

would become a stellar career spanning across four decades at Block & Company, Inc. Realtors. Starting at an entry level position as a Sales Associate in 1974, Gene was active in sales, leasing and development projects. Through the years, his expertise in the industry grew as he oversaw the completion of various projects in retail, office, commercial, and investment projects.

As he continued to work his way up the ladder at Block & Company, Inc. Realtors, Gene brought along his enthusiasm, knowledge and work ethic to create new approaches to real estate. Most notable, Gene became a leader in the industry when he initiated the first new life-style center in the region, Zona Rosa, a mixed-use retail, office, and industrial complex in the Greater Kansas City area. His experience was sought after and highly regarded among those in the industry.

Among his many achievements, Gene played an important role in relocating the St. Joseph Hospital, which later became the Linwood Shopping Center, revitalizing an inner-city area that was facing decline. The finished project became a new and expanded retail development which led to the City of Kansas City to be designated in 1986 as an "All American City" by the Citizens Forum on Self Government/National Municipal League and USA Today. Additionally, Gene worked as the Development Consultant for the Blue Parkway Town Center, a redevelopment project spearheaded by the Swope Parkway Health Center.

Though Gene has passed, his legacy and impact on Kansas City will remain long past our mortal lifetimes. I am reminded of Mark 10:45—"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Gene's life was one dedicated to serving others and bettering the lives of countless people. Gene is survived by his loving family, friends, and wife of 58 years, Pamela. As we celebrate and remember the decades of devoted service from Gene, let us be inspired by his commitment to better his community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 480 and YEA on Roll Call No. 481.

#### RECOGNIZING STEVE YEAKEL

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Steve Yeakel, who is retiring as President and CEO of the Virginia Association of Community Banks (VACB) after 13 years of distinguished service to Virginia's community banking industry.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Yeakel has been an unwavering advocate for Virginia's commu-

nity banks, which serve as the economic backbone of our local communities. Under his leadership, VACB has grown to represent more than 100 community banks and vendor partners, providing essential financial services to families and businesses across the great Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Yeakel's commitment to excellence was recognized by his peers when he received the 2021 CEO Award of Excellence by from the Virginia Society of Association Executives. His leadership style, emphasizing relationship-building and collaborative problem-solving, has strengthened the voice of community banking in both Richmond and Washington. During his stewardship, VACB successfully navigated serious challenges in the industry, from regulatory changes to technological transformation. Mr. Yeakel has been able to achieve such impressive accomplishments particularly due to his ability to foster productive dialogue between VACB members and Congressional delegations over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Mr. Yeakel's significant contributions to Virginia's banking industry and the communities it serves. His legacy of leadership, advocacy, and service will continue to benefit Virginians for years to come. I wish him and his family all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

#### MILLIE DUNN VEASEY POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9580, to name a post office in North Carolina after Millie Dunn Veasey. As has been noted, she was one of the 855 women from across our country who would serve with the historic Women Army Corps 6888, Central Postal Battalion (Six Triple Eight) during World War II.

The Six Triple Eight was the only African American Women's Army Corps Battalion unit deployed overseas during WWII. Their efforts to resolve a monumental months long backlog of millions of pieces of mail played a critical role in maintaining morale for those fighting in the European Theater.

In England and then France, they sorted millions of pieces of mail while facing challenging social and war conditions. They not only completed their mission but did so in record time.

Each of these women have their own individual stories but many of them are similar to Ms. Veasey's. A desire to serve their country. They didn't set out to make history but they did so anyway.

They served their country honorably and extraordinarily. And came home with little fanfare or ceremony, which they did not mind. And many, like Ms. Veasey, continued to contribute to their communities after they came home.

I am pleased that we are recognizing these women and that this story of service will no longer be lost to history. This postal designation will help ensure that Ms. Veasey's service and dedication is remembered in her local community.

A few years ago, I was pleased to spearhead a successful effort in Congress, along with Senator MORAN, to award the Six Triple Eight with the Congressional Gold Medal so that their service cannot only be appropriately acknowledged but remembered across our Nation.

Ms. Veasey passed away at the age 100 in 2018 and was buried in Raleigh National Cemetery. Sadly, there are less than a handful of surviving members of the Six Triple Eight, including Anna Mae Robertson of Milwaukee, WI.

Through efforts like this, we ensure that their story of service and sacrifice does not remain lost to history and help to inspire the next generation to military service.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN DANIELS

### HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Minnesota House Representative Brian Daniels. First elected in 2014 to represent then-District 24B, Representative Daniels has served the people of Minnesota honorably in the State House for the past ten years, most recently representing District 19A.

Representative Daniels has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents in Dodge, Goodhue, Rice, Steele, and Waseca counties, particularly with his leadership in championing the priorities of the blind and deaf communities across Minnesota.

Throughout his time in office, Representative Daniels introduced numerous bills advocating for greater language access statewide; including legislation that would increase proficiency standards to teach American Sign Language, as well as legislation that would require elementary schools to screen for dyslexia.

Additionally, he authored legislation to place signage on Interstate 35, directing drivers to Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf and Minnesota State Academy of the Blind in Faribault, bringing awareness to travelers from across the country about these outstanding educational institutions that we are proud to have in southern Minnesota.

Representative Daniels has done an exemplary job representing the people of District 19A, and all of us across southern Minnesota have been well-served by his time in office. I wish him the warmest congratulations on his retirement.

#### CELEBRATING INEZ BEISWANGER'S 105TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and wish a very happy and special birthday to Inez Beiswanger, who will turn a whopping 105 years old on December 9, 2024.

Born in Nappanee in 1919, Inez is a resident of Milford, Indiana and one of the many

Hoosiers I have the privilege of representing in Congress. Earlier this month, some friends, family, and other members of the Milford community came together to throw a surprise celebration for Inez, which was a fitting testament to such a special, memorable, and impressive milestone.

As she reflects on more than a century of life well lived, Inez is full of gratitude to God for the many blessings he has bestowed on her. Especially around this time of year, embracing the disposition of gratitude that Inez embodies is something that our Nation could use a lot more of.

Inez also credits her long life in part to trying to always be an optimist about everything, as well as being content and happy with what you have. This mindset has clearly worked, and it is a refreshing antidote to the culture of despair and restlessness that we all too often witness.

As she celebrates more than a century of life lived to the fullest, I join her family, including her three children, seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren, and many other Hoosiers in wishing Inez Beiswanger a very happy 105th birthday.

#### CONGRATULATING LOUIS ENGLISH

##### HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2024*

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Louis English for being named Career Firefighter of the Year for 2024. Louis began his career in 1985 as a Firefighter 1 and received Firefighter 2 certification in 1999. In 2013, he was appointed as Captain. He retired from active fire service in March of 2016 but chose to remain as a volunteer. In June of 2016, he was reinstated as an Active Reserve. With 28 years of full-time service and 8 years of service in the Active Reserve, Captain Louis English has dedicated his life to helping others. I am so proud to have such a selfless individual residing in our district. I congratulate Louis English on this outstanding award.

#### HONORING DAN MCCORQUODALE

##### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2024*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service of Dan McCorquodale of San Jose, California.

From 1953 to 1956, McCorquodale was a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. After graduating from college, he served as a public school teacher in Chula Vista, California. In 1964, he became the youngest person ever elected to the City Council in Chula Vista, where he served as Mayor from 1968 to 1969.

After moving to San Jose, McCorquodale spent a year walking precincts in the third district and was elected to three terms representing north and east San Jose, a portion of the City of Santa Clara, and the cities of Milpitas and Sunnyvale. During his three terms on the Board, he distinguished himself in the

issues of environmental protection, transportation, water reclamation, parks, justice, and health and human services. In 1982, McCorquodale was elected State Senator of the 12th district.

Throughout his political career, he was recognized for his effective policymaking. In 1986, he was recognized as Legislator of the Year by the California Trial Lawyers Association. In 1987, he was awarded Humanitarian of the Year by the Humane Society. In 1988, the California Planning and Conservation League named him Legislator of the Year and in 1991, the National Organization for Women recognized him as their Legislator of the Year. In 1991, the California Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons named him Elected Official of the Year and in 1992, he was named Legislator of the Year by the California Park and Recreation Society.

It has been my great pleasure to work with Dan throughout the years and I honor and thank him for his years in public service and wish him the best.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LLOYD B. PLUMMER

##### HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2024*

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Lloyd B. Plummer a very happy 100th birthday, who will be celebrating his milestone on December 15, 2024.

In 1943, Plummer, the recipient of two Purple Hearts, joined the Army among many courageous men to serve our country. His heroic efforts will never be forgotten.

For those who may not know Lloyd, he was one of the first brave Americans to serve as a paratrooper during World War II, as a member of the 509th Infantry Regiment. Throughout the war, the Fighting 509 was assigned to numerous operations, many of which are now recognized as suicide missions. Lloyd was faced with many battles, where he suffered from frostbite, trench foot, burns, and shrapnel. At all times, he was ready to put his body on the line to serve the country he loved. He is the true definition of a patriot, willing to sacrifice his life for our country.

In 1945, he was discharged from active duty in the Army and returned to Idaho. Lloyd and his family have consistently embodied the traditional values we cherish in Idaho.

I thank Lloyd B. Plummer for his unwavering heroic efforts, and I wish him a very happy birthday.

#### RECOGNIZING COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, SAMANTHA SNUGGERUD ANDERSON FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

##### HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2024*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my former Communications Direc-

tor, Samantha Snuggerud Anderson, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. In September, Sam was appointed as Communications Director for the Minnesota Department of Education under the transformational leadership of Governor Tim Walz, and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

A Minnesota native, Sam graduated from Minnetonka High School before attending Northeastern University in Boston where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science. Sam has been an essential member of my leadership team since the very beginning, and like me, came to this work with a background in marketing and a belief in the politics of improving people's lives.

Spanning impeachments, pandemic, and unrest, the 116th, 117th, and 118th Congresses were historic by any measure. Just when we thought we had cleared the most unprecedented news cycle of our careers, another would rise, and I leaned on Sam's counsel to navigate each. She is a one-of-a-kind professional whose sound judgement, smart instincts, reliable execution, and strategic thinking have been critically important to the success of this team.

We could always count on Sam's calm confidence and level perspective to ground us, but also benefitted from her creative spirit and knack for innovation. She is an architect and keeper of the Dean Team brand, instilling in our community a sense that representation begins with listening and a renewed faith in their government.

Preferring to work behind the scenes, Sam is quick to share kudos and credit, but her invisible hand left its mark in every aspect of our work. She is a skilled manager who built and led a pioneering communications team by identifying potential, carving out space for creativity, and challenging herself and others to do their best. When pitching a communications idea to Sam, her colleagues have learned to have a better strategy than, "this is the way it has always been done!" She has helped countless staffers grow into communications thinkers, coaching even the workiest members of our team on meeting—and making—moments.

From Good Morning America to the Star Tribune, Sam has been there to help pitch, prep, and powder my nose for moments big and small. Under her leadership, our communications team became a branding powerhouse, crafting powerful messages, landing big interviews, producing captivating content, building a mass communications program so strong I regularly receive thanks from constituents on the receiving end of unsolicited emails, and even going viral for a TikTok dance or two. Sam did it all with an eye for authenticity and improvement, and each success became a new foundation on which to build.

Her work helped earn me a seat at the leadership table in 2022 when I was elected Co-Chair of the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee (DPCC), and her reimagining of communications staffing and budgets has been recognized by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the House as best in class. Sam has been invited by the CAO to coach new Chiefs of Staff on modernizing their own communications teams, leadership that will surely leave this institution operating better than she found it for generations to come.