

Suisun City council chambers and training students on how to conduct a forum with Solano Youth Council. She also worked with the Solano County Registrar of Voters and League of Women Voters to train students who volunteered as poll workers. These hands-on opportunities have allowed students to learn about the importance of citizenship and the power of their voices in our democracy.

Alice's work to educate the next generation about democracy will have an impact for years to come. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Alice Wilson-Fried for her positive contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING PENELOPE GROSS
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to congratulate Penelope "Penny" Gross on her retirement after 27 years of serving as the Fairfax County Mason District Supervisor and 21 years of chairing the Potomac Watershed Roundtable.

Elected in 1995 to represent the Mason District, Penny has been an advocate for affordable housing, expanded public transportation, and violence prevention. Penny represents Fairfax County on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the INOVA Health System Board of Trustees, and the Potomac Watershed Roundtable (PWR).

Shortly after becoming the chair of PWR, she encouraged the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to help in developing strategies that will bring the state of Virginia up to the standard that Maryland had already set, regarding efforts that support the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Program. With that, in July 2003, the Potomac River Tributary Strategy was developed by DCR.

In January 2004, Penny led the PWR in discussions for a 2004 vision, whose focal points influenced many water-related issues, such as Stormwater Management, Wastewater Treatment Plants, and Total Maximum Daily Load. In April later that year Penny was appointed by then Governor Mark Warner to the Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Funding Panel. A panel tasked with finding alternative sources for funding the Chesapeake Bay Cleanup. By October 2004, Chairman Gross announced some recommendations on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Blue Bay Ribbon Finance Panel.

On the state and national level, Penny is a past president of the Virginia Association of Counties, vice-chair of the National Association of Counties' Energy, Environment, and Land Use Committee, and past president of the National Association of Regional Councils. She was first appointed by Governor Mark Warner to the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) to the Chesapeake Executive Council, which she chaired from March 2006 until August 2008, and continues to serve.

I had the great pleasure of serving with Penny during my 14 years on the Board, first representing the Providence District and then as Chairman. The work that she has done for Fairfax County is outstanding and we will continue to honor her legacy as a public servant. Penny Gross's commitment to our community and the mission of local government is unparalleled. She leaves behind a legacy that will enrich our community for generations to come. Her career in public service is truly commendable and deserving of our heartfelt gratitude. All through her tenure as Chair of the PWR, she proved to be an exemplary leader, and continues to attract very influential and dedicated environmentally minded individuals to the roundtable.

Mr. Speaker, Pro Tempore Penny Gross's commitment to public service is through her work in Fairfax County. Though she may be retiring, I suspect that she will continue to remain active in the causes that are important to her. I commend her for her service and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her retirement.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: AMBER DUNCAN

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 Amber Duncan as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Amber is a Community Readiness Specialist for the Military and Family Readiness Center at Travis Air Force Base. Her duties focus on assessing personnel and family needs while providing work and life services related to the demands of the military mission.

In her role, Amber has initiated countless programs and events to assist servicemembers and their families. She pioneered a database to track personnel preparing to leave the military workforce, allowing Travis Air Force Base to achieve 100 percent accountability in notifying personnel about the process and options for their transition out of the military.

Amber is also passionate about strengthening military families and connecting them with the local community. She developed a needs assessment to identify limitations and their corrections, worked with the Base Chaplain Agency in hosting courses promoting the strengthening of family interactions, and has worked to foster resiliency for 46 newly appointed military members.

Amber's work has benefited military personnel and their families, and her dedication to aiding members of the Travis community does not go unnoticed.

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

HONORING CELEBRA GRAPEVINE
2023

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the 2nd Annual Celebra Grapevine festival which will take place on October 7th in Grapevine, Texas and is dedicated to celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan established Hispanic Heritage Month to celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions made by Americans of Hispanic descent. Consistent with this fine tradition, Celebra Grapevine provides North Texans with an opportunity to embrace diversity and honor the Hispanic heritage that has influenced traditions, art, and cuisine throughout our community. Celebra means to celebrate in Spanish, which is a fitting name for this festival. Grapevine's Latino population, which makes up more than 30 percent of the city's population, plays an important role in growing the city's economy and making the city a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

I commend the City of Grapevine and Celebra Grapevine for their commitment to fostering unity and building bridges in our community. I hope their festival is a great success.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: ALISSA STOLZ

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 Alissa Stolz as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Alissa is the Head of School at East Bay Montessori where she has demonstrated outstanding school leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

The pandemic impacted schools in previously unimaginable ways, and school leaders were called upon to hold their communities together. Alissa was instrumental in keeping East Bay Montessori intact throughout the pandemic, avoiding any COVID-19 outbreaks and never having to lay off any staff or faculty.

Alissa was committed to in-person learning, and East Bay Montessori quickly reopened with an outdoor classroom set-up that let students and teachers come together and learn in innovative ways. This decision allowed children to continue to learn through peer collaboration and face-to-face interactions.

Alissa provided a strong vision for East Bay Montessori during times of uncertainty and change. Her work led her to be featured in the American Montessori Society's magazine, and she was selected to present at the International Montessori Congress in Bangkok. The impact of Alissa's work goes beyond East Bay Montessori—she is the model of a capable leader who acts in the interest of her community, inspiring educators across the globe.

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

RECOGNIZING KENNY WAYNE
SHEPHERD

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the musical achievements of Kenny Wayne Shepherd.

Kenny received his first guitar from his grandmother at the age of four and began to play the guitar in earnest at age seven. It is here when he began his love of the American genre of blues. With a Stratocaster electric guitar replica, he taught himself to play one note at a time. Growing up in Shreveport, Louisiana, he was exposed to music that influenced his relentless pursuit of his guitar skills and love of this art form. From Elvis to Ledbelly, the combination of country, blues, and rock which flowed through his hometown created the musician we hear today. His parents brought all varieties of music into his home, which deepened his appreciation for the talents and stylings of other artists. From Hank Williams, James Brown, and Crosby Stills Nash and Young to Stevie Ray Vaughan and Albert King, these artists were the foundation of the musical talents we all enjoy today from Kenny Wayne.

At a very young age, Kenny's father brought John Lee Hooker and Muddy Waters to Shreveport to play. This was the moment that turned on the light of blues music in Kenny Wayne's life. Kenny's father, Ken, remembers his son playing his electric guitar with headphones on listening to CDs of John Lee Hooker, B.B. King and Howling Wolf. Kenny was able to pick up by ear the unique aspects of American blues music. Stevie Ray Vaughan asked a young Kenny Wayne if he would like to watch from the side of the stage during his concert and on that night the impact of this incredible guitar virtuoso was ingrained in a 7-year-old aspiring musician.

Chris Layton, who played drums in Stevie Ray's band, Double Trouble, later became the drummer for the Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band. He remembers the exceptional talents of Kenny when he heard some of his earliest recordings. Chris was deeply impressed by Kenny's determination, focus and dedication to his craft.

Kenny had the opportunity to travel with his father to many different music venues, where he played to a variety of audiences. Many folks began to point out the remarkable talent that he displayed. Bill Pfordresher, a record

producer, told Kenny's father that they should cut a record. Ken Shepherd had three rules for Kenny. First, that he must finish high school before he would allow him to pursue music full time. Ken's second rule was once music was no longer fun for Kenny he could stop at any time. The final rule was Kenny had to be involved in every business decision that was made about his career. They, then called in some favors from friends and recorded a record in New Orleans which quickly took off. Kenny now found himself as the opening act for the Eagles.

Kenny's circumstances in his career success were unique. He and his dad were a father-son team and Kenny was not the lead singer in the early days of his band. Kenny was able to overcome these challenges and continue on an upward path of success, while maintaining a strong relationship with his father. Kenny Wayne became a remarkable songwriter who has honed his guitar skills around amazing songs. His songwriting chops and collaborations are as good as it gets.

Kenny Wayne's talents were a magnet to very accomplished songwriting collaborators. Record Executive Jeff Aldrich surrounded Kenny Wayne with a crack team of collaborators including Mark Selby, Tia Sillers and Danny Tate. They were welcomed like family as the songs on the albums *Ledbetter Heights* and *Trouble is . . .* were written and recorded, and helped him reach his true potential as a musician. The emotional power of Kenny's songwriting is probably no stronger than in the song "I Found Love."

Kenny has been a leader in involving women in his path to success, from Tia Sillers as a leading songwriter to Kristin Forbes in leading Team Kenny Wayne Shepherd. His co-manager for over 20 years, Kristin Forbes has played an incredibly vital role in Kenny Wayne's career. She has known Kenny since she worked at his record company early in his career. Kristin and Kenny's father have directed the team that has laid down the path of success. She is a highly skilled leader and a thoughtful voice of balance for Kenny, Ken and the band.

Kenny is a trailblazer, who, along with a cadre of incredible accompanying musicians, amazing songwriters, and the perfect mix of vocals, is an icon in American music. Kenny continues to expand his musical horizons and skills, including his own vocals.

As important as Kenny's musical talents is his complete dedication to his wife, Hannah, and his six beloved children. He is a remarkable father and role model for his family. He and his wife have made it their life's work to ensure limitless possibilities for their children by nurturing their interests, talents, and abilities in every imaginable way. Kenny is selflessly humble and appreciative of all those around him who have been a part of his path to success. He is ceaseless with giving credit

to his parents, his hometown, his upbringing, and friends and family in helping him along the way.

Our nation is grateful for Kenny's passion, commitment to his musical skills and his love of family and his fellow musicians in his continued journey to share his talents with folks here and around the world. American blues is a unique genre of music that captures the soul of our country, and Kenny is a rare, and irreplaceable part of that emotion. He is the quintessential artist and creator. I thank Kenny Wayne Shepherd, for music that has and will continue to inspire generations to come, for his devotion to family, fellow artists, associates and friends, and for his goodness and kindness. May God continue to continue to bless him and his family, team and bandmates.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: ADJOA McDONALD

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 Adjoa McDonald as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Adjoa has dedicated her career to advocating for women and youth in the city of Vallejo.

Adjoa founded the Vallejo Project, an organization dedicated to developing the leadership skills of youth and young adults so they can improve the systems that impact them. Adjoa's work has created a platform that empowers and uplifts women and youth in Vallejo, providing them with a network to connect, learn, and support each other.

Beyond advocating for women individually, Adjoa also fights to improve the status of women throughout society. She fights to address issues that impact all women, such as gender inequality, domestic violence, and economic disempowerment.

Adjoa cares deeply about working collaboratively to make broad change. She knows the importance of her work because she has faced the obstacles that many women in Vallejo, and the United States, experience today. She is an example of the strength and resilience that women possess and use those qualities to make a difference for the women in her community.

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