

Joe returned to his Italian roots and brought the radicchio seed from his homeland to the United States. As the world's appetite for radicchio grew, so did J. Marchini Farms which eventually became one of the world's biggest radicchio producers, shipping to Japan, Korea, Canada, and all along the East Coast. A visionary, Joe eventually decided he needed to start producing his own almonds as well and rallied together some farm friends to form the Minturn Nut Company. His passion to be innovative worked in his favor once again as their operations went from producing 10 million pounds of almonds to a staggering 110 million pounds.

Despite his success, Mr. Marchini always kept his boots to the soil and made sure to give back to the community. Throughout his 70 years of farming in Le Grand, Joe was a member of the Le Grand Volunteer Firefighters, a strong supporter of Le Grand Community Day, and a parishioner at our Lady of Lourdes in Le Grand. He built a cemetery in Plainsburg and a state-of-the-art car wash in Chowchilla to address community needs. Furthermore, he was also known to humbly help other farmers in times of need, and took care of his employees, whom he credits his success to.

Joe always lived life to the fullest, doing the things that he loved most such as visiting the cabin he built with his friends, skiing, taking his famous jet boat out to Kelsey Lake, and spending the summers at Sand Dollar Beach with family and friends. However, in 2012, Joe was diagnosed with cancer and given three months to live, but by God's grace and the support of those around him he was granted 10 and a half more years of life until the age of 84.

He will always be remembered fondly throughout his community, by friends and loved ones including his wife, Juliette; his brothers, Leonard and Richard; his children, Lisa, Jeff, and Fania; his 10 grandchildren; and his 11 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joe Marchini for his contributions to agriculture and the community. May we never forget his contributions and continue to be inspired by his story.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: CARLA REYNOLDS

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Carla Reynolds, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades, but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire

hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Carla has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

Carla has made it her life's mission to be an agent of positive change wherever she can and she has excelled remarkably in this endeavor. Carla is an unwavering advocate, activist, event organizer, humanitarian, and beacon of hope for all in our community, especially for those facing adversity. Through the The Boots on the Ground Foundation, which she founded in 2021 alongside Danyelle Eckert, Carla works relentlessly to provide vital resources and support to anyone in need. Whether collecting food, toiletries, and other necessities, distributing holiday meals and gifts, assisting seniors, providing financial and peer-based recovery support, or organizing community and family-driven events, Carla has created an organization that serves as a vital lifeline and incredible resource for individuals and families in our community in need of assistance. Carla is also responsible for spearheading Bristol Borough's annual Unity Day celebration. Each year, she orchestrates this incredible event to honor our local First Responders and bring our community together to foster stronger community-police relationships while celebrating our rich culture. I have had the pleasure of attending Unity Day since its inception and continue to be inspired by her ability to create such a powerful display of a vibrant and united community. Carla truly is a force of positive change within our community, and her work has undoubtedly touched and bettered countless lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Carla Reynolds that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Carla not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Carla Reynolds for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

RECOGNIZING DANA RITTER

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dana Ritter, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Dana Ritter has built a meaningful career centered around finding and reporting truth as the Washington D.C. Bureau Chief for CBN News (Christian Broadcasting Network). Dana leads with this motto: "Do right by the newsmaker. Do right by the audience. Do right by each other." As a Christian woman in media, her aim is to bring glory to God by tell-

ing stories of what He's doing in the world, seeking truth—not spin, and recognizing the sovereignty of God—no matter the story or event she's covering.

She leads the DC team in coverage of the White House, Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court and other big stories in Washington. With nearly 25 years of experience in broadcast journalism and digital media, Dana has served in television newsrooms across Washington D.C., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Norfolk, and Roanoke, Virginia, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Dana previously worked at CBN News as the White House Producer and was the Executive Producer of the Brody File.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

SOUTH DAKOTA 2024 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, each year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes a select group of schools across the country, celebrating their academic achievements and contributions to educational excellence. As a South Dakotan, I am proud of Christ the King Elementary, Lennox Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, and Warner High School for being named as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

Lennox Elementary, Christ the King Elementary, and Warner High School are honored for their high scores in English and mathematics, while Lincoln Elementary is recognized for its progress in closing the achievement gap among subgroups. This will be the second Blue Ribbon recognition for the Warner School District, as Warner Elementary School was awarded in 2016. These schools serve as models of proficient education for schools throughout the Nation.

Outstanding teachers and a supportive community are key to the success of each of these Blue Ribbon Schools. It is paramount that we continue to have exceptional teachers and schools for our kids and the future of our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these four exceptional schools in South Dakota. I'm confident they will continue to make great contributions.

HONORING JUDITH DITTMAN FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH SECOND STORY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judith Dittman, Chief Executive Officer of Second Story. Judith has been serving communities in Northern Virginia through Second Story since 1995. Since 1972, Second

Story has worked closely with youth and families across Northern Virginia through strategic programs to help them work toward self-sufficiency as well as break cycles of homelessness, abuse, and poverty. As Chief Executive Officer, Judith has used her background of almost 30 years in nonprofit management and advocacy to obtain more services for at-risk, abused, homeless and runaway youth—including opening seven new programs since 2004 targeted to this population. Because of Judith, thousands of youths and families have been able to write their Second Stories.

Judith has served on federal panels to develop standards for federally funded programs serving runaway, homeless, and street youth. She also was a Greater Washington Nonprofit Roundtable Fellow. She has presented at numerous National Conferences on topics relevant to youth and young adults. Judith serves on the Policy Advisory Committee for the National Network for Youth. She is a member of the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team of Fairfax County as a former Board Member for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Judith Dittman for her tremendous efforts as a leader in Northern Virginia communities, as she celebrates her retirement after 30 years of Second Story.

RECOGNIZING THE NCAA IN INDIANAPOLIS FOR 25 YEARS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Collegiate Athletic Association, also known as the NCAA, and the last 25 years it has spent headquartered, thriving and growing in the Circle City, which I'm honored to represent.

I am proud to recognize the NCAA, which has been an iconic part of Indianapolis for the last 25 years and has inspired individuals across the globe. The NCAA has worked to protect and improve the lives of Hoosier athletes and athletes around the country since its inception in 1906. They started off sharing office space with the Big Ten Conference in a downtown Chicago hotel, then moved to Kansas City, Missouri in 1952. The NCAA spent the next 40 years in the Kansas City area and, after exploring future locations, decided the city of Indianapolis would be their new home.

In 1999, when they officially made the move to their new state-of-the-art location on Indy's downtown Canal, the NCAA solidified Indianapolis's status as the "amateur sports capital of the world." This has helped our city host countless NCAA conventions, conferences, championships, and other major sporting events, like the College Football Playoffs, Big Ten Championships, and Horizon League Championships. In the next couple of years, Indy will host the 2026 Division I, II, and III Men's Basketball Championships and all three championships for Women's Basketball in 2028.

Hoosiers love sports, especially basketball, so the NCAA's 25th anniversary in Indianapolis is a special time to uplift the power of

sports and the impact sports can have on more than just one athlete, but on an entire community. The NCAA presented a generous 25th anniversary donation to the Indianapolis Public Schools Foundation to fund self-development opportunities for more than 1,000 student-athletes at seven area middle schools: Arlington, Broad Ripple, William Penn, Harshman, Longfellow, Howe, and Northwest. This investment in our community will help foster a lifelong love of sports, giving young people a chance to build self-confidence, and self-efficacy and improve retention in school and athletic programs.

On this wonderful milestone, we thank the NCAA for being a strong community partner and look forward to working together and continue making our city the best it can be.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDERICK BIERMANN

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, Jr.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Frederick Biermann, a man whose legacy of courage, service, and innovation spans continents and generations.

Born in Vienna in 1930, Fred and his family fled Nazi occupied Austria in 1938, eventually finding refuge in the British Mandate for Palestine. At the young age of 15, Fred joined the Haganah, defending his community from oppression and later serving with distinction in the Israeli Defense Forces during Israel's fight for independence.

Fluent in five languages, Fred immigrated to the United States in 1952 and continued his service, eventually rising to the rank of Colonel in both the Israeli Defense Forces and United States Army. His leadership is mirrored by his innovative contributions in the fields of dentistry and medicine, where he pioneered advancements in bridges, implants, and even heart valve technology.

A devoted husband to Rose and a loving father to Sharon, Hal, and Wendy, Fred's life is marked by resilience, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to improving and safeguarding the world around him. It is my privilege to place his name in the Congressional Record in recognition of someone who truly exemplifies service and excellence.

COMMEMORATING KAZAKHSTAN'S REPUBLIC DAY

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the Republic Day of Kazakhstan and recognize its declaration of sovereignty on October 25, 1990. This pivotal moment paved the way for Kazakhstan's eventual independence from the Soviet Union and symbolizes the nation's enduring commitment to self-determination, prosperity, and peace.

Kazakhstan's early alignment with the West, especially in fostering a free-market economy,

has significantly influenced its development over the past 30 years. Kazakhstan has transformed into a thriving nation with a strong economy, a growing international presence, and a robust partnership with the United States.

The relationship between Kazakhstan and the United States is rooted in shared values of democracy, shared economic prosperity, and mutual respect among nations. As we celebrate Kazakhstan's achievements, we reaffirm our commitment to working together to address global challenges while promoting peace, security, and economic development.

Kazakhstan is dedicated to promoting religious tolerance and pluralism. The country hosts a triennial conference, the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, to foster cooperation and respect among the world's major faith traditions, including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Shintoism, and Taoism.

Kazakhstan's commitment to the rule of law and fostering a welcoming environment for foreign investors has made it an attractive destination for U.S. companies, which have become one of the largest sources of direct foreign investment.

This progress aligns with the country's broader goals of sustainable development and economic diversification, further cementing its role as a key player in Central Asia.

Kazakhstan continues to be a pillar of stability in Central Asia, emerging as a global leader in nuclear non-proliferation, peace-keeping, and fostering regional cooperation. As a net contributor to peace and security not only in the region, but also globally, Kazakhstan is committed to addressing global challenges and promoting international stability.

At the sixth consultative meeting of the Central Asian Heads of State, Kazakhstan emphasized its vision of a "Renaissance of Central Asia." This process is seen as a critical step in positioning the region as a self-reliant and influential force in an evolving global landscape.

Kazakhstan leads the region in its readiness to serve as a strong U.S. partner, positioning itself as one of the most cooperative allies in the region.

In 2023, President Biden met with the Presidents of Kazakhstan and four other Central Asian nations at the inaugural C5+1 Summit during the United Nations General Assembly. Since its inception in 2015, the C5+1 platform has strengthened U.S.-Central Asia cooperation, advancing shared goals of regional security, economic resilience, and sustainable development.

The New York Declaration, adopted at the Summit, reflects shared priorities in security, economic, and energy partnerships, underscoring the mutual commitment of the United States and Central Asia to enhancing regional cooperation and connectivity.

Following the Summit, Kazakhstan has demonstrated its commitment to key initiatives by promoting the B5+1 platform, advancing the Critical Minerals Dialogue, and launching the "C5+1 on Disability Rights" initiative.

The United States and Kazakhstan remain committed to accelerating regional cooperation and connectivity. This includes expanding trade routes, such as the Trans-Caspian Trade Route, and fostering a more favorable business environment for U.S. private sector trade and investment in Central Asia.