

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.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: LA TOYA THOMAS

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 La Toya Thomas as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. La Toya is a passionate community member who has shown exemplary dedication to service in her profession and volunteer work. For over a decade, La Toya has worked as a department manager at Kaiser Permanente, where she has earned a stellar reputation for her leadership and team building in the healthcare industry. For years, La Toya has also devoted her energy and talents towards activism as an SEIU Union Steward advocating for the rights of her fellow employees. She currently serves on the board of Motivated 2 Help Others, a nonprofit dedicated to helping victims of crime of all backgrounds find the resources and support they need as well as helping formerly incarcerated individuals transition back into society. La Toya also serves her community through extensive philanthropic work, including providing meals for those facing homelessness and distributing backpacks to underprivileged children. La Toya is a proud and caring mother of two who devotes herself to her career, volunteer work, and family, all while treating everyone with kindness and positivity. She is a role model for others with her strength and resiliency and is known to go above and beyond for her family, work, and community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize La Toya Thomas for her positive contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE WILSON FAMILY'S FARM, COTTON HILLS FARM IN LOWRYS, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of the Wilson Family in Lowrys, South Carolina and their dedication to providing locally grown produce for over 140 years.

Cotton Hills Farm was given to Joseph Wilson and Theodosia Abel as a wedding gift by the bride's father in 1880. It has been passed down multiple generations and is now run by JEB Wilson along with his brother, Pete, and his father, Jeff.

For 100 years, cotton had been the primary crop planted on Cotton Hills Farm. Starting in the 1940s, JEB's grandfather started planting peaches as well. Today, the family farm has expanded to pumpkins, peaches, watermelon, and cantaloupe. JEB Wilson has proudly said, "basically anything that can be grown in South Carolina, we grow it." The family also operates three retail locations in Chester County, South Carolina and sells wholesale produce.

Conservation and sustainability have been a key element to the long-term success of Cot-

ton Hills Farm. The Wilson family is constantly looking for ways to improve the farm and keep it sustainable for years to come.

I would like to recognize that the entire family is also very accomplished in their community. Jeff is a long-serving member of the Soil and Water Conservation District in Chester County and currently serving as the vice chairman. Additionally, JEB and Pete have been named Conservationist of the Year in Chester County. JEB credits the family's success to their adaptability to challenges and willingness to try new farming methods that will continue to decrease their environmental impact.

The Wilson family continues to be devoted to their farm and are looking forward to passing it down the family line. On behalf of the 5th District of South Carolina, it is my most sincere pleasure to recognize Cotton Hills Farm and the Wilson family for their great service to our state. Please join me in recognizing the farm on its advancements in agricultural innovation and conservation.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
DANIELLE "DANI" DUGGAN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in honor of the life of Danielle "Dani" Duggan.

Born on May 7, 1966, Dani was raised in Middleborough, Massachusetts, where she found a passion for the arts at a young age. After graduating as an honors student from Middleborough High School in 1984, Dani went on to study at St. Michael's College, where she received an honors Bachelor of Arts degree in fine arts and theatre and was the recipient of the Delta Epsilon Sigma Society Departmental Award for outstanding achievement in fine arts.

Dani then moved to Dublin, Ireland to work for the famous Abbey Theatre. This is where she also met her husband, Gerry Clements. She lived in Ireland for eight years receiving an honors master's degree in modern drama from University College Dublin and would later form the Salem Willows Theatre Company.

Dani returned to the U.S. with her husband, Gerry, moving to Pembroke, Massachusetts, and over the next 24 years, she taught drama at Middleborough High School. During her time at MHS, she became chair of the fine arts department and played a pivotal role in the design and construction of the new Middleborough High School Performing Arts Center and Blackbox Theatre. At MHS, Dani directed numerous school productions and the speech & theater workshop, as well as several productions with the Plymouth Community Theatre.

Sadly, Dani left us too soon on October 15, 2022, after a two year battle with cancer. Whether during her time at Middleborough High School or her work with the Abbey Theatre, Dani's passion for sharing her love for the arts serves as an example to all. Throughout her years at Middleborough High School, Dani laid the groundwork for the school district to hold an annual event celebrating students' work in the fine arts. On May 20, 2023, Middleborough held its inaugural Dani Duggan Fine Arts Festival to honor Dani's legacy.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I am proud to honor the life of Dani Duggan. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing her life's commitment to serving her community through the arts.

HONORING SUZANNE SMITH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today, along with my colleague, Rep. JARED HUFFMAN, to honor Suzanne Smith for her dedicated service to the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and Regional Climate Protection Authority where she worked to build both agencies from the ground up.

Ms. Smith received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego, where she also studied urban planning. Suzanne would later receive her Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco.

The Sonoma County Transit Authority (SCTA) and the Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) represent Sonoma County and the area's nine cities. They work together to balance the interests of each local government while spearheading transit projects, and climate protection initiatives. Ms. Smith was hired as the SCTA's first independent executive director in 1997 and later was assigned to lead RCPA as well. Since then, she has grown the team to sixteen curated employees, and worked tirelessly to implement crucial transportation and climate projects and programs in Sonoma County and the North Bay.

Ms. Smith led the organizational process that created the Measure M Traffic Relief Act (Measure M). She worked to include it on the 2004 ballot and to ensure it passed. This quarter cent sales tax has been successfully used to improve transportation, transit, safety, and the widening of Highway 101 for carpool lanes. In addition, she oversaw long range planning, and collaborated with partner agencies and the public on policy priorities. Additionally, she was instrumental in the founding legislation for Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) and the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority.

In 1997, Ms. Smith had three goals: to get a sales tax measure passed to support transportation, widen Highway 101, and establish train service. She not only accomplished her goals, but she has also acted as an incredible leader for the community of Sonoma County. She has made and maintained effective partnerships with agencies and elected officials nationwide and has directed the Sonoma County Transit Authority and Regional Climate Protection Authority through economic downturns and the COVID-19 pandemic. She has served with integrity, foresight, thoughtfulness, and unquestionable dedication and commitment. Ms. Smith demonstrated exceptional interpersonal skills and an innate understanding of how politics work and how to move projects forward.

Throughout her professional career, Ms. Smith also served as the district director for State Assembly Member Valerie Brown. She worked on policy issues such as transportation, education, and local government.