

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR: DONNA EBERT

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

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

As an active Ambassador to the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce, Donna has led teams of local business leaders to forge connections with one another. Donna has also been key player in organizing the chamber's "lunch mob" where member businesses host chamber members and help substantially increase the revenue of the businesses. Donna is also involved with the Travis Regional Armed Forces committee where she is committed to improving the lives of the men and women serving at Travis Air Force Base. She supports Air Shows, golf tournaments, and the many other events that benefit the base and surrounding community. Donna also serves her community as an active member of Solano County Soroptimist International helping to support women through education, empowerment, and opportunity. Donna's enthusiasm, hard work, and dedication to serving her community serve as an inspiration to all her peers.

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

RECOGNIZING ASHLEY HAINES

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in recognition of Ashley Haines and her service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Ashley earned her bachelor's degree from James Madison University, where she majored in Public Policy with a minor in Political Communication. Prior to joining my office, Ashley interned on the 2021 Virginia Governor's Primary Race and was a Legislative Aide on the Virginia House District 26 campaign.

Ashley joined my office in 2021 as my Communications Assistant and worked her way up to Deputy Press Secretary. Ashley's outstanding work ethic and willingness to learn has made her an invaluable member of Team Wittman. From coordinating telephone town halls, arranging interviews with local sources, and crafting press releases, Ashley has contributed tremendously to providing the best constituent service in the Commonwealth.

I thank Ashley for her contributions and dedicated service over the past two years. Her

positive attitude and openness to new challenges will be dearly missed in my office. I wish her the best as she continues her journey as Communications Director for Congressman DERRICK VAN ORDEN.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask you to join me in recognizing Ashley Haines for her service to Virginia's First District and the Nation. May God bless Ashley as she continues her career in public service.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR: BUFFY WICKS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

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

A talented public servant and campaigner, Buffy has served as an Assemblymember for California's 14th Assembly district since she was elected in 2017. During her time in the California State Assembly, one of Buffy's major missions has been tackling California's housing crisis. In her first year as Housing Chair, she championed AB 2011 as well as legislation such as her "Yes in God's Backyard (YIGBY) Bill" which allows churches to build affordable housing in empty lots near their church buildings.

Buffy Wicks' career in politics began when she organized anti-Iraq War protests and worked for Howard Dean's 2004 campaign. She also worked on both of Barack Obama's successful campaigns in 2008 and 2012 and went on to work in the White House where she was the Deputy Director of the Office of Public Engagement.

Buffy is a relentless public servant and advocate for families and let her own lived experiences as a working mother inspire her fight for others. She highlighted and platformed important issues such as family leave and gained the support and sympathy of parents nationwide. Buffy's commitment to her constituents and the well-being of Californians knows no bounds.

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

HONORING FLANNER HOUSE'S  
125TH CELEBRATION ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I rise in celebration of the 125th anniversary of Flanner House.

Located in Indiana's 7th Congressional District, Flanner House was founded in 1903 as a community center for Indianapolis' African-American community. Today, the organization is central to the surrounding community, serving the whole family with programming like the Child Development Center, Center for Working Families, and an Elders Center. The organization has implemented innovative solutions to problems our community faces, including a Food Justice Initiative that led to the opening Cleo's Bodega Grocery and Café, and Flanner Farms. These efforts provide healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate produce to address food insecurity while employing young people and neighbors. Flanner House also continues to feed the soul by celebrating Black history, culture, and talent through the Ujamaa Bookstore and other community-strengthening programming featuring Black artists, scholars, and musicians.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our gratitude and best wishes to an organization that has created immeasurable change. Organizations like Flanner House care deeply about their community and the people they serve. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on this milestone anniversary and wish Flanner House many more years of success.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR: JUDGE DIANA BECTON

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

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

Diana Becton has been Contra Costa County's District Attorney since her 2017 swearing in. Diana is the first woman, first African American, and first woman of color to serve in the role since its creation in 1850. This accomplishment alone shows the historical impact she has had on her community. For 22 years Diana, served as a judge in Contra Costa County where she was elected and became president of the National Association of Women Judges. She is known not only for upholding the law and holding people accountable, but also for striving to improve Contra Costa County's judicial system by focusing on disrupting the school to prison pipeline, creating safe alternatives for low-level non-violent offenders, and addressing the mental health needs of our community. She created the Reimagine Youth Justice Task Force to create alternatives to juvenile hall for young offenders and has made efforts to curb racial bias in her department by partnering with the non-profit Vera Institute of Justice to evaluate her office's decision making.

Diana's accomplishments in the judiciary are too enumerable and impressive to list briefly

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

as she is truly a pillar of her community and a testament to the excellence found in our district. Diana, far from doing business as usual, has aimed to fundamentally change many aspects of our often-harsh criminal justice system to decrease bias and fulfill its duty to serve justice.

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

**RECOGNIZING FIRE CHIEF JOSEPH M. CLUCHEY FOR HIS SERVICE AND RETIREMENT**

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Fire Chief Joseph M. Cluchey on his over 42 years of service to the Illinois fire community as he begins his well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Cluchey began as an on-call firefighter in the South Elgin Fire Department and worked as a contract paramedic in the St. Charles Fire Department in 1981 before becoming a career firefighter. He worked hard and made his way up the ranks to become fire chief for the South Elgin and Countryside Fire Protection District. He valiantly served in this capacity for 12 years before suffering an injury from a roof collapse, which caused him to retire from South Elgin in 2014.

After his retirement from South Elgin, he took on a leadership role as the statewide operations chief for Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. In that capacity, Chief Cluchey served countless communities statewide through the organization's non-discriminatory mutual aid response system for fire, EMS, and specialized incident operational teams.

In November of 2016, after a nationwide search Mr. Joseph M. Cluchey was sworn in as Fire Chief of the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District. The district currently operates out of three stations which serve all or portions of ten communities including 2 large subdivisions located in the 11th Congressional district of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I am proud to represent the community of Elburn, Illinois and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Fire Chief Joseph M. Cluchey for his over 42 years of dedication and fire service to the community and wish him a happy retirement.

**HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: DEBRA MASON**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

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

Debra is the current Executive Director of the Bay Point Community Foundation and the Bay Point Municipal Advisory Council, where

she has served for many years. Over the years, she has worked for after-school programs and served on the Mt. Diablo School Board, and today she continues to be a fierce advocate for students, parents, schools, and her community. She has pushed for public safety, nutrition assistance, after school education, and community engagement in schools. Continuing her work with education, she is also a California School Age Consortium Board Member. Her dedication, service, and work ethic has been an invaluable benefit to the local community. One example of a lasting impact that she has made on the community is establishing the Bay Point Branch of the Contra Costa County Public Library. Debra has been committed to addressing issues that she cares about and is always willing to take action and help others. Debra has been involved with countless community offices and committees where her leadership has improved our local schools and broader community.

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

**RECOGNIZING THE WASCO WOMAN'S CLUB**

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the Wasco Woman's Club on their 100-year anniversary and to thank them for their significant contributions to the Wasco community. Founded in 1923, the Wasco Woman's Club was started by 13 young women who joined together to improve Wasco through volunteer service. Their unwavering commitment to public service has guided their mission over the past century. The Wasco Woman's Club now has approximately 40 members, many of whom are active in other non-profits and faith-based organizations in the community. The club is passionate about the well-being of the city's residents and focuses many of their efforts on strengthening local schools, libraries, and youth programs.

For a century, the Wasco Woman's Club has offered a chance for women of all ages to come together and give back to the Central Valley community. The club is a strong supporter of the Ronald McDonald House and Toys for Tigers organization, helping children and their families get through incredibly difficult situations. Additionally, the club hosts regular events for those in the community, including the Wasco High School Student Art and Photography Awards and the Christmas with Santa Event for special needs students. The club is also the proud owner of the oldest adobe building in the city, which they use to host special events and community gatherings. Amid all of their work, the members of the Wasco Woman's Club are committed to uplifting each other through their long-standing friendships and shared commitment to the betterment of the community.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Wasco Woman's Club on their 100-year anniversary. Their work

to enrich the community of Wasco will be felt for generations to come.

**HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: TECHNICAL SERGEANT CALLIE ABERIN**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

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

Callie enlisted in the United States Air Force in 2012 and now serves as a Technical Sergeant at Travis Air Force Base. She was selected as a Senior Instructor at the Air Mobility Command's largest Airman Leadership School, where she educates, mentors, and certifies front-line supervisors on leadership skills, interpersonal skills, and behavioral theory. Her leadership in these positions have fortified strategic objectives in the personnel of Travis AFB. In addition to her official duties, Callie serves as the local Air Force Sergeant's Association Chapter President, and advocates for improved quality of life and economic fairness for all military personnel. Under her leadership, this organization surpassed membership goals by 217 percent. This community service has extended beyond Travis AFB and into the surrounding community where she has helped raise money for causes such as the Solano County Law Enforcement Torch Run and the Special Olympics. Callie was recognized as an NCO of the Year for the 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB Instructor of the Year in 2022, and ASFA's 2023 International NCO of the Year. Callie's dedication to her community and her country deserves recognition, as she goes above and beyond her official responsibilities to advocate for military personnel.

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

**HONORING THE LIFE OF ALLISON ELIZABETH KENNEDY**

**HON. MARK E. GREEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of Allison Elizabeth Kennedy, a devoted mother, beloved wife, cherished daughter, and follower of Christ.

Allison is remembered by those who knew her best as a woman with a servant's heart; the first to volunteer, the first to help, the first to pick up the phone. Throughout her life, Allison graciously shared the love and joy obtained through a deep and abiding faith with those around her. No one who met her was ever surprised to find that she was a woman of faith; she exuded her love for God in all that she did.

Born in California and raised in Vancouver, Washington, Allison grew up around a large