

of Pasadena, Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley, and the YWCA Glendale and Pasadena. Currently, she is a co-founder and board member of the San Rafael Library Associates and active in local political organizations. For her community involvement, Teresa has been the recipient of the Rosemary Children's Services Golden Star Award, the Pasadena Police Chiefs Special Award for Excellence, the Democrat of the Year Award and THE Magazine's 50 Fabulous Women Over 50 Award.

Married in 2002, Teresa and her husband, James Simpson, live in their hometown of Pasadena, California.

Teresa will be joining me in the United States Senate, and I am grateful that she will continue her outstanding public service to my constituents throughout the State of California.

In my twenty-three years in Congress, I have learned the important lesson that every member is only as good as their staff, and seldom as good as that. We could not do our jobs for our constituents without them and their labors, and my staff have been laser-focused on providing the highest level of service for the great people of Southern California. They have also fostered a phenomenal culture in both the district and D.C., one which has attracted and retained so many other brilliant and dedicated public servants through the years. These eight—who have each served more than ten years in the U.S. House—are some of the most dedicated, selfless, and talented individuals I have ever met, and I have been truly blessed to have them alongside me in serving our constituents in Burbank, Glendale, Hollywood, Pasadena and beyond.

I also want to thank my other staff who will be coming with me to the U.S. Senate for their dedication, their public service, and their amazing intellect. I am so thankful that Danielle Fulfs, Marisol Samayoa, Kaitlyn Kelly, Jamie Thompson, Kyle Abrams, Dahvi Cohen, Manning Turkheimer, Colin Kruse, Mohamad Almouazen, Maddie Barry, Christina Beros, and Jackson Boaz will also be joining me in the U.S. Senate.

I owe each of these dedicated staffers my utmost gratitude, and I am looking forward to seeing all they will accomplish in the next chapter of our service to the people of California.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT LISA BLOOMER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Lisa Bloomer of Frisco, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Lisa has dedicated herself to faithfully serving our community.

Lisa was born in Abilene, Texas, and grew up in Plano. She attended Plano Senior High School and graduated from the University of North Texas in 1991 with a bachelor's degree and master's degree in tax accounting. In the following year, Lisa became a Certified Public Accountant and went on to work as an accountant for various businesses and healthcare firms for over three decades. She

also launched her very own accounting practice in 1999 along with her father, which she still operates today.

In addition to providing dependable tax services, Lisa has been involved in many community service initiatives across North Texas. From 2019 to 2023, she served as the President of the Plano East Rotary Club, where she oversaw the development of the Plano Flags of Honor program. This program recognizes veterans and first responders each year for their selfless service and sacrifices to our community. Moreover, Lisa led the charge to preserve the City of Plano's annual 4th of July and Christmas parades. Upon hearing they would be discontinued, she highlighted the importance and value that these signature events brought to families and children. As a result, Lisa was able to successfully advocate for their restoration. I am proud to recognize Lisa today for her outstanding work in supporting our community members and ensuring our veterans and first responders received the recognition they deserve. I know she will continue to make a positive impact in our community for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Lisa with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas and I thank her for all she has done.

RECOGNIZING JAMES D. RODRIGUEZ

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the service of James D. Rodriguez, the U.S. Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). The Assistant Secretary has been a critical resource for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and we all owe him our gratitude for his life of public service.

Mr. Rodriguez enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1988. Over the course of his 21-year career in the USMC, Mr. Rodriguez deployed several times, including as part of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Mr. Rodriguez's post-military career has centered around supporting our Nation's Veterans. After separating from the USMC, he entered the private sector, spearheading Government Relations initiatives with companies like BAE systems and Deloitte. While at BAE, Mr. Rodriguez served as a liaison for the White House Joining Forces initiative while developing a program to hire Veteran employees. The program ultimately led to the hiring of more than 1,500 Veterans.

In 2014, Mr. Rodriguez transitioned to a new role at the Department of Defense, serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Office of Warrior Care Policy. Here, he developed a strategic roadmap to align business processes and procedures for WCP while working alongside international partners to enhance warrior care.

In his current role with DOL, Mr. Rodriguez is responsible for preparing America's veterans, service members and their spouses for meaningful careers. During his tenure with DOL, he expanded DOL VETS' Vision state-

ment to be inclusive of our reserve & Guard components and Military Spouses while aligning with the White House's Defense Industrial Base strategy to address critical labor shortages. He further served as the Department's Designee for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and co-chaired for the White House's taskforce on suicide prevention.

For his efforts supporting Veterans and labor initiatives, Mr. Rodriguez recently received the University of Maryland's Global Campus' 2024 Distinguished Alumnus Award, the highest alumni award granted at UMGC.

Beyond his professional accolades, Mr. Rodriguez is a proud father to two daughters, Courtney and Casey Rodriguez, and a husband to Vanessa Rodriguez—who is also a Marine Veteran.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Rodriguez for his outstanding professional achievements and his dedicated service to our Nation and its Veterans.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTIN SUTTER

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, Colorado high school women's volleyball coach Christin Sutter was recently awarded Coach of the Year from the Colorado High School Athletics Association. This award is presented to Christin for the significant improvements to Merino High School's volleyball program she has brought about over the past few years. Her dedication to her team and the women's volleyball program at Wiggins High and CHSAA is an inspiration to all.

Every student deserves the opportunity to compete in sports. Coaches like Christin make that possible by coaching their players towards success on and off the court, teaching them skills like discipline, teamwork, and work ethic that will benefit them for years to come.

It is my distinct privilege as the United States Representative of the 4th District of Colorado, to congratulate Christin for her hard work in achieving this award, and for improving Merino High School's women's volleyball team. Her dedication to the development of Colorado athletics cannot be understated, and I encourage Christin to continue cultivating the best women's volleyball program at Merino High for the betterment of her players and women's volleyball throughout Colorado.

HONORING PAUL AND EILEEN MUELLER

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Paul and Eileen Mueller for their years of service to our Nation, state, and community.

I have known Paul and Eileen Mueller for years. They are great, loving people that work hard to preserve the principles that have made our Nation great.

Paul and Eileen have been married for 39 years. They have two sons, a daughter, and a granddaughter. Paul was born and raised in Missouri and is an alumnus of the University of Utah. Eileen is a fourth generation Arizonan. Her ancestors came to Arizona in the late 1870s. Eileen is a descendant of immigrants that came to America on the Mayflower.

Eileen worked tirelessly as the Republican Chairwoman of my Arizona State Legislative District for four years and as the treasurer for one and a half years. Eileen has also served as an Arizona Republican Party Precinct Committeeman for 11 years and as an Arizona Republican Party State Committeeman for 10 years.

Paul has been an active Republican Party Precinct Committeeman and State Committeeman for 10 years.

I appreciate everything that Paul and Eileen have done for our Nation, state, and community throughout the years.

May God continue to Bless them and our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID PINE

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize David Pine, member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, upon the conclusion of his tenure in service to our community.

Born in Massachusetts in 1958, and raised in New Hampshire, Dave is a graduate of Dartmouth College, where he was awarded a Harry S. Truman scholarship. He was elected, at age 19, to the New Hampshire State House of Representatives, one of the youngest ever elected. Following his undergraduate studies Dave earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School.

Before focusing his career on public service, Dave worked as an attorney representing start-up and high-growth technology companies. After working in private practice with Fenwick & West, he served as Vice President and General Counsel for Radius, Excite@Home, and Handspring.

Dave served on the Redwood City Planning Commission and was an elected school board member for the Burlingame School District from 2003 to 2007 and the San Mateo Union High School District from 2007 to 2011. He is also a past president of the San Mateo County School Boards Association.

Dave was first elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in a special election in May 2011, and subsequently reelected in 2012, 2016 and 2020. He served as Board President in 2014, 2018 and 2023. He has ably and with distinction represented District 1 which includes the cities of Burlingame, Hillsborough, Millbrae, and portions of San Bruno and South San Francisco; the unincorporated communities of San Mateo Highlands, Baywood Park and Burlingame Hills; and San Francisco International Airport.

During his nearly 14 years on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Dave has been on the forefront, crafting policies that reflect the diverse values of our community. He championed the creation of the San Mateo

County LGBTQ Commission—now called LGBTQIA+ Commission—the first of its kind in the state and has served as Board liaison to the Commission since its inception, including providing staff support to the Director and commissioners. He also championed annual San Mateo County recognitions of Pride Month and Transgender Day of Remembrance and led the effort to establish the San Mateo County Pride Center, which provides high quality, LGBTQ+ affirming mental health services, including counseling, therapy and collaborative treatment planning.

Dave led on gun safety, spearheading the County's Gun Violence Prevention Program and introducing a Safe Firearm Storage ordinance and a Firearm Dealer ordinance, and led efforts to garner County support of resident-led San Mateo County gun buyback events. He has been a strong advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities, expanding access to prevention programs and health and mental health access, and combatting poverty and homelessness. He has been an advocate for public transit and served on the San Mateo County Transit District and Caltrain boards of directors. He worked to support Measure W, a 2018 half-cent sales tax for countywide transit improvement projects, which passed with 66.9 percent support.

With Dave's appointment as Co-Chair of the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council in 2011, he began a dedicated approach to addressing the needs of children and their families by identifying local priorities for childcare and early learning services and developing policies and strategies for implementation. He is a founding member and Co-Chair of Build Up San Mateo County, established in 2017, which serves as a hub for multi-sector collaborations on advocacy, policy, technical assistance, financing, and development support to encourage the creation of child care facilities for employees, track local real estate projects for child care opportunities, identify resources to build new child care and preschool facilities, and generate funding to renovate existing facilities. Dave has consistently advocated for additional funding to support programs and policies such as the Community Equity Collaborative for the Teacher Pipeline Project to offer tuition-free Early Childhood Education classes.

Concerned for our natural environment, and protecting our communities from the impacts of climate change, Dave has worked extensively on the intersecting issues of flood control, sea level rise, and tidal land restoration. As Chair of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority and member of the Governing Board since 2013, he helped pass a nine-county Bay Area parcel tax, Measure AA, in 2016 that funds shoreline projects that protect and restore the Bay. He is the founding Chair of the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District, known as OneShoreline, the first county-level agency in the state to directly focus on flood control and sea level rise. The District was created following two Sea Level Rise/Water conferences he led in 2013 and 2018, during which he and other San Mateo County leaders recognized the need for a coordinated response. I was pleased to work with Dave by authoring the legislation in the California State Assembly to create OneShoreline, a model for the rest of California and the nation on a regional approach to climate change adaptation.

As a member of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Dave provided sound guidance on regional sea level rise planning for new shoreline projects, and was instrumental in helping the organization embrace much needed reforms and facilitating the resolution of longstanding complex regulatory entanglements. He provided his expertise as a board member and former chair of the San Francisco Bay Joint Powers Authority which completed a significant flood and sea level rise mitigation project and has ambitious plans to protect an eleven mile stretch of the Bay shoreline.

Dave championed the creation of San Mateo County's Office of Sustainability (OOS), now the Sustainability Department, and supported initiatives such as the County policy that requires all County buildings to identify the risk from sea level rise, electrification of the County's vehicle fleet, a 2017 resolution in support of the commitment to the Paris Agreement as a show of the County's ongoing promise to cut greenhouse gas emissions, development of the County's Climate Action Plan, and exploration of reach code policies.

Among his most significant environmental accomplishment is the creation of Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE), which provides San Mateo County residents and businesses with cleaner energy at lower rates. He led the County effort to create the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) structure starting in 2015. Through his leadership, and with the support of the then-County Office of Sustainability, all 20 cities in the county collaborated to form PCE in less than one year.

With a steadfast commitment to public service, and a calm, analytical approach, Dave has been an outstanding steward for San Mateo County. He can be relied upon to approach matters with a solution-driven mindset. Dave is a respected and admired regional leader whose contributions to protecting our environment and preparing our community for the impacts of climate change will have a lasting impact. His thoughtful approach and building bridges serve as model for others to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Dave Pine for an exemplary record of service to the County of San Mateo, commending him for his tireless dedication of time and talent, and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LARA DELANEY

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Lara Delaney as she retires from her role as Contra Costa County Senior Deputy County Administrator.

Lara was born in Southern California and raised in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She attended school in Jeddah where she excelled in athletics, serving as captain of the volleyball and swim teams and being the second-ranked women's tennis player in Jeddah. She then returned to the United States, studying literature at U.C. Santa Cruz and going on to earn her Master's in Regulatory and Aggregate Policy