

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

teacher and after 13 years of teaching became an administrator. Over the years, Kris worked her way up from assistant principal to District Superintendent. As Superintendent, Kris has done impressive and impactful work including maintaining and updating aging facilities by supporting two successful bond measures that authorized 500 million dollars in bond funding. She has also made a point of emphasizing the social and emotional wellbeing of her students by expanding emotional support programs for students and families and assembling an excellent team to deliver physical, intellectual, and emotional services to her students. Through her skill and perseverance at building collaborative relationships with people of the FSUSD community Kris has been able to achieve remarkable feats despite facing the same teacher and budget shortages that impact districts nationwide. The work Kris does is critical to the future successes of our communities and her dedication to preserving and improving public education is an inspiration to all. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Kris Corey for her positive contributions to our community.

REMEMBERING LEANDER WETTER

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Leander Wetter who passed away earlier this month.

Leander was born in the summer of 1940 and quickly fell in love with life on the farm. He was a leader in the agriculture community and was often the first in the area to try a new farming technique. All farmers are dedicated to their farms and animals, but Leander was special. Through decades of hard work, he grew his farm to one of the largest in the area.

Leander was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was married to his beloved wife, Mary, for 48 years and the pair were blessed with three children and three grandchildren.

Leander was also an avid lover of history. He was a longstanding member of the Wright County Historical Society where he spent countless hours telling stories and educating the community about our local history.

His love of history was melded with his love of agriculture in his antique tractors and steam engines collection. Leander was a proud founding member of the Rogers Threshing Show and often would show his collection at these events. I had the pleasure of attending a threshing show with the Wetters and was impressed by Leander's collection and encyclopedia-like knowledge of these machines. As events grew, so did his involvement in the group, at one point Mary and Leander even donated a large shed to the show to ensure its future success.

Leander and his wife Mary were heavily involved in local politics as well. I have many fond memories of bumping into them while attending events in Wright County and throughout the Sixth District. Our team will miss seeing Leander by Mary's side at these events.

From his work on the family farm to his involvement in Wright County, Leander was a leader in his community. To his wife Mary and the rest of the Wetter family, we offer our sincerest condolences and pray that Leander's memory will comfort them all during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING NICK ADAMS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to recognize Nick Adams and the incredible work of his organization, the Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness, or FLAG. Mr. Adams was born in Sydney, Australia, and immigrated to the United States in 2016 as the recipient of the Extraordinary Ability Green Card. He became a naturalized citizen on December 20, 2021, and I was proud to be there with him for that special moment.

After coming to the United States, Mr. Adams founded the Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness, also known as FLAG, dedicated to educating Americans about the values and principles that make our nation exceptional. To date, FLAG has provided educational resources to more than 1.6 million students around the country.

Mr. Adams is of the Greek-Orthodox faith, is a Stage IV cancer survivor, a patriot, and the embodiment of the American Dream. His life is a testament to the free spirit that has made America great. I am proud to call him friend.

COMMEMORATING THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS OF GABE SEGAL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to commemorate Gabe Segal for the humanitarian work he's done as an educator to end school meal debt for all grade school students. Gabe has been an active teacher in the Fairfax County Public School district and is committed to helping students by raising funds and tackling an issue of school meal debt that has been impacting the lives of many families.

Gabe was 9 months old and living in an orphanage in Moscow, Russia, when two Fairfax County Public School teachers, David Segal and Saranne Segal, adopted him and brought him to Virginia. Both of Gabe's parents were teachers at Herndon High School in 1993, and Gabe is now a fellow teacher at the same high school. As a child, his mother would bring Gabe into the high school. While literally growing up in the high school, he learned valuable lessons and had first-hand knowledge of the hardships students were facing in and out of the classroom at an early age.

Today as an educator, Gabe keeps his classroom door open every day after school to let his students have a safe place to meditate. His number one core value in the field of education is relationships. To many students he is a father figure, role model, and even more im-

portantly, a trusted and caring adult. There are many students who don't have a warm, welcoming home, so he does everything he can to create that environment in his classroom.

During the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gabe paid-off the lunch debt at Sleepy Hollow Elementary in Fairfax County. During the course of the 2022-2023 school year and summer, Gabe organized fundraisers and pulled in donations to raise over \$32,000 to pay all outstanding school meal debt at his previous school, Herndon Middle School. In total, \$50,000 has been raised for school meal debt in Fairfax County. Gabe has been actively meeting with local leaders throughout the commonwealth in hopes of one day having free, universal school meals for all students. The cost for a student to have adequate nutrition during their school day with a meal provided by their educational institution is alarmingly over five dollars a day. Many families can't afford to pay that cost. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, the impact of school meal debt has a lasting impact on low-income families both in and out of the classroom.

As a teacher, Gabe sees firsthand how school meal debt impacts students' performance in school and he's continued to lead the awareness. Gabe's work has been published in the Washington Post, WJLA-TV as well as other news organizations. He remains devoted to helping struggling students and families deal with their debt as this issue continues to impact student achievement and burden families.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the tremendous humanitarian efforts of Gabe Segal for tackling the crisis of school meal debt impacting the lives of many.

RUBEM SANTOS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, this past June, it was my privilege to attend Rubem Santos' Eagle Scout Ceremony. As soon as Rubem joined the Scouts, it was his dream to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Now, as this dream comes to fruition, it is my privilege to recognize the time and energy he has dedicated to the Scouts. Throughout his scouting journey, he has collected thirty one merit badges and three Catholic Scouting Awards. For his project to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, he built Barn Owl Boxes for Woodstown Borough, South Jersey, for the purpose of providing a safe nesting environment for Barn Owls and encouraging the growth of their population. Outside of his involvement with the Scouts, he was a committed member of the South Jersey Robotics Team, the Lunatecs, who helped to develop a custom mold for an adaptive swim fin for veteran amputees. He is constantly searching for solutions, and this drives his passion to study Civil Engineering in the future. Rubem should be proud of his accomplishments, and it is my honor to celebrate him. God Bless Rubem Santos and God Bless the United States of America.