

his wife, Sylvia, for 31 years. They currently reside in the community of Lake Elsinore.

On behalf of all Riverside County residents and a grateful Nation, I want to thank Mr. Daniels for his service to our country and congratulate him on being part of the Operation Recognition Class of 2024.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
BRIAN S. GENIER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Sergeant Brian S. Genier for his exemplary military service and subsequent community service to veterans in New York's 21st Congressional District.

Master Sergeant Genier was born on August 26, 1961, in Mineville, New York. At 19 years old, Brian enlisted in the United States Air Force and served admirably until his retirement in 2000. During his time in the Air Force, Master Sergeant Genier was a member of the 89th Security Squadron and deployed to Panama in support of Operation Just Cause. Following his service in Panama, Brian was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base where he continued to serve his fellow Americans. Master Sergeant Genier was honorably discharged from the Air Force after completing twenty years of honorable service.

Throughout his years of service, Brian earned numerous medals including the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with 5 devices, Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 device, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 devices, Air Force Longevity Service Award with 3 devices, Air Force Training Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with device, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Military Education Ribbon with 1 device, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 4 devices, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 5 devices, and the Short Tour Overseas Ribbon.

After retiring from the Air Force, Master Sergeant Genier retired in Chazy, New York. Today, he serves his community as a member of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association providing complimentary motorcycle escorts for local North Country Honor Flights dedicated to World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and Cold War veterans.

Master Sergeant Genier has also been a member of the American Legion Post 912 in Rouses Point, New York, for the past 18 years. He participates in fundraising, membership drives, and activities which honor and support North Country veterans including the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony each December.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize the incredible service and commitment to community of Master Sergeant Brian S. Genier.

HONORING ANNIE R. NEASMAN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the remarkable career and contributions of Annie Ruth Miles Neasman, MS, RN, upon her retirement from more than five decades of dedicated service in the healthcare industry.

Throughout her illustrious career, Annie R. Neasman has exemplified unwavering commitment and leadership in healthcare, touching the lives of countless individuals in Miami-Dade County and beyond. In 2004, she took the reins as the President and CEO of the Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc. (JTCHS), and for the following 20 years she led the successful operation of eleven comprehensive community sites, a women's residential substance abuse treatment facility, and numerous school-based health facilities.

Since its establishment in 1967, JTCHS has been a beacon of healthcare excellence in Miami-Dade County, recognized as Florida's first Federally Qualified Health Center and the fifth in the Nation. Governed by a deeply committed Board of Directors, with over half benefitting from its services, and supported by a diverse and talented team, JTCHS embodies steadfast dedication to community well-being and healthcare equity.

Ms. Neasman's journey in healthcare leadership extends far beyond JTCHS. Her tenure as Deputy Secretary of Health and Chief Public Health Nurse at the Florida Department of Health showcased her exceptional leadership acumen and dedication to public health initiatives. During pivotal moments such as Hurricane Andrew and the aftermath of 9/11, her steadfast leadership played a crucial role in the state's response efforts, ensuring the safety and well-being of countless individuals.

Annie Neasman's influence extends beyond her professional roles. She has been a tireless advocate for health equity, addressing the social determinants of health and championing healthcare as a fundamental right for all. Her commitment to fostering partnerships and collaboration with community organizations has been instrumental in advancing public health initiatives and improving access to quality healthcare services.

Throughout her career, Ms. Neasman has been a trailblazer and a mentor, inspiring and guiding countless healthcare professionals. Her impact has been recognized through numerous awards and accolades, including the National Association of Community Health Centers Grassroots Advocacy Hall of Fame Award and the Miami Chapter Black Nurses Association Lifetime Achievement Award, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognition of Ms. Annie Neasman and her outstanding contributions to healthcare and her unwavering commitment to the well-being of communities. As Ms. Neasman embarks on the next chapter of her journey, her legacy of compassion, dedication, and leadership will continue to inspire us all. We extend our deepest gratitude for her exemplary service and wish her a fulfilling and joyous retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OMAR
GALLARDO

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to honor Omar Gallardo who passed away on October 23, 2024. Omar was a lifelong community activist, organizer, and leader in outdoor education in Sonoma County.

Born in 1975 in Michoacan, Mexico, Omar's early years were spent in Sonoma County, California and Mexico. He attended Geyserville High School, where bilingual staff and educators encouraged his interest in his Chicano culture, including his participation in Ballet Folklorico.

From a young age, Omar was an active community organizer. He offered translation services with the United Farmworkers Union and led a trip to Delano, California in 1993 for a widely attended memorial march honoring leader Cesar Chavez. In 1994, he organized student marches protesting California's Proposition 187, an initiative to prohibit undocumented immigrants from accessing important benefits. Omar also participated in high school programs offered by Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University designed to mentor Latino students. He later attended both institutions and earned a bachelor's degree in history.

Following college, Omar joined California Mini-Corps as a teacher and spent eight years working with immigrant students in outdoor education. He then spent four years working as a student counselor in Santa Cruz County before returning to Sonoma County to be a site coordinator for the Graton Day Labor Center. In 2012, he was recruited to LandPaths: a Sonoma-based environmental education and conservation organization.

Omar became an integral pillar of the LandPaths leadership team, guiding the organization's approach to community outreach and engagement. He helped predominantly Spanish-speaking youth access Sonoma open spaces and inspired the next generation of environmental stewards through outdoor programs. Omar's efforts were also critical in the development of Santa Rosa's Bayer Farm, a six acre urban farm that is the product of collaboration between LandPaths and the city. He was known for his gentle heart, treating others with dignity, and credited for expanding LandPaths' reach and impact. In 2015, Omar was aptly honored by the Sonoma County Economic Development Board with a Spirit of Sonoma Award.

Omar was also a dedicated Aztec dancer and established his own group, Danza Azteca Xántotl de Santa Rosa, which performed at local events.

Mr. Speaker, Omar Gallardo was a tireless community advocate and champion of environmental stewardship whose life ended too soon. He is survived by his wife Norma Lazaro Hernandez; his two young sons Tandeé, age 13, and Erandi, age eight; his mother Maria Luisa Gallardo; and his sisters Marilu Gallardo, Olga Gallardo, Blanca Gallardo, and Merlinda Gallardo. His enduring legacy in Sonoma County and with future generations cannot be understated. We respectfully ask

that you join with us and his many friends and family in expressing our deep appreciation for his decades of leadership and community service.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR CORBETT HOWARD

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize First Lieutenant Corbett Howard of Celina, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. 1LT Howard honorably served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

As a young man, 1LT Howard was inspired to follow in his family's footsteps and serve his country. In December 1968, he commissioned into the U.S. Army serving in Military Intelligence. After completing Combat Intelligence school, 1LT Howard deployed to Vietnam in the following year and served as an Intelligence Officer in Kien Giang Province. He was one of thirty four American advisors to the South Vietnamese Army and was responsible for training its troops. During the war, he also flew 108 combat missions in a Huey helicopter and participated in numerous Swift boat operations against the enemy. For his outstanding service, 1LT Howard was awarded the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with bronze star.

After he retired from military service in 1970, 1LT Howard has continued to be an active member of our community through his public service and volunteer efforts. Since 2012, he has served as a board member for the Military Warriors Support Foundation to help provide homes to wounded veterans and Gold Star families. Under 1LT Howard's exceptional leadership, they have given over 930 homes and 175 vehicles for veterans in need. Moreover, he has helped raise hundreds of millions of dollars for the organization to support veterans and ensure they can keep their homes for many years to come. I am proud of 1LT Howard's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

I am honored to represent 1LT Howard in Texas' 4th Congressional district. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BARRY MELANCON

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my fellow Louisianan, Barry Melancon, who is retiring after 30 years from his role as President and CEO of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and CEO of the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants.

Barry Melancon has dedicated his 41-year career to the accounting profession, Mr.

Melancon began his role in 1995 at the age of 37, which made him the youngest CEO in the organization's history and now the longest serving CEO of AICPA. Mr. Melancon's professional career began in Louisiana where he practiced as a CPA, eventually leading the Society of Louisiana CPAs before beginning his leadership role at AICPA.

Mr. Melancon achieved an impressive number of accomplishments for his work on behalf of the accounting profession. In addition to testifying before Congress, Accounting Today named Barry Melancon the Most Influential Person in Accounting for 17 consecutive years, as well as the National Association Executive of the Year. Mr. Melancon has served as a member of AICPA's delegation to the International Federation of Accountants, board member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, board member of the Center for Audit Quality, chair of XBRL-US, and board chairman of the Global Accounting Alliance. Barry Melancon also received an Honorary Doctorate of Commerce from his alma mater, Nicholls State University, and was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the 2023 International Accounting Forum and Awards.

It is my honor to recognize Barry Melancon for his passion, longstanding dedication, and leadership in the accounting profession. I am proud that a fellow Louisianan has played such a nationally prominent role in advancing innovation in his industry and mentoring a new generation of leaders. I commend Barry Melancon for his many years of dedicated service and wish him the best in his retirement.

OPPOSING CRITICAL MINERAL CONSISTENCY ACT (H.R. 8446) AND HARNESSING ENERGY AT THERMAL SOURCES ACT (H.R. 7409)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the Critical Mineral Consistency Act (H.R. 8446) and the Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources (HEATS) Act (H.R. 7409) would both limit the ability of the American public to have a say in protecting our public lands and determining how our natural resources are used.

H.R. 8446 gives cover for the copper industry to gain access to tax credits and expedited permitting processes. Only critical minerals on the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) list can access these federal supports, and we should not be playing politics with that process.

Foreign-owned mining conglomerates stand to benefit the most from this legislation, as they seek to fast-track copper mines like those that threaten the watershed of the Boundary Waters Wilderness in Minnesota, or the sacred site of Oak Flats in Arizona. These companies will have no obligation to contribute to our domestic supply with the minerals they pull out of our public lands. But our surrounding communities will bear the costs of pollution that all copper mines create. The least we can do is ensure the public and our federal government has the full opportunity to review these mines.

The American public should also not be subsidizing new copper mines when we have secure supply chains that meet our needs, as determined by the USGS. The USGS list of critical minerals intentionally differs in important ways from the Department of Energy's list of critical materials. Minerals only make it on to the USGS list if their supply chain is at risk of disruption. The tax credits that Congress passed to encourage the development of at-risk critical minerals should not go to support the copper industry, when the U.S. is already a global top-five producer and a top-ten exporter of copper.

The other bill under consideration today, the HEATS Act, would completely exempt certain geothermal projects that impact subsurface federal resources from the environmental review process if less than half of a geothermal project is non-federal. That means that if a project starts on private land but drills underground into publicly owned areas, it would not have to abide by the federal regulations.

I want to be clear that geothermal is an important renewable energy source, and that advancing geothermal energy is a worthy goal. That is why the House has already passed bipartisan legislation, and the Biden Administration has streamlined the process for certain categories of geothermal projects. I secured community project funding for a Geothermal Heat Pump to replace the inefficient natural gas-based system at St. Paul's Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. However, we must ensure that when geothermal projects impact our federal resources, they go through our federal review process. The Bureau of Land Management, who oversees our federal subsurface areas, is concerned that this bill would undermine their ability to ensure public safety, to uphold environmental laws, to consult with tribal nations, and to fulfill their core mission of managing our natural resources for multiple use.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing both these misguided bills and protecting public review of projects that impact our public resources.

FAFSA DEADLINE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8932, the FAFSA Deadline Act and a robust and efficient FAFSA application process. For many of our constituents, this process is the start of determining whether college is a reality or remains a dream. FAFSA can unlock critical financial aid that may make the difference between not only starting college, but also completing it.

As we've seen over the past two years, the FAFSA application process has been plagued by delays and technical issues as the Biden Administration worked to implement a new form. During the 2024 to 2025 processing cycle, processing delays resulted in families struggling to fill out the forms and delayed financial assistance packages being sent to students, causing unnecessary burdens and stress.

By standardizing the FAFSA application launch date on October 1, we not only ease