

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

Almond Roca has brought not just to our neck of the woods, but across the world.

#### RECOGNIZING AUBREY MILLER

### 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 Aubrey Miller of Arvada, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Aubrey 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 Aubrey 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 Aubrey's many accomplishments.

#### HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: JAMEELAH HANIF

### 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 Jameelah Hanif as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Jameelah is a community organizer, family advocate, and champion for children. She is the Founder, CEO, and Executive Director of Watch Me Grow, Inc, a non-profit organization that provides resources and training for parents. Jameelah facilitates the Parent Leadership Training Institute to help parents advocate for their children and families. She has been a small business owner for 10 years, providing quality childcare and family services to over 150 children. Jameelah has also been the Chair of the Solano County Local Child Care Planning Council and the Solano County Licensed Family Child Care Association. She has a degree in Child Development and Family Services, and completed the Solano County Parent Leadership Training Institute, Leadership Vallejo, and EmergeCA programs. Since the beginning of 2022, Ms. Hanif has organized monthly youth-led community clean-ups to expose our youth to community service and to develop community pride, attracting over 350 participants. Ms. Hanif is currently the

Vallejo leader of All Children Thrive California initiative, a community-led movement working towards creating protective community environments that allow all children to thrive. Jameelah has been a strong voice for children and families in Vallejo and with her passion for this work she will continue to expand her advocacy locally and regionally.

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

#### PAYING REMEMBRANCE TO AIDEN ORTIZ ON THE OCCASION OF HIS PASSING

### HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is with a heavy heart I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Aiden Ortiz, who was tragically struck and killed by a vehicle at age twelve on September 25, 2023. His family, friends, and community are devastated by this sudden loss. A sixth grader at Melva Davis Academy of Excellence. Aiden Ortiz was known as a selfless, caring son and friend to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

As a father of two myself, it is nearly impossible to imagine losing one's child. I treasure every moment with my sons, and losing a child so suddenly is every parent's greatest fear.

Aiden was caring and always put others ahead of himself. According to his baseball coach, Rodney McNealy, Aiden has been a part of the league since Tee-ball and made a name for himself in the Majors Division of the Adelanto Little League, where he played for the Rockies last spring. Aiden was a true sportsman whose passion for baseball and life was contagious.

While Aiden's life was tragically cut short, he made a tremendous impact on every life he touched. Aiden is survived by his mother Allyssa, his stepfather, Alex, and his two siblings. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with Aiden's family as they navigate this difficult loss.

I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning Aiden's passing and celebrating his life.

#### CELEBRATING THE ANNUAL SCARECROW FESTIVITIES OF THE CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in recognition of the Chester Historical Society's annual scarecrow celebration in Chester, New Hampshire. Each year, as the weather cools and the leaves fall, hundreds of new faces appear in the town of Chester as residents decorate scarecrows in support of the Chester Historical Society. These stylized scarecrows represent everything from pop cul-

ture icons to historical figures and local heroes, but together they tell the story of a small town celebrating community and a beloved tradition.

From scarecrows depicting Paul Revere on horseback to a Star Trek-inspired Taylor Swift, each scarecrow is a unique expression of the creativity of Chester residents. For 14 years, this celebration has served as an opportunity for residents to showcase their artistic skills with money raised from the sale of scarecrow kits supporting the efforts by the Historical Society to promote the history of the town and continuous education about local culture. Along Routes 102 and 121, hundreds of scarecrows line the street demonstrating that the Chester Historical Society succeeds in spreading history and happiness across town.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate the Chester Historical Society for preserving this cherished tradition and to commend them on the work they have done to educate town residents on local culture. I look forward to a continued partnership with the town of Chester, and I cannot wait to see the creativity displayed in this year's crop of scarecrows.

#### RECOGNIZING AUDREY BULLER

### 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 Audrey Buller of Arvada, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Audrey traveled to Zambia 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 Audrey 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 Audrey's many accomplishments.