

parents are informed and involved in their children's education. In addition, Velma is Director of the Delta Veterans Group and holds executive positions at the Celebrate Antioch Foundation and Antioch School Education Foundation. Her variety of volunteer pursuits demonstrates her dedication to providing resources to all parts of our community. Velma gives generously of her knowledge, expertise, and time to help others.

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

THOMAS TRAN

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, this August, I had the pleasure of attending Thomas Tran's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Thomas has been actively involved in the Scouts since the third grade when he joined as a cub scout. He quickly climbed the ranks and became an active member of Troop 94, leading the group as their Patrol Leader. Since then, he has earned an impressive 28 merit badges for his hard work and dedication. The proudest moment of Thomas's Scouting journey was his Eagle Scout project where Thomas organized the removal and replacement of an old billboard welcome sign at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8098 in Egg Harbor Township. This massive undertaking demanded 130 hours of his time and the South Jersey community is thankful for his efforts. God Bless Thomas Tran and God Bless the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO FENCING AT THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL COMPLEX ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today, I introduce the No Fencing at the United States Capitol Complex Act, which would prohibit the installation of new permanent fencing on the grounds of the United States Capitol complex. I am pleased that Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN is introducing this bill in the Senate.

After the insurrectionist attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021, the Capitol complex became an untraversable fortress surrounded by frightening fences capped with barbed wire—typical of authoritarian regimes. Although more needs to be done to protect the Capitol complex, the failure of Capitol security leaders to plan for the predictable and openly announced attack on the Capitol on January 6th does not justify closing the complex to the public, to whom it belongs. We can and must maintain our commitment to security without sacrificing public access by using the least restrictive means necessary to address security.

The January 6th attack on the Capitol, which had little to do with the lack of perma-

nent fencing, was the greatest intelligence and security failure in the history of our nation's capital. There were countless security failures on January 6th that we can and must address, including: taking threats of extremist violence seriously at an earlier stage; closing the Capitol building grounds during high-profile and high-threat events, as is typically done, but was not done on January 6th; manpower; building security; and training. Permanent fencing, which is incredibly imprecise, would not address those security lapses. It is more likely to keep out children, joggers and tourists than a coordinated attack on the Capitol. In fact, it is a form of security theater—it would make the Capitol “look” safer but mask the lack of state-of-the-art security measures that could prevent attacks in the future. Every threat to the Capitol since January 6th has been stopped by longstanding and new security measures and the excellent work of the Capitol Police. Permanent fencing would not aid the Capitol Police in stopping threats but it would create an image of authoritarianism, secrecy and inaccessibility. The Capitol complex is for all the American people, and, with proper security, must remain open to them.

Permanent fencing would send an un-American message to the nation and the world, by transforming our democracy from one that is accessible, transparent and of the people to one that is closed off, secretive and fearful of its own citizens. It would tell the world that the most powerful nation must rely on crude barriers for safety instead of state-of-the-art intelligence and security protocols. The Capitol has welcomed First Amendment protests and demonstrations for centuries without becoming a fortress. The openness of the Capitol and our democracy is our strength, not a security weakness that needs to be rooted out. Any further consideration of permanent fencing is desperate, distasteful and disrespectful of our history and institutions.

Furthermore, the Capitol complex does not exist in a vacuum. It is immediately surrounded by residential neighborhoods and local businesses, which form the heart of the District of Columbia. Permanent fencing would cause serious damage to the fabric of these communities. After January 6th, these residents and businesses were more than understanding as their neighborhoods turned into militarized zones. They waited patiently as officers checked their identification on their walks home or took alternative routes when they found blocked streets. Permanent fencing would infringe on their ability, as well as the general public's ability, to enjoy the public spaces that define our nation's capital.

The distance between government and the people has grown, with trust in government at historic lows. Installing permanent fencing at the Capitol complex would only increase that distance.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING KOUNTRY KITCHEN SOUL FOOD PLACE

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I rise in celebration of the grand reopen-

ing of Kountry Kitchen Soul Food Place, a beloved Indianapolis establishment specializing in southern-style soul food.

Located in Indiana's 7th Congressional District, Kountry Kitchen was established in 1988 by Ms. Jessie White to bring her southern-style home cooking to the neighborhood, under the name Jessie's Place. Ms. Jessie's daughter, Nell Wilson, later joined to grow the family business and introduce her own recipes. Nell and her husband, Isaac, renamed the diner to Country Kitchen. After Nell's passing, Isaac remarried, and with his wife Cynthia, they renamed the business Kountry Kitchen. Isaac and Cynthia continue to honor this legacy by serving the recipes passed down to them by Ms. Jessie and Nell.

A nationally recognized restaurant, Kountry Kitchen has caught the attention of many notable figures, including Jimmy Fallon, former President Barack Obama, and Indianapolis native Mike Epps.

In early 2020, Kountry Kitchen suffered a devastating fire. Thankfully, there was no loss of life, but the establishment suffered extensive damage. With the help of a \$400,000 grant, assistance from local organizations, and the entire Indianapolis community coming together, Kountry Kitchen broke ground on its new location in the summer of 2022. One year later, we are proudly celebrating their grand reopening.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations and thanks to a beloved community staple and recognizing the enduring legacy of this iconic Indianapolis destination.

DOROTHY DOUGHERTY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today, I honor the 100th birthday of Dorothy Helen Dougherty, a woman of great character and dedication. Dorothy was born on October 7, 1923, and grew up in a loving, multi-generational household in Pennsylvania. After attending secretarial school in Philadelphia and working as a secretary for several years, she married her husband in January 1948. Together, they settled in Ocean City, South Jersey and built a successful residential construction and real estate business while raising three sons. Dorothy remained active in her church and community, and she volunteered in various charitable efforts, including helping the less fortunate through food and clothing donations. Tragically, she lost her husband at 58 but found solace in Lake Worth, Florida, where she became an active member of her church and excelled as a shuffleboard champion. Most importantly, Dorothy's legacy continues through her loving family, including three sons, eight grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren who affectionately know her as “GiGi.” So, on Dorothy's 100th birthday, we honor her remarkable life and her enduring impact on her family and community. God Bless Dorothy Dougherty and God Bless the United States of America.

REMEMBERING RICHARD E.
SANTSPREE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor and remember the life of United States Army veteran Richard Edward Santspree.

Richard was born in Troy, New York on July 28, 1950. After graduating from Cohoes High School, Richard enlisted with the United States Army in October 1967. He served in the Army for three years, rising to the rank of Specialist Fourth Class, before he was honorably discharged in October 1970. For his service, Richard was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and M16 Expert and M14 Sharpshooter badges. Richard remained with the Army Reserves until 1973.

Returning to civilian life, Richard married the love of his life Christine Hogan Santspree in April 1971. They moved to Cohoes and started their family together, raising three children; Kimberly, Richard Jr., and Thomas. Richard spent his professional career with General Electric in Schenectady, working as a machinist for four decades before retiring in August 2010.

Richard was a well-rounded member of the Cohoes and Troy communities, participating in his local church, veterans' organizations, and recreational activities. He was a member of the Cohoes Moose Club, the Cohoes-Waterford Elk's Lodge 1317, and the American Legion Ruane Post 476. Richard competed in a league at the Cohoes Bowling Arena, along with the Cohoes Rod and Gun Club's Dart and Horseshoe League. Richard assisted with St. Rita's Church's annual bazaar, as well as the Rod and Gun Club's kids' fishing contest at the Van Schaick Island pond. More than anything, he was a proud family man who enjoyed travelling and spending time with his wife, children, and three grandchildren.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the life of Mr. Richard E. Santspree, defined by exemplary service to his community and his country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF UKRAINIAN AIR FORCE MAJOR ANDRII PILSHCHYKOV

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to recognize the life and service of Ukrainian Air Force Major Andrii Pilshchikov, a fighter pilot who tragically lost his life in the fight to defend his country from the Russian invasion. Mr. Pilshchikov reached the rank of Captain in the 40th Tactical Aviation Brigade of the Ukrainian Air Force, before being posthumously promoted to Major.

Born in Kharkiv only 30 years ago, Andrii fulfilled his life-long dream to fly some of the fastest and toughest airplanes in the world. From a young age, Andrii was fascinated with

airplanes and jets and eagerly took on the little-known hobby of "Planespotting," in which participants track the movement and record photos of desired aircraft all around the globe. As soon as he could, Andrii enrolled in Ukraine's Ivan Kozhedub National Air Force University. It was in this academy that Andrii learned to fly MiG-29 fighter jets, which he would go on to fly during the current war to save his country. Andrii's peers and instructors were so impressed with his abilities that he was assigned to be an instructor for certain classes even though he was still a cadet.

After graduating from the academy in 2018, Andrii joined the 40th Tactical Aviation Brigade at Yasykiv Air Base, where he would become an Air Force Captain. During his first year, Andrii traveled to my home state of California, where he completed an internship with the 144th Fighter Wing of California's Air National Guard in the City of Fresno. As he learned how to fly F-15 fighter jets, Andrii took his learning experience in California very seriously, earning the nickname "Juice" because he would only order juice as he refrained from alcohol. He took this nickname back home with him, and for a time he was the only pilot in the Ukrainian Armed Forces with an official call sign: "Juice."

After leaving the Air Force for only a brief period, Andrii did not hesitate to sign up again for service in February 2022 as the Russian invasion threatened the people and very sovereignty of Ukraine. It was not long before he resumed flights, fighting to keep Ukrainian skies safe over Kyiv and other major battle areas. During Andrii's service, he flew over 100 combat missions and destroyed dozens of the enemy's command posts. In May 2022, Andrii was awarded the Order for Courage (3rd Class) for his valiant service.

Because of his keen interest in promoting the modernization of Ukraine's Air Force, and his proficiency in English, Andrii and a small contingent of his colleagues were sent to Washington, D.C., to illustrate and emphasize the urgent need to supply Ukraine with F-16 fighter jets. I had the honor of meeting Andrii. After his visit to Capitol Hill, the Ukraine Fighter Pilots Act was introduced, which I was proud to cosponsor.

I want to express my deepest appreciation for the invaluable service rendered not only to the nation of Ukraine, but in the fight for democracy itself, by Major Andrii Pilshchikov. My deepest condolences go out to his family, the people of Ukraine and all those impacted by his loss.

SIFMA

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I want to honor the accomplishments of Aiden Inman, Ethan Scattone, and William Will, students at Oakcrest High School who competed in the SIFMA Foundation Capitol Hill Challenge and placed tenth in the Nation. They participated as a part of their Stock Market and Investments class under the guidance of their teacher, Joe Cirigliano and their supervisor Nicole Gazia. This exemplary group of students participated in a 14-week competition

where they managed a hypothetical \$100,000 online portfolio of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ESG investments, and cash. Out of a student participation of over 6,500 students, Oakcrest placed in the top ten performing teams in the nation. I am incredibly proud of these students and all of their accomplishments, and I can't wait to see the big things they do in the future. God Bless these students and God Bless the United States of America.

CELEBRATING BCI SOLUTIONS, INC. INDUCTION INTO THE INDIANA MANUFACTURERS HALL OF FAME

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I am proud to recognize and congratulate BCI Solutions, Inc. in Bremen, Indiana on being inducted into the Indiana Manufacturers Hall of Fame this month.

I often say that Hoosier manufacturing is second to none, and I am proud to represent the Manufacturing Capital of the World here in Indiana's Second District. The professional, high-quality work that BCI has done for more than 80 years has played a meaningful role in allowing our District to have and maintain that distinction.

Founded in 1939 as Bremen Gray Iron Foundry, BCI has grown into a renowned name and a leading provider of castings, machining, and complex assemblies. Because of their continuous commitment to improving and investing in advancing technologies, BCI is on the forefront of providing products to the defense, agricultural, healthcare, lawn and garden and automotive industries, among others.

Additionally, BCI's example as a successful family-owned business now operating in their fifth generation is an inspiration to those looking to start their own companies, as well as a source of pride for many Hoosiers.

Congratulations again to BCI Solutions, Inc. on being recognized for this impressive distinction. I join Hoosiers in thanking them for their many contributions to Marshall County and communities throughout the Second District. I wish them continued success and many more years in business and accolades to celebrate going forward.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF CAPE COD

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in honor of Community Health Center of Cape Cod's 25th anniversary.

Community Health Center (CHC) of Cape Cod was first established in 1998 by a group of volunteer doctors and nurses committed to providing free healthcare services to uninsured residents of the Cape and Islands. CHC originally started as the Falmouth Free Clinic in the basement of Falmouth Hospital and