

CELEBRATING BUTLER MEMORIAL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2024*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I want to celebrate a Northeast Bronx staple, Butler Memorial United Methodist Church, a place that has continued to be a center of community and worship for more than 100 years. The Butler congregation initially met at the Williamsbridge Colored Men's Association in 1912. The service was led by Reverend Gilbert Wilson.

After years of community service, the Church's membership increased, the church school had outgrown the available space, and expansion was urgently needed to the needs of the community. In 1961 the Church broke ground on their current location, and in 1962 the congregation marched to the new Church. In November of that year, the congregation held the cornerstone laying service in their new house of worship.

As the congregation continued to grow, so too did the services provided by Butler. In 1981, the Church established a scholarship program to assist community youth, later other additional scholarships were offered. The church began offering Thanksgiving services, and 8 a.m. services to accommodate increased parishioners. Butler added more programming for community members including a weekly newsletter, bible study classes, an additional choir, and a Nurses' unit.

In 1995, Butler began its expansion program to provide services to individuals across the Borough. After years of careful planning and hard work, Butler broke ground on their new educational facility in 2012. The groundbreaking was followed by a 12 years of dedication and hard work to provide this service to the community. Under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Allen Pickney, Butler's 10th pastor, Butler completed the final phase of their expansion project, their Butler Memorial United Methodist Church Educational Wing.

I want to say thank you to the entire Butler community for providing spiritual, physical, and educational support to families around the Bronx. I look forward to hearing about the Church's future successes.

CELEBRATING CHIEFTAIN  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2024*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the successes of Chieftain Elementary School in Logan, Ohio, as they were recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2024.

I have had the privilege of visiting the Logan-Hocking school district and the compassion and care the teachers, staff, and administrators, have for their students always stands out.

They are committed not just to the academic success of their students, but also to caring deeply about the well-being of each

and every one of their students. They are invested in the success of their students because they know it will result in the success of their community.

A happy and healthy student is a student who is ready to succeed. I want to thank the talented teachers and staff for their dedication to Ohio's youth and I commend Chieftain Elementary on this incredible recognition.

HONORING CANDICE DEANGELIS

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2024*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of New Hampshire's 2025 Teacher of the Year, Candice DeAngelis. For 18 years, Candice has dedicated her life to being an educator and creating a real impact on the lives of students who come through her classroom. She represents all of what it means to be an amazing teacher: compassionate, friendly, and a lifelong learner.

From the beginning of Candice's career teaching Spanish in Londonderry and Kingston to now at Bedford High School, she has always cared deeply about her students. Her students are always excited to go to her class because she makes learning a new language fun and exciting. She always has a smile on her face and is not only ready to teach her students but is also ready to learn from them.

The care and dedication that Candice has for her students comes down to an individual level. She always makes an effort to get to know them beyond just learning their name. Understanding how each of her students learn is an important step in getting them to understand a new language. Candice also works to create lasting memories with her students that will stick with them long after they leave her class.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I congratulate Candice for being named New Hampshire's 2025 Teacher of the Year. I wish Candice, her family, and her students all the best in the years to come as she continues dedicating her life to education.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF WES  
SELVIDGE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the indomitable spirit and extraordinary life of Wes Selvidge; a true icon whose legacy transcends the ordinary. Born on August 8, 1942, Wes was not just a man; he was a force of nature, embodying the essence of California's oldest ranching traditions.

Raised amidst the vast expanse of the Tracy Ranch in Buttonwillow, Wes lived and breathed the farming life, etching his name alongside pioneers. In 1971, he co-founded the Buttonwillow Land and Cattle Company, a testament to his enduring commitment to the land that shaped him. Wes's agricultural prowess, keen intellect, and unyielding desire to

learn elevated him to the ranks of respected growers, contributing significantly to the diverse crops he cultivated.

Wes's influence extended far beyond the fields. Engaging in a rich tapestry of activities, he raced motorcycles and cars, soared the skies on hang gliders, worked cattle with ranching comrades, and piloted planes and helicopters with a natural finesse. A licensed pilot since his teenage years, Wes not only competed nationally in aerobatic competitions but also treated countless individuals to their maiden flights.

His love for speed wasn't confined to the air; it translated to the ground with a passion for cars. From a Model A hot rod built at age 14 to a collection of meticulously restored vehicles, Wes's mechanical acumen was impressive. Beyond these adventures, Wes was a craftsman and a restorer. His dedication to restoring sunken boats from the depths of Lake Tahoe showcased not just his skills but his determination to turn forgotten treasures into award-winning beauties.

Wes faced over 18 years of health challenges with a resilience that mirrored his zest for life. Throughout this journey, his steadfast partner of 59 years, Janet, stood by his side, a testament to a love that weathered the storms.

In Wes's passing, we celebrate a life that embraced adventure, challenged norms, and left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on in his family: his wife Janet, daughter Andrea, son Jason, and, undoubtedly his proudest achievement, his four grandsons—John, Clay, Owen, and Zachary. May we draw inspiration from Wes Selvidge's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn the loss of this remarkable Californian.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Wes Selvidge, a true Californian and inspiration to the Central Valley.

HONORING CORPORAL RICHARD  
DEPPEN

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2024*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Corporal (Army, Retired) Richard Deppen on the auspicious occasion of his 100th birthday on October 21, 2024.

Richard Deppen born on October 21, 1924, was a part of the "Greatest Generation", serving honorably in the Second World War. Corporal Deppen served from April 1943 through the end of the war in 1945—serving with the 182nd Ordnance Depot Company attached to the Third Army under General Patton in the European campaign. His sacrifice and the others, enables our Freedom as a Nation today—and we owe them all a debt that cannot be repaid.

After his honorable military career, Corporal Deppen graduated from Pennsylvania State in 1950 with a Bachelor's degree in Agronomy. Then being called back to service, Mr. Deppen earned a position at The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture—which he served in for

over 30 years—retiring in 1990 as Chief of the Seed Division. Mr. Deppen astoundingly still maintains his independence in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and is a blessing to his family and all those that have the privilege of sharing his company.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored, privileged, and humbled to recognize Corporal (Army, Retired) Richard Deppen on his 100th birthday. His tireless, faithful, and selfless service to the Nation and our Commonwealth sets the standard by which we all should be judged. I wish him continued Godspeed.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL  
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS  
MONTH

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2024*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and join the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Foundation in celebrating the unveiling of the BIG hope sculpture by Chicago artist Matthew Hoffman.

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer present in women in the United States. Over the course of 2024, it is expected that about 310,720 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women, and about 42,250 women will die from breast cancer. These numbers are far too high.

Since 1985, the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Foundation has led the fight against breast cancer, raising funds for breast cancer research and doctors in the Chicagoland area. This organization is named for Lynn Sage who died at only 39 years old as a result of her breast cancer. The Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Foundation provides funding for research grants and fellowships. The organization also holds the annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium which assembles breast cancer research leaders from across the world. The BIG hope sculpture is yet another example of their dedication to raising awareness of the fight against breast cancer. This sculpture serves as a symbol of hope for those impacted by the disease, and it will raise funds which will support the Chicago Breast Cancer Research Consortium.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing the work of the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Foundation and congratulating them on the unveiling of this artwork.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF POLISH AMERICAN  
CONGRESS

**HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2024*

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Polish American Congress, which was established by over 2,600 individuals and representatives of Polish organizations in Buffalo on May 28, 1944, just days before the Normandy Invasion.

The purpose of the Polish American Congress was to fight for a free and sovereign Poland which had been attacked in 1939 by Nazi Germany, the Slovak Army, and by the Soviet Union.

As a result of the Second World War, Poland lost between five and 11 million people due to the genocide committed by the occupying forces and border changes.

After the Yalta Conference of 1945, Poland fell under communist rule and lost 20 percent of its territory. It was then that the Polish American Congress was founded and committed itself to helping the Polish nation.

The achievements of the Polish American Congress include:

1948: advocacy for legislation that allowed 140,000 Polish displaced persons and veterans of the Polish armed forces, who fought against Nazi Germany, to settle permanently in the U.S.

1950: supporting the creation of Radio Free Europe as a voice of truth for the people of Eastern Europe.

1952: pressuring the House of Representatives to investigate the Katyn Forest Massacre. The investigation found that the Soviet Union was responsible for the mass execution of Polish military officers in World War II.

1980s: support for Solidarity, a movement that eventually contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the fall of communism in Poland in 1989.

1999: support for Poland's admission into NATO, signed and supported by President Bill Clinton.

2019: successful conclusion of the multi-year lobbying effort to include Poles in the Visa Waiver Program.

2022: raising thousands of dollars for the Polish Red Cross and Ukrainian Relief efforts to welcome over one million Ukrainian refugees into Poland in response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The bond between the United States and Poland dates back to the Revolutionary War.

Casimir Pulaski, known as the 'Father of the American Cavalry', was a leading commander in the South and died in the 1799 Battle of Savannah. Andrew Kosciuszko was a colonel in the Continental Army, a military architect credited with the construction of fortifications at West Point in New York, and a close friend of Thomas Jefferson who dedicated his U.S. assets to the education and freedom of American slaves.

Millions of Poles have since emigrated to the United States. During the Industrial Revolution, Polish immigrants contributed enormously to the economic flourishing of this country. Polish values and culture, like the love of freedom, hard work, hospitality, and pride in family and community, are woven throughout the fabric of America.

Throughout its 80 year history, the Polish American Congress has remained committed to its mission: A free and sovereign Poland. I congratulate this organization, which advocates for the nearly ten million Americans of Polish descent. The Polish American Congress will meet this weekend in Chicago to celebrate its history of accomplishments, and I wish it many more decades of success as it plans for the future.

GOLD STAR SPOUSE HEALTHCARE  
ENHANCEMENT ACT

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2024*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the immense debt our Nation owes to the surviving family of servicemembers killed defending US interests and the cause of Liberty abroad. Today, I am joined in bipartisan fashion by Congressman DON BACON of Nebraska in introducing a bill that recognizes their sacrifice by expanding healthcare benefits for Gold Star spouses.

Currently, surviving spouses retain healthcare coverage through TRICARE in the "active-duty family member" category for just three years after their servicemember passes away. After three years, they automatically shift to "retired family member" status, which forces them to pay higher fees and out-of-pocket costs.

The debt our Nation owes to the brave men and women who make the ultimate sacrifice while serving overseas is not a debt that can be repaid within three years. It is our sacred responsibility to honor their sacrifice by caring for their surviving spouses.

It is in this spirit that Representative BACON and I are proud to introduce the bipartisan Gold Star Spouses Healthcare Enhancement Act. This Act effectively removes the three-year limitation for spouses who meet criteria for the Gold Star lapel button. It enables them to remain in "active-duty family member" status, reducing the costs and burden on those who have already sacrificed so much for our country.

Military service requires our young men and women to risk their lives fighting and defeating America's enemies. They selflessly accept this risk to secure Liberty across the globe. I encourage each of my colleagues to support the Gold Star Spouses Healthcare Enhancement Act as one small way to honor the debt we as a Nation owe those who answered the call to service and perished in defense of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING JORGE RODRÍGUEZ

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Jorge Rodríguez. Originally from Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, he has called Grapevine his home since 1995. Jorge's passion for education and unwavering commitment to his community has made a lasting impact on the Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District. For 15 years, Jorge served as an elected member of the Grapevine-Colleyville ISD Board of Trustees, where his leadership and vision played a pivotal role in elevating the district's academic performance. Under his stewardship, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD achieved the distinguished rank of sixth in Texas for its advanced studies program, a reflection of his dedication to fostering academic excellence and creating opportunities for all students.