

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

producing high-quality voting and public opinion data in the country. Methods developed at ISR have helped academics, government agencies, and corporations for 75 years learn about how people think and act.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the incredible work conducted by the ISR at the University of Michigan for the past 75 years. Their dedication to continually improving the rigor of the social sciences has made an everlasting impact across Ann Arbor, Michigan, the United States, and the world. Their educational and training programs have influenced the social sciences everywhere. Thousands of researchers who work around the country have had training ISR, and they produce high-quality studies on the full spectrum of human behavior. ISRs impact cannot be overstated, and their work should be celebrated.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MR.
CHARLES WILLIAM CAMP

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Charles William Camp. Mr. Camp, who passed away at the age of 80, leaves behind an indelible legacy of advocacy for social and economic justice for all.

Born in Anderson, South Carolina, in 1944, Mr. Camp dedicated his life to championing the rights of workers and marginalized communities. His journey began at Millsaps College, where he first engaged in the civil rights work and organizing efforts that shaped his lifelong commitment to equity and justice. As a student, Mr. Camp faced threats to his safety because of his activism, yet he never wavered in his fight for racial equity and workers rights.

Throughout his career, Mr. Camp was a tireless advocate for the fair treatment of workers, serving in various influential roles including as Executive Secretary of the Sacramento Central Labor Council. He skillfully combined his passion for economic justice with a commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that the voices of all community members were heard and valued.

Mr. Camp was also a devoted family man, actively supporting the artistic and personal endeavors of his sons and grandchildren. His generosity extended beyond his family, and he was known for mentoring young activists and always encouraging others to engage in the political process and work towards a more just society.

Mr. Camp's legacy is one of compassion, leadership, and unwavering dedication to advancing a progressive vision of social justice for all. His impact will be felt for generations to come, not only through the organizations he strengthened but also through the countless lives he touched.

Mr. Camp's enduring spirit will live on in his beloved wife, two sons, and five grandchildren, who will carry on his legacy of service and commitment to justice. I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Camp's family and all who were fortunate to know him. Together, let us celebrate his life and the enduring impact he made on our community.

RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2024
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 health care advocates and Encinitas residents, Ted and Carla DeBont, as my January 2024 Constituents of the Month.

In fall of 2021, Ted aged into Medicare while Carla stayed on her Affordable Care Act approved medical plan. However, due to a loophole in the ACA's premium tax credit formula, their premiums increased from \$300 to \$600 a month. Ted reached out to our office to see what he could do.

In response, I introduced the Health Insurance Premium Fairness Act. This bill would close the loophole that penalizes married couples whenever one spouse ages into Medicare while the other remains on the ACA marketplace plan. Thanks to Ted and Carla's advocacy, this bill will save them—and countless other Americans like them—thousands of dollars annually on healthcare premiums costs and bills.

This year a record 20 million Americans signed up for an ACA plan, and because of Ted and Carla's advocacy, we're fighting to ensure that all Americans can access the quality, affordable health care they deserve. Ted and Carla's advocacy is admirable and I'm proud to honor them as my January 2024 Constituent of the Month.

HONORING THE EXCEPTIONAL
SERVICE OF PAUL O'KEEFE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of United States Army veteran and hometown hero Paul O'Keefe.

Paul O'Keefe, an esteemed member of the Mechanicville community, graduated from Mechanicville High School in 1950. Two years after his graduation, he was drafted into the army and served bravely in the Korean War. Following his service to his country, Paul returned home to Mechanicville where he married his high school sweetheart, Marie Cavotta, and together they raised a wonderful family with four children.

Throughout his life, Paul demonstrated an unwavering dedication to his community. While balancing his professional commitments at West Virginia Pulp and Paper and General Electric, he served as a volunteer firefighter for an astounding 65 years. His service extended far beyond the fire department, acting as a chaplain for various organizations, including the Hemstreet Park Fire Department, American Legion Post 91, Saratoga County Deceased Veterans Monthly Ceremony, and the Department of New York State, a testament to his remarkable 56 years of dedicated service.

Throughout his life, Paul demonstrated an unwavering dedication to his community and his commitment to others knew no bounds.

Notably, in 1965, during his daily commute, Paul observed two children suffering from muscular dystrophy and became aware of their family's financial struggles. Determined to make a difference, Paul conceived a unique idea. In an effort to raise money and awareness, Paul pushed a wheelbarrow twenty-two miles from Mechanicville to City Hall in Albany asking travelers for donations to help the family. Paul's initial fundraiser was a resounding success raising \$16,000 dollars for the family on his first walk alone. Inspired by the impact he had made on the children's futures, he embarked on two more walks to City Hall, wheelbarrow in tow.

Paul's service to those around him is truly inspiring and we are immensely grateful to have him as our Grand Marshall for the parade. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize the incredible service and commitment to his community of Paul O'Keefe for his decades of service. I congratulate him on his incredible achievements and look forward to witnessing his future endeavors in the community. Today, I stand before you to honor the exemplary service of a distinguished United States Army Veteran and hometown hero, Mr. Paul O'Keefe, a respected member of the Mechanicville community.

HONORING JAMIE PERDUE 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, Jamie Perdue is a dedicated and invaluable volunteer at The Center Kissimmee. He plays a crucial role in maintaining the daily operations of the center, particularly through his management of the front desk. In this capacity, Jamie welcomes visitors, answers inquiries, and provides detailed information on the wide range of services available, ensuring that everyone who enters the center feels comfortable and supported.

In addition to his front desk duties, Jamie is also a certified volunteer HIV tester. He performs rapid HIV testing, offering both compassionate care and essential information to individuals seeking to know their HIV status. His contributions in this area help bridge the gap to critical health services and raise awareness about sexual health in the community.

Through his volunteer work, Jamie has become a valued member of The Center Kissimmee team consistently demonstrating a commitment to supporting the LGBTQ+ community and fostering a safe, inclusive, and educational environment for all.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
NANCY DEWITT

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mrs. Nancy Elizabeth