

strong community and experience for everyone. He has also excelled academically, holding a 4.0 GPA and impressive SAT score.

Athletically, Austin Collins has performed just as exceptionally, placing in national championships year after year in wrestling and earning Football First team All-Conference and All-State Honorable Mention.

In addition to all of this, Austin finds the time to be a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and his local church. He also volunteers as a coach in the Wray youth flag football and wrestling programs and the Wray Library Book Buddies program.

It is my distinct privilege as the United States Representative of the 4th District of Colorado to commend Austin for his hard work and dedication to excellence in every facet of his life. His service to the community of Wray, Colorado is an inspiration of what it means to be leader, and I encourage him to continue pursuing excellence in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING TAWNY TESCONI

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tawny Tesconi, an esteemed member of our farming community, who has been named the 2024 Friend of Agriculture by the Napa County Farm Bureau. This recognition highlights her outstanding service in support of the Napa County agricultural community.

Ms. Tesconi was born in Santa Rosa, California, in 1961. Growing up on a small family farm in West Sonoma County, she expressed her love for agriculture through her involvement in Future Farmers of America and the 4-H Youth Development Program. Ms. Tesconi earned a degree in Agricultural Economics and Management from the University of California, Davis in 1983. She graduated from the Western Fairs Association Graduate Training Program in 1987. Ms. Tesconi spent the next three decades in fair management in Sonoma County. She continues to live on her family property in Western Sonoma County with her husband.

Throughout her career in Napa and Sonoma Counties, Ms. Tesconi committed herself to serving the community. She has served as a president and a board member of the Petaluma Rotary Club. Ms. Tesconi has also served on the board of the Friends of the Sonoma-Marin Fair. Since her retirement as a fair manager, Ms. Tesconi returned to leadership in her role as Interim Executive Director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau from 2017 to 2022. Most recently, she has played an important role in the Napa County farming community as Interim CEO of the Napa County Farm Bureau.

Her collaboration with others and passionate commitment to farming served the Napa County agricultural community well. Her contributions and dedication to agricultural causes has helped our farming communities to prosper.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Tesconi for her service to the Napa County Farm Bureau and her dedication to the farming community

throughout California. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

#### RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO MATT DECESARE

### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 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, I recognize Matt DeCesare, 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. Matt DeCesare has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In a remarkable display of heroism, what began as an ordinary day for Matt, turned into a miraculous and life-saving rescue mission, when a fellow Hatfield community member collapsed to the ground. Although some may have continued driving past, without hesitation, Matt knew he would do everything in his power to help his fellow community member. Matt pulled over to the side of the road, quickly called 911, and performed CPR until paramedics arrived, serving a vital role in saving a life. Constituents like Matt strengthen the fabric of our district and prove that when driven by purpose, compassion, and a resolute sense of duty, one individual can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Matt DeCesare that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Their 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 Matt DeCesare not just for his remarkable deeds but for who he is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Matt DeCesare that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. His actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures, but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. He embodies the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively, and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Matt DeCesare 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 THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORRIS COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

### HON. MIKE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 200th Anniversary of The Morris County Prosecutor's Office, an agency in New Jersey's Eleventh Congressional District, and its outstanding commitment to serving Morris County and improving the quality of life within the community. The Morris County Prosecutor's Office works to protect and uphold the laws of the State of New Jersey and keep our residents safe.

On December 20, 1824, George K. Drake was appointed the first Prosecutor of the Pleas for Morris County, making Morris County one of the first Prosecutor's offices to be established in New Jersey. Since its founding, The Morris County Prosecutor's Office has been dedicated to keeping Morris County safe and a great place to live, work, and raise a family. The Morris County Prosecutor's Office has been able to achieve their mission for two centuries by working with members of the Morris County community and law enforcement agencies.

The Morris County Prosecutor's Office is committed to justice, fairness, crime reduction, working with law enforcement, and attending to the needs of the public. The office leads and supervises chiefs of police and municipal prosecutors, ensuring that their mission is fulfilled throughout the county on a local level.

This year marks the bicentennial anniversary of The Morris County Prosecutor's Office, and I admire their dedication to protecting and serving Morris County. I am grateful for all of their effort and accomplishments that have kept Morris County residents safe and look forward to seeing their continued work.

#### RECOGNIZING PRIVATE ELIJAH STITES' COMMENDATION BY THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

### HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the important work of the Lima Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. On November 6, the chapter will rededicate a historical marker in honor of Private Elijah Stites, Lima's sole veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Elijah Stites was born in Essex, New Jersey, in 1758. During the American Revolution, he fought for the Essex County Militia, serving as color bearer at the Battle of Yorktown. In 1788, he and two of his brothers took part in an expedition along the Ohio River, helping to found the settlement of Columbia (modern-day Cincinnati). Later, he settled in Warren County with his wife, Rhoda, and their fourteen children.

Following his death in 1843, Stites was buried in Old Lima Cemetery in Allen County. Seventy years ago, the Lima DAR erected a plaque at the site of the cemetery recognizing him as the city's only Revolutionary War veteran. The organization will rededicate this plaque at a special ceremony on November 6.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I thank the women of Lima's DAR Chapter for putting together this rededication ceremony and for all they do to promote civic education. They are true examples of the DAR's high calling to "cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom."

HONORING THE LEGACY OF  
EMORY F. LUCK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late Emory F. Luck, Ph.D., a remarkable individual whose life's journey was marked by resilience, unwavering determination, and a profound dedication to both education and sports. Emory Luck passed away at his home in Fresno, California on October 22, 2023, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire us all.

Born in 1926 in Danville, Virginia, Emory was raised in Washington, D.C., as the son of Ada and Winston Luck. Despite attending a segregated school system, he graduated from the academically renowned Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. His early years were a testament to his strength in the face of adversity, as he confronted racial barriers with a spirit of determination and a hunger for knowledge. Emory's journey took him to the University of Illinois on an athletic scholarship, a significant achievement. Unfortunately, racial discrimination of the time prevented him from pursuing basketball, his first love. Instead, he turned to football to maintain his scholarship. It was not long before Emory departed from the university, determined to follow a different path.

After serving his country during World War II, Emory joined the Harlem Clowns professional basketball team, where he spent nine years as a player, coach, and general manager. His exceptional skills and dedication shone as he played against teams throughout California, Oregon, and Washington, proving his talent on the court.

With a thirst for knowledge and a desire to make a difference, Emory returned to academia. He enrolled at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education. His commitment to education extended beyond his own studies, as he also taught in the Detroit public schools and worked for Eastern Airlines in customer relations. When the chance to work as an athlete counselor at the University of Illinois came his way, Emory eagerly accepted the opportunity. During this time, he demonstrated his devotion to the realms of both education and athletics. He committed himself to the pursuit of a Ph.D. in physical education and athletic administration, underlining his passion for excelling in sports and deepening his expertise in the field of physical education.

In 1969, Emory joined Northern Illinois University as an associate professor and assistant basketball coach. His career in coaching reached new heights in 1973 when he became head basketball coach, becoming only the second Black man to hold such a position at a Division I university in the United States. Although Emory stepped away from coaching and teaching for a brief period, his passion for sports and education led him back to Elgin Community College in Elgin, Illinois, where he served as an administrator and coach. In 1984, he was appointed athletic director, P.E. instructor, and golf coach at Fresno City College (FCC). Emory's impact at FCC extended beyond the realm of sports. For three years, he coached men's basketball and served as president of the Central Valley Conference. He later stepped down from the Athletic Director position but continued his dedicated service at FCC until his well-earned retirement in 2004.

Emory was not just an educator and coach; he was a devoted community member. He served on the board of the Fresno County E.O.C. for many years and retained a profound love for the game of golf and could often be found on the fairways of Fig Garden Golf Club. Emory is survived by Mary, his loving wife of 50 years, their beloved dog Annie, and his nieces and nephews who held a special place in his heart. His legacy lives on in the hearts of all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Emory F. Luck, Ph.D., an individual whose perseverance, commitment to education, and love for sports left an enduring mark. As we remember his lasting contributions, let us also be inspired by his legacy to continue fostering a world where determination, knowledge, and sportsmanship unite to create eternal change. May he rest in peace, knowing that his influence lives on in the countless lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN  
HEROES: LINDA AND FRANK  
KUEPPER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 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 I recognize Linda and Frank Kuepper, two 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. The Kueppers have embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

As the founders of the Autism Cares Foundation, Linda and Frank have not only served

our community but transformed the lives of those around them. Frank and Linda have dedicated their careers to providing and expanding access to resources for people with disabilities. What started with six activities in the first year has grown to over 1,600 activities, events, and programming, including numerous social and life skill-building events, holiday parties, family outings, art and sensory-focused programming, an incredible ACF Prom, and so much more. Today, their foundation has over 9,000 participants and, in addition to children and teens, has grown to support adults with autism as well. Linda and Frank have touched and bettered the lives of so many and continue to work tirelessly to expand their life-changing efforts.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Linda and Frank Kuepper that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Their 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 Frank and Linda not just for their remarkable deeds, but for who they are—a true heroes, in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Linda and Frank Kuepper that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Their actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures, but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. They embody the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively and give without hesitation.

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

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF KERN  
ENERGY

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kern Energy as it celebrates 90 years of refining innovation and outstanding service to the Kern County community. Since its founding in 1934 as El Tejon Oil & Refining Co., Kern Energy has transformed from a modest operation into a cornerstone of the southern Central Valley, providing the clean, reliable transportation fuels that drive economic growth and connect communities across California.

Throughout its history, Kern Energy has embraced change while remaining a family-owned, independent refinery committed to meeting California's evolving energy needs. After changing its name to Douglas Oil Company in 1945, the refinery solidified its presence as Kern Oil & Refining Co. in 1971 and evolved into Kern Energy in 2022. Each transition of the company has been marked by new