

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HAYDEN STONE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Hayden Stone of Woodland Park, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Hayden traveled to Greece, Italy, Austria, and Germany to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Hayden for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Hayden's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: ERIN GARCIA-ROBLES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

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

Erin is a registered nurse who serves as a staffing supervisor for the Behavior Health Unit at Woodland Hospital. She works with patients who are struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues. She is a compassionate caregiver for suicidal patients and people who have been sexually abused. Erin manages intake for some of the most vulnerable patients, ensuring that doctors and staff know what care they need. She ensures that her patients receive proper placements and are connected with family members. She is recognized by her family, friends, and colleagues for her caring nature and determined attitude which she brings to every interaction. Her dedication to her patients, family, and friends is an inspiration to everyone who knows her.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to

honor and recognize Erin Garcia-Robles for her positive contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING COMPEER INTERNATIONAL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I am honored to recognize an organization with a noble cause, Compeer International. For numerous years, Compeer has helped individuals who suffer from mental health problems by utilizing the power of friendship and small group mentoring services.

On this World Mental Health Day, Compeer International is marking their fifth decade of service to their community. Founded in Rochester, NY as a means to treat formerly institutionalized patients, Compeer has grown to be a multinational organization, offering services in Canada, the U.K., and Australia. Upon receiving the Presidential Recognition Award in 1982, they have never looked back; Compeer's ongoing mission to expand their services has proven incredibly successful.

After tireless efforts from countless advocates across our country, mental health issues are finally getting the attention they deserve. Mental health and substance abuse challenges impact thousands of Western New York families. It is imperative that our community leaders understand their respective roles in addressing these concerns and ensuring that proper resources are readily available. Adults and children, alike, suffer from a wide variety of mental health challenges, and it is through groups like Compeer that individuals can find the appropriate assistance. All ages are encouraged to take advantage of one-to-one programs, and their fifty-year history is a testament to the dedication of their leadership, staff, and volunteers. The events that our community has endured in recent years underscore the need to prioritize mental healthcare in Western New York. It can be confidently stated that Compeer's comprehensive programs are working to find solutions by creating a support system for our neighbors in need. It is my sincere honor to recognize Compeer's everimportant work over the last fifty years and express my gratitude for all of their future efforts as we continue to battle mental health challenges.

HONORING NORTHWEST INDIANA INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT SISTER JANE MARIE KLEIN

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the Northwest Indiana Indian Medical Association, which will be hosting its 41st Annual Gala on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at the Halls of Saint George in Schererville, Indiana. This year, the organization will present the prestigious Community Service Award to Sister Jane Marie Klein.

The Northwest Indiana Indian Medical Association was founded in 1983 with the goal of bringing together physicians and healthcare providers of Indian descent to foster personal and professional development and relationships. The organization supports numerous charitable endeavors and outreach programs within the surrounding communities.

For her lifetime of spiritual service and her unwavering commitment to the healthcare industry, Sister Jane Marie Klein is the recipient of the Community Service Award. As Chair of the Franciscan Alliance Board of Trustees, Sister Jane Marie has been an outstanding leader and an extraordinary asset to the spiritual and medical community throughout the region. During her tenure, Sister Jane Marie has held numerous positions and leadership roles within the Franciscan Alliance organization, including Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Michigan City's Saint Anthony Health and CEO of Saint Margaret Mercy Health in Hammond for the past ten years. Those who have worked with Sister Jane Marie can attest to her dedication to the organization's standard of excellence and consider her to be among the most significant people in Northern Indiana's medical community.

In addition to serving as Chair of the Franciscan Alliance Board, Sister Jane Marie gives her time and efforts to additional boards at Franciscan Alliance, including the Central Indiana Division, Western Indiana Division, Northern Indiana Division, South Suburban Chicago Division, and the Franciscan Holding Company. She is also a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. For her remarkable contributions to the medical and spiritual fields throughout Indiana and the region, Sister Jane Marie is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the Northwest Indiana Indian Medical Association on its 41st anniversary. I would also like to commend Sister Jane Marie Klein, recipient of the Community Service Award, who has selflessly devoted so much of her time and efforts to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and beyond.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING IRIS BARKETT

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Iris Barkett of Cañon City, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Iris traveled to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Iris for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Iris' many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: JUNE MEJIAS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

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

June is a dedicated public servant and active member of the Benicia community. June's advocacy began with her efforts to understand the Crude by Rail issue and educate others on its importance to their region. She went on to serve on the Benicia Campaign Finance Subcommittee and meet with the Benicia Open Government Commission. She has served for many years with the League of Women Voters and would often volunteer to visit high schools and help register eligible students to vote. She was also selected by the City Council to serve for 3 years on the Benicia Parks and Recreation Commission. June continues to engage with all levels of government, advocating for issues that impact not only her, but the community at large. She consistently ensures that her voice and those of her peers continue to be heard. June is a role model of civic engagement for anyone looking to have an impact on the policies that impact them.

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

SUPPORT OF BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION CONDEMNING HAMAS TERRORIST ATTACK

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise in support of condemning the outrageous Hamas terrorist attacks that have resulted in the senseless deaths of Israelis, Palestinians, and more than 20 American citizens. Hundreds are missing and many are feared to be held hostage—including women, children, and even infants.

Savagely attacking and killing innocent civilians is never justified. These crimes must be unequivocally condemned as they are clear violations of international human rights law.

Hamas has a singular goal: to destroy Israel. Their attacks were not targeting the military or government; they were perpetrated against Israeli communities for the goal of destruction. Hamas uses fear, terror, and intimidation against Israelis and it uses the same tactics against the Palestinian people, putting targets on the backs of innocent people in Gaza. Nearly half of the population of Gaza are children—most having lived their entire lives under a brutal, devastating blockade that deprives them of basic human necessities and no prospect for a better future.

I have a solemn responsibility as a Member of Congress to shape policy. I have spoken out against governments, extremist groups, those exerting power over marginalized populations—whether they are our enemies, our allies, or within our own nation—and I always speak up for those suffering and in defense of human rights. The October 7 attack by Hamas was a gross violation of human rights. It crossed a red line.

This was a strategic, coordinated, multi-modal attack by Hamas. It leaves deeply concerning questions about what happened in the lead-up to this massacre and what the future holds. Any response must consider the innocent lives at stake. The United States must not choose to escalate conflict with a knee-jerk reaction of providing more weapons for an offensive that will certainly take the lives of more innocent civilians and children. The reports of casualties in Israel and Palestine are stunning, and I fear these numbers will only grow in the coming days.

This attack is not a far-away matter; it is hitting close to home. Mothers, fathers, the young, and the elderly—those near and far—are now living in unimaginable fear while mourning those they have lost. I am hearing from many Jewish constituents and community leaders who are in pain and who have loved ones among the injured, killed, or missing. I stand with them, I mourn with them, and I share their fear of what is to come.

My hope and my dream for the future is for every Israeli child and every Palestinian child to be tucked into bed at night by their parents without fear of bombings and perpetual violence. All people deserve safety and security—and in the wake of this heinous attack, the international community is in agreement that Hamas must be stopped. The only sustainable path forward is one where international human rights and international law are at the forefront and democratic ideals are upheld.

HONORING COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I rise to honor an organization in Florida's 4th District that exemplifies the spirit of compassion and service—Community Health Outreach.

For 35 years, they have been the cornerstone of hope for low-income, uninsured families in our northeast Florida community. Their tireless efforts have not only provided critical healthcare but also empowered countless families, including our brave U.S. Military Veterans, to overcome adversity.

Community Health Outreach is not just a healthcare provider; it's a beacon of sustainable change. They've woven a tapestry of support, offering resources, guidance, and a lifeline to those who need it most as they work to build a healthier society.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in recognizing this milestone and celebrating the unsung heroes within Community Health Outreach and all those they have touched.

May their legacy inspire us to uplift the vulnerable, to strengthen our communities, and to forge a brighter, healthier future for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING JAYLYNN ARMIJO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Jaylynn Armijo of Lakewood, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Jaylynn traveled to South Korea to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Jaylynn for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Jaylynn's many accomplishments.