

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

LGBTQ+ community members to report crimes or harassment.

In 2020, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) named Captain Ragan one of the "40 Under 40" law enforcement professionals worldwide.

Captain Ragan earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration and a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership. He also holds a graduate certificate in cybersecurity threat detection.

#### RECOGNIZING THE OZARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ozark, Missouri, Chamber of Commerce on its 75th anniversary.

The chamber was formed on Monday, October 14, 1949, when approximately 90 visionary business leaders from Ozark gathered to establish the chamber. Joe Majors, who was owner of Major Cheese Co., was elected as the first president while Dr. Stanley Roper was named vice president and Herbert Taylor was elected treasurer.

Recognizing the need to grow, the chamber's first committee was focused on gaining membership. They started with 49 members who paid an annual fee of \$15 for men and \$7.50 for women. Later that month, the membership had already grown to 58 business leaders. The following month, the chamber hired a part-time secretary and joined the National Chamber of Commerce. These efforts were just the start of three-quarters of a century of growth and success. Today, nearly 400 businesses and individuals make up the organization that is dedicated to supporting local businesses, fostering economic growth, and enhancing the quality of life in the community.

While a lot has changed over the past 75 years, the chambers dedication to the Ozark community has not wavered. Members continue to work tirelessly to support local businesses, engage with citizens, and collaborate with organizations that make Ozark a vibrant place to live and to work. Events such as the annual community awards banquet, the free business and community expo, the Welcome Home Event for new teachers, the widely anticipated annual Christmas parade, and partnerships with city, school and county entities all serve to enhance local businesses, the local economy and the local community.

I would like to congratulate Chamber President and Chief Executive Officer Chris Russell on this landmark occasion, and I wish the chamber many, many more years of growth and success.

#### RECOGNIZING MIRACLE FLIGHTS 100-MILLIONTH MILE FLOWN

##### HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Miracle Flights as they prepare to celebrate

their 100-millionth mile flown on October 24th. Miracle Flights was founded in Clark County, Nevada, in 1985, and has remained dedicated to its mission of providing free flights to children and families in need of specialized medical care across the United States.

Their long-standing partnership with Southwest Airlines has been instrumental in facilitating these flights, providing essential support to families who would otherwise be unable to access the specialized medical care they require.

On Thursday, October 24, Miracle Flights will reach an extraordinary milestone of 100 million miles flown, symbolizing the organization's unwavering commitment to ensuring no distance is too great for children to receive life-saving treatment, regardless of their financial means.

The flight will benefit 8-year-old Luna D. of Las Vegas, who was diagnosed with an optic glioma tumor in May 2017. Luna travels to Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, every three months for specialized oncology care, testing, and an MRI. Before boarding the flight, Luna and her family will get a big sendoff from the Miracle Flights team at Harry Reid International Airport.

This monumental achievement is not only a testament to Miracle Flights' enduring dedication to families in Clark County and Nevada's First Congressional District, but it also reflects its nationwide impact on reducing barriers to essential healthcare.

#### HONORING UPVALLEY FAMILY CENTERS

##### 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 UpValley Family Centers, an esteemed group in our community. This organization is being honored today for their 25th anniversary and outstanding service in promoting equity and access to social resources throughout Napa County.

Since its founding in 1999, UpValley Family Centers has worked to support working families in the greater Calistoga and St. Helena area. UpValley Family Centers is an organization committed to offering prevention and intervention services at a local level. It generously serves our community with time and the money it raises.

UpValley Family Centers' 25 years of service have been commendable. They serve over 4,000 people annually. Last year, 94 percent of those served fell below the median income for Napa County. Sixty percent were women, and 56 percent were Spanish speakers. The family center itself provides a variety of programs: from assisting residents with accessing health insurance and housing resources to playgroups and family support. UpValley also collaborates with over 40 partner organizations to help engage residents and community members as volunteers.

Over their 25 years of service, UpValley Family Centers' programs have made significant longterm impacts. As a Department of Justice recognized organization, UpValley has helped over 2,000 people become U.S. citizens in tandem with the Napa Citizenship

Legal Service. They have increased early literacy, socialization, and school readiness skills in over 1,000 children 0–5 through weekly bilingual playgroups. Children participating in their youth mentoring services are more likely to meet requirements needed to attend a 4-year college. And in 2020, they distributed over \$2.1 million in pandemic and wildfire-related emergency funds, which reached over 300 households.

UpValley Family Centers also participates in broader civic initiatives throughout Napa County. As a part of the Drug-Free Communities Initiative, they partnered with local officials and helped pass social host ordinances in Calistoga and St. Helena. And in 2020, they assisted local messengers and other Napa County-based community organizations to increase participation in the 2020 Census. Napa County saw a 2 percent increase in census participation as a result of their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, we thank UpValley Family Centers for their dedicated service to the Napa County community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

#### HONORING 75 YEARS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

##### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the historic work conducted by the Institute of Social Research, or ISR, at the University of Michigan in the social sciences. As one of the world's largest and oldest academic survey research organizations, the ISR has paved the way for modern social science methods across the globe. Their work is worthy of recognition.

The ISR's founding director, Rensis Likert, creator of the Likert scale, along with six of his colleagues from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics established the institute in 1948. One of the center's first major projects was changing the way they sampled people to conduct polling for the 1948 U.S. presidential election between Harry Truman and Thomas Dewey. While most national polls, using biased methods, predicted a Dewey landslide, the ISR accurately concluded that Harry Truman had a popular advantage.

Currently, the ISR consists of five separate, but interdependent centers, including the Center for Political Studies, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, Population Studies Center, Research Center for Group Dynamics, and the Survey Research Center. These five centers are home to over 300 professionally acclaimed research scientists ranging from over 20 academic disciplines that focus on the fields of governance, economics, demographics, inequality, health, and sustainability. Some of the institute's major projects include the University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index, which has become an industry standard in indicating how American consumers feel about the general economy. The American National Election Studies, founded in 1948 by the ISR, has been the oldest continuous research study