

UNHCR Global Ambassador, and original Creative Director of Nylon magazine.

As we celebrate this profound milestone, let us be resolute in our commitment to providing the essential tools and programs needed for young women to not only survive but to truly flourish in the dynamic world of entrepreneurship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted NAY on Roll Call No. 458. I intended to vote YEA. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 458.

CONGRATULATING IAN NOEL
MERRIMAN AND JEREMY PAUL
YOAKAM FOR EARNING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor two exceptional young men from Livingston, Montana, Ian Noel Merriman and Jeremy Paul Yoakam, for their remarkable achievements and dedication to the principles of Scouting. Their commitment to service, leadership, and community exemplifies the values that Scouting instills in young men.

Growing up in Whitefish, Montana, the outdoor and survival skills that I learned, as well as the friends I made as a Boy Scout have stayed with me to this day. The Eagle Scout Oath to do my best to God, to my country, and to scout law is something that set me on the right track to serve my country as a SEAL and as Member of Congress. These two young men have lived up to that oath and deserve the honor and recognition that comes with the Eagle Scout title.

Ian, a senior at Park High School, began his Scouting journey in the Cub Scouts in 2013. He achieved the rank of Webelo Scout and earned the Arrow of Light, the highest rank in Cub Scouting, in 2018. Transitioning to Boy Scouts in May 2018, Ian has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication.

Ian has participated in numerous community service projects, including annual "Scouting for Food" drives, Yellowstone River Cleanups, and serving veterans at the American Legion Post No. 23 Veterans Day dinner. His involvement in activities such as erecting and taking down flags in Sacajawea Park and local cemeteries on significant patriotic holidays underscores his commitment to community service.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Ian raised funds to purchase and install two bicycle repair stations on local bike trails, benefiting the Livingston Bicycle Club and the community. Ian's perseverance, positive attitude, and compassion for younger Scouts are truly inspiring.

Jeremy Paul Yoakam, a senior who splits his education between homeschooling and the

Learning Bench Academy, also embarked on his Scouting journey in 2013. Achieving the Arrow of Light in 2018, Jeremy joined Boy Scouts in May 2018 and has since been an active and influential member of his troop. His service projects display dedication to community improvement, including food drives, river clean-ups, and veterans' support.

Jeremy's Eagle Scout Project involved building two flag collection boxes for the community to appropriately dispose of worn flags. This project honors the American flag and those who have served, and it highlights Jeremy's innovative thinking and commitment to service.

To go along with his excellent academic achievement, Jeremy balances his Scouting activities with a rich array of extracurricular pursuits, including church youth group, jiu-jitsu, backpacking, hunting, fly-fishing, and shooting sports. His work at Woodland Ridge Tiny Home Crafters speaks to his industrious nature and varied interests.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication and achievements of Ian Noel Merriman and Jeremy Paul Yoakam are commendable. Their contributions to their community and Scouting exemplify the best of our young citizens. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring these outstanding young men for their exemplary service and leadership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House during yesterday's two roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both H.R. 8371 (Roll Call No. 466) and H.R. 5658 (Roll Call No. 467).

HONORING TERRY LINDLEY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to honor Terry Lindley in celebration of his retirement after thirty years of service on the Sonoma County Junior College District Board of Trustees. We commend his outstanding service to the students and faculty of the Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC).

Raised on a family ranch in Humboldt County, Mr. Lindley developed an appreciation for farming at an early age. While attending Ferndale High School, Mr. Lindley met Steve Olson, his then agriculture teacher who went on to become a lifelong friend and mentor. His counsel and guidance steered Mr. Lindley to embark on a distinguished career focusing on community leadership and agriculture. After graduating high school in 1976, Mr. Lindley began studying agribusiness at SRJC.

After earning his degree, Mr. Lindley was hired as a loan officer and appraiser at American AgCredit. Over the course of forty years with the company, Mr. Lindley's knowledge of agribusiness helped him achieve increasingly

prominent roles, including senior vice president and chief marketing officer. Mr. Lindley's aptitude for hard work, deep understanding of agriculture and business acumen made him a remarkable pioneer in the agribusiness industry. Through his leadership, American AgCredit established the first marketing department in all of the Farm Credit System.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Lindley has made many enduring and positive impacts on the community during his decades of public service. For thirty years, Mr. Lindley has been a trustee of Sonoma County Junior College District, which oversees SRJC, during which he has demonstrated his incredible commitment to providing high-quality education to generations of students throughout our community in the North Bay. While he will be greatly missed in his retirement, Mr. Lindley's enduring legacy will be remembered through the newly opened Lindley Center for STEM Education at SRJC. This new lecture and lab hall provides state-of-the-art facilities for hands-on learning in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines.

Mr. Lindley's leadership in agriculture and agribusiness education has not gone unnoticed by our community leaders. He has been awarded numerous accolades in recognition of his service including the SRJC's President's Medallion, the 4-H Foundation's Shining Star Award, the Spirit of Sonoma County Award, and Sonoma County's North Bay Rancher of the Year award.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Mr. Lindley has been an excellent steward of Santa Rosa Junior College and a dedicated community member of Sonoma County's agricultural community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM JOHN "WILL" OSTERTAG

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, William "Will" John Ostertag was born on March 2, 1996, to parents Stephanie Clemans and Jack Ostertag. He was a chubby baby with the biggest head anyone had ever seen, covered in bright orange hair. Will passed away November 14, 2024, from a sudden cardiac arrest. He was 28 years old. Heartbroken isn't a big enough word.

Will grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, where he attended St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School and St. Xavier High School. When Will was two, his brother Thomas came onto the scene. They fought like only siblings that close in age know how to. They supported each other in the same way.

Will was a shy but smiley toddler. He grew into a handsome, confident, and—to his nerdy family's surprise—exceedingly popular high schooler. He was a great tennis player, an Eagle Scout, a UK basketball superfan, and the host of more than a few unauthorized house parties.

After graduating from Miami University, Will spent two years in Indianapolis with the Teach for America program. He earned his master's degree in education while teaching math at a

middle school sorely in need of smart and caring educators. Mr. Ostertag stayed late coaching basketball and track and was a regular feature in the kids' TikToks. In his first year, test scores skyrocketed, with 90% of his students far surpassing the school's average.

Will thought the point of life was to help people. From campaigning with the Montana Democratic Party to working on Capitol Hill, he pursued a better future. Most recently, Will worked as an Investment Strategy Analyst with the Department of Energy. Coworkers say Will's ability to create meaningful relationships with all kinds of people helped send more than \$10 billion toward clean energy initiatives.

On Halloween night 2021, Will met a girl at a party. He texted a friend that she was "perfect." Will had always been exceptionally bright, so he knew that this girl was way out of his league. He would have been delighted to know that Zehra was talking to friends too, saying Will was the funniest person she had ever met. At 25, Will had found what some people go their whole lives without—he had fallen in love and was overjoyed to be loved just as deeply in return.

Will would have wanted us to thank Andy Samberg, the other members of The Lonely Island, and the cast and crew of "Hot Rod," for creating the building blocks for his sense of humor and, possibly, his entire personality. Will routinely made friends and family cry from laughter. When he laughed, which was often and easily, he threw his entire head back. He was an enthusiastic and surprisingly coordinated dancer. He checked in on the people he cared about, celebrated others' accomplishments, and always remembered birthdays. His biggest dream was to be a dad—he would have been an amazing one.

Because Will chose to be an organ donor, he will save lives. The people who know him, know this is fitting. Will's family would like to thank the bystanders who tried to save Will's life and all of those who cared for him at MedStar Washington Hospital.

Will is survived by his partner, Zehra Khan; his parents, Stephanie Clemans (Mark French) and Jack Ostertag (Lisa Atwell Tong); his brother, Thomas Ostertag (Kelly Ostertag); stepsisters, Elizabeth and Savanna Tong; his grandmother, Nancy Sandman Ostertag; and many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Judy Clemans, Joseph Clemans, and Jerome 'Jerry' William Ostertag.

Will will be remembered most for the way he made people feel—light and fun, seen and supported, optimistic, engaged, and cared for. Will spent most of his days thinking seriously and meaningfully about how to make this world a better place. Unfortunately—incomprehensibly—that task now falls to those who loved him. We'll try to do our best.

We will be celebrating Will's life on Saturday, November 23. A visitation will be held at Highlands Funeral Home, 3331 Taylorsville Road, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, followed by a funeral service at St. Francis of Assisi at 6:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, please donate to one of the following organizations:

The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, a DC organization providing comprehensive legal services to those struggling with homelessness: 1200 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009, <https://www.legalclinic.org/donate/>.

Jacob's Ladder, a Louisville organization providing community and support to people experiencing homelessness: Jacob's Ladder Outreach, P.O. Box 344, Mount Washington, KY 40047, <https://www.jacobsladderlouisville.com/donate>.

Horizons at St. Richard's, an Indianapolis program advancing educational equity in the same community where Will taught middle school math: 33 East 33rd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205, <https://www.horizonsindy.org/donate>.

The family also asks that all who read this become CPR or BLS-certified.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting on the passage of H.R. 8371. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 466.

HONORING LEON GARCIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leon Garcia, as we celebrate his retirement as American Canyon's longest serving mayor.

After moving to American Canyon in 2000, Mr. Garcia quickly began his career in public service. In 2002, he was sworn in as a city council member, marking the beginning of his service to the community. Following his council term, Mr. Garcia made history as American Canyon's first elected mayor. Known affectionately by his team as the 'listener-in-chief,' Mr. Garcia's attentive approach earned him nineteen years in the mayor's office.

As mayor, Mr. Garcia earned his resident's trust by putting them first. He promoted healthy growth and expansion measures including overseeing the expansion of hundreds of new homes, ushering in warehouses in industrial areas, and supporting the Watson Ranch wetland's trail access initiatives. Mr. Garcia has been a strong advocate for the City's Broadway District Specific Plan since 2017. This project is designed to transform Highway 29 from an auto-oriented commercial area into a multimodal town center.

Beyond his mayoral duties, Mr. Garcia's dedication to service extends to numerous organizations at local, regional and statewide levels. He's been an active member of Napa Valley Waste Management Authority, Napa County Flood and Water Conservation District, American Canyon Community & Parks Foundation, Napa Valley Transportation Authority, Napa County League of Governments, Association of Bay Area Governments, the League of California Cities North Bay Division, and the Napa Climate Action Committee. He has also served on the board of important not-for-profits organizations such as the Napa County Hispanic Network and Community Action of Napa Valley.

In his professional career, Mr. Garcia was a registered nurse for thirty-four years: twenty-seven at Napa State Hospital and seven at Yountville Veterans Home. Mr. Garcia is also a family man. He's proud of his large, blended family of six adult children, three grandchildren, and his lovely wife Eva.

Over the decades, Mr. Garcia has demonstrated his dedication and commitment to American Canyon, and we wish him well in his retirement. As such, it is fitting and proper that he be honored for his 24 years in public service.

OCEANVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past September, I had the honor of commemorating the historic 100th Anniversary of the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company, a milestone that marks decades of exceptional service to our community. Oceanville Fire is the oldest fire department in Galloway Township, established in 1924 by local community members. These visionary individuals, primarily farmers and shell-fishermen, recognized the urgent need for fire protection and rescue services. Their selfless dedication set the foundation for the department we know today. The department, now consisting of 39 men and women, continues to serve the township with unwavering commitment. Their dedication as extraordinarily well-trained firefighters echoes the spirit of the founding members many years ago, providing a sense of security to the township. Through the years, Oceanville Fire has proven to be a vital part of the community and has played a crucial role in making its residents feel safe. I am deeply grateful to the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company for their century of great service and may they continue to protect and serve for many more. God bless Oceanville Fire Department, and God bless our United States of America.