

represent Jeff in Congress, and I wish him, his wife Carrie, and their two daughters, Jessica and Christina, the best of luck in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING DEVIN SCILLIAN'S
SERVICE TO THE NATION AND
HIS COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Devin Scillian of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement from WDIV Local 4 News in Detroit. As a local news anchor, his steady presence and informative programs have been a stalwart part of life in Southeastern Michigan for the last twenty-eight years, and his service to his community is worthy of commendation.

Devin was born in Kansas in 1963 to Billie Hugh and Betti Jo Scillian. His late father earned four bronze stars and a Meritorious Service Medal over two tours in Vietnam. His mother, a writer with a history in community theater, he credits with being his creative spark. Devin started dating his wife, Corey, while they were in high school after his family moved off base at Fort Riley, Kansas.

After graduating from the School of Journalism at the University of Kansas in 1985, Devin began his career in local news at WIBW in Topeka, Kansas. This was followed by stops at WAND in Decatur, Illinois, KLTN in Tyler, Texas, and KFOR in Oklahoma City. It was at KFOR in 1995 where his coverage of the bombing at the Murrah Federal Building helped the station win a Peabody Award.

Devin joined WDIV in Detroit in 1995 as a reporter before moving to the anchor position in 1996. In this position he has traveled the world, including stops in Beijing, the Vatican, Jerusalem, and Moscow. He has covered six Olympiads and has three times won the Edward R. Murrow Award for excellence in broadcast journalism. His weekly program, Flashpoint, has become almost mandatory viewing for those who wish to be in the know for the most pressing issues in Southeastern Michigan. He has used his position to champion charities, whether that is hosting a dinner for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, collecting shoes for Lace Up Detroit, or recording a song for "A Michigan Christmas of Hope"—a compilation of Christmas songs brought to you by some of Detroit & Michigan's Best artists and bands to benefit Holy Cross Children's Services.

Outside of his career in local news, Devin is also an accomplished musician. He won the Detroit Music Award for Best Country Vocalist in 2018 and Best Country Performer in 2001. He and his band "Arizona Son" have opened for artists such as Toby Keith, Reba McEntire, and LeAnn Rimes. He is also the author of 22 children's books, including *S is For Sunflower*, which won the Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Devin Scillian for the lifetime of dedication to his community. From Kansas to Michigan, his consistent and reliable reporting has a boon for the community which he is serving. Though we are sad to

see him leave, he is certainly going to continue to be a presence in our lives through his music and his writing. We thank him for his service and wish him all the happiness as he starts this next chapter in his life. I thank Devin.

HONORING MARK ROOT'S SERVICE
TO ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friend and devoted public servant Mark Root as he prepares to step down from the St. Joseph County Council after nearly two decades of service in elected office.

As Councilman, Mark's commitment to meeting the needs of St. Joseph County Hoosiers has been deep and unwavering. Quite simply, Mark is the kind of person that you want in your corner as well as serving in government and making decisions that affect people's lives.

Mark's leadership abilities have brought important projects and investments to St. Joseph's County over the course of his twenty years serving on the Council, and he has helped keep St. Joseph County on the move through both good economic times and bad. Mark's focus has always been on making his home county an even better place to live, work, and raise a family, something he has done through bringing to bear his expertise on fiscal and budgetary matters, and his commitment to being a responsible steward of taxpayers' dollars.

Through his time on the Council, Mark has developed a well-deserved reputation for being a thoughtful leader who is easy to work with. Regardless of their political beliefs, so many people have testified to Mark's good nature, his personal loyalty, and his Hoosier common sense.

In addition to his service to the people of St. Joseph County in elected office, Mark has also been a mentor to me and a close personal friend. In fact, Mark is the one who taught me how to comb through election results on a precinct-by-precinct basis, a lesson that has been invaluable to me in my political career.

As Mark's time and career in public service comes to a close, I have absolutely no doubt that St. Joseph County and our communities are better off thanks to this good man with a servant's heart. I also know that Mark's wife Sara and his whole family are very proud of him, a sentiment I share wholeheartedly.

I join Hoosiers throughout St. Joseph County and Indiana's Second Congressional District in expressing our gratitude to Mark Root for his service and in wishing him a very happy retirement and all the best going forward.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND
SERVICE OF MARY L. ADAMS

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary career and service of

Mary L. Adams, who has tirelessly dedicated herself to the people of Monterey County. Today, at her last meeting of the Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council, and upon her well-earned retirement, it is fitting to honor her leadership and enduring contributions to our community.

Mary L. Adams has served with distinction as the Fifth District Supervisor for the County of Monterey, skillfully navigating numerous complex challenges with compassion and foresight. Her accomplishments exemplify a lifetime of hard work and community dedication.

Mary played a vital role in leading Monterey County through major emergencies, including multiple atmospheric river events and wildfires such as the Soberanes, River, Carmel, Dolan, and Palo Colorado fires. Her leadership in organizing efforts, like the Big Sur Helicopter Commodity Drop, provided critical support to isolated communities, ensuring the safety and resilience of residents during these crises.

She has been instrumental in addressing key local challenges, including coordination during the Pfeiffer Bridge repairs, implementing safety measures along Highway 1 near Point Lobos State Park and the Bixby Creek Bridge, and overseeing the Scenic Road Carmel Lagoon Environmental Impact Report. Each of these efforts has significantly contributed to the preservation of Monterey County's natural beauty and infrastructure.

Mary's leadership in infrastructure improvements has also been transformative. She spearheaded upgrades to Carmel Valley Road and played a key role as Chair of the Carmel Valley Road Advisory Committee, culminating in the finalization of the Carmel Valley Road and Laureles Grade Roundabout project.

A steadfast advocate for housing solutions, Mary worked tirelessly to update the Vacation Rental Ordinance, protect neighborhood character, and champion sustainable, long-term housing initiatives. Under her leadership, the County invested in the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership Housing Trust Fund, unlocking millions in funding for affordable housing projects. She also supported innovative public-private partnerships and employer-sponsored housing initiatives, while prioritizing the community's best interests in updating the Housing Element.

During the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mary provided steady and compassionate leadership, ensuring critical resources reached those in need. Her advocacy extended to sustainable water solutions, supporting the passage of Measure J for public water ownership and hosting Regional Water Forums to engage the community on pressing water challenges.

Throughout her tenure, Mary has exemplified transparency and accountability in governance. Her instrumental role in the hiring of key county officials, including the County Administrative Officer and County Counsel, has strengthened the foundation for Monterey County's future success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career and accomplishments of Mary L. Adams. Her legacy of leadership and dedication to the people of Monterey County will inspire generations to come. We thank her for her service and wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING CIVIL SOCIETY AND
IL-03 STAFF**HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, as we get close to the end of the 118th Congress, my first term representing the greatly diverse Illinois Third Congressional District, I rise in full gratitude for all of those who have supported me and held me during these not-so-easy two years in what we call the People's House.

And we've heard that it takes a village to represent, to fight, and to deliver for our communities.

But recently, 219 members of this body opted to persecute the village, passing a bill that puts all of civil society at risk.

They took that action at the precise moment we should be uplifting and celebrating civil society as the first and most resilient line of defense for many vulnerable communities.

Without a robust civil society, countries can descend into instability, their governments becoming prone to authoritarianism, human rights abuses, and the erosion of democratic freedoms.

So, while some of my colleagues came to the floor to do harm to civil society, I have come to the floor to commend the countless nonprofit organizations, faith communities, schools and universities, advocacy groups, and cultural institutions that compose the powerful civil society of Illinois' 3rd Congressional District.

Since my time as the executive director of a nonprofit in Chicago, I have seen community organizations nurture and sustain a healthy democracy by providing life-saving services including housing and warm meals—while holding those in power accountable.

It is clear that strengthening, repairing, and defending our democracy is not solely the work of government. It requires the fabric of our communities, civil society organizations, weaving their work together on the frontlines to protect, defend, and enrich our communities and our neighborhoods.

So today, I am grateful for faith communities like the member institutions of the Logan Square Ecumenical Alliance and DuPage United; for community organizations like Onward Neighborhood House, La Casa Norte, and Habitat for Humanity DuPage; for schools and universities like Northeastern University El Centro and North Park University; for early childhood centers like EduCare DuPage and Chicago Commons; for human rights advocates like Palenque LSNA and AFIRE; for cultural organizations like the National Veterans Art Museum and the Mexican Cultural Center of DuPage.

There are too many strong civil society organizations to name. I thank the many, many civil service organizations across IL-03. Gracias.

I appreciate the opportunities and possibilities they create for our neighbors—independent of their zip code, citizenship status, or past actions—and the way they keep me rooted in a community ready to fight like hell for our neighbors.

As I celebrate the work of our civil society, I also want to uplift the team that puts in the long hours; that makes so many sacrifices for

the people of IL-03; and who is seldomly mentioned, seldomly seen in public. And that is my staff.

My staff, who despite the challenges of this Congress and despite a Congress that often-times negates the humanity of their own family, has used their professional and lived experiences to introduce and champion transformative and progressive legislation, has pushed the government to work for our constituents and deliver resources back to Illinois Third, and has ensured our neighbors receive the lifesaving services that they deserve.

I thank my entire team: Ellen Meredith Ray, Luis Miguel Carrizales Castillo, Claudia Dolores Peralta, Karsen Patrick Bailey, Deepa Pinakin Patel, Noemi Avelar, Jowen Halber Ortiz Cintrón, Marina Kristine Sangit, Daniela A. Guerrero Diaz, Valeria Nicole Metzgen Castro, Katherine Gitsel Carranza Bahena, Jennifer Ho, Nataly Miranda-Castañeda, Vianey Luna Lopez, Micaela Unzueta, Magda Karina Herron, Levi Casmir Iseminger Todd, and Rogelio Elizondo-Juarez, as well as the countless interns, fellows, and past staffers who have supported our work.

I thank them for their time, energy, emotion, and passion they pour into our fight for working people.

They are seen. They are appreciated. I am so proud of the work we have begun together in this term and will continue in the next.

Through gratitude, I find hope.

Because both the community at home and the team I have here in Congress have reminded me that in uncertain times, one thing is certain—our communities are prepared to organize, to protect each other, and to unite no matter what the next four years bring us.

I am forever grateful. And I am ready.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREER OF ANTHONY J. MAIELLO**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Anthony J. Maiello.

Anthony Maiello received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education from Ithaca College in 1965 and 1967. He then went on to the Crane School of Music, Potsdam College of SUNY, Potsdam, New York where he served as a Professor of Music and Chairman of Performance. He spent 20 years at the Crane School, and taught Advanced Instrumental Conducting, Applied Clarinet, Woodwind Techniques, Percussion Techniques and conducted the Crane Wind Ensemble.

In 1986, Maiello joined the faculty at George Mason University (GMU) as a Professor of Music. He taught applied lessons in Conducting, Aural Skills, and classes in Instrumental Conducting. From 1996 to 2009, he conducted the Mason Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. Under his direction, the ensembles commissioned new works, made numerous recordings, and appeared at national and international conferences. In 2007, Maiello was awarded the title of "University Professor" by the GMU Board of Visitors, the highest rank given to Mason faculty members.

Anthony Maiello also has made professional appearances both nationally and abroad conducting music festivals, adjudicating ensembles, and presenting clinics, lectures, and workshops throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, and Europe. He conducted musical activities for the Gold Medal Ceremonies at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York; served as Musical Director for Music Festivals International; was selected as President of the International Association of Jazz Educators—New York State Chapter; and is a guest clinician for Yamaha Corporation and Warner Bros. Publications. In March of 2010, he was inducted into the Bands of America Hall of Fame at Music for All's Indianapolis headquarters.

Throughout his career, Maiello accumulated an impressive list of recording credits. This includes conducting the American Wind Symphony and additional studio ensembles for Alfred/Belwin Publications. Locally, Maiello has served as Associate Conductor of The McLean Orchestra, was appointed an Honorary Conductor of the United States Navy Band, and was a participant in the National Conducting Institute with Leonard Slatkin and the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C.

In addition to his service in music and education, Maiello is a volunteer police officer for Fairfax County and is very involved with his church. He has been administering the Eucharist on Sundays for decades, and since retiring, he plans to administer the Eucharist during the week to the sick at their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Anthony J. Maiello on an incredible career. He has been able to impact countless lives and help shape the futures of his students over the past 60 years. Best wishes for a happy and safe retirement, filled with time with his loving wife, Susan Maiello, and his daughters Carol and Nancy. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this inspired and dedicated educator, conductor, and mentor.

CELEBRATING BANGLADESH
VICTORY DAY**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, today we join the people of Bangladesh and Bangladeshi communities around the world in celebrating Victory Day on December 16, 2024. It acknowledges a day of triumph, remembrance, and persistence through the courage and unity of the Bangladeshi people.

As we honor this significant moment in history, we must remember the sacrifices made by the patriotic individuals who fought for freedom, peace, and justice. Victory Day serves not only as a celebration but as a demonstration of the steep costs of liberty. This inspiring commemoration exemplifies the values of democracy, human rights, and self-determination.

In a short period of time, Bangladesh has shown power of determination and innovation. On December 16, 1971, after a 9-months-long liberation war, Bangladesh claimed victory. With a skilled workforce, technological advancement, strong healthcare, and a vibrant