

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.

Recognizing the importance of education and workforce development, Domtar partnered with York Technical College. They generously donated a commercial printing press, in addition to fostering skills among students and offering employment opportunities to graduates.

Starting with thirty employees and three machines producing 102 tons per day, the plant has grown monumentally since then. Today, it employs fifty-three individuals, operates eight machines, and boasts an annual capacity of 65,000 tons.

Over the past thirty-five years, the plant has received numerous safety awards, highlighting its dedication to ensuring a secure and healthy workplace for its employees. In 2021, the plant achieved an extraordinary milestone by being awarded twenty-five years without a lost-time injury, a significant accomplishment in the manufacturing industry.

The Rock Hill Converting Plant is not just about business; it's about community. The plant and its employees regularly contribute to nonprofit organizations, both large and small, demonstrating their commitment to investing in the welfare of the area they call home. The employees have generously donated their time and energy to support education, sustainability, and humanitarian aid initiatives, further cementing the plant's role as a responsible corporate citizen.

Domtar's Rock Hill Converting Plant stands as a beacon of growth, safety, and community engagement. Over the past thirty-five years, this facility has not only played a vital role in the local economy, but has also become a source of inspiration and pride for the South Carolina community. It is with great honor that I recognize the accomplishments of the Rock Hill Converting Plant and look forward to witnessing their continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse. New York.

Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse originated in 1923 as The Bishop's House of Charity to do "all the things in the field of charity which should be done but which parishes alone cannot perform." Since that time, the agency has expanded to become six Catholic Charities area offices serving the people of Central New York: Catholic Charities of Broome County, Catholic Charities of Chenango County, Catholic Charities of Cortland County, Catholic Charities of Oneida and Madison Counties, Catholic Charities of Onondaga County, and Catholic Charities of Oswego County. The six agencies, collectively known as Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, now serve as the operating agency of the Diocese's community services and human development programs providing services to people in need, regardless of their faith, ethnic origin, or social standing.

The six Catholic Charities agencies are dedicated to caring for those in need while promoting human development, collaboration, and the elimination of poverty and injustice by offering service components and delivery strategies tailored to best serve the people living in their service area. These services include emergency services, food pantries, permanent supportive housing, emergency shelter services, refugee resettlement services, parent education and support, Pre-Kindergarten, residential services, elderly services, and case management services. Each of the six Catholic Charities organizations has collaborated and continues to collaborate and coordinate with state and local government and other area nonprofit agencies to maximize available resources and the impact on the individuals they serve. Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse expect to continue their dedication to caring for those in need for the next 100 years.

I commend Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse on the occasion of their 100th anniversary and recognize their contributions to the well-being of the people of New York's 22nd congressional district and beyond.

RECOGNIZING AARON CADAYONG

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Aaron Cadayong of Littleton, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Aaron traveled to the Philippines 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 Aaron 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 Aaron's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: ELEANOR THOMPSON

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 contribu-

tions of Eleanor Thompson as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Eleanor has been an active member of her community for over fifty years and continues her work volunteering with her church and youth throughout Richmond. She founded Social Progress Inc. and ran a Youth Resource Center that served 30 young people in the community. While serving as the CEO of Social Progress Inc, she ensured that young men living in the Iron Triangle were able to safely get to school by driving them herself. Over the years, Eleanor has distributed hundreds of backpacks, toys, and scholarships to youth in need. She also founded the yearly Fourth of July Parade and Festival in Richmond that serves to bring the community together. She is passionate about pushing for change regarding homelessness and public safety and has been awarded for her community leadership with the Richmond Police Commission, the Anti-Drug Task Force, Parks and Recreation Commission, the Crime Prevention Team, and the 7th Street Crime Watch Team, among others. Eleanor is a shining example of a compassionate and dedicated community leader.

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

HONORING COACH HAMPTON "HAMP" SMITH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize a loving husband, iconic coach, dedicated community servant and dear friend of longstanding, Coach Hampton "Hamp" Smith. Sadly, Coach Smith passed away on Monday, October 2, 2023. A homegoing service to celebrate his remarkable life was held on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at the Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

The genesis of the life of Coach Hampton Smith began on October 1, 1934, in Greenwood, Mississippi where he was born to the union of the late Richard Smith and Fannie Hampton Smith. A product of the Leflore County, Mississippi school system, he graduated from Threadgill High School and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from Mississippi Valley Vocational College (Now Mississippi Valley State University) in 1957. From 1957 to 1959, Coach served honorably in the United States Army.

Coach Smith began his legendary coaching career in 1959 as an assistant coach at Mississippi Valley Vocational College. He then coached at McComb High School and J.E. Johnson High School before serving as assistant football coach at Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial College during 1969 and 1970 while earning his Master's degree. Coach Smith then began the first of two legendary stints at Albany State College in 1971 through 1976, went back to Mississippi Valley for 1977 to 1978, only to return to Albany State as an assistant coach from 1980 to 1981. He then became head coach for the Albany State Golden Rams from 1982 to 1999. Multi-talented and multi-faceted, Coach Smith also