

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WOMEN OF THE YEAR,  
BISA FRENCH

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Bisa French as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Ms. French is a dedicated and compassionate leader of the Richmond Police Department. Beginning her career with the Richmond Police Department in 1998, Ms. French has worked in various roles throughout the department, including Community Policing Officer and Detective for Family Services.

Through her work, Ms. French developed a deep passion for youth advocacy. She rose through the ranks, becoming a Sergeant in 2006, Lieutenant in 2011, and Captain in 2013, where she became the first African American and Latina to hold the position. She also worked with numerous stakeholders in the community, including Contra Costa County, STAND! For Families Free of Violence, and Community Violence Solutions, to establish the Family Justice Center in West Contra Costa County, which opened in 2015.

In 2019, Ms. French was appointed Interim Chief and became the first woman to serve as Chief of Police in the 110-year history of the department. In 2020, she was hired as the permanent Chief of Police. Ms. French's leadership and dedication to the community have impacted numerous lives. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Bisa French for her invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2023  
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2024*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize community advocate and Del Mar resident Bonnie Grossman as my October 2023 Constituent of the Month.

Bonnie is a fierce champion for children facing abuse and neglect. As a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), she advocates for foster care youth in court, school, medical settings, and more to ensure their needs are met. Over the past seven years she has supported numerous foster children, including her current case youth who was 15 years old when he first met Grossman at the height of the pandemic in 2020.

I am thankful for Bonnie's work and the work of CASA leaders who dedicate themselves to uplifting and protecting our most vulnerable communities. She is an incredible ex-

ample of a compassionate and hard-working public servant, and I'm proud to honor Bonnie Grossman as my October 2023 Constituent of the Month.

HONORING ETHAN SUAREZ AS A  
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL  
FLORIDA FOR PRIDE  
MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Ethan Suarez, the dynamic CEO of Pineapple Healthcare, has steered the institution towards becoming a cornerstone of support and care for the LGBTQ+ community in Central Florida.

With a visionary approach and a genuine spirit of philanthropy, Suarez has transformed Pineapple Healthcare into more than just a healthcare provider; it is now a trusted ally and advocate for LGBTQ+ individuals. Under Suarez's leadership, Pineapple Healthcare has seen unprecedented growth, both in its scope of services and its impact on the community. His strategic initiatives have expanded the organization's reach, ensuring that comprehensive and inclusive healthcare services are accessible to all members of the LGBTQ+ community. Suarez's dedication to inclusivity is evident in the welcoming environment Pineapple Healthcare offers, where every individual feels respected and valued.

Philanthropy is at the heart of Suarez's leadership philosophy. He firmly believes in the importance of investing back into the community. This belief is reflected in Pineapple Healthcare's numerous community outreach programs, educational initiatives, and support services. From sponsoring local LGBTQ+ events to providing free health screenings and educational workshops, the institution plays a pivotal role in fostering a healthier, more informed community. Suarez's efforts have cemented Pineapple Healthcare as a vital player in Central Florida's LGBTQ+ ecosystem. By addressing the unique healthcare needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and advocating for their rights, Pineapple Healthcare not only enhances the well-being of its patients but also contributes to the broader fight for equality and acceptance. Under Ethan Suarez's visionary leadership, Pineapple Healthcare continues to thrive as a beacon of hope, support, and empowerment for the LGBTQ+ community.

HONORING FRANCIS L.H. CAILLES

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Francis L.H. Cailles, an

esteemed member of our community. Mr. Cailles is being honored today for his outstanding career in service to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Mr. Cailles dedicated 29 years of public service to the State of California. On June 14, 1994, he began his career in public service as a Staff Services Management Auditor with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Audits Services Section, which is now known as the Office of Audits and Court Compliance.

He worked in this department until his retirement, holding many positions. He was first promoted to Associate Management Auditor in 1997. Then, he was appointed to Staff Management Auditor in 2006, and Senior Management Auditor in 2008.

After nearly three decades in public service, he retired from state service in 2023.

Mr. Cailles's colleagues describe him as a true leader and mentor. He is known to be unfailingly thorough in his work, diligent, conscientious, and a person his peers could always depend upon. Mr. Cailles is also a deeply caring and humble man, known to all around him as a patient person, with a good sense.

Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed privilege to acknowledge Mr. Cailles for his dedication to public service, and the state of California. His many years of service deserve recognition. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CELEBRATING THE RECOGNITION  
OF CITY HONORS SCHOOL AS A  
2024 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON  
SCHOOL

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a remarkable achievement for City Honors School. On September 23, 2024, City Honors was named a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education. This prestigious designation recognizes the school for its culture of effective teaching, collaboration, a caring environment, and, above all, academic excellence.

In the winter of 2023, the New York State Department of Education recognized City Honors as a Blue Ribbon candidate, highlighting their success with a diverse range of students. The comprehensive application submitted this spring showcased the school's vibrant culture, innovative programs, robust assessments, exemplary instructional practices, and strong leadership. This achievement speaks volumes about the dedication, commitment, and talent that permeate City Honors' halls.

We must also take a moment to express our gratitude to the Buffalo Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Tonja Williams Knight

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

for their steadfast support of the Blue Ribbon application. Dr. Williams' belief in City Honors' mission and unwavering support have been invaluable to the journey toward this recognition.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, let us remember that this award is not merely a recognition of their past achievements, but a promise for the future to the community of Buffalo. It is a call to continue fostering an inclusive, supportive, and academically enriching environment for all students.

We celebrate and congratulate City Honors School, Principal William Kresse, Dr. Tonja Williams Knight, and the entire school community. Together, we will continue to inspire and empower all students to reach new heights.

RECOGNIZING COLUMBIANA SOUTH  
SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL IN  
COLUMBIANA, OHIO, AS A 2024  
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2024*

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of South Side Middle School in Columbiana, Ohio, as they were recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2024. I thank the Columbiana Exempted School District and their supportive educators and staff for leading students on the path to success.

As a resident of Columbiana County, I am proud to be able to honor South Side Middle School for their exceptional work as upstanding academic leaders in the community.

The teachers and faculty not only strive for students to achieve their academic goals but are also invested in the well-being of each student. They go above and beyond, focusing on academic success but also the students' growth as an individual.

We are grateful for the gifted teachers and staff of the Columbiana Exempted School District for the countless hours of time and energy they invest into youth education, as it is having a profoundly positive impact on our children.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing South Side Middle School in Columbiana, Ohio, as we congratulate its students, teachers, staff, and families on their accomplishments and their contributions to the community. These admirable citizens illustrate the preeminent standard of the Ohio educators and community leaders I am proud to represent. May their work continue to be a blessing to our Nation.

HONORING WOMEN OF THE YEAR,  
DARIA BAUTISTA

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daria Bautista, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Ms. Bautista is a dedicated public servant, exceptional leader, and

vital asset to the United States Air Force. With over 32 years of administrative experience, Ms. Bautista has served at three Air Force Bases throughout her career. She is currently the Executive Assistant to the Commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base. In this role, she has executed nearly 3,000 wing-level meetings, managed 1,100 personal records, and coordinated the Wing's awards program and official correspondence with the 18th Air Force, Air Mobility Command, Headquarters Air Force, and local community leadership.

Her efforts ensure the seamless coordination of critical initiatives that support one of our Nation's most essential Air Mobility Wings. Beyond her official duties, Ms. Bautista mentors a team of 33 active-duty and civilian personnel, overseeing a \$216,000 Wing Staff Agency budget to facilitate 11 senior leader travel events and ensure efficient resource utilization supporting the base's mission. Ms. Bautista also initiated the first-ever Base Defense Council, with lessons learned that have informed installation protection procedures throughout the 110,000-member command. Her extraordinary service, leadership, and commitment to the United States Air Force's mission are truly commendable. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor Ms. Bautista for her invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING DECEMBER 2023  
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2024*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize public servant and Vista resident Jeffrey Olsen as my December 2023 Constituent of the Month.

Mr. Olsen is a generous local hero, helping over 57,000 people in his 35 years of service to the San Diego region. He largely uses his own money to buy the goods he donates, filling his shed with toys and clothes throughout the year. This past February, he also donated tens of thousands of dollars' worth of sports memorabilia to help military families and veterans.

During the holiday season, I am honored to recognize leaders, like Jeffrey, whose selfless dedication to giving back to others is truly admirable. He is a compassionate and inspiring member of our community, and I'm proud to honor Jeffrey Olsen as my December 2023 Constituent of the Month.

RECOGNIZING HAWAII SENATE  
PRESIDENT RON KOUCHI FOR  
RECEIVING THE LEGISLATOR OF  
THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE  
HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF  
HAWAII

**HON. JILL N. TOKUDA**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2024*

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize Senate President

Ron Kouchi of the Hawaii State Legislature, a life-long and distinguished legislator and this year's recipient of the Legislator of the Year award from the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

Hawaii Senate President Ron Kouchi has spent 14 years in the Hawaii State Senate, with nearly a decade as Senate President. During that time, he has championed significant increases in funding for rural hospitals, providing care for some of our more remote communities in Hawaii and truly making a difference in the lives and wellbeing of our residents. His support for growing our local healthcare workforce and prioritizing access to care to encourage regular school attendance are further examples of his commitment to a healthy Hawaii.

As Senate President, Ron Kouchi also helped lead Hawaii through and out of a global pandemic. His leadership helped our state successfully navigate an unprecedented worldwide public health emergency.

President Kouchi's steadfast commitment and lifelong achievements are an inspiration to many, and I am pleased to join the Healthcare Association of Hawaii in celebrating his many accomplishments. Congratulations and mahalo to Senate President Kouchi for all his contributions to the people of Hawaii.

HONORING BRANDON RAGAN AS A  
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN  
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE  
MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Captain Brandon Ragan is a trailblazing law enforcement leader who has proudly served his hometown of Orlando, Florida, as a longtime member of the Orange County Sheriffs Office (OCSO). Knowing in high school that he wanted to be a deputy sheriff, Captain Ragan joined OCSO's Explorer program as a teenager in the late 1990s. As an Explorer, he gained invaluable experience that amplified his motivation to pursue a career in public service.

In 2003, Captain Ragan took his oath to become an Orange County Deputy, hitting the ground running in a variety of roles. He has worked as a patrol deputy, a sergeant for school resource officers, a detective in Criminal Investigations, a night watch commander, and a lieutenant in both Criminal Investigations and Strategic Communications.

A tireless force for change, Captain Ragan has spearheaded multiple LGBTQ+ advocacy efforts fostering unity, understanding, and inclusion in Orange County. As a founding member of the first nationally accredited LGBTQ+ liaison program launched in 2016 at OCSO, Captain Ragan has strengthened the relationship between deputies and LGBTQ+ residents while educating the agency about LGBTQ+ topics and policy updates. He also spent five years as vice president, then president of the Gay Officers Action League of Central Florida (GOALCfl) and continues to advise the board of directors. In addition, he helped create the OCSO Safe Place program, which invites businesses to display a decal identifying them as safe environments for