

Justin Cole of Delano, California for being named 2024 Kern County Cattleman of the Year.

Mr. Justin Sol Cole was born on February 21, 1970, into a family with a rich heritage in Kern County. Mr. Cole's family was one of the early pioneer families who settled in the area roughly 139 years ago—four generations before Mr. Cole. He was raised alongside his sister Stephanie and three brothers A. Sterling III, Bud, and his late brother Christopher. Today, Mr. Cole continues to raise cattle and advance his family's proud legacy within our community.

With his family heritage in mind, Mr. Cole has gained a close connection to the land of Kern, especially the community of Delano. Mr. Cole is also a skilled cattleman, raising cattle by starting work on his family's cattle business at an early age. This dedication followed him to school as Mr. Cole became immersed in cattle competitions at Delano High School, earning the Angus Steer title at the Cow Palace competition alongside other competitive events and becoming a proud member of the Future Farmers of America. Mr. Cole also took part in a 4-H program, where he raised cattle for several years.

In 1996, Mr. Cole married Diane (Rodriguez) Cole at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Delano, and the couple now has three daughters—Shelby, Kelly, and Sierra. Diane's father-in-law, Jose Rodriguez, introduced Mr. Cole to the world of trucking through his first trucking job, where Mr. Cole helped Jose transport wine grapes to local wineries. This led Mr. Cole to launch his own livestock transportation business, which he still operates today. Such a background, blending entrepreneurship and family, is a pillar of Kern County's strength and pride, and will only continue to be advanced through cattlemen like Mr. Cole.

While Mr. Cole cherishes his livestock transportation and ranching business, above all else, he treasures his family and those in the ranching community. For decades, neighbors and friends of Mr. Cole, who rightly honor him with this award, witnessed the selflessness and duty of care he holds for his rangeland, animal welfare, helping his friends and neighbors who might need a hand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Justin Cole for being named 2024 Kern County Cattleman of the Year, and thank him for his contributions to the Kern County community and cattle industry.

COMMENDING DAVID ZIMMERMAN
ON 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
TAZEWELL COUNTY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize David Zimmerman for his decades of service to the Central Illinois community. Zimmerman served on the Tazewell County Board for 27 years and was the chairman of the board for the last 16 years.

Zimmerman graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Political Science and began his service to the Tazewell County Board in 1997. Before becoming chairman,

Zimmerman held many responsibilities as a board member including Finance, HR, Insurance Review, and Land Use Chair. During his tenure on the Board, Zimmerman positively influenced the lives of his constituents by improving the well-being of Tazewell County.

Outside of his work on the Tazewell County Board, Zimmerman has served the people of Central Illinois through different public service roles. Examples include the Greater Peoria Economic Development Commission Executive Board, United Counties Council of Illinois Vice-President, Tazewell County and Peoria Salvation Army Board Member, and Berean Prison Ministry Board Member, among others. A strong leader within the Central Illinois community, Zimmerman was also recognized in the Peoria Magazine through their "40 Leaders Under 40" award.

David Zimmerman's decades long efforts have left a lasting impact on the Greater Peoria community and the state of Illinois. His commitment to our community is truly inspiring and I wish him the best in all future endeavors.

HONORING SPECIALIST JOSHUA
SMITH AS VETERAN OF THE
MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Specialist Joshua Smith, a distinguished veteran of the Michigan Army National Guard. Raised in Caro, Michigan, he graduated from Caro High School. Josh demonstrated his commitment to service by joining the Army National Guard in 2018. He underwent rigorous training, completing Basic Training at Fort Benning and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, specializing as an 88M Motor Transport Operator. He was assigned to the 237th Brigade Support Battalion in Bay City.

Josh deployed to Syria from 2022 to 2023, where he served with honor and distinction. During his deployment, his duties included operating a 10k SkyTrak, loading C-130 aircraft, and recovering essential equipment and supplies from airdrops. His efforts were vital to the logistical support of his unit and other forces stationed in the region. In the challenging environment of an active combat zone, Josh excelled as a member of the fuel crew, ensuring that every generator on the base was fully fueled through dedicated shifts. His contributions were crucial to maintaining operational readiness and supporting his fellow service members.

Notably, Josh was present during a rocket attack on March 23, 2023, when 15 122mm rockets were fired from Iraq at Rumalyn Landing Zone in Syria. Thanks to his leadership and quick response, there were no injuries or damage to equipment during this hostile incident. Josh's actions during this time earned him the Combat Action Badge, a testament to his bravery and professionalism.

Additionally, Josh had the unique opportunity to train with special forces during his premobilization at Fort Bliss, further enhancing his skills and readiness.

Specialist Josh Smith exemplifies the dedication, resilience, and selflessness that we

honor in our armed forces. I commend him for his service and commitment to our Nation.

HONORING AL SALGADO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Al Salgado, who for the last 32 years has served the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), helping to grow the Texas economy "One Business at a Time."

Established in 1979, America's Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) have grown to include approximately 1,000 service centers and more than 5,000 professional business advisors who provide personalized and confidential assistance to small business owners. For twelve years, Mr. Salgado served on the ASBDC board, serving as board chair for two terms. Mr. Salgado also served on the Baldrige, TX-based ASBDC Accreditation Committee for 15 years. Through this work, Mr. Salgado continuously improved the national network and supported entrepreneurs across the country.

Before retirement, Mr. Salgado continued his commitment to helping small businesses reach their full potential as Executive Director of the Texas South-West SBDC Network at the University of Texas at San Antonio. For more than 20 years, the Texas South-West SBDC Network has provided business consulting at every stage of business development, helping small businesses increase capacity and reach their full potential. In 2023 alone, the Network's effort saved over 31,000 jobs and created some 10,400 jobs. Moreover, companies affiliated with the Network generated approximately \$635 million in new sales and \$72 million in tax revenue. Mr. Salgado's impact across the region during his tenure is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to express my gratitude to Al Salgado, a man who helped transform my city of San Antonio and state of Texas for the better.

RECOGNIZING MELINDA FLEMING
FOR HER LIFE OF SERVICE

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. McCLINTOCK. I rise today to recognize Melinda Franca Fleming, a pillar of the Sonora community.

Melinda was born on the Hoopa Indian Reservation in Northern California and grew up in a small town called Waterford. In her early adult life, she worked to balance part-time jobs and family obligations with her college work, earning an associate degree from Columbia College and later graduating Summa Cum Laude from Stanislaus State. Melinda pursued a substitute teaching job prior to earning her teaching credential from the University of the Pacific.

As a full-time teacher, Melinda became quickly involved in her school community where she taught English, reading, journalism,

speech, yearbook, and newspaper. She was such a positive force that she was twice recognized as teacher of the year.

Melinda would later leave teaching to spend more time with her family, which now includes her husband Ken and their three children, nine grandchildren, and great-grandchild.

Melinda soon continued her community service as Executive Director of the Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment (TuCARE), a non-profit promoting good stewardship of public lands. By hosting educational lands tours with regional leaders and annual conferences on forest health, Melinda has had an incalculable impact not only on local forestry, but on informing long-term policies needed to save our forests, communities, and local economies for posterity. Due to her twenty years of service, TuCARE has been recognized as a non-profit of the year, a testament to her influence and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Melinda Fleming spent her life serving her community. Whether educating and mentoring our youth or advising senior policymakers, Melinda's passion to better those around her embodies her true character as a model citizen. We are better for her service, and we know that even in retirement she will continue to serve through the shining example that is her legacy.

HONORING JACK MAZZEO,
HAMMONTON SONS OF ITALY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Jack Mazzeo from Hammonton, who owns and operates Mazzeo Studio, the oldest photography studio in New Jersey. Since 1946, this family business has built a legacy of excellence in photography. Jack has continued on his father's tradition, creating beautiful portraits, while also training his daughter, Deanna, to carry on the tradition. He has taught his daughter well, as she specializes in capturing images of babies and children. Jack's work has been recognized worldwide, competing with other professionals from around the globe, and earning him the prestigious title of Master of Photography. Many of his award-winning photographs have been showcased at Professional Photographers Conventions in New York, Chicago, New Orleans, and even as far away as South Korea. Jack is one of the world's finest photographers, and I am proud to say he is from my district. God bless Jack, and God bless our United States of America.

RECOGNIZING NOLAN KEATING

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nolan Keating of Golden, Colorado for winning Best in Show in the 2024 Congressional App Challenge.

Nolan built an interactive app called The Swelling Dark, which is an immersive 3D sur-

vivor horror game with advanced graphics that serves as a metaphor for dealing with mental health.

Nolan spent countless hours and used many tools to develop his app and advance his STEM education.

I congratulate Nolan Keating for his success in the Congressional App Challenge. I am certain he will exhibit the same dedication and character in his future accomplishments. I am excited to see all he will accomplish.

RECOGNIZING MR. DAVID HODGE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Hodge for his dedicated service to the Tulare County community and to congratulate him on his retirement from Tulare Western High School. Mr. Hodge attended the College of the Sequoias before earning his Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education from Fresno State University. During his time at Fresno State, he was a member of the Water Polo team and served as captain of the Swim team his senior year. Mr. Hodge's career in education and passion for student success began in 1993, when he joined Tulare Western High School. Six years later, he received the Staff Yearbook Dedication, recognizing his dedication as an educator and the meaningful connections he made with students. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Hodge has taken on many important roles at Tulare Western, including physical education teacher and head coach of the Varsity Boys Water Polo and Swim teams. In 2020, he was appointed Department Chair of the Physical Education Department. For over thirty years, Mr. Hodge has had a profound impact on students at Tulare Western High School. As both a teacher and a coach, he has dedicated himself to developing the character and leadership skills of all his students. He is known by colleagues as a strong leader and mentor who always puts his students first. Mr. Hodge has received numerous awards throughout his career, including Visalia Times Delta Swim Coach of the Year in 2015 and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Central Section Division 3 Swim and Water Polo Coach of the Year in 2019. This year, he is nominated for the CIF State Model Coach Award, which recognizes coaches who demonstrate a longstanding commitment to fostering students' potential. One of his greatest accomplishments is the success of his sons, Austin and Daven, both of whom attended Tulare Western and played key roles in the water polo team's championship victory during their time as students. It is because of the commitment of educators like Mr. Hodge that students in the Central Valley community thrive, and I want to thank Mr. Hodge for creating an environment that helps our youth become the best they can be. His dedication to the students at Tulare Western High School is a true testament to his character, and I am confident that his leadership will have a lasting impact on the Tulare Western community for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mr. David Hodge for his decades of service to the Cen-

tral Valley and wishing him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING JOHN BROWNE ON HIS
50TH ANNIVERSARY AS A VOL-
UNTEER FIREFIGHTER

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Browne, an extraordinary individual from Mountainside, New Jersey, as he celebrates his 50th anniversary as a volunteer firefighter with the Mountainside Fire Department. Since joining the department in February 1974, John has responded to no less than 60 percent of fire calls each year during his 50-year tenure—more than any other volunteer firefighter in the history of the department. He has been described as the type of first responder you can always count on to be there, serving in every capacity, including line officer, lieutenant, captain, deputy chief, assistant chief, and even as fire chief on three separate occasions. In his free time, John continues to educate and serve his community by volunteering to help lead free public tours of the John J. Harvey Fireboat Museum and Education Center in New York Harbor. John's dedication and commitment to the community of Mountainside have been immeasurable, and I thank him for his incredible contributions to New Jersey's 7th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF GOOD SHEPHERD HOUS-
ING & FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Good Shepherd Housing (GSH) on their 50th anniversary of dedicated service to Fairfax County, Virginia, and to the thousands of individuals and families whose lives have been transformed by their efforts.

For half a century, Good Shepherd has been a cornerstone in our community, providing safe, stable housing and vital support services to those at risk of homelessness or struggling to remain in their homes due to rising housing costs. Their work has unlocked doors to brighter futures for countless individuals and families, and they remain a beacon of hope for those facing housing insecurity.

Good Shepherd is more than just a provider of affordable housing—it is a catalyst for self-sufficiency and community resilience. Through a unique approach that focuses on the purchase and transformation of properties into affordable housing, GSH has not only provided shelter but has built a foundation for personal growth and long-term success. By offering a comprehensive suite of support services—including case management, financial education, and referrals to specialized assistance—GSH helps families and individuals chart a path to stability, independence, and empowerment.