

Ms. Braxton is a dedicated community leader and advocate, renowned for her tireless work in social justice and public service. As a long-standing member of Easter Hill United Methodist Church.

Ms. Braxton has worn many hats, championing justice and environmental causes. Following her 35-year career with the Social Security Administration, she continued her public service by becoming the first Black female president of a national citizens branch of the National Parks Association.

Ms. Braxton remains actively involved in numerous community organizations, including the Richmond Commission on Aging and the West Contra Costa County League of Women Voters. A staunch advocate for women's rights and police accountability, she inspires others with her compassion and unwavering dedication to justice. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor Ms. Braxton for her invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 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 a leading figure in the Oceanside community, Robbie Hass, as my Constituent of the Month for February 2024.

For more than 20 years, Robbie has been an active member of our community, donating her time and energy, as well as being active in numerous clubs and organizations. In 2000 she joined the North County African American Women's Association, which provides scholarships to young women in our district to fulfill their academic ambitions.

As a lifetime member of the NAACP, Robbie was named Woman of the Year in 2017 for all the work she's done in our community as a local business owner. She now serves as the first Black President of the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce and most recently joined the Board of Directors of Community Housing works, an affordable housing non-profit dedicated to making sure working families have housing opportunities in an expensive housing market.

Robbie's work as a public servant is inspirational and I'm proud to honor her as my February 2024 Constituent of the Month.

HONORING SALVADOR PRECIADO ZAMORA

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 Salvador Preciado on his 85th birthday. Mr. Preciado is a pillar of our community, having revolutionized grape growing through his techniques of grafting vines.

Mr. Preciado grew up in El Grullo, Mexico. In 1963, Mr. Preciado immigrated to the United States from Mexico. He began working with Annie and Frank Emmolo at their plant

nursery, where he was first introduced to grafting. Mr. Preciado then fell in love with grafting, and this led him to start his own company. Simultaneously, Mr. Preciado attended language classes to help strengthen his English. Today, Mr. Preciado resides in St. Helena and is regarded as one of the most successful grafters in the wine community.

Mr. Preciado has had a thriving career in the wine community. He has taught grafting around the world, including South America, Europe, and throughout the United States. Mr. Preciado's hard work created many job opportunities within the wine community. The lessons he shared with fellow grafters have been spread throughout the world's wine community. Mr. Preciado has helped shape many vineyards in Napa, Sonoma, and in other countries.

Mr. Preciado is a strong community servant, guided by the desire to help others. In the 1980s he was given the title, "The Vine Whisperer" as Mr. Preciado proved essential when he used his grafting skills to save vineyards during the phylloxera outbreak in Sonoma and Napa Counties. Mr. Preciado and his crew have worked tirelessly to graft infected vines and preserve local vineyards. In response, the University of California, Davis invited Mr. Preciado to help identify vines in their vineyards because of his impressive abilities. Mr. Preciado was also recognized for his work in the "Latino Winemakers Oral History Project Collection" of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center.

Mr. Preciado's wife, Gloria, also gives back to the community. Mrs. Preciado was recognized in 2001 by the Dalai Lama for the work she did in the St. Helena community as well as in El Grullo. In Mexico, she worked to help build a local drug and alcohol rehabilitation center and a soup kitchen for underserved children. Mr. and Mrs. Preciado also helped start a local soccer team in St. Helena so people from El Grullo could feel connected to their hometown and to each other. They maintain an open door, often hosting community dinners and inviting community members and friends to stay in their home.

Mr. Preciado has positively impacted our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Mr. Preciado here today.

HONORING SHANNON CASEY 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, Shannon Casey is a proud firefighter and paramedic, currently a distinguished member of Osceola County Fire Rescue. She graduated from Coral Springs Regional Institute of Public Safety with class 17-05, receiving the student achievement award for her class. She has since served the communities of Coral Springs and Osceola County for the last five years.

Working as a firefighter/paramedic is not for the faint of heart. They work long hours, receiving call after call, going from one trauma to the next, many times never receiving clo-

sure or recognition for their efforts. When everyone else is running away from danger, they are the ones running towards it, bravely fighting to keep the community safe. In a male-dominated and heteronormative field, Shannon has not only survived, but she has thrived.

With over 15 years of experience in the field, she has a wealth of knowledge and experience that makes her a natural leader and role model for her peers. She has gained the respect of a diverse group of individuals while working as a float firefighter/paramedic across Osceola County. She responds to a multitude of emergencies, both fire and medical, often encountering adversity and exposing herself to a great deal of trauma. She continues to carry herself with honor and dedication with each and every call and willingly makes many personal sacrifices in order to be there for people in need on their worst days.

Her ability to remain calm in the face of chaos is unmatched, making life-or-death decisions in a matter of seconds. Her positive outcomes speak for themselves, as her accomplishments have deeply benefited her patients and community. She always strives to do and learn more, and her strength and resilience are inspiring, to say the least.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL COLBY K. KRUG

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Colby K. Krug and recognize his professional leadership skills in the Armed Forces of the United States. He is a Buffalo native and leaves active service with numerous decorations and accolades.

Lieutenant Colonel Colby K. Krug received his commission as an engineering officer from St. Bonaventure University Reserve Officer's Training Corps in 2004, where he also earned his bachelor of business administration degree in accounting and a master of arts degree in engineering management from Missouri University School of Science and Technology. Lieutenant Colonel Krug also holds a master of arts degree in operational art from the Army School of Advanced Military Studies and is a certified project manager and associate emergency manager.

Showing his loyalty and dedication to his Nation, Lieutenant Colonel Krug has received several awards, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Ranger Tab, Sapper Tab, Combat Action Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Parachutist Badge. Under his leadership, his regiment received accolades for "Most Outstanding Engineer Company" in the U.S. Forces Command in 2011. He was awarded the Army's Best Sapper Competition in 2007 with a Bronze DeFluery Medal. He has been deployed multiple times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

At his side throughout his military career has been his beloved wife, Erin, and daughter, Chloe, and son, Jack. Today, we thank Lieutenant Colonel Colby K. Krug for his outstanding service accolades and duty to serve

the country. Please join me in celebrating Lieutenant Colonel Colby K. Krug upon the occasion of his retirement from active service.

**HONORING EDITH MORGAN AND
CELEBRATING HER 94TH BIRTH-
DAY**

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Edith Morgan, to recognize her 94th birthday, and to celebrate her remarkable life and legacy of service.

Edith's story is one of resilience, courage, and dedication. Fleeing Nazi persecution during one of the darkest periods of our world's history, she eventually found a home in the U.S. Midwest. After earning her bachelor of arts from Macalester College, she set out to make a lasting impact in the world.

Edith later made Worcester, Massachusetts, her permanent home, where she earned her masters in education from Worcester State University. She went on to dedicate over 40 years of her life to teaching elementary school students. Her exceptional contributions to education were recognized by the late Senator Ted Kennedy when she was awarded the "Master Educator in Massachusetts" award.

Edith's commitment to serving others extended beyond the classroom. She played a key role in refugee resettlement, fostering three children from Vietnam, all of whom remain close to her and still reside in Worcester today. This speaks to her deep compassion and the bonds she has formed with those she has helped.

In addition to her work as an educator, Edith has been a tireless advocate for the Worcester community. She helped revitalize Green Hill Park, served as an active member of the Worcester School Committee, and has long been involved in local politics as a committed member of the Worcester Democrats and a dedicated neighborhood activist.

Edith's contributions to our community are immeasurable, and her lifetime of achievement, service, and leadership continues to inspire all of us. She has been a steadfast advocate for immigrant youth, for our local education system, and for those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Edith a very happy 94th birthday and to extend our deepest gratitude for her many years of service to our community and our country. We honor Edith today for the countless lives she has touched and the lasting legacy she has created. I thank her for her dedication and for continuing to inspire future generations.

**COMMEMORATING THE DIAMOND
DIVA EMPOWERMENT FOUNDA-
TION**

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with the people of St. Louis, to honor and rec-

ognize the Diamond Diva Empowerment Foundation for their unwavering commitment to empower victims and survivors of domestic violence through their Fourth Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Rally & Walk.

This event is a testament to the foundation's vital role in raising awareness, providing resources, and standing in solidarity with victims and survivors, not just in our community but across the Nation. Their dedication has helped countless women, men, and families to find safety, healing, and hope in the face of unimaginable adversity.

As a survivor of domestic violence myself, this issue is deeply personal. I know firsthand the scars—both seen and unseen—that domestic violence leaves behind, and the importance of having a community that empowers your resilience and worth. Organizations like the Diamond Diva Empowerment Foundation remind survivors that we are not alone and that our stories matter.

We must continue to support organizations like Diamond Diva that are ensuring survivors have access to the support networks and resources they need to reclaim their lives. As they host their annual rally and walk, the people of Missouri's First District stand with them in the push to end domestic violence.

I commend the Diamond Diva Empowerment Foundation for its leadership, advocacy, and dedication to creating a safer, more supportive world for survivors. Let this event be a powerful reminder of the work we still must do, and of the strength that comes from standing together.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JON WEST

HON. ASHLEY HINSON

OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a fellow Iowan, Jon West.

Mr. West was born in 1971 in Mason City, Iowa, to Terry and Linda West. He grew up in Forest City and graduated from Forest City High School in 1989.

In 1990, Jon married the love of his life, Tammy Schoolcraft, in Forest City, Iowa. Their love story is one of true partnership and devotion, standing as a testament to the power of enduring love and commitment.

Jon dedicated 30 years of his professional life to Winnebago Industries. He started in an entry-level position and worked his way up to become the lead manufacturing engineer in the cabinet shop. His unwavering dedication and innovative spirit led to numerous improvements within the company, benefiting his community.

Beyond his professional achievements, Jon was deeply committed to his community. He served as a two-term city council member in Forest City, always striving to give back and make a positive impact. His love for farming, alongside his dear friends Jay and Kevin, further demonstrated his desire to contribute to the local community.

Jon was a fourth-generation Iowan, with his family history in the State dating back to the late 1800s. His roots ran deep in Iowa and pride in his heritage was evident in everything he did. Jon's greatest joy, however, came

from being with his family. Whether it was spending time with his children TJ and Ashley or his granddaughter, Rhea Lou, Jon found happiness in the warmth and love of those around him. He continues to live on through his family, especially his second grandchild and namesake, Lyra Jon, whom he never met.

Jon West was a proud Iowan, a dedicated member of the Forest City community, and a devoted husband, father, and friend. I am honored to recognize his life, and I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Jon West.

**HONORING WOMEN OF THE YEAR,
KEYCHA GALLON**

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 Keycha Gallon as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. As a devoted mother, entrepreneur, community leader, and author, Ms. Gallon has made a lasting impact on her community. Serving as Treasurer for Motivated 2 Help Others, Ms. Gallon provides critical resources to underserved populations. Under her leadership, six major community resource events are held annually across Richmond and Vallejo, addressing urgent needs such as housing, food security, and health services.

Ms. Gallon's passion for raising awareness about vital social issues is evident in her co-ordination of the annual Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Walk, which educates and advocates for health and justice in these crucial areas. In addition to her extensive non-profit work, Ms. Gallon is the Founder and CEO of Keyz 2 The Future, a grassroots organization focused on supporting Black and Brown youth in the Greater Bay Area who have been affected by gun violence. Through this nonprofit, Ms. Gallon has established a safe environment that fosters healing, leadership development, and entrepreneurial skills for young people facing the challenges of grief and loss.

Her advocacy extends to her volunteer leadership with Moms Demand Action, where she works diligently to end gun violence in our communities. Ms. Gallon is also a talented author, using her platform to elevate important societal conversations. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor Ms. Gallon for her invaluable contributions to our community.

**RECOGNIZING MARCH 2024
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH**

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, during Women's History Month, it is my great honor to recognize a leading figure in the Oceanside community, Gabriela Hooshmand, as my Constituent of the Month for March 2024.

Gabriela is the current President and Co-founder of MANA de North County San Diego