

remarkable dedication and skill. College Park Airport, known as the world's oldest continuously operating airport, is a cornerstone of aviation history and a symbol of the ingenuity and perseverance of the early pioneers of flight. Under Mr. Sommer's capable leadership, the airport has continued to thrive, serving as both a vital resource for general aviation and a living monument to our Nation's rich aviation heritage.

Mr. Sommer's unwavering commitment to safety, operational excellence, and community engagement has been instrumental in the airport's success. His tireless efforts have ensured that College Park Airport remains a beacon for aviation enthusiasts and a trusted partner to the local community.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Sommer has built strong relationships with residents, businesses, government agencies, and the aviation industry. These partnerships reflect his exceptional leadership and his dedication to fostering collaboration and trust—qualities that are vital to maintaining the strength and vitality of our Nation's aviation infrastructure.

As Mr. Sommer transitions into this well-deserved next chapter, we honor his significant contributions to aviation and to College Park Airport's enduring legacy. His stewardship of this historic landmark has preserved its place in history while ensuring its relevance for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Leroy Sommer for his service and in wishing him all the best in his retirement. His legacy will be felt for years to come, and he will always have a place among the great stewards of aviation history.

RECOGNIZING THE COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Colorado School of Mines Men's Cross Country Team for winning their fourth NCAA Division II National Championship.

Over the past ten years, the Orediggers have dominated Division II Athletics. This season, they won the team title in every race and six out of seven runners earned All-American honors. The championship race was especially impressive, with three runners finishing in the top ten. This team, made up of Logan Bocovich, Loic Scomparin, Ethan Grolnic, Paul Knight, Dawson Gunn, Jeremiah Vaille, and Max Bonenger, showed the very best in competitiveness that the Colorado School of Mines Athletic Department has to offer.

This achievement was earned by the commitment of the runners, support from students, guidance from Athletic Director David Hansburg, and the coaching of Chris Siemers. Their Division II championship title, cements Colorado School of Mines's reputation as an academic and athletic powerhouse in Colorado and across the country.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate the Orediggers on their successful season.

RECOGNIZING DICK LUNDY'S SERVICE TO 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 Dick Lundy, a resident of Dexter, Michigan, who is retiring after 45 years on the Dexter School Board. His decades of service to his community and its children are worthy of commendation.

Dick earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan and started his own business, Control-O-Matic, later COM Inc., in 1972. He served as its President and CEO until it was sold in 1999.

Dick was first elected to the Dexter School Board in 1979, the first of eleven elections that he would win. He also spent 40 years as Treasurer and another four as Vice President. During his time on the board, he has seen a plethora of changes, from Michigan's shift to per-student state funding in 1994 or the introduction of computers and every new technology since. This also includes the successful passage of half a dozen school bonds, the construction of multiple new buildings and development of the school campus, and the hiring of seven superintendents and two interim superintendents, in addition to the vast financial oversight of the district. Both of his children as well as three grand-children have graduated from Dexter Schools, and two great-grandchildren are currently enrolled.

Outside of his time on the Dexter School Board, Dick has served on the board of many local nonprofits, including the Washtenaw United Way, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, the Dexter United Methodist Church, and Emergent Health Partners. In addition, Dick has served on the Dexter Downtown Development Authority and the Local Development Finance Authority which created the Dexter Business and Research Park. He also worked with the nonprofit Michigan From the Heart, where he's assisted in connecting University of Michigan student athletes with patients at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Dick Lundy and his 45 years of service to the Dexter community. The future of Dexter is much brighter because of Dick's hard work. We wish him the best in retirement and thank him for all he has done.

CELEBRATING JOHNNY 5 V2.0'S ACHIEVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS COMPETITIONS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sawyer Rinn and Tristan Souza, of Johnny 5 v2.0, a robotics team from the 11th District of Illinois, on their recent achievements in representing the United States at two international competitions.

In November, Sawyer and Tristan earned 5th place at the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) International Finals, competing against 100

teams from 90 countries. Their success was the result of their exceptional engineering, problem-solving, and innovation skills, which enabled them to design and program a robot capable of completing complex tasks. Additionally, in October, the team placed 1st at the World Robotics Olympiad Americas Open in Puerto Rico, where they competed against 25 teams from 17 countries.

Coach William Wong of Naperville leads the team. He is the founder of Chasewood Learning, which has produced multiple national robotics champions. His programs inspire children to develop STEM skills and pursue related careers. Sawyer Rinn, 12, from Geneva, Illinois, in his third year of robotics, won the 2022 WRO National Championship and placed 27th at the WRO International Finals. Tristan Souza, 12, from Hinsdale, Illinois, in his second year, reached the FIRST LEGO League state finals in 2022. Both aspire to study engineering at top universities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have outstanding students and mentors in my district who drive innovation and promote STEM career pathways. Please join me in congratulating Sawyer Rinn, Tristan Souza, and Coach William Wong on their impressive achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

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 Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and to congratulate the recipients of the 27th Annual Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award-winning, public-private coalition formed to fight drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Through educational and innovative public outreach programs, WRAP is credited with keeping local alcohol-related death rates consistently below the national average. Its programs educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. Through the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, individuals who are impaired can request a free cab ride home. Since SoberRide was launched in 1991, over 80,000 safe rides have been provided in the Washington Metropolitan area, preventing potential accidents and deaths.

Since 1997, WRAP has sponsored an annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony to honor local law enforcement professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against drunk driving. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2024 Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention recipients:

City of Falls Church Police Department: Sergeant Matthew Parker and Private First Class Matthew Aguiniga

Maryland State Police: Trooper First Class Logan Speak

Town of Herndon Police Department: Private First Class Neil Simpson

Prince William County Police Department: Officer Godson Vondee

Loudoun County Sheriffs Office: Deputy First Class Samuel Zinkgraf

Arlington County Police Department: Corporal Kellsey Costello-Mays

Alexandria Police Department: Officer Whitney Watts-Cerrato

Metropolitan Police Department: Officer Hakim Bouaichi

Virginia State Police: Trooper Collin Kashmer

United States Park Police: Officer Christian Callahan

Fairfax County Police Department: Private First Class Justin Yorkdale

Montgomery County Police Department: Sergeant Patrick Keep

Prince George's County Police Department: Corporal Brendan Hughes

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority: Corporal Joshua Morris and Corporal Ian Pharoah

United States Capitol Police: Officer Seth Carl

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence and in recognizing WRAP for its 42 years of public service. Their efforts combined with the support of partner organizations and law enforcement agencies have saved lives and are deserving of our highest praise and gratitude. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE ENGAGEMENT OF BRIAN JOHNSON AND CAROLINE REYNOLDS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Brian Johnson and Caroline Reynolds on the occasion of their engagement. It is with great pleasure and excitement that I share the wonderful news.

Brian, a steadfast friend and dedicated professional, has been a true partner in our work with Veterans Guardian, helping countless veterans across the Nation achieve their well-deserved disability rating increases.

Fate brought Brian and his incredible fiancé, Caroline Reynolds, together at the U.S. Open during an event hosted by our mutual friend and colleague, Congressman RICHARD HUDSON. Their story reached a beautiful milestone over the Thanksgiving holiday on November 26, when Brian proposed to Caroline in her charming hometown of Nacogdoches, Texas. The engagement was a heartwarming celebration, surrounded by family, friends, and joyous festivities.

Love and marriage represent the joining of two hearts and lives, built on a foundation of trust, respect, and shared dreams. Brian and Caroline embody the promise to stand together through life's joys and challenges, growing stronger as individuals and as partners. Their love story is a testament to the beauty of finding someone who not only inspires you but also walks beside you every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in congratulating Brian and Caroline on this exciting new chapter in their lives. I wish them boundless happiness, love, and success as they embark on their journey together.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LAURENS "LARRY" RUBEN

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Laurens "Larry" Ruben, a beloved professor, whose influence not only shaped my life but also the lives of countless students, colleagues, family, and friends. A source of light and a friend to all, we recognize the extraordinary impact Larry had on the many lives he touched.

Larry Ruben graduated from the University of Michigan with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biology. After moving to New York with his wife and longtime lab partner, Judith, he earned his Ph.D. from Columbia University and completed post-doctoral work at Princeton University before joining Reed College in 1955. At Reed, Larry was instrumental in developing the Biology Department's research-rich curriculum, improving student research opportunities, and emphasizing the importance of outside funding to support the program. In his research lab, which remained open until he was 86 years old, I had the privilege to conduct research during my time at Reed. Larry contributed significant insights into immunology and cancer biology.

Larry was not only an outstanding researcher but also an inspiring teacher and mentor. Known for his kindness and generosity, he was deeply committed to his students and their success. As my thesis advisor, he inspired my early career in immunology. Beyond his work in biology, Larry helped establish the Arts Division at Reed College and often sang with a Reed-based rock and roll band. He was also known for his exceptional dance moves, which left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to witness them.

Larry Ruben was a friend, a mentor, and a man whose immense kindness and contributions will never be forgotten. We extend our deepest condolences to Larry's family, friends, students, and colleagues. Larry's impact will live on in all those he touched.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP OF DON RAINS

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Don Rains, a dedicated public servant and lifelong resident of Princeton, North Carolina, who has made significant contributions to his community through more than two decades of service as Mayor.

For 22 years, Don Rains led Princeton with vision, determination, and an unwavering com-

mitment to the town's future. Under his leadership, the town saw critical infrastructure improvements, including advancements in water, sewer, and stormwater management, all of which helped prepare Princeton for future growth.

His leadership in key projects like the Princeton Community Center and the work surrounding the future Interstate 42 will have a lasting impact on the town and its residents for years to come.

In addition to his work as Mayor, Don Rains has served his community through his involvement in Princeton United Methodist Church, the Princeton Lions Club, and St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge. His leadership extended beyond the town, serving as Chair of the Triangle J Council of Governments and the US 70/1-42 Commission, where he advocated for regional and statewide development.

Don and his family believe deeply in giving back, and through their efforts, they have bolstered initiatives to enhance the quality of life for all Princeton residents, including support for the Princeton Public Library and the new Community Center.

Please join me in recognizing Don Rains for his exemplary leadership, dedication, and service to Princeton, North Carolina. His contributions will continue to shape the community he loves for generations to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL ROBERT R. "BART" BARTRAN, III

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Colonel Robert R. "Bart" Bartran, III. COL Bartran is a fellow Mississippian who has dedicated his life to serving our country and the great state of Mississippi.

COL Bartran was appointed as the Director of the Counterdrug Program for the Mississippi National Guard (MNG) in August of 2021, where he also served as the Commandant of the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA) on Naval Air Station Meridian. He relinquished the responsibilities as Commandant of the RCTA in December of 2023 but continues to serve as the Counterdrug Coordinator (CDC) for the MNG to this date. In these roles, COL Bartran has led with distinction the critical counterdrug training program for the National Guard and Federal, state, and local law enforcement across Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

COL Bartran graduated from West Jones High School in 1988 and attended Jones County Junior College, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Southern Mississippi. He then completed his Master's Degree at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. COL Bartran valued continuing education and graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer Training Academy in Jackson, Mississippi.

Prior to being selected for the Active Guard and Reserve Program, COL Bartran was a police officer with the City of Ridgeland Police Department and the City of Laurel Police Department. His civilian law enforcement career