

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.

Colonel Mark Volk, and his wife Lynn, continue to be active and generous members of our community, giving their time and energy to numerous organizations. Their dedication to service has set a shining example for us all. I commend Colonel Volk for his unwavering commitment to our community and our Nation; he truly represents the very best of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District.

**RECOGNIZING CORPORAL SCOTT GILLEY**

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 13, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to thank Corporal Scott Gilley for his service with the Euless Police Department and to congratulate him on his retirement. Corporal Gilley has spent 28 years as an officer with Euless PD protecting his community and countless North Texans. I'd like to extend my sincere appreciation for his selfless service.

Before pursuing his aspirations to become a police officer, Scott served in the United States Coast Guard for 8 years. After attaining an Honorable Discharge, he was hired as a Euless Police Officer in 1995. His primary assignment with the department was working as a senior member in the patrol division. Scott's leadership and work has had a significant impact leading many of his fellow officers on to very successful careers due to his mentorship. Over his many years of service, Scott has received four police certifications, his Corporal rank, and a variety of police in-service training. He's used this knowledge to provide countless hours of police training to other officers and mentor new ones straight from the academy.

During his time with Euless PD, Scott has received 40 police commendations in which he was commended for his service and professionalism to the department and community. It has always been my view that public service is among the most admirable of callings, one that demands the very best among us to tackle monumental challenges in the name of selfless service to others. Corporal Gilley has always been known and appreciated as an "informal leader" of the troops and one that can be counted on in any situation. The courage and dedication he displayed during his many years of service in both the United States Military and Euless Police Department is admirable, and Texas-24 is better for having the benefit of leadership.

It is my honor to congratulate Corporal Scott Gilley on his successful career and retirement.

**HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: RHONDA ROCHON SMITH**

**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 Rhonda Rochon Smith as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Described as passionate, charismatic, compassionate, and driven by her colleagues and fellow community members, Rhonda is a dedicated community servant involved with numerous non-profits, committees and advocacy groups throughout our district. As the Program Manager at the Center for Volunteer & Non-Profit Leadership, Rhonda facilitates the advancement of nonprofits and volunteerism by strengthening leadership, encouraging innovation, and empowering individuals in Solano County. She is also the Volunteer Services Manager for Contra Costa Regional Medical Center where she plays an integral role in placing volunteers in the hospital to enhance the quality of patient care. Outside of these roles, Rhonda serves on the Board of Directors of the Solano County Fair Association, Vallejo Police Oversight and Accountability Commission, and is Vice-Chair of the Contra Costa Regional Health Foundation. She is also an active member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Vallejo NAACP, and Black Women Organized for Political Action. Rhonda works every day to serve her community and inspires others with her commitment to making positive change wherever she goes.

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

**HONORING YARITZA PEREZ FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 13, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, Yaritza Perel graduated from Gateway High School in Kissimmee in May of 1999. In September of that year, she arrived on the world-famous yellow footprints of the Marine Corps recruit depot in Parris Island, South Carolina, graduating in December. After graduation, she was assigned to Fort Lee, Virginia for MOS training as a bulk fuel specialist. Upon graduation, she was sent to her first duty station at Camp Pendleton, California, and assigned to the First Marine Division, First Marine Expeditionary Force, Seventh Engineer Support Battalion, Bulk Fuel Company.

After the attacks on September 11, 2001, the Marine Corps shifted gears and began preparing for deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As part of the initial invasion, Bulk Fuel Company was attached to the Sixth Engineers Support Battalion. Six days into the war, Bulk Fuel Company completed the 57-mile hose reel tactical fuel system, capable of pumping fuel from the Kuwait-Iraq border to Logistics Support Area Viper. Setting up these fuel lines was crucial to providing all forward-moving units the capabilities to complete their mission and reach their targets. These efforts earned Yaritza's unit a Presidential Unit Citation.

On her second enlistment, Yaritza was assigned to COMUSMARCENT at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, where she served in an administrative role working in the G-1 and G-3 overseeing manpower operations and casualty accountability for all forward operating commands. Upon completing

those orders, she was sent back to the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, H&HS Squadron serving as Flight Line NCO conducting flight operations and fuel testing for all base operations.

Yaritza separated from the Marine Corps in 2013 and moved back to Orlando to be close to family. Since her return, Yaritza has been an active member of the community, learning to repurpose her service to the great state of Florida. Yaritza served as a platoon leader with The Mission Continues for over three years and completed over 50 community service projects in the Central Florida area. After Hurricane Maria, she went with The Mission Continues to Puerto Rico to help restore the El Morro National Monument. During her time volunteering, she found Moms Clean Air Force, a national nonprofit organization focused on cleaning the contaminated air across the state. As the state organizer for Florida, she has met with congressional leaders, legislators, and community leaders to make and change laws and regulations to ensure a cleaner healthier environment for future generations. As an environmental advocate, she was the voice for the voiceless and spoke on behalf of Floridians.

Currently, she works as an outreach specialist with the Wounded Warrior Project. In this role, she engages with veterans and their families to bring them out of the house and get them engaged with each other, our communities, and other resources that could aid them in their healing journey. Yaritza is responsible for empowering and inspiring post-9/11 veterans in Florida to re-establish themselves as positive contributors to their communities. She is also a proud mom.

**CHRIS CONNORS**

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 13, 2023*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today, I honor the unwavering dedication and remarkable milestones of State Senator Chris Connors throughout his career. His commitment to public service began with his election to the Lacey Township Committee in 1984, followed by his role as Mayor from 1986 to 1990. Senator Connors has also served as Director of the New Jersey Commission on Capital Budgeting and Planning, overseeing the state's capital budget and expenditure plans. Elected to the General Assembly in 1989, Senator Connors has been a champion for his constituents. He was subsequently elected to the Senate in 2007, and his contributions have been recognized through various honors and awards.

During my time as a state legislator, I had collaborated with Senator Chris Connors on several practical initiatives, such as establishing the Coastal New Jersey Evacuation Task Force to enhance the preparedness of coastal communities for natural disasters. Additionally, we fought diligently to secure South Jersey representation on the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the governing body responsible for overseeing the Garden State Parkway.

In addition to his political career, Senator Connors is an accomplished attorney, and he