

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: PIPPIN DEW

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore. I rise to recognize the contributions of Pippin Dew as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Pippin has been a realtor in the North and East Bay Areas for the last 16 years where she has gotten to know the needs of her community. She is currently President of Vallejo Main Street, an organization aimed at revitalizing the downtown area. She is President Elect of the Solano Association of Realtors and serves on the Executive Board for the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce as Chair of the Government Affairs Committee. She also served as a member of the Vallejo City Council for 9 years and is a past president of the North Bay Division for the League of California Cities. During her time on the city council, some of her many proud accomplishments included the creation of an early learning center in southern Vallejo and the creation of the first family service center of its kind in Solano County. In 2023, Pippin was appointed by Governor Newsom to the board of directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority where she helps ensure the community's continued access to a robust ferry service. Pippin is known for the dedication and enthusiasm she brings to public service and her unwavering support for the Vallejo community.

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

HONORING YIMELDA A. GOSHEA MARTINEZ FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, Yimelda A. Goshea Martinez was born in the Dominican Republic. She immigrated to the United States in 1992 and has lived in Central Florida for the past 24 years. Her life has been defined by a deep commitment to community service, faith, and education and she has dedicated herself to making a positive impact on her community. As a founding member of the Osceola Latin Lions Club, she has played a pivotal role in organizing numerous charitable events, from fundraising for vision care programs to volunteering at local food drives.

Her devotion to her faith is equally inspiring. For several years, she has been an active volunteer at Holy Cross Catholic Church, leading children's ministry and dedicating her time and energy to various programs and community initiatives. This includes volunteer work in the local school district helping new Spanish-speaking migrant children acclimate to the United States.

One of Yimelda's most notable achievements is her involvement with "Help Now" in Kissimmee, Florida. As a volunteer, she has helped advance the nonprofit's mission to assist individuals and families facing adversity by providing essential resources including food, clothing, and shelter, and ensuring that people receive the assistance they desperately need.

In addition to her community involvement, Yimelda graduated from Ana G. Mendez University in June of 2023, where she pursued a degree in social work. Her education has equipped her with the knowledge and skills needed to make an even greater impact on her community.

Whether it's helping to organize youth events, providing support to elderly members, or organizing supply drives to send back to needy families in the Dominican Republic, Yimelda's faith-driven service has touched the lives of many Central Floridians. Her life story is a testament to the power of compassion, dedication, and education. Her work with the Lions Club, her service to her church, and her contributions to "Help Now" demonstrate her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others.

Yimelda has been a real estate agent for 25 years and now does clinical social work. She lives in Central Florida with her beloved husband and three cherished children.

DANIELLE HONG

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today is my honor to bring attention to the courage and strength of Danielle Hong, a woman who fights to bring awareness to Tracheal Bronchial Malacia. At the age of 18, she was diagnosed with asthma after she noticed her lung capacity was quickly deteriorating. After a series of tests and treatment, her condition only seemed to get worse. It wasn't until she visited the professionals at South Jersey Chest Diseases in Hammonton, South Jersey did they discover that she was misdiagnosed. Her illness, Tracheal Bronchial Malacia is commonly mistaken for asthma and because of this, often goes untreated. Following proper treatment, Danielle now has zero airway collapse. Danielle fights every day to bring attention to this pressing medical condition, so others don't have to suffer as she did. Now, she works at a local hospital in South Jersey and continues to educate and bring awareness to our South Jersey community.

I thank her for her public service and dedication to this important issue. God Bless Danielle Hong, and God Bless our United States of America.

HONORING WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize White Cane Awareness Day.

White Cane Awareness Day, celebrated annually on October 15th, serves as a powerful reminder of the significance and empowerment that the white cane symbolizes for individuals with visual impairments. This day raises needed awareness of the challenges faced by the blind and visually impaired community, while also highlighting their remarkable achievements and contributions to our society.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing White Cane Awareness Day and honor the achievements of individuals who inspire us with their resilience, their strength, and their spirit.

RECOGNIZING BOBETTE FRANKLIN

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor Bobette Franklin upon her retirement from a 29-year career in the United States Congress assisting Kentuckians with the federal government processes.

I first had the pleasure of meeting Bobette, a Bowling Green native, over 30 years ago. As a staff member for my predecessor, she developed a passion for advocating for Kentuckians who had challenges with federal agencies and quickly gained the respect of many in Kentucky's Second District, especially among veterans and their families. When I was sworn in, I knew it was critical to keep her enthusiasm, knowledge, and earned constituent trust on my team. Two years later, Bobette departed my office to become Director of Constituent Services for Senator RAND PAUL, which allowed her to share her passion for public service across the Commonwealth.

In November, Bobette will be retiring after nearly three decades of service to Kentuckians. I offer my deepest gratitude to Bobette for her service and wish her happiness as she spends her retirement with her husband, Steven, and her son Noah.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: MAYOR PRO TEM PRINCESS WASHINGTON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Mayor Pro Tem Princess Washington as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Princess is a member of Suisun City's City Council and their youngest ever Mayor Pro Tem. She is known by many as a leader, artist, and passionate advocate who has found countless ways to give back to her community. Professionally, Princess is a licensed Pharmacy Technician working for Kaiser Permanente as well as an accomplished playwright and documentarian. She is a dedicated advocate for preserving the arts, the environment, and local business. Princess currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Fairfield-Suisun Rotary Club where she was

named Rotarian of the Year and received recognition from the Fairfield Suisun Chamber of Commerce. She is also Chair of the Solano County Sierra Club and has dedicated her time to protecting the Suisun Marsh as a member of the Solano Land Trust's Conservation Committee. Additionally, Princess is a generous and dedicated volunteer for Meals on Wheels, the Food Bank of Solano and Contra Costa Counties and Vice-Chair of The Salvation Army of Solano County Advisory Board. With every organization where she gives her time, Princess has worked tirelessly to provide for her fellow community members.

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

HONORING VICTOR JOSE SANCHEZ FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, Victor Jose Sanchez was born on July 24, 1974, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and moved to Florida in 2002. Victor has been married to his wife, Elizabeth, for 21 years and has an 18-year-old daughter named Nicole. Victor has also worked for the United States Postal Service for 21 years. He is a member of the American Postal Worker Union and a steward, assistant clerk craft director, and Florida District 5 business agent.

In 2009, Victor organized and opened the Central Florida Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Chapter along with others. Victor has been the president of the LCLAA since 2009. LCLAA was formed by a group of Latino/a trade unionists in 1973 and has become the leading advocacy group for Latino/a working rights in the country. LCLAA was born out of the need to educate, organize, and mobilize Latino/as in the labor movement, and has expanded its influence to organize Latino/as to impact workers' rights and the political process.

Victor engages in voter education and registrations, get-out-the-vote campaigns, immigration, Latina equal pay efforts, environmental justice, labor rights, civic engagement, and civil rights. No matter the distance, he joins other unions, non-profit organizations, and union members in the fight for representation against large companies that exploit workers. Victor is committed to working with all independent sisters and brothers, trade unions, and others in Central Florida to improve the conditions of Latino workers and their families.

As the president and delegate of the LCLAA, he worked relentlessly during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure Latino/a families received the protections and support they needed. Victor continues fighting for the rights of undocumented immigrants who are vital to our economic recovery and live in fear due to the outdated and inhumane immigration system.

Victor continually mobilizes members and community partners to advocate for social and economic justice, and he strives daily to defeat oppression and assist in making commu-

nities better for all people regardless of race, color, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or ethnic or national origin.

COOPER KANE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, this April, I had the pleasure of attending Cooper Kane's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Cooper entered scouting at the age of six and immediately felt at home with his troop. He participated in the National Youth Leadership Training through the Scouts which ignited his passion for leadership. He soon after became a staff member and participated in the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience in New Mexico. For his final step in completing his rank of Eagle Scout, Cooper built a Gaga pit, which is an outdoor group ball game, for the Ventnor Middle School students to enjoy. Cooper will be attending the University of Alabama in the fall and will be pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Cooper should be proud of his achievements with the Boy Scouts, and it was my honor to attend his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. God Bless Cooper, and God Bless our United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KAREN MCGINNIS

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I rise to recognize Karen McGinnis, a dedicated leader hailing from Central Washington, who tragically lost her fight to cancer this past month. In 2018, I stood where I am now to praise Karen for her passion for worker safety, and it saddens me that rather than announcing her next great achievement, I'm instead mourning her life.

Karen McGinnis graduated from Washington State University with a degree in agriculture economics and was the founding leader of the Volpentest HAMMER Federal Training Center near Richland, Washington. Her legacy includes growing the HAMMER Center into a world-class training facility for Hanford workers and other federal employees, where she instructed them on emergency response and promoted a culture of safety on the job.

Her ability to build the Center into a training facility—not only for domestic workers, but also for international partners—was legendary. In fact, she received the Special Achievement Award for outstanding leadership in furthering the DOE's Voluntary Protection Program. After 40 years of hard work alongside Hanford, she retired in 2018, but her legacy continued.

Karen was a fearless advocate for her workers, a natural leader, and a friend. While she will be missed, her legacy will continue in the great (and safe) work performed at the Hanford Site each and every day.

RECOGNIZING RETIRED U.S. ARMY COLONEL AND PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF LACKAWANNA COLLEGE MARK VOLK'S LIFE-LONG DEVOTION TO SELFLESS SERVICE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I recognize the distinguished career of Retired U.S. Army Colonel and President Emeritus of Lackawanna College Mark Volk, a true hero of Northeast Pennsylvania, who has dedicated over four decades of his life to selfless service. While Colonel Volk's military career is marked with honor and valor, it is his profound contributions to Lackawanna College that I wish to recognize upon his well-deserved retirement.

Colonel Volk's military journey spans 26 years, a testament to his unwavering commitment to duty and service. His military career included 13 years in Field Artillery and an additional 13 years in Military Intelligence. During this time, Colonel Volk held various staff and command positions, both in the United States and Germany, gaining expertise and honing his leadership skills.

While serving as the Chief of the Strategic Leadership Division in the Army Strategy, Plans and Policy Directorate (G3) at the Pentagon, his office was in the wing impacted by the plane during the tragic events of September 11, 2001. For his heroic efforts and life-saving actions immediately following the attack on the Pentagon, he was awarded the Soldier's Medal, the Army's highest non-combat award for heroism. Additional military awards earned by Colonel Volk include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal and the NATO Medal.

Upon his retirement from the military on January 1, 2004, Colonel Volk returned to NEPA and embarked on another chapter of service, this time in the field of education at Lackawanna College. Over the course of 16 remarkable years his tenure was distinguished by remarkable achievements, serving as the executive vice president from 2006 to 2012 and vice president for operations and plans from 2005 to 2006 prior to taking over as president in July 2012 until his retirement in 2020. Under his leadership, the college introduced online courses and degrees, offered baccalaureate degrees, established a nursing program and expanded with new extension centers. It is a testament to his dedication and leadership that the college was ranked as the fastest-growing private college or university, with enrollments of 500 or more students during his presidency.

Perhaps his most enduring legacy is his belief in the potential of individuals from all walks of life. In his eyes, greatness is not reserved for the few: He firmly believes that everyone has the capacity to be a force for positive change in a world that yearns for it. His optimism is contagious, and his unwavering faith in the region, families, and students of NEPA has left an indelible mark.