

because of his integrity, leadership, and steadfast dedication to his team and the community they protected. Over the span of his career, Mickey was honored with several medals that reflected his heroic actions while wearing the badge. But staying true to his character, he would always humbly give credit to the people who worked alongside him rather than take it for himself.

Throughout his life, Mickey had a passion for fitness, specifically boxing. During his boxing career, he won countless matches, notably, a Silver Mittens and a Golden Gloves championship. But Mickey's real passion would lie in mentoring young people in Lowell. He knew the impact boxing had on him when he was young and dedicated himself to training young boxers, most notably "Irish" Mickey Ward. The devotion he showed to the sport and to the young people he trained was recognized by the Golden Gloves of America, which awarded him with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mickey was a fixture in the boxing community. "Irish" Mickey Ward credited him as the person who reignited his love for boxing and wouldn't allow him to quit. Mickey helped him train and win the World Boxing Union's Intercontinental light welterweight title in 1996. Because of Ward's remarkable career, Mark Walberg approached Mickey to play himself in the 2010 movie, "The Fighter", and from then on amongst his family he was dubbed "Hollywood Gramps". Throughout it all, Mickey remained the same down-to-earth person he had always been.

Mickey's love for the City of Lowell was unmatched. He and Donna were always looking for ways to contribute to their community. They welcomed anyone who was in need to their house with open arms and in turn touched countless lives throughout the years. They passed these traits of kindness, respect, and sense of community to their children and grandchildren. The Lowell community was fortunate enough to have had Mickey in their corner for so many years and he will be deeply missed.

Mickey O'Keefe will be remembered for his love for his family and friends, his kindness to those around him, his distinguished professional career, and his immense impact on the City of Lowell. My heart goes out to his loving wife, Donna, his four sons, Shaun, Timothy, Brian, and Keith, and the entire O'Keefe family during this difficult time. Mickey's legacy will live on through his loving family and all who had the honor of knowing him.

HONORING JEFFERSON COLLEGE'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Jefferson College located in Jefferson County in Missouri, as the community celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

The Community College District of Jefferson County was approved by voters on April 2, 1963. Senator Earl Blackwell of Hillsboro sponsored Senate Bill Number Seven, which made possible the formation and financing of

public junior colleges in Missouri. Jefferson became the second junior college district in Missouri to be approved.

Seventeen months later, the first courses were offered at Hillsboro High School with 14 faculty members and 303 students. Jefferson College moved into its first permanent building on the Hillsboro campus in September of 1965 and held its first commencement in June of 1966, where 31 graduates received associate degrees.

In 1967, Jefferson College became the first community college in Missouri to be designated as an area vocational school. Today, in addition to the Hillsboro campus, the college has sites in Arnold and Imperial. Over 3,500 full and part-time students span 25 different fields of study, including education, nursing, and the liberal arts.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, please join me in wishing the community of Jefferson College a well-deserved congratulations on their 60th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JUSTINE THOMAS

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 Justine Thomas of Westminster, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Justine traveled to Cyprus 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 Justine 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 Justine's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: KATRINKA RUK

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

Katrinka is a dedicated and passionate leader who has touched the lives of countless

members of her community. Katrinka is described as a Bay Area native who has made a career out of improving the lives of working people. Professionally, she spent years working in the field of human resources as an HR Director for Geyser Peak and a global pharmaceutical company, and Regional HR Director for TriNet where she supported the growth of startups into thriving organizations. Katrinka has also helped grow the economy of Contra Costa County by serving for 20 years as director for the West Contra Costa Council of Business and Industries. Katrinka has also extensively given her time as a board member for Canine Guardian Assistance Dogs, an organization connecting fully trained service dogs with veterans who suffer from PTSD. She also served on the East Bay Board of the YMCA where she supported social programs and reviewed potential grants for the organization. Katrinka's years of work and volunteerism will be felt throughout Contra Costa County for years to come.

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

HONORING THE CAREER OF DEBORAH MONAHAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to commend and honor Deborah "Deb" Monahan, of Norwich, Connecticut, on her retirement as the Executive Director of Thames Valley Community Council for Community Action. At the helm of TVCCA, Deb has led a crusade of over half-century, a personal mission to uplift the lives of those most vulnerable in southeast Connecticut. The impact of her tenure is of titanic proportions. Whether you go neighborhood by neighborhood or town-by-town, it is impossible to traverse New London County without finding some person or organization that has not been touched by Deb's kind and giving spirit. Her stewardship as Executive Director and CEO will be sorely missed and impossible to replace.

In 1973, Deb graduated with a bachelor's degree in childhood and family relations, setting the stage for her future of community service. Deb's degree was quickly put to use when, upon graduating, she was approached by TVCCA to serve as a case aid for early childhood issues. Little did she know at the time, she would transform and personify TVCCA's mission from the start of her career to finish. Soon thereafter, Deb found herself working in the agency's grants office where she continued a bottom-up journey of understanding the organization's innerworkings, a rare perspective that caused Deb to become such an effective, respected and well-rounded leader.

By 1976, Deb found herself in a leadership position as TVCCA's Women, Infants, and Children Program Director, where she worked with various external partners to provide effective support for those in need. In 1977, she became the assistant to then-Executive Director Gunderman and was named associate director in 1986. Her competence and dedication to the mission were properly recognized

when she was subsequently named TVCCA's Executive Director and CEO in 1998, a promotion which has bettered the lives of untold thousands.

Deb's career, and by direct extension the growth of TVCCA, has been defined by her eye for establishing partnerships, only to form them but to nurture them into long-term relationships. She has worked in conjunction with community institutions like Backus Hospital, United Community & Family Services, and municipalities throughout the southeastern region. Through these active relationships, Deb has crafted a robust social services network to care for residents of all creeds. She has served as a key member of the Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments, the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance, and too many other boards to count.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, Deb's legacy of good works is broad and wide, touching people of all ages and walks of life. Although there is no question that Deb's advocacy for her clients is undying, the population she most passionately helped were infants, toddlers and preschool kids. It is a testament to her dedication to our state and nation's future generations that even in her last few months as Executive Director and CEO, Deb has worked tirelessly to increase access to quality and affordable childcare services in our region by expanding TVCCA's childcare center in Grotton, Connecticut. TVCCA's childcare and school readiness centers have blossomed during her tenure—now serving around 900 children with Deb's eyes on increasing services still.

On her long watch, Deb oversaw an unprecedented expansion of services offered by TVCCA. Leading with empathy and love, Deb solidified TVCCA's reputation as a real one-stop-shop for social services. She kept individuals housed through the agency's homeless prevention programs, warmed families through the winter with the energy assistance program, fought against food insecurity with the operation of the food and nutrition program, assisted the unemployed and underemployed find gainful careers—and that is just the beginning.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I count myself incredibly fortunate to work with civic leaders like Deb, who has worked so hard to create and grow social assistance programs I have sought to fund through my seat in Congress. As someone who counts himself as a friend, I can say she walks through her life with a rare authenticity. Her pure, passionate, empathetic presence in public service will be sorely missed. Although we are saddened by her departure, we can take solace in the knowledge that her legacy will continue through the institution which she has poured her life into. Words cannot do justice to the permanency of her life purpose. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask that my colleagues in this chamber join me in rightfully adding a layer to her already permanent cast.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MEGAN RAPINOE

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor my constituent, Megan

Rapinoe, who is retiring from professional soccer after an inspiring 17-year career.

Over her distinguished career, Megan's athletic prowess and activism for equity have inspired Washington's 7th Congressional District and the world. Megan helped lead the United States to victory in two FIFA World Cups, received Olympic gold and bronze medals, and was named The Best FIFA Women's Player 2019. In addition to being a superstar on the field, Megan has courageously utilized her platform to advocate for social justice. She is an outspoken champion for equal pay and gender equality, knelt in solidarity with Colin Kaepernick in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, and continuously stands up for LGBTQ+ rights and other critical social justice issues. Through her sacrifice and hard work, the U.S. Soccer Federation now guarantees equal pay to men's and women's soccer teams and the state of women's soccer in the United States is in a much better place than when her career began.

As she enters retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Megan's accomplishments and service to our country. Her achievements on the field, coupled with her fearless and unapologetic advocacy, have set an incredible example for young athletes everywhere. She changed the way that not only little girls could see themselves in soccer, but she also showed everyone what it looks like to be who you are and to fight for the things you believe in. Her legacy will continue to inspire those in Washington's 7th Congressional District and beyond.

RECOGNIZING KATHERINA MOOK

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 Katherina Mook of Golden, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Katherina 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 Katherina 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 Katherina's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: MAJOR KAYLEIGH
MIGALEDDI

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 Major Kayleigh Migaleddi as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Kayleigh serves as the interim Chief for the 60th Air Mobility Wing Commander's Action Group and a Flight Nurse Evaluator for the 60th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Travis Air Force Base. From her first assignment at Nellis Air Force Base as a clinical nurse in the inpatient setting, to her current position where she is responsible for local and regional partnerships for twenty-eight thousand personnel, Major Migaleddi has proven that her leadership and exceptional dedication is unmatched. During Operation Allies Refuge, she was the Aeromedical Evacuation Team Lead at Hamid Karzai International Airport, where she and her team responded to the deadly Abbey Gate bombing in Kabul. Following the experience of seeing her fellow medics through this tragedy, she resolved to change the trajectory of training and mission readiness to better prepare her peers for combat operations. Kayleigh has also amassed 720 flight hours and 104 combat flight hours in Operations Enduring Freedom and Inherent Resolve and contributed vital efforts in the execution of the largest and fastest aeromedical evacuation movement in modern history. Under Kayleigh's leadership, her team won Team of the Quarter twice. Group Airmen of the Year, Squadron Aeromedical Technician Instructor of the Year, and her troop was selected to commission into the Interservice Physician Assistant Program. Kayleigh has also played a crucial role in coordinating countless events at Travis Air Force Base including the Warrior Event, Gold Star Family Ruck, and POW/MIA Week. Kayleigh is a valuable part of the Travis team, as well as the larger Solano Community.

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

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOMTAR'S ROCK HILL CONVERTING PLANT

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to celebrate the thirty-five-year journey of Domtar's Rock Hill Converting Plant, a cornerstone of South Carolina's industrial and community landscape. Established on October 3, 1988, the Rock Hill plant marked Domtar's commitment to the Southeast's expansion. They constructed a paper mill in Bennettsville, South Carolina, and concurrently set up a converting plant at Rock Hill's Tech Park, complete with a rail spur for convenience.