

## RECOGNIZING ALLYSON RENEAU

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

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

Allyson Reneau is an international space consultant, successful business owner, coach of Olympic hopefuls in the sport of gymnastics, and the mother of 11 biological children. Allyson graduated *summa cum laude* from Harvard with her master's degree in international relations with a focus on NASA and the U.S. Space Program. She was nominated in 2019 by her professor as Harvard's Emerging Leader of the Year.

Allyson attended the NASA-sponsored International Space University and was asked to teach space entrepreneurship for ISU for several years. She has held internships at NASA Headquarters in Washington D.C., the FAA Commercial Spaceflight Office, and the U.S. Naval War College. Her award-winning Harvard thesis was published as a book and became the No. 1 new release on Amazon. It has been referred to as a framework for current U.S. Space Policy on NASA's return to the moon.

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Allyson is in high demand internationally to advise space-emerging nations on the importance of a national space program, speaking with country presidents, as well as members of their cabinets. She has been featured on radio programs and television networks, including NBC's Today Show, ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX, and in countless magazines and newspapers around the world.

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

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS WITH  
GEORGE MARK CHILDREN'S HOUSE**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I recognize George Mark Children's House, which will soon celebrate 20 years of supporting families and providing exceptional care for thousands of children with severe medical conditions.

George Mark Children's House (George Mark) was established in 1995 in San Leandro, California, as the country's first free-standing respite home for children. It was founded by Dr. Kathleen Nicholson Hull, who was inspired by the profound personal loss of her two brothers, George and Mark, to create a place where children and their families could receive comprehensive, compassionate care in a home-like environment.

George Mark is a model of compassionate care for children and young adults, provided in a fully furnished and comfortable facility. As the pioneer in the United States for providing

pediatric palliative care in a residential locale, George Mark has led the way for additional homes to adopt their comprehensive approach to caring for children with serious medical concerns.

In 1999, the George Mark team broke ground, and with the support of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the late Wilma Chan, the county secured and leased the land for \$1.00 a year. For two decades George Mark has helped to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and their families. George Mark's dedicated interdisciplinary team provides around-the-clock critical care and create an environment where their patients can still experience much of their childhood and make lasting memories with their families. George Mark prioritizes enrichment and finds ways to spark fun and joy for the families in their care.

For the past 20 years, George Mark and Dr. Hull have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence in providing children with exceptional, loving, palliative care. I join the past and present teams of George Mark in celebrating the legacy they've created and wish them many more productive years to come.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT  
AND YEARS OF DEDICATED  
SERVICE OF PARKLAND COMMIS-  
SIONERS BOB MAYERSOHN AND  
KEN CUTLER**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the distinguished careers and retirements of two exceptional public servants from Parkland, Florida: Commissioner Bob Mayersohn and Commissioner Ken Cutler. Together, they have dedicated years of service to improving the lives of Parkland's residents and have left an indelible mark on the community.

Commissioner Bob Mayersohn was elected to the Parkland City Commission in 2016. Before being elected to office, he served as the Parkland Education Advisory Board Chair and a Planning and Zoning Advisory Board member. He also served as the President and has continued to be a board member since the inception in 2002 of the beloved Parkland Buddy Sports program. Bob played an instrumental role in the start of this successful program that continued to focus on children and young adults with special needs and volunteer opportunities for teens in the city. In addition to a list of his involvement in community services, he was the President of the Broward League of Cities, working with 31 cities and municipalities throughout the county to resolve problems affecting day-to-day municipal operations, including county, state, and federal legislation. Commissioner Mayersohn's vision and compassion will be felt in Parkland for generations, and his retirement marks the conclusion of a career defined by integrity and service.

Commissioner Ken Cutler was elected to the Parkland Commission in 2016. Years prior, he began his activism by joining the Parkland Friends of the Library and encouraged the Commission to build a new library in the city.

His devotion to the Library Building Committee was instrumental in moving to the new library building and expanding through the "Pave the Way to Reading" program, which led to the beautiful library we have today. Ken also led diverse community partnership programs with the Parkland Historical Society, which later brought the history of Parkland to light. His research discovered more about "Holmberg" of Parkland's Holmberg Road and recovered artifacts taken from Parkland's Margate Blount Archaeological Site, which brought the city's history back to the community. He distinguishably served Parkland, consistently demonstrating a commitment to transparency, fairness, and civic engagement. Commissioner Cutler's leadership will be greatly missed, but his legacy of thoughtful governance will always endure.

Together, Commissioners Mayersohn and Cutler have been dedicated leaders committed to enhancing the quality of life in Parkland through their tireless work on public safety, education, and community well-being. Their leadership was especially critical in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy, where they worked diligently to support the community and advocate for more robust safety measures and mental health awareness. Both Commissioners have dedicated countless hours to making Parkland a safer and more vibrant community. Their retirements mark the end of two illustrious careers in public service, and their contributions will continue to inspire future generations of civic leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Commissioners Bob Mayersohn and Ken Cutler on their well-deserved retirements and expressing our deepest gratitude for their many years of exemplary service. We wish them and their families all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 FAIRFAX'S  
FINEST VALOR AWARDS RECIPIENTS**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Fairfax. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe.

This year's ceremony will present awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Unit Citation Award, Individual Lifesaving Award, Unit Lifesaving Award, Silver Citizen Award, and Gold Citizen Award.

It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

Unit Citation Award: Swiftwater 433; Captain John Jeniec, Lieutenant Scott Trottman, Master Technician Chris Cubbage, and Master Firefighter Derek Slusher.

Individual Lifesaving Award: Samuel Dee, Master Police Officer and Noah Glover, Officer.

Unit Lifesaving Award: Rescue Engine 433, Medic 403, Battalion 443: Assistant Chief Shawn Dunstan, Captain Jonithan Brantley, Master Technician Skylar Turnbull, Master Fire Medic Cory Gillespie, Master Fire Medic Tre Benefield, Lieutenant Tyler McLaurin, Fire Medic Eric Ransom, and Fire Medic Conor Ryan.

Silver Citizen Award: Cameron Welke.

Gold Citizen Award: Jim Etter.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2024 Fairfax's Finest Valor Awards Recipients and thank all of the men and women who keep our community safe. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES OGLETREE, JR.

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today we gather to remember and honor the life of a remarkable individual, Charles Ogletree, a native of Merced, California, who ascended from humble origins to become a brilliant legal mind and a devoted champion of civil rights. Charles's legacy is one of tireless advocacy, inspirational mentorship, and unwavering dedication to justice.

Born in 1952 in Merced, Charles's journey began amidst the struggles of a migrant worker family. From these modest beginnings, he rose to prominence as a Harvard Law professor, leaving an indelible mark on the world of law and education. His steadfast commitment to civil rights and racial justice shaped his life's work, inspiring those around him to strive for equality and a more just society.

Known affectionately as "Tree" by his friends, Charles's impact extended far beyond academia. He stood at the forefront of pivotal moments in history, representing survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre and serving as Anita Hill's attorney during the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings. His authored works on human rights, race, and class left a lasting imprint on legal discourse and society at large.

Charles's connection to his hometown of Merced remained strong throughout his illustrious career. Even as he earned accolades at Harvard and beyond, he carried with him the values instilled during his upbringing in Merced. His commitment to his community was reciprocated when the local Superior Court building was named in his honor, a testament to his extraordinary achievements.

Charles's journey to become a legal luminary was shaped by his early fascination with the TV show "Perry Mason." Inspired by Mason's character, Ogletree embarked on a path that would see him become a trailblazer in his own right. His commitment to education and academic excellence propelled him from Merced High School to Stanford University, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science before receiving his law degree from Harvard Law School.

In his homecoming to Merced, Charles reflected on the profound influence his hometown had on his life's trajectory. He attributed his success to the friendships and mentors he found in Merced, acknowledging their role in helping him overcome challenges and reach new heights. Charles's journey came full circle when he welcomed the inaugural class of students to the University of California campus in Merced, emphasizing the importance of positive connections in achieving success. As we bid farewell to Charles, we honor his legacy of compassion, dedication, and service to humanity. His selflessness, both in the classroom and the courtroom, touched countless lives and inspired generations to champion justice and equality. Former President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama aptly described Charles's character as "unfailingly helpful and driven by a concern for others."

Charles Ogletree's life serves as a testament to the power of determination, mentorship, and the indelible impact a single individual can have on the world. He leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations to fight for justice, just as he did throughout his remarkable journey. Charles is survived by his beloved wife, Pamela Barnes. Their enduring partnership was built on a foundation of shared values and intellectual curiosity. His children, Charles Ogletree, III and Rashida Ogletree, stand as a testament to his legacy of excellence and dedication. Additionally, his cherished grandchildren, Marquelle, Nia Mae, and Jamila Ogletree, as well as Makayla George, reflect the warmth and love that he bestowed upon his family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Charles Ogletree, an extraordinary legal scholar, mentor, and advocate who dedicated his life to advancing civil rights, racial justice, and the betterment of society. May his legacy inspire us all to continue the pursuit of a more just and equitable world.

#### RECOGNIZING PA-1's HOMETOWN HERO: TIMOTHY BESS

#### 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 extraordinarily 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 Timothy Bess, 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. Timothy has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

After visiting the Jesse W. Soby American Legion Post 148 with his dad, William Bess a

U.S. Army Veteran, Timothy observed the Post's flagpole was weathered and deteriorating. During this trip, he was moved to make the remarkable decision to take action and give back to our veterans who have sacrificed so much for our community and country. Timothy went to work and began researching flagpole options, one that would be both worthy of our veterans and built strong enough to withstand the elements. Through his research, he was able to locate a beautiful 35-foot pole made out of brushed aluminum, strong enough to withstand weather and time, and even fastened with the rope inside to protect the pulling mechanism. He then spent six months working tirelessly to develop and orchestrate several fundraising efforts and coordinate with local businesses for the installation, landscaping, and creation of a new plaque. In total, Timothy raised over \$7500 to bring his vision to fruition for Post 148. Post Commander Walt Davidson said that seeing the flags wave from the shiny new flagpole for the first time was a welcome and bright sight.

It is the work of individuals like Timothy that reminds us of the power of the human spirit. His 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 Timothy not just for his remarkable deed but for who he is—a true hero, in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Timothy for his 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 his example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

#### HONORING RONALD CISCHKE OF GOODLAND TOWNSHIP

#### HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable individual, Ronald Cischke, a longstanding pillar of the Goodland Township community in Lapeer County, Michigan. He has dedicated nearly his entire life to this vibrant community, serving it in various capacities with unwavering commitment and integrity.

Ron has spent an impressive 55 years as both the township supervisor and assessor, roles through which he has significantly contributed to the development and well-being of the township. Ron is the longest-serving supervisor in Lapeer County history. His professional journey has been diverse—he has farmed, owned a construction company, driven a milk truck, and worked for the Construction Code Authority. This breadth of experience has enriched the community he serves, fostering a spirit of hard work and dedication.

In 1959, Ron married his beloved wife, Ruthie. Together, they have raised three children and have been blessed with four grandchildren. Family has always been at the heart