nation during WWII. Those who continue their service in law enforcement after military deployments, like Officer Brown, are special people and among our Nation's heroes.

Officer Brown has said that he has no plans of ending his career. He is an incredible example of service, duty, and honor that our Nation cherishes. I want to say thank you to Officer Brown for his faithfulness to our Country and community and wish him a Happy 96th Birthday this November.

RECOGNIZING GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's distinguished career as a global humanitarian and spiritual leader. For over 40 years, Gurudev has helped guide individuals in Illinois and throughout the world in their search for inner peace with his programs rooted in meditation and yoga. Through his charity work and educational efforts, Gurudev has spread his belief that if individuals find inner peace, it can lead to real world reductions in violence and conflict.

In 1981, Gurudev founded the Art of Living Foundation, a non-profit focused on the promotion of meditation and humanitarianism. To date, Gurudev and the Art of Living Foundation have engaged in humanitarian efforts in numerous conflict zones and currently operates in over 100 countries. He also founded the International Association for Human Values, which offers programs to reduce stress. Together, these organizations have thousands of volunteers who continue the important work of supporting individuals and communities in need.

Gurudev's knowledge and experience with conflict resolution have allowed him to play vital roles in peace negotiations globally. In particular, Gurudev has promoted multiple interfaith dialogues to establish mutual respect and understanding, including between religious groups that may have been in conflict previously. This unique approach to conflict resolution, which focuses on communication and universal values, has proven its merit repeatedly.

Furthermore, Gurudev has had a long-term focus on youth empowerment. He started over 1,000 schools that provide a free education within disadvantaged communities, benefiting over 82,000 students and equipping them with the skills and confidence necessary to succeed in life. Additionally, Gurudev has shown his commitment to a cleaner and healthier environment by leading an effort that restored approximately 70 rivers and thousands of bodies of water in India, as well as planting some 80 million trees throughout the world.

With his message of peace and commitment to education and humanitarianism, Gurudev has lived a life dedicated to the betterment of others. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my immense gratitude to Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for his invaluable contributions.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS SERVICE OF SERGEANT CHARLES TERRIAL WILLIAMS

**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant Charles Terrial Williams from Bristol on Sullivan County, TN for his valiant military service in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. Sergeant Williams proudly served our country both abroad and domestically from 1969 to 1973.

As a Crew Chief on C-130Es, a military transport aircraft designed to operate from unpaved airstrips, Sergeant Williams was assigned to Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Vietnam, as well as Ching Chan Kang Air Base in Taiwan and Langley Air Base in Virginia. As Crew Chief, he was responsible for assisting supply delivery, relocating Vietnamese civilians out of danger, and retrieving the wounded and deceased.

Among his many acts of heroism, Sergeant Williams prevented a hand grenade from detonation during a relocation operation, and also volunteered his service during a helicopter evacuation under live fire. After 4 years of valiant service, Sergeant Williams was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force.

Please join me in thanking Sergeant Charles Terrial Williams for his bravery and heroic military service to our great Nation.

APPRECIATING THE DRUZE

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have spoken with Sheikh al-Aql Hikmat Alhajiri, one of the three senior most Druze religious leaders in Syria, to discuss his impactful work at the forefront of the mass mobilization of Druze against the Assad regime.

The Druze is a religious sect that grew out of Islam a thousand years ago, with a population of 1.5 million, living mostly in Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan. Due to the courageous leadership of Sheikh Alhajiri, thousands of Druze residing in the southeast province of Swaida, adjacent to Jordan and Israel, have rallied together demanding the downfall of the current regime. Unfortunately, last week marked a tragic turn of events, following weeks of extensive protests, as the regime fired at Druze demonstrators, further adding to the grim toll of over half a million Syrians who have been killed by the criminal Assad regime.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, I am proud to have led H.R. 3202, the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act, which places responsibility on the Bashar al-Assad regime, supported by war criminal Putin and the terrorist Mullahs in Tehran, for its crimes against the Syrian people and highlights the significant consequences of governments considering normalization with the Assad regime. This bill successfully passed the committee, reinforcing

the bipartisan commitment to punish offenders, while enhancing protection for humanitarian organizations serving the Syrian people.

I am grateful for the great leadership and strength of Sheikh Alhajiri and the Druze, and look forward to continuing to work together in the fight for a free and democratic Syria.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA-LED NASA OSIRIS-REX FIRST-EVER ASTEROID SAMPLE RETURN MISSION

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of University of Arizona-led NASA mission of spacecraft *OSIRIS-REX* and the first ever return of an asteroid sample to Earth. Launched seven years ago, in 2016, the Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (*OSIRIS-REX*) successfully arrived at the asteroid Benu in 2018. Because Benu is older than Earth, studying a sample of Benu will provide understanding of what might have been delivered to early Earth during Precambrian time. The asteroid is 500 meters across, roughly the height of the Empire State Building. *OSIRIS-REX* used complex imagery to successfully map and determine the best place to obtain a sample. On October 20, 2020, *OSIRIS-REX* landed and collected a sample of Benu, four times more sample than originally expected.

On May 10, 2021, *OSIRIS-REX* began its return voyage to Earth. This past Sunday, September 24, *OSIRIS-REX* released a capsule containing the Benu sample before continuing on to rendezvous with the asteroid Apophis. Apophis will come very close to Earth's orbit in 2029.

The sample return capsule made a spectacular descent as it hit the Earth's atmosphere, traveling 27,000 miles per hour and reaching five thousand degrees Fahrenheit. The capsule safely reached the drop zone, traveling a mere 11 miles per hour. Crews determined the integrity of the capsule; it is now in a clean room preparing for analysis.

The sample will be analyzed by students at the University of Arizona to determine Benu's physical and chemical properties, windows into the most fundamental questions of our universe—namely how planets formed and how life began. Examining Benu will also aid scientists in planning for possible impact mitigation missions. Asteroids like Benu contain natural resources such as water, organics, and precious metals.

I am extremely proud that Tucson is once again a key player in a critical NASA mission, just as it has been with many others throughout our Nation's history. *OSIRIS-REX* is an \$800 million University of Arizona-led NASA mission that demonstrates the importance of vital scientific investments.

The *OSIRIS-REX* mission is funded by NASA and its science is led by the University of Arizona (UA). I would like to once again congratulate Dr. Dante Lauretta of the UA Lunar and Planetary Laboratory for his leadership as principal investigator and, along with his team, for bringing this exciting mission to the sample analysis phase. I greatly look forward to celebrating even more milestones with