

RECOGNIZING PA-1's HOMETOWN HEROES: BUCKS COUNTY WOMEN'S SENIOR A DRAGON BOAT TEAM

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—A team that has gone above and beyond their call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize the Bucks County Women's Senior A Dragon Boat Team:

Deb Bray, Jan Buhler, Kelly Chase, Gwen Coverdale, Bonnie Gepner, Lisa Hearn, Deb Jennings, Kimbriell Kelly, Christine Kerrigan, Kim King, Cynthia Laggan, Heidi Lengel, Angie Lin, Lorraine Lodise, Karen Lust, Heydi Lynch, Leanne Lyons.

Cindy Manzo, Chezza Martineau, Margie Milburn, Christy Murphy, Carrie Myers, Kimmel Nacewicz, Kelly Noonan, Lina Peterson, Maureen Petrosky, Kelly Quinn, Olivia Quinn, Marie Quizon, Laura Scaperotto, Jackie Squares, Joanne Stein, Jacquelyn Wetzel, Chris Wetzel (Coach), Tommy Leonardi (Coach).

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades, but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. The Bucks County Women's Senior A Dragon Boat Team has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

This remarkable group has brought honor to our community on the global stage and demonstrates what it means to be a champion in every sense of the word. Led by the incredible Chris and Jacquelyn Wetzel, the Bucks Dragon Boat Association recently competed on the world stage in Ravenna, Italy, against the top dragon boat teams from around the globe. They brought home two silver medals and a gold—an achievement that speaks volumes about their talent, determination, and dedication. But as impressive as these victories are, their most profound accomplishment wasn't measured in medals but in saving a life.

On September 3rd, following a grueling 2000-meter race that earned them the silver medal, Christy Murphy and her Women's Senior A teammates were paddling back to the docks when they saw a man in the water, struggling to stay afloat. It was a moment that could have paralyzed many with fear, but instead, it became a moment of pure heroism. Without a second thought, Christy sprang into action, drawing on the same strength, precision, and teamwork that had carried them through the race. She knew every second was crucial.

With her teammates rallying behind her, Christy plunged into the water and swam to the struggling man. With the help of her teammates, they pulled him onto their boat and safely transferred him to the motor rescue they had flagged down. On that day, this re-

markable group of Bucks County women did not just prove themselves as world-class athletes—they showed us all what it means to be true heroes. This extraordinary and selfless act transcends any medal or title, reminding us of the power of human connection, teamwork, and what we are capable of when we come together.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to The Bucks County Women's Senior A Dragon Boat Team for their extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional organization, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May their example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JIM McMILLAN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Representative DESAULNIER, to honor the life and legacy of James "Jim" McMillan, a devoted public servant and trail-blazing leader within Contra Costa County. Mr. McMillan passed away on November 28, 2024, at the age of 96. He leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and the relentless pursuit of justice.

Born in Mineral Wells, Texas, Mr. McMillan moved to Richmond, California in the 1950s, where he opened McMillan Pharmacy—the first Black-owned pharmacy in the city. McMillan Pharmacy became a vital gathering place for Richmond's African American community, fostering dialogue and action on critical social issues.

Mr. McMillan made history as the first African-American graduate of the College of Pharmacy at Oregon State University. He was also the second Black graduate in the university's history. He brought his pioneering spirit to every endeavor, whether as a pharmacist, mentor, or elected official.

In 1983, Mr. McMillan was elected to the Richmond City Council, where he served with distinction for three terms. He worked to combat systemic racism and police brutality in Richmond, calling for reform and accountability within the police department. He was instrumental in creating Richmond's first police review commission, which served as a model for oversight and community trust.

Beyond his political achievements, Mr. McMillan was a compassionate neighbor and mentor. Mr. McMillan was known for his sharp sense of style and unwavering kindness and was deeply respected and loved by those who knew him. He devoted his life to uplifting others by mentoring aspiring leaders, delivering local newspapers to keep his neighbors informed, or simply offering a kind word and a helping hand.

As a community health leader, he provided care and counsel to countless individuals in Richmond, often visiting patients in hospitals and ensuring they received the medical attention they needed. His contributions extended far beyond his profession. His work laid the

foundation for lasting change, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th and 10th Congressional Districts, we would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Mr. McMillan's loved ones. We know they and the people of Contra Costa County will join us in celebrating his life and legacy.

HONORING JOHN D. FRESHMAN

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished and long career of John D. Freshman, whose unwavering commitment to ensuring clean water for the United States spanned over fifty years.

After graduating from Middlebury College in Vermont, John began his career working for Senator Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania, followed by Governor (and then Senator) Robert Stafford of Vermont. When Senator Stafford joined the Senate, he was appointed to the Public Works Committee, and it was here that John found himself in the heart of the 1972 Clean Water Act conference. In a 2003 interview with Bates College, John recalled the significance of that experience, saying, "This is the most interesting, stimulating, important thing I've ever seen in my life. This is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life."

John's passion for the Clean Water Act continued with his service on the National Commission on Water Quality, chaired by Nelson Rockefeller, with Senator Edmund Muskie serving as one of the vice chairs. John became Senator Muskie's right hand on the Committee, working tirelessly on the Clean Water Act, including the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

After his distinguished service in Congress, John continued his work in public service under President Jimmy Carter. He first contributed to the President's Reorganization Project, focusing on emergency preparedness, natural resources, and economic development. John later served as the Associate Director for the U.S. Regulatory Council and as Special Advisor to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, working closely with Administrator Douglas Costle.

Throughout his career, both in and out of government, John remained dedicated to advancing clean water initiatives and investments. He worked with communities in California and across the nation to ensure access to clean water, building on the protections and principles established by the Clean Water Act.

It has been a great privilege to work with John Freshman over the years. His partnership and perseverance in ensuring that communities have access to clean water and his tireless efforts to protect the principles of the Clean Water Act will have enduring impact. I thank John for his lifelong service and unwavering commitment to clean water and to our country.

HONORING KAY GRANGER

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor someone who has been more than a colleague. KAY GRANGER has been a trailblazer, a mentor, and a dear friend. As a leader within the Texas delegation, she embodied the best of Texas, and the best of America.

KAY was the first Republican woman to chair the powerful House Appropriations Committee—arguably the most influential committee in the House. The “power of the purse” is no small responsibility, and KAY’s leadership exemplified strength, fairness, and resolve—qualities that defined her career. She has an innate ability to navigate the complexities of governance, always keeping the needs of Texas and the nation at heart.

When KAY talks, people listen. Her voice commands respect because it is grounded in wisdom and a deep understanding of the challenges facing our country. She is warm, endearing, and can guide with kindness, but you never want to cross her—not because she is harsh, but because her strength and pragmatism are unmatched.

As we hand the torch to a new generation, we’re reminded of KAY’s legacy. Her kindness and determination have left an indelible mark on all of us. We will miss her dearly—not just for the work she accomplished, but for the person she is. KAY GRANGER’s legacy is one of strength, grace, and unwavering service to her constituents and her country.

I thank KAY for her unparalleled contributions. Her example inspires us, and her absence will be deeply felt in the halls of Congress.

May we honor her legacy by continuing to lead with the same courage and conviction she exemplified.

RECOGNIZING STATE SENATOR
JANET BUCKNER

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor State Senator Janet Buckner for her commitment and faithful public service to the state of Colorado.

Senator Buckner has been a resident and leader in our community for decades. Early in her career, she worked with children and family as a speech and language therapist. Senator Buckner worked for decades in medical sales before then serving our community as an elected official and public servant.

After the death of her late husband, Senator Buckner was unanimously elected to serve the remainder of his term representing the people of House District 40. The Honorable John W. Buckner, like his wife, spent much of his life dedicated to educating the youth of the district, as a teacher and principal at Overland High School.

In 2016 and 2018, she was re-elected to continue her service in the Colorado General

Assembly. During then-Representative Buckner’s tenure in the House, she was appointed to serve in leadership as Speaker Pro Tempore. During this time, she helped to pass the historic Equal Pay for Equal Work Act of 2019 to prohibit sex discrimination in the workplace.

In 2020, Senator Buckner was elected to the Colorado State Senate, where she served as the Senate Majority Caucus Chair, Chair of the Education Committee, and as a member of the Finance Committee. During this time, she championed legislation to create the Department of Early Childhood and the Universal Preschool program, bringing resources and universal preschool to all children in Colorado.

Senator Buckner has always put people first and believes in giving all individuals a seat at the table regarding policy and legislative issues. She leads by example with grace, inclusivity, and empathy.

I thank Senator Janet Buckner for decades of dedicated service and commitment to representing her constituents and our community.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
MIKE MCGUIRE

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to celebrate Director Mike McGuire’s incredible body of work as he retires from his position as Director of the Mason Tenders’ District Council PAC and from Laborers’ Local 79.

During his 28 years as Director, Mike worked to protect and strengthen safe, local, well-paying union jobs. Mike navigated the competitive New York City construction industry with grace, all while putting the worker before anything else. This passion stemmed from his 44 years in Laborers’ Local 79 where he worked diligently for other members both on and off job sites.

Labor protections and unions are paramount, especially in New York’s most dangerous large industry. Mike advocated his hardest for the safety of the individuals tasked with building our communities. I thank him for all of his amazing work and look forward to hearing about his next chapter.

HONORING KAY GRANGER

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a remarkable leader, dedicated public servant, and good friend—Chairwoman KAY GRANGER.

Chairwoman GRANGER’s tenure in public service began long before she came to the United States Congress. From her time as a teacher and businesswoman, to becoming the first female mayor of Fort Worth, she has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to serving her community and her country.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have worked side by side with Chairwoman GRANGER, and her leadership on the Committee has delivered on real conservative priorities. She has led critical policies that have touched every corner of our Nation—from bolstering our national security and supporting our veterans, to investing in American technology and backing rural America, her work here in Congress will continue to help Americans for decades to come.

Her departure from Congress is not just the end of an era for Texas’ 12th District, but a significant moment for all of us who had the privilege of serving alongside her.

As she begins this new chapter of her life, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for her decades of service and wish her the best for all that lies ahead. I thank the Chairwoman for her incredible service to our Nation and the communities across Texas’ 12th District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to physically record my vote on suspensions. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 505; YES on Roll Call No. 504; YES on Roll Call No. 503; and YES on Roll Call No. 502.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 504, I mistakenly voted NAY when I intended to vote YEA.

RECOGNIZING JOHN HATTER

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and express gratitude to a terrific public servant, a trusted advisor to me and so many others, John Hatter. John Hatter, my District Director, has been serving the Hoosiers of Indiana’s Sixth District for over a decade.

John has consistently given my constituents the support they need when dealing with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense. John is a humble man and a role model for public service.

As this chapter in Congress comes to a close, I am beyond grateful for John, his service, and his friendship. Mr. Speaker, may God bless John.