

Ms. Cockeram has held significant leadership positions throughout her career, including six years as the Georgia Association of Realtors Chairman and co-Chairman for the MLS Forum.

Her leadership experience and achievements are truly too numerous to list in just one speech, which speaks volumes about who Toni is as a person.

I congratulate Toni on her amazing career and on her upcoming retirement.

MIGUEL SANTOS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, last month, it was an honor to celebrate Miguel Santos' achievement of his Eagle Scout ceremony. Miguel joined the Scouts as a Tiger Scout and, along with his brothers, has completed the journey to Eagle Scout. This journey was a transformative one for Miguel, teaching him lessons like the importance of leadership, the significance of comradery, and the value of service. For his Eagle Scout Project, he rehabilitated a structure at Saint Joseph's Cemetery in Woolwich in South Jersey and made it into a meditative prayer space for those to enjoy and find solitude. Along with his project, he dedicated a lot of his time to the Church, resulting in him completing all four Pillars of Faith and earning the four Catholic Scouting Awards. Miguel plans to take the lessons that he has learned with the Scouts and apply them to his future studies of filmmaking and design at Rutgers University in Camden. I am incredibly proud of Miguel for all his achievements in the Scouts and I know he has a bright future ahead of him. God Bless Miguel Santos and God Bless the United States of America.

WAR CRIMINAL PUTIN, NOW IRAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, the murderous invasion of Israel by Iran proxies is the latest step of the war we did not choose between Dictators with Rule of Gun opposing Democracies with Rule of Law. The dictators are murderously united, and it is encouraging to see democracies stand with Ukraine and now Israel, as I personally saw this weekend attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Copenhagen.

Conflict began with war criminal Putin murderously invading Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and now Iran proxy Hamas is heinous in its October 7th mass murder of Israelis and other nationalities being American, Thai, German, and French, as the Chinese Communist Party awaits its time threatening the 24 million people of Taiwan.

Iran is actually attacking Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Iran's proxies are murdering today to stop Saudi Arabia from extending the Abraham Accords which have been so successful for prosperity with Bahrain, United Arab Emir-

ates, Sudan, and Morocco. The regime in Tehran is sabotaging the billion-dollar efforts by Qatar for a functioning civil society in the Gaza Strip. Tehran's aggression is a direct threat from the Middle East to India with disruption of supply lines causing chaos.

Last month I was grateful to visit with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan in Riyadh to see their world-class developments in tourism and golf which Iran seeks to destroy, putting all tourists at risk of kidnapping.

The mass murdering terrorists of Iran must be stopped, as should war criminal Putin who have declared their insidious goals of Death to Israel, Death to America, and the re-creation of the Evil Soviet Empire. Every effort by democracies must be made for the courageous Ukrainians and Israelis to win territorial integrity.

Peace through strength must be established as Putin threatens the existence of Moldova, Georgia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia today with more murderous invasions later. Iran must be stopped from death to Israel and America as the Chinese Communist Party is to be deterred from mass murder. The proven Reagan success is Peace Through Strength.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: NANCY NELSON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Nancy Nelson as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Nancy is an accomplished architect, environmental advocate, and tireless community servant. She is known for her generosity and caring and the joy she finds in providing for her community and improving the lives of others inspires everyone who knows her. Since 2008, Nancy has been an architect for Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity, designing affordable, energy efficient housing for low-income families and formerly homeless veterans. For each one of the 21 houses she has designed pro bono for Habitat for Humanity, Nancy has met every challenge with enthusiasm and optimism. She was also instrumental in the creation of the first of its kind Veterans' Residences built in Dixon and Rio Vista. Over the years, Nancy's community service has also included time on the board of the Green Valley Agricultural Conservancy, the Solano County Orderly Growth committee, and the Green Valley Landowners Association. Throughout her career, she has had a passion for energy efficient housing design and, in collaboration with the North State Building Industry Association and the California Energy Commission, helped author the Countdown to 2020 program that helped industry adopt and comply with new energy standards. Through her work, volunteerism, and advocacy, Nancy has always found ways to give back to her local community and beyond. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Nancy Nelson for her positive contributions to our community.

JOHN SICILIANO

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is with great pride that I congratulate John Siciliano for his retirement from the Greater Wildwoods Tourism Improvement and Development Authority after Twenty Seven and a half years of service. His career with GWTIDA began in 1995 as CFO and he quickly proved himself a force to be reckoned with in the travel and tourism industry. He soon after became Executive Director and CFO in 1997. During his tenure, he played a crucial role in developing the 260,000 square foot, Seventy million Dollar Wildwoods Convention Center, which has become a major economic catalyst, hosting over one hundred forty five events annually and generating more than fifty million dollars in revenue a year. Under John's guidance, GWTIDA nurtured a culture of excellence, leading to an average employee longevity of seventeen years. John's dedication and advocacy have been pivotal in the resurgence of the Wildwoods as a top family vacation destination. Some of his professional achievements include but are not limited to the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce Golden Whelk Tourism Award, the Tourism Excellence Award by the New Jersey Tourism Industry, and many more. John consistently pursues innovative strategies to keep the Wildwoods at the forefront of the travel and tourism industry. His positive impact to the community extends outside of his work with the GWTIDA as he shifts his focus to helping children in the area maintain good grades through the Kiwanis BUG program. His good work has culminated into an enriched community, and it reflects the type of man that John is. I thank John for his dedication to South Jersey and to GWTIDA, and I hope he enjoys his retirement. God Bless John Siciliano and God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: DR. KIMBERLY ROGERS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Dr. Kimberly Rogers as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Kimberly is a passionate public servant who has demonstrated tireless dedication in higher education as an administrator and teacher over the past 20 years. Since June 2022, Kimberly has served as President of Contra Costa College in San Pablo, having previously served as Vice President of Instruction. Contra Costa College currently serves over 5,600 students in our community. As President, Kimberly has spearheaded efforts to greatly expand student services such as launching the Free Lunch program, increasing mental health services, extending housing assistance, expanding access to professional attire, and increasing

staffing. Under President Rogers' leadership, Contra Costa College has reversed yearslong enrollment declines and bolstered academic and career opportunities with the creation of the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement program, the college's admission to the Achieving the Dream program and the Rising Scholars Network, and more. Kimberly is known for her unwavering commitment to improving higher education and dedication to bringing about positive change for Contra Costa College and its students. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Dr. Kimberly Rogers for her positive contributions to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO PROHIBIT THE TRANSFER OF
PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT OF
THE D.C. NATIONAL GUARD TO
ANOTHER NATIONAL GUARD

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF THE COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today, I introduce a bill that would prohibit the Department of Defense (DOD) and the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) from transferring personnel and equipment of the DCNG to DOD or the National Guard of a state or territory. The DOD has indicated it will restructure the DCNG. The DOD is considering, among other things, transferring the aviation units of the DCNG to the Maryland and Virginia National Guards. Transferring the aviation units would make D.C. residents and the nation's capital less safe.

The DCNG is unique. The National Guards of the states and territories operate under dual federal and state/territorial jurisdiction, while the DCNG operates solely under federal jurisdiction. The governors of the states, as well as of the three territories with National Guards, control their National Guards, and the president has the authority to federalize the National Guards. The president controls the DCNG.

The proposed transfer of aviation units is especially troubling. If the DCNG had no aviation units, the DCNG would be reliant on the National Guards of the states and territories or active-duty forces for aviation matters, such as intercepting aircraft, patrolling the skies and rescuing or evacuating people in emergencies. While the D.C. mayor or DCNG could request assistance from a state or territory in the event air assets were needed in D.C., there is no guarantee the air assets would be provided in a timely manner—or at all. While the president could use active-duty troops or federalize a state or territorial National Guard for aviation matters to assist D.C., the circumstances under which the president may federalize a National Guard are very limited.

I note that I have introduced legislation, which the House passed twice last Congress, to give the D.C. mayor the same control over the DCNG that the governors have over their National Guards. I also note that I was outraged by the attacks on protestors by the DCNG after the killing of George Floyd.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING GARY KROESCHEN FOR
RETIRING AS CHAIR OF THE
MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I would like to honor and congratulate Gary Kroeschen on his retirement as Marshall County Board Chairman.

Gary Kroeschen has devoted almost two decades to serving the people of Marshall County. From his early efforts as a Bennington Township Board trustee and Toluca Park District trustee, Gary established himself as a strong advocate for the people with a keen eye for the future. In 2007 he was appointed to the Marshall County Board, a position he would go on to be elected to five times. It was on the Marshall County Board that Gary would demonstrate his strong leadership skills and fiscal conservatism. His peers elected him as Chairman of the Board in 2012. Under his leadership, Marshall County was able to navigate the challenges of the COVID pandemic. Citizens and constituents lauded Gary's twenty-four hour a day availability. As a fiscal watchdog, Gary pushed for an expansion of the County's efforts to secure grants for modernization projects, including but not limited to the Marshall County Courthouse parking lot.

In addition to serving the people of Marshall County as an elected official, Gary thrived as a small business owner. Under his leadership, Kroeschen Plumbing and Heating Inc. in Toluca was lauded for its outstanding customer service and reliability. Much like he treats his constituents, employees were treated like members of his family.

I want to express the utmost gratitude to Gary for his two decades of public service. He is the epitome of a great public servant and his absence on the Marshall County Board will be felt for years to come. Gary has left a legacy which will live on for decades for those who follow him in service to Marshall County. I wish Gary the best as he begins his retirement.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE STATE TROOPERS
FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I rise to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the State Troopers Fraternal Association (STFA). Established in 1963, the STFA represents brave New Jersey State Troopers. With a current membership of 1,700, the STFA has dedicated themselves to collectively bargain for improved working conditions and compensation for these courageous law enforcement officers.

STFA has made great strides to improve working conditions for New Jersey State Troopers. The STFA established an efficient and fair process to settle grievances for and against its members. They also provide financial resources for members and families of

members who have been tragically killed in the line of duty. These efforts have helped improve public safety across the State of New Jersey.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the STFA were asked to attend to the front lines of this massive medical crisis. They answered the call. New Jersey State Troopers helped protect the efficiency of our medical infrastructure so that patients across our state could receive the care they desperately needed.

The STFA is a trusted resource for the bipartisan Law Enforcement Caucus in the United States House of Representatives. As this organization's longtime Co-Chairman, I count on the STFA to inform my decisions in making federal policy affecting law enforcement.

President Wayne Blanchard exemplifies the leadership qualities paramount to the successes of the STFA. His vision for public safety has given countless New Jersey families peace of mind. I am pleased to call Wayne a friend.

I ask every Member to join me in recognizing the outstanding work of the STFA, supporting the mission of State Troopers who willingly put their lives on the line every day in the spirit of honor, duty, and fidelity. The STFA remains dedicated to providing leadership to its members and the public. Here's to the next 60 years of the STFA.

JACOB GILCHRIST

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, this June, I had the pleasure of celebrating Jacob Gilchrist's achievements with the Scouts. Jacob joined the Scouts as a Tiger Cub and after years of hard work and dedication, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Through earning merit badges, participating in outdoor adventures, and developing his leadership skills, Jacob has gained valuable knowledge that he will carry with him for the rest of his life. For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Jacob renovated and repaired a local World War Two monument in his local community. Jacob's service does not go unnoticed, and I applaud him for his hard work and dedication for improving our South Jersey community. I congratulate Jacob and I wish him all the best. God Bless Jacob Gilchrist and God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: KRIS COREY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Kris Corey as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Kris first moved to the Fairfield Suisun City Unified School District from South Dakota as an elementary school