

founding Patriot PAWS, she became certified in professional dog training at the Karen Pryor Academy and later owned Country K9 Academy. In 2005, Lori was approached by disabled veterans at the Dallas VA hospital, who requested her assistance with training service animals. In the following year, she established Patriot PAWS, a nonprofit organization that trains and provides highly skilled service dogs at no cost to veterans with physical disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, and post-traumatic stress. Due to Lori's passion and visionary leadership, Patriot PAWS has provided over 600 service dogs to wounded veterans nationwide. These incredible service dogs have helped veterans meet their needs, improve their quality of life, and spend time with a faithful companion.

As a result of her outstanding contributions to the service dog industry, Lori has received numerous awards, including the Champion of Freedom Award by the Texas Federation of Republican Women, the Texas Animal Hall of Fame Award, and the Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award. In November 2023, Lori was recognized by Governor Greg Abbott and presented with the prestigious Yellow Rose of Texas Commission award, the highest award bestowed on women by the Texas governor. I am proud of the work that Patriot PAWS has accomplished for our veterans, and I know Lori will continue to make a positive impact on the world around us for many years to come.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our nation's Capitol in recognition of Lori's exceptional contributions to the people of North Texas. I thank her for all she has done.

HONORING SUPERVISOR JEAN RAYMOND

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 Town Supervisor Jean Raymond for her thirty-six years of public service to the Town of Edinburg, New York.

As the longest-serving member of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, Jean Raymond's legacy is one of commitment, leadership, and unwavering dedication to her community. After spending her formative years in her hometown of Stamford, Connecticut, Jean and her family relocated to their new home in Edinburg in the 1970s. Jean owned and operated a local general store while also managing responsibilities as a single mother before selling the business in 1987.

When the position of Town Supervisor opened, the Edinburg community encouraged Jean to run. Jean stepped into the role in 1988 and brought her strong convictions and work ethic to serve the town and give her time back to the community, working through evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Jean has taken great strides to improve the Town of Edinburg. Early in her tenure, she secured a dedicated space for Edinburg's government offices and oversaw the construction of a new Town Hall, which opened in July 2005. Jean helped to close the Town's landfill and played a pivotal role in securing state

funding that covered ninety percent of the associated costs. One of her most significant achievements was securing \$46 million to repair the Batchellerville Bridge, a piece of critical infrastructure and the linchpin of a central Town route. Complete repairs to the 3,000-foot bridge took eighteen years and were successfully completed under her supervision.

Jean continues to embark on new projects, including the development of a local park and nature trail. Today, Jean Raymond serves the Town with the same passion that has guided her for more than three decades. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize her record of extraordinary public service.

HONORING WOMEN OF THE YEAR, DR. DIANE DOOLEY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Diane Dooley, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Dr. Dooley is a dedicated pediatrician, public health advocate, community leader, former school board trustee, and proud Benicia native. For 41 years, Dr. Dooley served as a pediatrician at Contra Costa Medical Center, providing compassionate care to countless families and ensuring that children received the medical attention they deserve.

In 2004, Dr. Dooley became a Pediatric Quality Physician, working tirelessly for 14 years to improve the quality of care and expand healthcare access for low-income youth. Beyond her clinical work, Dr. Dooley founded the Healthy and Active Before 5 initiative, which advances health equity for children by collaborating with community organizations to advocate for sustainable practices through local policy. Since her retirement from clinical roles, she has taken on the role of Chairperson for the California American Academy of Pediatrics Mental Health Legislative Team, where she has been instrumental in advancing legislation that supports the mental well-being of children across our state.

In addition to her healthcare work, Dr. Dooley served on the Board of Trustees for the Benicia Unified School District for eight years, influencing policies that support student success. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor Dr. Diane Dooley for her invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING JUNE 2024 CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, during Gun Violence Prevention Month, it is my great honor to recognize Nikki Faddick, a leading gun violence prevention advocate from Carlsbad, as my Constituent of the Month for June 2024.

Ms. Faddick has spearheaded gun safety efforts in our community. She serves as a vol-

unteer for the California chapter of Moms Demand Action and is a senior organizing manager at Everytown for Gun Safety.

Through her efforts, Ms. Faddick advocates for commonsense gun reform and fights to protect our community members. She has participated in the Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America's advocacy days and has fought for increased funding for the state's most vulnerable cities through the California Violence Intervention and Prevention grant program.

As part of her work, Ms. Faddick has met with leaders across all levels of government to push for gun violence reduction measures, and she helped lead local volunteers in a phone bank effort placing over a million calls to make communities across the country safer.

Ms. Faddick's work to protect the residents in my district from gun violence is inspirational, and I am proud to honor her as my June 2024 Constituent of the Month.

CELEBRATING DETROIT CHINA DAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 8th annual Chinese American Culture and Arts Festival for Detroit China Day. This year also marks the 45th anniversary of the normalization of U.S.-China relations, a time to recognize the cultural and economic contributions of Chinese Americans to Michigan. Detroit China Day, which allows the community to experience the richness of Chinese culture and to build stronger ties with members of our community, is worthy of commendation.

Michigan's 6th Congressional District is home to one of the largest concentrations of Chinese Americans in the Midwest. In these challenging times, when our Nation faces divisions that may seem insurmountable, it is essential to embrace and celebrate our diversity. This festival is a testament to the power of unity among different cultures through showcasing Chinese performances, fashion shows, live paintings, food and tea tastings, and more. By sharing and educating our fellow community members on our stories, traditions, and art, we can bridge divides and cultivate understanding to strengthen the bonds that connect us all.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the normalization of U.S.-China relations and provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on the contributions of Chinese Americans to our community, state, and Nation. Their entrepreneurial spirit, innovation, and hard work have been pivotal in driving economic growth and fostering a thriving business environment. Chinese American professionals and entrepreneurs have left an indelible mark on our economic landscape, demonstrating resilience, creativity, and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 8th annual Chinese American Culture and Arts Festival for Detroit China Day and the 45th anniversary of the normalization of U.S.-China relations. For the last eight years, this festival has been monumental in cultivating a deeper appreciation for

the ways in which Chinese culture has enhanced the American way of life, celebrating decades of contributions to Michigan's communities and economy. I thank Detroit and its community members for their commitment to hosting the Chinese American Culture and Arts Festival, and we are excited to see how the festival will continue to educate and unite the community.

HONORING THE NAPA COUNTY HISPANIC NETWORK

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 Napa County Hispanic Network for the occasion of their 40th anniversary.

As the oldest Latino nonprofit organization in Napa County, the Napa County Hispanic Network seeks to develop the Napa County Latino community through political and economic empowerment, pursuit of education, and social advocacy. The network was established in 1983 by a group of local professionals seeing a gap in access to services for the Spanish-speaking community. In addition to emphasizing collaboration, voluntary civil service, and the value of cultural heritage for Latino communities, the network raises critical funds for Napa County students in their pursuit of higher education.

With a mission of closing the opportunity gap for Napa County's Latino students financial needs, the Napa County Hispanic Network has worked tirelessly to increase access to financial support and scholarship services for graduating high school students in our district. Since its founding, the network has distributed over \$500,000 of academic scholarships to more than 700 Napa County students, with the organization increasing their annual impact each year.

Higher education in the United States has always been heralded as the road to career success and fulfillment for our children. By providing students from our county with scholarship funds that empower that pathway, the network has performed an incredible service to our community.

In 2024, the Napa County Hispanic Network awarded \$41,000 in the form of \$1,000 to \$2,500 scholarships through seven different programs, the largest contributions for a single year to date. As college costs have risen over the years, the network has increased its level of support to help parents navigate the growing financial challenges of sending their children to college and university. The impact of assisting children's journeys through education will benefit students and their families for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, through academic scholarships and community contributions, the Napa County Hispanic Network has spent an impactful 40 years striving to cultivate the next generation of Latino community leaders in Napa County. This invaluable mission is central to the health and preservation of our community, as well as the prosperity of our children. For the terrific work the network has done, we honor them here today.

CELEBRATING SARA DENTON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th birthday of Sara Denton, a close friend and trailblazer in Nevada politics. Sara Pittard Denton was born on November 12, 1924, in Paducah, Kentucky.

In 1943, during her first year in college at Southern Illinois University, the U.S. Army Signal Corps, the forerunner to Military Intelligence, recruited her to work as a "Code Girl" in Washington, D.C. at the height of World War II. There she met Ralph Denton, a young U.S. Army lieutenant from Caliente, Nevada, who was attending law school under the patronage of U.S. Senator Pat McCarran. They married in 1949 and after Ralph's graduation, the newlyweds moved to Nevada where for 75 years Sara volunteered in numerous state and national political campaigns while also rearing their three children: renown author Sally, Dr. Scott Denton, and Judge Mark Denton.

Following her participation in U.S. Senator Howard Cannon's successful 1976 campaign, Sara was hired as his Administrative Assistant, her first and only paid position in Nevada politics.

In recent decades, Sara has been instrumental in other Nevada campaigns, including presidential candidates Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, and Kamala Harris. In addition to her political work, Sara has been involved in numerous community and charitable organizations, including the 1964 founding of Boulder City's Art in the Park, the largest juried art festival in the Southwest with proceeds going towards the Boulder City Hospital Foundation.

The State of Nevada has benefitted tremendously from her work. She is greatly respected, highly admired, and deeply loved by so many. I join my fellow Nevadans in wishing her a Happy One-Hundredth Birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAM HAMRA OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Sam Hamra of Springfield, Missouri. He was 92 years old when he recently passed away.

Mr. Hamra was the founder and chairman of Hamra Enterprises, which owns and operates 156 restaurants and other projects across Missouri and the United States. These include locations for Wendy's, Panera Bread, Noodles & Company, and more. He opened the first Wendy's in Springfield in 1976, and the rest is history.

Sam Hamra grew up in Steele, Missouri, as the son of Lebanese immigrants. He graduated from the University of Missouri with business and law degrees. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army, where he was appointed as U.S. Civilian Aide to the Secretary

of the Army for Western Missouri. He later served as the attorney for the city of Nixa, Missouri, where he helped build the city's electric distribution system. He also advocated for funding to expand transportation arteries connecting Branson to Springfield, as well as expanding a major thoroughfare in the city of Springfield.

Mr. Hamra was active in his community. He was a founding member of OakStar Bank, charter president of the Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast, and a member of the foundation board for Ozarks Technical Community College, which also houses the Sam and June Hamra Family Library. The Sam F. Hamra Center for Justice also was named for his work organizing and serving as the first board chairman of Legal Services of Southern Missouri, which serves 43 southern Missouri counties. He and his wife, June, also donated the funds to purchase the land for the Kitchen Homeless Family Shelter on the O'Reilly Campus.

Sam Hamra was a community builder who made an impact on so many aspects of Springfield. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy will live on.

HONORING DARCEL STEVENS 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, Darcel Stevens is an individual with a diverse range of accomplishments and experiences. Not only is he a graduate of the esteemed University of Florida and a proud U.S. Army veteran, but he/she is also a talented comedian, a dedicated political-social activist, and the recent organizer of the impactful "THE DRAG QUEEN'S MARCH 2023," a statewide mobilization of over 540 drag queens and their allies from across Florida to the state's Capitol, protesting against discriminatory anti-drag queen legislation, FLSB-1438.

Recognized for outstanding contributions to the community, Darcel has received numerous prestigious certificates and community service awards, including the Orlando Come Out With Pride Award, the Chuck Hummer Award, the Orlando Social Justice Award, Watermark Orlando's Most Outstanding People Honors, the 2023 Naples Pride Award, and the 2023 Rainbow Awards for Outstanding Community Service.

In the competitive realm of drag, Darcel has proven herself. She has emerged victorious in several regional, state, and national competitions, including the titles of Miss National at Large, Miss Continental Plus, and Miss FL Universo Latina. She is also the reigning Miss FL Babalu International 2024.

Professionally, Darcel excels as Harmony Healthcare's marketing-outreach coordinator, with a passion for providing valuable health services to marginalized communities. Darcel showcases his exceptional skills utilizing diverse marketing strategies while building valuable community partnerships.

However, it is during the weekends that her unique talents shine through as she takes the