

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.

THE INVASIVE SPECIES RESPONSE ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a critical and growing challenge that severely impacts our environment and has widespread ripple-effect consequences beyond: invasive species.

This challenge threatens the delicate balance of our ecosystems, as invasive species can outcompete, prey on or introduce diseases to our native flora and fauna. The consequences of these disruptions are severe, leading to declines in biodiversity, diminishing the resilience of our ecosystems in the face of environmental change. These effects in turn can cause widespread economic damage; agriculture and forestry would be just two examples.

Hawaii in particular faces unique challenges from invasive species. Its isolation has led to the evolution of many endemic species that are found nowhere else on Earth. Unfortunately, these native species often lack the defenses to compete with or resist the pressures of invasive plants and animals, which can rapidly alter ecosystems and displace local species. In Hawaii, invasive species have caused significant ecological damage, threatening the survival of native birds and plants. Protecting Hawaii's unique biodiversity is not just an environmental necessity—it is a cultural imperative that reflects the identity and heritage of the Hawaiian people.

Invasive species are not just a localized problem; they pose a significant threat to the integrity of our natural world. Addressing this crisis requires a coordinated and comprehensive approach, focusing on prevention, early detection, and effective management strategies to safeguard our vulnerable ecosystems.

In response to this urgent need, I am jointly introducing the Invasive Species Response Act with my colleague, Rep. JIM MOYLAN of Guam. This legislation will codify the existing Invasive Species Strike Teams program currently operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). These specialized teams play an essential role in managing emerging invasive species, employing strategies tailored to local conditions across the National Wildlife Refuge System. With 21 teams strategically positioned in various FWS regions, they are on the front lines, addressing the unique challenges posed by invasive species.

The Invasive Species Response Act signifies a transformative shift within the FWS, moving us from a reactive, species-by-species approach to a more strategic, system-wide framework for managing emerging invasive species. Key provisions of the bill include formally establishing the Invasive Species Strike Teams program, which will create a stable and legally supported framework to ensure consistent funding and enhance our management efforts. The act also mandates enhanced co-

ordination and reporting through integrated systems and standardized procedures, ensuring transparency and enabling us to track progress with annual reports to Congress and the public. Furthermore, it authorizes \$15 million annually from Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029, aligning with current FWS investment levels to support ongoing initiatives.

This legislation is a crucial step forward in protecting our natural resources and enhancing our capacity to respond swiftly to the threats posed by invasive species.

I urge my colleagues to lend their support to our Invasive Species Response Act. Together, we can ensure the preservation of our ecosystems and promote a resilient future for our environment.

Mahalo.

CELEBRATING BRAD JACKSON'S RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor, recognize, and congratulate my good friend, business leader and builder, devoted public servant, and Kosciusko County Commissioner Brad Jackson as he prepares to retire as County Commissioner at the end of this year after 28 years in elected office.

Brad has been a close personal friend of mine for more than a decade and a committed and effective champion for all things Kosciusko County for even longer. From his work as a second-generation homebuilder and experienced business owner to his service in elected office, Brad's long-standing commitment to meeting the needs of Kosciusko County Hoosiers has been deep and unwavering. Quite simply, Brad is the kind of person that you want in your corner and serving in government and making decisions that affect people's lives.

Brad's belief in and adherence to conservative principles and values has helped keep Kosciusko County growing and on the move during Brad's nearly three-decade tenure as County Commissioner. Fiscal discipline, low taxes, preventing unnecessary regulations on businesses and job creators, and support for law enforcement and keeping crime low have all been hallmarks of Brad's approach to politics and public service. Most of all, his love for community, his family, and God has kept Brad grounded in the things that matter, and it has made him a leader who is admired and respected by so many.

As Brad's career in public life comes to a close, I am reminded of the saying "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him." I believe this quote applies uniquely well to County Commissioner Brad Jackson. The Kosciusko County community is unquestionably better off thanks to this good man with a servant's heart. Brad has not only built countless construction projects in his career, he has also built an incredible legacy and a stronger foundation for Kosciusko County to stand and grow upon going forward.

I join Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second Congressional District in expressing our grati-

tude to Brad for his many years of dedicated service. I wish Brad a very happy retirement and him, his wife Lynnette, their two sons, and their extended family all the very best going forward.

COMMEMORATING THE ST. LOUIS ALUMNAE AND SAINT LOUIS METROPOLITAN ALUMNAE CHAPTERS OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, along with the people of St. Louis, I rise today to honor and recognize the esteemed Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., particularly the members of the St. Louis Alumnae Chapter and the Saint Louis Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter, on the occasion of Delta Day, celebrated on October 18, 2024, in the City of St. Louis.

Founded in 1913 at Howard University by 22 courageous collegiate women, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has been a beacon of social justice, leadership, and public service. The Founders' first public act—marching alongside the suffragettes to achieve voting rights for women—set the tone for more than a century of advocacy and action. Today, the sorority continues to be a transformative force in communities across the globe, guided by the powerful theme: Forward With Fortitude: Engaging Our Sisterhood, Empowering Our Communities, Elevating Our Impact.

The St. Louis Alumnae Chapter and Saint Louis Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter have proudly embodied the sorority's mission of service and advocacy in our region. Their dedication to public service has improved countless lives in St. Louis, as they have stood in the vanguard of social, educational, and economic justice. Whether it is through mentorship programs, voter engagement initiatives, or charitable efforts, Deltas are at the heart of helping to make our communities stronger.

On this Delta Day, we recognize our remarkable Deltas for their tireless efforts and lasting contributions. As they gather together, we honor their ongoing work to safeguard the legacy of those who came before them and to build a better future for those who will follow.

On behalf of Missouri's First District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and in recognition of October 18, 2024, as Delta Day in the City of St. Louis. May we continue to support and uplift each and every member and the communities they so passionately serve.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: AMY KEIPER-SHAW

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 Amy Keiper-Shaw, 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. Amy has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

A licensed Clinical Social Worker, Certified Grief Counselor, Clinical Thanatologist, and Certified Dementia Practitioner, Amy has dedicated her life to providing care, comfort, and compassion to others in our community in challenging times of need. Throughout her career, Amy saw first-hand the heartbreaking suffering of children who lost a loved one and recognized a need for a positive, compassionate and effective bereavement resource for children and their families in our community. And so, in 2013, her non-profit, Hands Holding Hearts, was born and has since become a beacon of comfort and hope for Bucks County children and families as they navigate some of the most painful and difficult times of their lives. Studies show that one in 12 kids will lose a parent or sibling by the age of 18, with that rate only increasing since the pandemic. Without the necessary support and resources to process their grief, children are left without the tools and skills needed to successfully and positively move forward. Through workshops, Camp Feeling Better Summer Camp, counseling, support groups, and community presentations, Amy and her team of experienced counselors provide children with vital education and resources for coping and communicating and the invaluable comfort of knowing they are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Amy that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Her efforts remind us of the power in making a positive difference in the lives of children and families in need.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Amy 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.

**HONORING DAVID JAKUBASZEK
WITH THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE
AWARD BY THE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE OF THE TONAWANDAS**

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Mr. David Jakubaszek. It is with deepest respect and heartfelt remem-

brance that we recognize Mr. Jakubaszek for posthumously receiving the Outstanding Service Award by the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas.

Mr. Jakubaszek's journey began in the City of North Tonawanda, where he grew up and cultivated a love for his community that would guide him throughout his life. After pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Pennsylvania, he was commissioned into the U.S. Army—a testament to his commitment to service. It was during this time that he met the love of his life, Jean, and together they built a family that included their four cherished children: Jennifer, Michael, Thomas, and Joseph.

Mr. Jakubaszek's legacy also includes 38 years of service as the Accountant of the City of North Tonawanda, a trustee of the public library, an usher at the Riviera Theater and other various leadership roles throughout the community.

David Jakubaszek's legacy is not just in the positions he held or the time he volunteered, but in the countless lives he touched with his kindness, generosity, and unwavering support. He embodied the spirit of community, showing us all what it means to give of oneself for the betterment of others. His love for life and his dedication to service will forever be an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor David Jakubaszek today, let us remember him not only for his outstanding service, but also for the values he instilled in each of us—values of compassion, dedication, and the importance of lifting one another up. While he may no longer be with us in body, his spirit lives on in the community he cherished so deeply.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY
FITZGERALD**

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mary "Marie" Fitzgerald of Norwich, Connecticut. Mary passed away peacefully on October 5, 2024, at the age of 99. As a lifelong resident of Union Street, she was a pillar of the Norwich community, touching countless lives in her almost half-century of service as a teacher.

Mary was born on December 14, 1924, in Norwich, Connecticut, to William and Kathryn Fitzgerald. Her father was an amazing person, whose legacy of public service lives on at the local, state, and federal levels. He grew up in a first-generation Irish American family, went to work in a foundry at the age of 15, and because of his work ethic, became a foreman, was elected Mayor of Norwich, and in 1936, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. As a freshman member of Congress, he succeeded in passing the National Apprenticeship Authorization Act—"The Fitzgerald Act" which set national standards for apprenticeship training that still is the law of the land. He returned to Connecticut and served in WWII on the Connecticut War Production Board, which produced military equipment (submarines, aircraft engines) that was instrumental to the success of the allied nations. As his daughter, Mary grew up close to all the action of such a dynamic leader.

After her family returned to Norwich from Washington, Mary too chose a path of public service, albeit in a different form.

After completing her education, Mary dedicated her life to early childhood education and the profession of teaching. For many decades, she worked as a kindergarten teacher, helping to shape the minds of generations of children. Mary led with compassion and went above and beyond to create a caring and supportive environment for each student who entered her classroom. She helped instill a love of learning for an incredible number of students who will not soon forget her impact.

Mary loved her neighborhood and the people around her. Outside of her work as a teacher, she thoughtfully devoted her time to charities throughout the community as well as her church. Mary also served as a devoted Parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Patrick, attending mass every day and attending virtually when she could no longer attend in person. She was also a member of the Rosary Altar Society and the Connecticut Alpha Delta Kappa Chapter, a fraternal organization for teachers.

In her free time, Mary was adventurous and loved to have new experiences. Starting in 1969, she traveled with her best friend Phyllis. Together, they saw several countries and six different continents, finding favorites in Ireland, Japan, Bermuda, and New Zealand.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent constituents like Mary. Her friends and family remarked that Mary had an infectious love for life and emulated devotion to her community. She was a beloved teacher and community leader, and we can take solace in the knowledge that she has left a legacy through each and every one of her students and the countless individuals who knew her. She is survived by generations of cousins including Mary "Betsy" Clarke, Heather Anderson, and Adam Clarke and their respective families. Mary is also survived by her neighbor, David Bonnevill. I request that my colleagues honor Mary's life of service.

**HONORING VIDOR POLICE DEPARTMENT
FOR HEROIC ACTIONS**

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor two exceptional officers from the Vidor Police Department, Officer Michael Stephenson and Officer Ashton Moss, for their courageous, life-saving actions in the face of a family's worst nightmare. Their swift and selfless response is a shining example of the best that law enforcement has to offer—timely heroics in the service of others.

In the early hours of Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 1:49 AM, the Vidor Police Dispatch Center received a call about a residential fire with reports of children trapped inside. When Officers Stephenson and Moss arrived on the scene, they wasted no time. Spotting an air conditioning unit in the window of the children's room, they immediately began working to dislodge it, knowing every second counted.

Officer Stephenson managed to remove the window unit, and with the help of Officer