

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 PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. 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

served as Albany State baseball coach from 1981 to 1983, compiling a record of 46–37–1.

Overall, during his career in coaching, he compiled an impressive record of 157–90–4; he made 5 NCAA D–II Playoff appearances and led Albany State to 9 SIAC Championships. He was inducted in the Albany State University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004 and the SIAC Hall of Fame in 2014.

Coach Smith's impact was felt well beyond the athletic field. He was more than just a coach. He helped shape the character of generations of young men and women at Albany State and helped shape the character of his community through his active civic engagement in local, state and national politics. He strongly encouraged people to exercise their duty to vote in every election.

Coach Smith accomplished much in his life but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and love and support of his late wife, Charlene Johnson Smith. This union lasted for 60 years until Charlene's passing in April of 2022.

On a personal note, Coach Smith was my friend and supporter for 30 years. For his loyalty, support and wise counsel, I will be forever grateful.

Coach Hamp Smith was a Hall of Fame Coach and a Hall of Fame human being. To God be the Glory for his extraordinary life and legacy.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in paying tribute to Coach Hampton Smith and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and all who mourn his loss. Moreover, we pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

RECOGNIZING TURKISH REPUBLIC DAY AND THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, the people of Türkiye and Turkish Americans celebrate Turkish Republic Day every year on October 29th. This important date commemorates when Türkiye in 1923 became a republic thanks to the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. This October 29th is a special celebration because it marks 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye.

While Anatolia, the home of the Republic of Türkiye, has been a cradle of civilizations for millennia, Türkiye has transformed from its ancient history to the modern skylines of Ankara. The progress the Turkish people have made over the past century is a testament to their resilience, determination, and spirit.

The Republic of Türkiye has historically been a strong and reliable ally of the United States thanks to its founding principles of democracy, secularism, and equality. Türkiye boasts the second largest military in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and is allied with the United States on key issues of counterterrorism, energy diversification, secur-

ing the global supply chains, and drug and human trafficking prevention.

I am proud to recognize the rich tapestry of Turkish-American contributions to the United States. Turkish-Americans have made important strides in several fields, including academia, business, medicine, arts, and culture. Turkish-Americans have enriched our society with their traditions, cuisine, and heritage. These contributions are especially ever present in New Jersey's Ninth Congressional district, with the largest Turkish immigrant community in the United States centered around the thriving Little Istanbul in South Paterson.

The Turkish-American community is an important bridge to strengthen the understanding and friendship between our two nations. As I reflect on Türkiye's 100th Republic Day, I hope everyone will celebrate the shared values and interests that bind our nations. I congratulate, Türkiye, on their centenary, and I thank them, Turkish-Americans, for their enduring contributions to the United States.

RECOGNIZING AISHA OZASLAN

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

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: COLONEL ELIZABETH APTEKAR

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 Colonel Elizabeth Aptekar as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Elizabeth serves as the Commander of the 60th Mission Support Group at the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base. She leads a 1,900-member group that provides support to three wings and more than fifty mission partners. Her team rapidly mobilized support for 104 nations, readied 3,000 missions, and executed 2,000 deployments and seven Presidential Support packages which empowered six Combatant Commands to enable diplomatic and economic ties globally. Locally, she oversaw 54 construction projects totaling \$137 million which facilitated the KC–46 aircraft activation at Travis Air Force Base. She also guided a \$208 million Defense Health Agency contracting transition strategy for the Air Force's largest hospital, saving \$48 million and harnessing \$15 million for other critical priorities. She also leveraged Defense and hybrid energy initiatives positioning \$20 million toward alternative energy, fuel resources, and electric vehicle infrastructure. Elizabeth has also worked to integrate Travis AFB with the surrounding community, organizing meetings between base and city leaders and fostering support for initiatives focused on infrastructure and quality of life improvements. Demonstrating her commitment to Airmen, her team's 90 percent execution rate of resiliency funds was No. 1 in the Air Force, ensuring Team Travis Airmen and Families across 77 units were immersed in surrounding community activities. Elizabeth's work has improved quality of life for all members of the Travis AFB community, and her engaged leadership, service to others, and commitment to excellence is noted and celebrated.

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

RECOGNIZING ALMOND ROCA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I would like to take a moment to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Brown & Haley's invention of their flagship candy, Almond Roca, on October 10, 2023.

My district is home to vibrant towns and thriving small businesses—but none so sweet as Brown & Haley, a confectionary company founded by two friends, Harry Brown and JC Haley, in 1912 in the City of Tacoma, Washington.

In 1923, they invented their signature candy: the Almond Roca, an iconic, log-shaped crunchy toffee covered in chocolate and crushed almonds. Almond Roca traveled with our troops in World War II, was carried by Sir Edmund Hillary during his Everest expeditions, and today is sold in over 60 countries.

One hundred years later, Brown & Haley produces Almond Roca using the same recipe, the same ingredients, and even in the same plant in Tacoma—a converted shoe factory purchased in 1919. Brown & Haley remains a family business with over 200 employees and today produces over three million pieces of Almond Roca.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I am thrilled to acknowledge Brown & Haley's enduring legacy in Tacoma and the 100 years of joy that