

he has a passion for music, playing the drums and guitar in his free time. Jack has already accomplished so much at such a young age, and it was my honor to celebrate him. God Bless Jack and God Bless the United States of America.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE HEAL MAUI ACT

#### HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2024*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 7061, the Healing and Economic Advancement for Local Businesses in Maui (HEAL Maui) Act, which would provide critical additional support to our small businesses which have been so severely affected by the devastating August 2023 Maui wildfires.

The Maui wildfires caused 100 known deaths, severely injured many others, and displaced thousands of our 'ohana (family). They burned over 2,500 acres of land and destroyed over 2,200 structures, including homes, businesses and historic landmarks. The full resources of our federal, state and local governments and communities are directed at recovery across many fronts.

My HEAL Maui Act focuses on our small businesses, the backbone of our economy. Our Maui small businesses, and indeed small businesses throughout Hawaii, suffered a "severe economic disruption" as a result of the fires and their aftermath. In fact, the State of Hawaii revised its statewide economic growth projections for 2023 and 2024 downward, from 1.8 percent to 1.1 percent for 2023 and from 2.0 percent to 1.5 percent for 2024.

On Maui itself, initial unemployment claims jumped from an average of 130 cases per week before the wildfires to 865 cases in the first week after the fire to 4,449 cases in the second week after the fire. The unemployment rate on Maui rose to 8.6 percent in September 2023.

This economic disruption is hitting Hawaii's small businesses especially hard because small businesses comprise the vast majority of our businesses and employ the vast majority of our workforce. Hawaii is home to over 130,000 small businesses, with the average small business employing just 12 people.

Affected Hawaii small businesses, still burdened with existing COVID-19 loans, find difficulty matching federal small business disaster assistance programs to actual needs and circumstances. In response, my HEAL Maui Act is a comprehensive legislative proposal designed to offer swift and direct assistance to our small businesses during these challenging times. This legislation builds on the lessons learned from previous crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing the need to tailor federal programs to address specific conditions in Hawaii and the specific circumstances and consequences of this disaster.

The bill offers three much-needed forms of immediate assistance. First, it would augment the existing Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program by providing immediate advances to ensure businesses can maintain operations and retain employees. Second, it proposes a new loan

program modeled after the Payroll Protection Program to directly address the immediate financial challenges many businesses face in the aftermath of the wildfires. Third, recognizing that some businesses have already taken out SBA disaster loans post-wildfire, my HEAL Maui Act offers a two-year loan deferment given the long duration needed for this recovery.

My bill should be viewed as additive and complementary to the other sources of assistance to our small businesses and their owners and employees. These proposals may not work for all small businesses in their own circumstances, but they do offer further options that may work better or exclusively for some. In that, they are another piece of a very big effort to achieve full recovery across the board from this terrible and tragic disaster. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

OPPOSING H.R. 5585, H.R. 6678, AND  
H.R. 6976

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2024*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition of H.R. 5585, H.R. 6678, and H.R. 6976, a series of Republican messaging bills.

This week, instead of working in a bipartisan manner to fix our broken immigration system, the Republican Majority brought their partisan messaging bills to the House Floor. These three bills are unnecessary. As our laws are written today, conviction of these crimes already makes a person with a green card or visa deportable. For example, H.R. 5585 makes fleeing border patrol a deportable offense—this is already a deportable offense. H.R. 6678 makes an immigrant who commits Social Security fraud deportable—this is already a deportable offense. H.R. 6976 makes a person deportable if convicted of a serious DUI—this is already a deportable offense.

These bills are unnecessary, but what is radical about them is that they change due process under the United States Constitution. In two of the bills, the crimes described do no longer require a conviction to make a lawful resident deportable. In America, you are innocent until proven guilty. This has been the law of the land for hundreds of years. These bills are a slippery slope and move to take away the rights of those legally present in the United States. My concern is, will Republicans stop there, or will U.S. citizens be next?

With the bills House Republicans have brought to the Floor this week, along with their unjustified and unprecedented impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas in the Homeland Security Committee, they continue to demonstrate they are not willing to work toward real solutions to bring order to the border and fix our immigration system. You deserve real solutions to these issues. I am committed to working with anyone who is serious about bringing forward meaningful solutions to the problems at our border.

NICHOLAS GRUSEMEYER

#### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past December, I had the honor of celebrating Nicholas Grusemeyer on his achievement of the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Throughout his scouting journey, Nicholas has gained invaluable life skills, and as he puts it, "there was never a dull moment." For his Eagle Scout Project, he undertook the task of constructing a Memorial Wall inside the engine bay of the Quinton Fire Company in Quinton, South Jersey. This wall holds profound symbolism, featuring the original bell from one of the first fire engines, stars from an old hose used by Quinton, and a list of the names of past members of the fire company. It stands as a lasting tribute to the bravery and dedication of those who have served their community. Looking ahead, Nicholas has plans to graduate from high school and pursue a career in the Fire Service, a path that reflects his deep commitment to public safety and his desire to give back to the community that he has served as a scout. This outstanding young scout has set a high standard for us all to aspire to and it was an honor to celebrate him. God Bless Nicholas and God Bless the United States of America.

CCSO COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER  
OF THE YEAR

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Michele Hart on being named Communications Officer of the Year for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). The term "hero" gets used too often, in my opinion. It is said that "True heroism is remarkably sober and very undramatic. For, it is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but rather the urge to serve others at whatever cost." I could not agree more with this assessment. The heroism that is displayed daily by our first responders is both inspirational and aspirational for us all. So few among us answer the call to serve, yet it is the selfless sacrifice of those few who do that keeps our entire community safe.

By all accounts, Ms. Hart has dedicated her life to serving others, highlighted by her seven-year tenure with the CCSO which has included progressive responsibility as she was promoted from Communications Officer to Communications Officer In Charge, and then to Communications Supervisor before accepting her current role as Quality Assurance and Training Specialist. She has exhibited unwavering dedication and commitment to the improvement of the Communications Division, which is critical to the operational success of the entire law enforcement team. She has been recognized for consistently supporting new employees by researching and implementing enhanced training platforms to maximize effectiveness and efficiency. She also took a leadership role in converting the Department's communication program to a more

modernized, digital format. By obtaining her Quality Assurance Certification in the Priority Dispatch Protocol programs, Ms. Hart expanded the capacity of her team and highlighted her willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done. It is the daily efforts of support team members, like Ms. Hart, who enable our law enforcement officers to meet the needs of the community. Her peers, commanding officers and the community-at-large have recognized that Ms. Hart routinely goes above and beyond the call of duty to promote public safety and to support her team, even in the most difficult of circumstances. The impact of her efforts have left a lasting imprint on the lives of those she serves.

HONORING LEWISVILLE POLICE  
CHIEF KEVIN DEAVER

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2024*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary leadership and public service of Chief Kevin Deaver as he retires as Police Chief for the Lewisville Police Department (LPD). Chief Deaver has served in this role for LPD since August 22, 2018, completing a 35-year career in law enforcement, 25 of which have been with the City of Lewisville.

Chief Deaver began his law enforcement career with the San Angelo Police Department in February 1989, before joining the LPD in August 1998. During his career, Deaver has worked as a Patrol Officer, Motorcycle Traffic Officer, Canine Officer, Narcotics Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Narcotics Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Community Services Captain, Patrol Captain, Administrative Services Assistant Chief, and the Patrol Operations Assistant Chief. In addition, he served as a field supervisor for the North Central Texas Narcotics Task Force.

Chief Deaver is a graduate of the University of North Texas with a Bachelor of Arts and Applied Sciences with a concentration in Criminal Justice, Public Affairs/Community Service, and Sociology. Chief Deaver is also a graduate of the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration's School of Police Supervision and Management College as well as the FBI-Law Enforcement Trilogy Series which consists of the Supervisor Leadership Institute, Command Leadership Institute, and the Executive Leadership Institutes. Additionally, Chief Deaver holds a Master Peace Officer Certification from TCOLE.

In leading the LPD, Chief Deaver has worked to build on the culture established by his predecessors, Chief McFadden and Chief Kerbow, of always ensuring the Department stood for professionalism. During his tenure, Chief Deaver advocated for the construction of the new Tittle McFadden Public Safety Center and played a major role in the design of the building. He secured STEP pay for police communication and detention personnel and worked with Lewisville Fire Chief Mark McNeal to create the City's first Mental Health Crisis Team (CoCare), implemented FLOCK technology throughout the City and commissioned a staffing study for the department that led to staffing increases over the last five years. Fi-

nally, he led the department through successful re-accreditation of LPD in 2022 as one of 50 recognized Texas Law Enforcement Program agencies while also guiding the Department through the annexation of Castle Hills, COVID-19, and the protests following the brutal killing of George Floyd. Chief Deaver has honorably carried the mantle of law enforcement leadership during one of the most challenging periods our country has witnessed.

On behalf of the constituents of the 26th Congressional District of Texas, I join the City of Lewisville in appreciation of the professionalism and steady leadership he has shown, caring both for his employees and the community the Lewisville Police Department serves each day.

We are all indebted to him for the character, innovation and servant heart he brought to his duties, and I wish him and his family a long and satisfying retirement.

RAYMOND RIDGWAY

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past December, it was my pleasure to attend Raymond Ridgway's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Throughout his scouting experience, Raymond has gained invaluable life skills, particularly in survival skills and how to be a great leader. To achieve the rank of eagle scout, he chose to freshen up the Education Wing at Quinton Baptist Church in Quinton, South Jersey. Recognizing the importance of their church in the community, he took on the task of painting the walls and installing storage cubbies in the Education Wing. His efforts have not only improved the physical environment, but he has also created a more welcoming and functional space for education and community gatherings. Beyond scouting and his commitment to service, Raymond enjoys bowling, music, and working at his job. It was a pleasure to attend his Eagle Scout Court of Honor and I wish this young man all the best. God Bless Raymond and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING NICK AND AMIE  
COSTANZO

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nick and Amie Costanzo of Arvada, Colorado for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Entrepreneurs of the Year Award.

Every year, the Entrepreneur of the Year award recognizes an individual or team's commitment, investment, and innovation as a business owner in the Arvada community.

The Costanzos have owned and operated the Marco's Pizza franchise in Arvada and surrounding communities for over 10 years. Recently, they had a vision of opening a space in northwest Arvada that would provide a community gathering space. That vision be-

came a reality in 2022 when the Costanzos, along with three business partners, opened up Freedom Street Social, which has become a place many residents frequent to have fun and build community.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Nick and Amie Costanzo for this award and thank them for their commitment to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID J. TRONE**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2024*

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, on January 11-12, 2024, I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on Roll Call No. 7, "YEA" on Roll Call No. 9 and "NAY" on Roll Call No. 10.

I strongly oppose H.R. 788, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act, which would undermine our ability to hold corporations accountable for unlawful conduct. I also strongly oppose H.J. Res. 98, the joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status." As a constant proponent of collective bargaining rights, I would never vote to undermine workers and I will continue to support their rights and employer accountability. Last, I support H.R. 839, legislation to increase transparency of China's exchange rate policies.

MARTY PAGLIUGH

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past December, I had the honor of attending the dedication of the Avalon Public Safety Complex to a longtime friend of mine, Mayor Martin Pagliughi, or as I know him, Marty. Marty's commitment to the fire department and his lifelong dedication to public service to Avalon have been truly commendable. Marty has been a guiding force for the community and his tireless efforts have proven great results. In 2020, Avalon benefited substantially from his leadership, saving \$1.6 million on flood insurance—a testament to his commitment to the town's well-being. Furthermore, since 2012, he has served as the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, demonstrating his unwavering dedication to safety and preparedness. In honoring Mayor Pagliughi and his legacy, we celebrate a man whose tireless service has enriched the lives of Avalon residents and set a shining example for us all. The Avalon Public Safety Complex now proudly bears the name of Avalon's former Mayor Martin Pagliughi, and it was my pleasure to attend the event. It was an honor to work with Mayor Pagliughi over these past few decades and this momentous event serves as a fitting conclusion to his remarkable 36-year career in public service.