

women to the sport. She founded a weekly Zoom session for women to discuss their golf journeys and provide support for each other, showing the impact of her love of golf on her community.

Audrey is also passionate about the positive impact diversity has on an organization and the importance of creating inclusive spaces. During her 30-year career at Chevron, Audrey served as the Manager of Diversity and Inclusion, where she was responsible for developing workplace inclusion strategies and mentorship programs. As an active alumna of Auburn University, she is also a member of the college's Advisory Board for the Office of Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity.

Audrey's dedication to her community and work to advocate for youth and women of color cannot be overstated. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Audrey Cormier for her positive contributions to our community.

HONORING CHIEF OF STAFF
ELLIOTT GUFFIN

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the public service of a long-time member of my team, George Elliott Guffin IV, and wish him success as he enters the next stage of his career.

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Elliott is a proud graduate of the University of Mississippi—a fact he will share with you within five minutes of meeting him. Elliott began his congressional service in the United States Senate in the office of Senator ROGER WICKER prior to joining my staff in May 2016 and beginning a long tenure of service to the people of North Carolina's 8th, and later 9th, Congressional District.

As a young staff assistant, Elliott excelled at many things. His sunny disposition, eagerness to learn, and dedication to public service are the main reasons why I didn't fire him that time he forgot and stranded a scheduled tour group at the White House. However, my faith in Elliott was rewarded as he grew to be a trusted advisor, mentor to others, an exceptional leader, and a valued part of the team.

Advancing as a legislative correspondent, legislative aide, legislative assistant, senior legislative assistant, legislative director, deputy chief of staff, and chief of staff, Elliott never wavered in his commitment to serving our constituents. Over the years, he helped me secure legislation to push for the paving of roads for the Green Gap community in the Uwharrie National Forest—a process that will soon come to fruition. In addition, Elliott helped me secure multiple pieces of legislation to address the needs of our farmers, expand rural broadband access for North Carolinians, and increase support for our region's troops, military families, and veterans.

I am especially proud of the work Elliott accomplished in defense of the Second Amendment, drafting legislation with me to harden and secure schools and pushing for concealed carry reciprocity.

Over the years, Elliott has established himself as a trusted leader and friend to his col-

leagues. He was the backbone of our office—always willing to do whatever was needed to help the team. I have been impressed by the attention Elliott gave to his managerial role by setting aside time to work with each member of our staff in order to help them develop into great congressional staffers. Through his dedicated leadership, Elliott has taken what has always been a great team and built an exceptional one by understanding the values and motivations of his peers.

Of all his tremendous achievements for North Carolina and the country, I am most proud of the man I've had the privilege to watch him grow into. I always tell my staff that over all things, family is first. Elliott has taken this to heart since day one, even ensuring I made it to my son's soccer game as we drove from the opposite end of North Carolina. I've been able to see the same values watching him get married and start his own family, starting with his lovely wife, Ariel, and their beloved dog, Moose.

Elliott Guffin made a difference. He made a difference to me and to his colleagues. He made a difference in the lives of my constituents. He made a difference to this institution. And he made a difference to the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, please join me today in congratulating Elliott Guffin for more than seven years of incredible service to the House of Representatives and to the people of North Carolina, and wishing he, Ariel, and Moose the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: BARBARA BREWER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Barbara Brewer as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Barbara retired from the United States Air Force after 20 years but continued her service as a civilian employee and is now a Unit Program Coordinator in the 21st Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base. In addition to her official duties in this role, Barbara selflessly volunteers for more responsibilities, including Security Program Manager, Paying Agent, and Resource Advisor. She has been essential to the squadron's success and is fondly referred to as "Squadron Mom."

Barbara is the liaison between the aircrew, government travel agencies and foreign embassies, ensuring rapid travel in support of USTRANSCOM operations. Her actions have directly contributed to the success of over 5,000 flight hours, 1,300 sorties, and 7 million pounds of cargo successfully delivered to meet our Nation's priorities. Every member of her squadron knows they can rely on Barbara regardless of time or day or the reason for the call, because she shows unfailing care for every servicemember.

Barbara was chosen as an Assistant Mission Commander for the Capstone Military Leadership Program where she manages the development of over 50 Generals and Flag Officers. On one mission she was asked to

speak about her experiences as a woman in the military with the women of the Zambian Air Force, a country where women were historically excluded from service.

Barbara's 35 years of service to our country have led to a profound impact on her squadron. Travis AFB, and beyond.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Barbara Brewer for her positive contributions to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICAID
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2023

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2023

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to introduce the Medicaid Accountability Act of 2023. My legislation would remove barriers to operating Medicaid Fraud Control Units in the territories, advancing our ability to recover taxpayer money through the investigation of Medicaid provider fraud, abuse, and neglect.

The U.S. territories are subject to a hard, statutory cap on federal Medicaid support, unlike the 50 states and the District of Columbia. As such, any spending for the operation of an MFCU is counted against the cap and subtracts from the amount of federal funding available for the coverage of healthcare services.

Congress has acknowledged this challenge. We acted to exempt MFCU spending from Puerto Rico's cap through P.L. 115–31, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017. This exemption was extended to the U.S. Virgin Islands through P.L. 115–123, Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. We did not, however, extend this exemption to the other territories although all territories are statutorily required to operate an MFCU.

Congress has previously agreed that spending towards systems improvement measures should be exempt from the cap. In addition to MFCUs, Congress has exempted spending related to Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System, Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Program, and the design and operation of the claims and eligibility systems.

Without such exemptions, territories must choose between covering healthcare services or making systems improvements. And faced with various emergencies—from natural disasters to a pandemic—in recent years, territories have prioritized the coverage of healthcare services. Furthermore, certain territories have repeatedly exhausted their limited block grant, leaving no federal funding to support systems improvement measures.

My bill, the Medicaid Accountability Act of 2023, plugs a gap in our nation's ability to protect taxpayer money. By extending the exemption on MFCU spending to all territories, Congress can promote the success of the territories in meeting statutory obligations to combat healthcare fraud and safeguard our Medicaid population from abuse, neglect, and misappropriation of funds.

I thank my colleagues who joined me in introducing this legislation—Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. PLASKETT, and Ms. RADEWAGEN.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: BETTY REID SOSKIN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Betty Reid Soskin as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Betty is widely known for being the National Park Service's oldest park ranger who retired at the age of 100. She has lived in the East Bay since 1927, when her family moved from New Orleans.

As a young woman during World War II, Betty worked as a shipyard clerk for an all-Black auxiliary lodge of the segregated Boiler-maker's union. In 1945 she and her husband founded one of the first Black-owned music stores, which remained open until 2019. Over the years she has worked as staff to a Berkeley city council member, a state Assemblywoman, and a California State Senator.

In the early 2000s, Betty became involved in the plans to open the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park. This led to her career as a ranger which began in 2007, at the age of 85.

Betty led talks explaining the importance of the park in memorializing the contributions of women and African Americans working in war industries supporting the U.S. World War II efforts on the home front. She has used her own experiences and observations as a Black woman to bring light to untold stories of African Americans during WWII and underscore the racism and misogyny experienced by her and countless other women of color throughout her lifetime. Through hard work and storytelling, she has touched the lives of the thousands of park visitors and millions of Americans who can not only empathize with her story but celebrate and learn from it.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Betty Reid Soskin for her positive contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
RICK LEE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to recognize Richard "Rick" Lee, owner and Chairman of the Board of Lee's Flower and Card Shop, founded in the District of Columbia in 1945.

Mr. Lee's long-standing business ties and community outreach have made a lasting impact on the District of Columbia and its residents in numerous ways.

As a business owner, Mr. Lee has served District of Columbia residents for more than 45 years. He has been named the Small Business Person of the Year by the DC Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Lee served as Vice President of the U Street Business Association, under Marion

Barry, who served as President, and later served four years as an appointed Statehood Commissioner under the late Harry Thomas Sr. He also held a mayoral appointment to the Board of Accountancy, also under Marion Barry.

Mr. Lee served on the Board of Directors of the D.C. Children's Trust Fund. He also served as Small Business Vice Chairman of a local chapter of the United Way, Chairman of the Banneker Boy Scouts of America, Vice President of the Kiwanis Club of NE Washington D.C., Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Theatre, Member of the Board of Directors of MANNA, Vice President of the Shaw Neighborhood Association and Member of the Washington Gas Consumer Advisory Board for six years.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask the House of Representatives to wish Richard "Rick" Lee a happy 80th birthday this month and recognize his leadership of Lee's Flower and Card Shop and his distinguished service to District of Columbia residents.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: BRENDA PLECHATY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Brenda Plechaty as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Brenda's life was changed when her partner had a serious accident resulting in a traumatic brain injury. During his recovery, Brenda experienced the lack of support there is for the family members of those who have traumatic brain injuries. This led Brenda to create, run, and fully fund a free support group for family members who are caregivers to TBI survivors.

Brenda is dedicated to this group and helping the caregivers of TBI survivors, making herself available to caregivers every day, not just during the group's monthly meetings. Brenda's work for this group has led her to become fully immersed in the TBI community, willing to share information and provide support whenever possible to those who have been impacted by TBI.

In addition to her work supporting caregivers, Brenda serves on several commissions and committees in the city of Vallejo and is actively working with the city to improve the Vallejo Municipal Marina. A passionate rower, Brenda is involved in her rowing club's volunteering division and helped to create a summer youth rowing project that included instruction on the importance of the marina.

All facets of Brenda's work show her compassion and dedication to serving others.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Brenda Plechaty for her positive contributions to our community.

STONY DWIGHT RUSHING

HON. DAN BISHOP

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I rise to honor the legacy of the Union County Board of Commissioners Chair, Stony Dwight Rushing.

Stony loved his family and he loved Union County. He was fiercely devoted to his wife, Anne-Marie, and his two children, Reagan and RyLee. Stony also served Union County for four terms on the Board of Commissioners from 2002 to 2006, and then again from 2014 to 2023. Over the course of these four terms, Stony's fellow Board Members chose him to serve as Chairman for two of them. Stony was a congenial presence and a highly effective servant to his community. He stood for our God-given rights and took every opportunity to make people's lives better. His larger-than-life presence that still echoes throughout Union County will truly be missed.

Outside of his involvement with the Union County Board of Commissioners, Stony mentored young North Carolinians on the importance of firearm proficiency and safety. Stony served as a certified firearms instructor and owner of Take Aim Training Range. In fact, he was the NRA South Carolina Youth Hunter Education Challenge State Coordinator, and was honored as the 2013 NC Governor's Conservation Achievement Award winner for "Hunter Education Instructor of the Year." Stony also served as the Union District Chairman for the Boy Scouts of America between 2006 and 2009.

On behalf of the entire 8th Congressional District of North Carolina, I rise to honor and celebrate Chairman Stony Rushing's fruitful life and dedicated service to others. I thank Stony and may he rest in peace.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: ALICE WILSON-FRIED

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Alice Wilson-Fried as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Alice is dedicated to teaching the youth of Solano County about the importance of democracy and civic engagement. Seeing the need to educate young people about voting rights and civic duty, Alice implemented the Democracy Matters program at Golden Hills Community School. This curriculum gives students the opportunity to learn about the importance of democracy and its impact, allowing students to see themselves as leaders with a voice in the policy process.

The importance and impact of this program has been recognized by the California Secretary of State, who is in discussions to use it in their statewide youth outreach efforts. Through the framework of Democracy Matters, Alice has given students hands-on experiences with civic engagement, including coordinating a mock City Council meeting in the