

of Ron's life, reflecting the values of community and service that he holds dear.

Ron has also made significant contributions to the Goodland Community Church, where he has been actively involved for over 30 years. As the Building Community Chairman and a member of the Board of Directors, he has helped guide the church in its mission to serve and uplift the community. Furthermore, Ron's commitment extends beyond the church; he has served on the Board of Directors for the Thumb Narcotics Unit, playing a vital role in addressing and mitigating the challenges of substance abuse in the region.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Cischke exemplifies the spirit of community service and dedication. His tireless efforts and compassionate leadership have made a lasting impact on Goodland Township and its residents. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ron for his years of service and to celebrate his contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF INSIGHT MEMORY CARE CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Insight Memory Care Center (IMCC) of Fairfax, Virginia, on its 40th Anniversary, and to acknowledge the exceptional work this nonprofit organization has done in supporting individuals with memory-related impairments, as well as providing education and resources to their families.

Founded in 1984 as the Alzheimer's Family Day Center, IMCC was created to serve those who were overlooked by existing community services, particularly individuals in the middle to late stages of dementia and those facing behavioral challenges. The recent name change reflects its expanded mission, as IMCC offers a wide range of services beyond just Alzheimer's care.

Starting as an adult day health center with only three participants, IMCC eventually grew from a church basement to a spacious 15,000 square foot facility in 2015 that now serves over 50 individuals each day. In January 2022, IMCC marked a significant milestone by opening its second location, an Early-Stage Center in Sterling, Virginia. It is currently the only dementia-specific day center in the DC metro area and the sole adult day health center in Northern Virginia offering specialized programs for those in the later stages of Alzheimer's disease. IMCC envisions a community where individuals with memory impairments can enjoy a high quality of life, while their families and caregivers receive essential counseling, education, and support.

IMCC's innovative educational and support initiatives include caregiver classes, community trainings, professional seminars, support groups, individual consultations, and home visits. These programs empower family members to be effective caregivers and foster greater awareness and understanding of dementia within the community. I would like to express my gratitude to Executive Director Anita Irvin and the dedicated staff, whose diverse skills and backgrounds have positively impacted

over 1,500 individuals and countless families with their services.

IMCC's outstanding efforts have earned it well-deserved recognition, including multiple accolades as one of the "Best Small Charities in the Washington Region" by the Catalogue for Philanthropy, and the title of Adult Day Center of the Year from the National Adult Day Services Association.

IMCC exemplifies a leading organization that's highlighted the urgent need for our nation to increase investments in Alzheimer's and dementia care, treatment, and services. Their impactful work serves as a compelling reminder of the positive difference we can make when we prioritize this critical issue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating IMCC on 40 years of impactful service and in thanking its staff, volunteers, and supporters for their unwavering commitment to our community.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the strong relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan and to recognize Kazakhstan's Republic Day.

Republic Day commemorates Kazakhstan's 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.

Over the past 3 decades, 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, economic growth, and mutual respect. As we celebrate Kazakhstan's achievements, we reaffirm our commitment to working together in addressing global challenges and promoting peace, security, and economic development.

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 U S 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.

Kazakhstan remains one of the United States' most reliable and trusted partners, both regionally and globally, particularly as an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This long-standing partnership highlights the importance of advancing efforts to establish Permanent Normal Trade Rela-

tions (PNTR), ensuring that Kazakhstan's economic growth is fully acknowledged and supported within the global marketplace.

As we look to the future, the United States and Kazakhstan are poised to deepen their partnership through continued dialogue, trade, and collaboration on shared goals.

Together, we are committed to fostering peace, security, and prosperity, not only in Central Asia but globally.

RECOGNIZING HAYDEN JOSEPH KANG'S PERFECT SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (SAT) SCORE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding academic accomplishments of a constituent from my district, Hayden Joseph Kang.

Hayden is a Senior at Council Rock High School South who regularly demonstrates a commitment to academic excellence, with this dedication culminating in him achieving a perfect score of 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) on November 4, 2023. Hayden demonstrated a proficiency in reading comprehension, including information and ideas, craft and structure, and expression of ideas, and mathematics, including a remarkable understanding of advanced mathematics, problem-solving and data analysis, algebra, geometry and trigonometry.

Hayden's performance on the SAT should serve as a testament to his intelligence and motivation. I am encouraged by his motivation to perform incredibly in his academic career, and I am proud to represent such a remarkable student in my district.

It is my hope that, by Hayden's example, students throughout my district and throughout the country are encouraged to challenge themselves academically, and endeavor to strive for excellence in every facet of their lives. Moreover, the example provided by young people, like Hayden, should serve as an inspiration to challenge ourselves and strive for excellence in every facet of our lives.

I would like to wish Hayden the best in his future endeavors, both academically and professionally, and once again congratulate him on his incredible performance on the SAT.

RECOGNIZING RUSSELL MATAR AS VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Russell Matar, who I named Veteran of the Month for October from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. Born on October 18, 1924, in Port Huron, Michigan, Russell was the second of five children. His journey began with resilience and dedication, culminating in his graduation from Port Huron High School in 1942, before he enlisted in the United States Navy in 1943. His service during World War II took him to the

Mojave Desert, where he contributed to vital rocket experiments, and to the Marshall Islands, where he repaired aircraft electronics. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

In 1954, Russell married Ginger McDaniel, and together they built a loving family, raising two sons and a daughter, along with a growing number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Russell's professional career spanned over three decades with Montgomery Ward, where he made significant contributions throughout the Midwest. His commitment to community service was unwavering; he actively participated in local Chambers of Commerce and Merchants Associations. In Flint, Michigan, where he spent his later career, Russell left an indelible mark on the community. Notably, he served as Chairman of a committee that collaborated with then-Mayor Jim Rutherford to plan the inaugural Crim Race in Flint. Additionally, he dedicated six years to the Whaley Board for Children and served on the board of the YMCA.

As a devoted member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint, Russell held the position of Vestry member and worked alongside First Presbyterian Church and Court Street Methodist Church to establish the Ministry of Crossover Outreach. This initiative addressed the needs of the local community by providing clothing, food, and referral services.

Throughout his remarkable century-long life, Russell Matar has exemplified the core values of family, community, and service. His legacy of steadfast support and commitment to those around him truly sets him apart.

I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the life of Russell Matar, a true pillar of our community and a shining testament to the enduring spirit of service.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Republic Day of Kazakhstan, commemorating Kazakhstan's 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 has significantly influenced its development. Over the past three decades, 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 the shared values of democracy, economic growth, and mutual respect. As we celebrate Kazakhstan's achievements, we reaffirm our commitment to working together in addressing global challenges and promoting peace, security, and economic development.

Kazakhstan continues to be a pillar of stability in Central Asia, emerging as a global leader in nuclear nonproliferation, 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.

As a religiously diverse country, it serves as a case study of peaceful coexistence. Kazakhstan hosts the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, which has become an important venue for fostering dialogue among various faiths and serves as a unique platform for interfaith and intercultural cooperation. At a tumultuous time in the world, this event serves as an important opportunity for faith leaders to work to promote and protect freedom of religious expression and worship in Kazakhstan and in all nations.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's commitment to political and societal reforms is commendable. Despite external pressures, Kazakhstan has remained a peaceful and stabilizing force in Central Asia, exemplifying its dedication to democracy and Western ideals.

Kazakhstan remains a reliable and trusted partner of the United States, particularly as an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This long-standing partnership highlights the importance of advancing efforts to establish Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR), ensuring that Kazakhstan's economic growth is fully acknowledged and supported within the global marketplace.

As we look to the future, the United States and Kazakhstan are poised to deepen their partnership through continued dialogue, trade, and collaboration on shared goals. Together, we are committed to fostering peace, security, and prosperity, not only in Central Asia but on the global stage.

RECOGNIZING METRA COMMUTER RAILROAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Metra Commuter Railroad on its 40th anniversary of providing reliable, affordable, and safe transportation services throughout the state and for residents of Illinois' 6th Congressional District.

In the last forty years, Metra has made significant progress revitalizing and rebuilding stations, tracks, and signals, purchasing new locomotives and railcars, and modernizing and stabilizing and expanding services across the region. Metra also provided a crucial lifeline during the global pandemic.

I commend Metra on these advancements and was proud to lead the Illinois Delegation's support efforts for its recent Federal Transit Administration's Rail Vehicle Replacement Program grant application. Metra was selected as one of only three recipients nationwide to receive a grant. This \$100 million federal investment will support the procurement of new, multi-level railcars to replace those from the 1970s and improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility to all passengers boarding Metra trains.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the dedicated professionals at Metra who have continuously serviced Illinois with

vital transportation as they celebrate forty years of service. I thank Metra Commuter Railroad, and wish them a happy anniversary.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: VALERIE HAMILTON

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 Valerie Hamilton, 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. Valerie Hamilton has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

Since 2012, Valerie—owner, founder, and executive director of Children of God Educational Services—has been a driving force in transforming early education and childcare in Bristol Borough. With a relentless focus on strengthening family bonds and immersing children in rich, local experiences, Valerie has built more than a childcare service—she has cultivated a foundation for lifelong success. Every day, Valerie and her devoted team go above and beyond to provide children with the skills, opportunities, and confidence they need to thrive. Through her carefully crafted Preschool, After School, and Summer Camp programs, she not only enriches young minds but also offers critical support to working parents, empowering families to succeed.

Valerie's mission is rooted in more than education—she shapes character, instilling integrity, compassion, and a deep sense of community in every child she serves. Her unwavering commitment to high-quality care and her ability to inspire and uplift have left a lasting mark on countless children and families. Her work is not just childcare; it is a beacon of hope, opportunity, and purpose, changing lives and building a stronger future for our community.

It is through the work of people like Valerie Hamilton 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 Valerie Hamilton 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 Valerie Hamilton for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership