

season with a 13–1 record and a come-from-behind 38–28 victory against Seneca High School. This championship is the culmination of all the work they put in and the great talent on this team.

This championship marks the sixth in program history and the fourth won within the last seven years. Coach Todd LePage and these student-athletes continue a tradition of winning at the highest level. This championship exemplifies what you can accomplish with unwavering determination, consistency, and teamwork.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the Blair Oaks football team, coaches, and fans. Winning a championship is a collective effort that requires all hands-on deck. Their community recognizes and highly values their dedication and passion for football.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on February 13, 2024, I was unable to cast my vote on:

H. Res. 863—Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 43.

HONORING TROY A. MILLER'S SERVICE TO THE U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION AND THE NATION

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual whose dedication and sacrifice have helped to secure our Nation. I would like to recognize Troy A. Miller, a remarkable individual whose 31 years of service to this country have culminated in his final role leading U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner. In this position, he directed CBP's 65,000 employees in executing its three core missions of counterterrorism, border security, and trade enforcement, while facilitating \$4 trillion in trade and facilitating travel of over 410 million people through ports of entry.

As he prepares to retire, I rise to recognize a career defined by integrity, selflessness, and an unwavering commitment to public service. Every time he was asked to fill a critical leadership role, he quickly answered the call and served with distinction.

I also want to extend my appreciation to his family who have supported him throughout his incredible career. I offer my sincere thanks to his wife, Jennifer, and his daughter, Alexandria.

Troy led CBP, the Nation's largest law enforcement agency, through a myriad of challenges, to include the COVID–19 pandemic, surges of migration along the Nation's borders, and hurricane relief efforts.

Among his many notable achievements, Troy confronted the scourge of fentanyl by

evolving CBP to not only match but surpass the sophistication and persistence of the criminal organizations responsible for trafficking this lethal drug across our borders and into our communities. His efforts brought together coordinated intelligence and special enforcement operations to find and intercept fentanyl wherever it attempted to infiltrate our borders—whether in cargo, among travelers, or through small packages. Furthermore, he extended these efforts beyond our borders, taking the fight to local cartel leaders and dismantling the foreign supply chains responsible for aiding the proliferation of this criminal activity.

Troy also made his mark as a true champion of the dedicated CBP workforce. He was not only a fierce advocate for the agency's technology, infrastructure, and resource needs, but also a driving force in fostering a culture that prioritized the health and well-being of its people—CBP's greatest asset. Troy recognized the critical importance of mission readiness and understood the intense pressures associated with a career at CBP. He spearheaded the development and expansion of CBP's workforce care program, making significant investments in the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of its personnel. He focused on removing stigmas, delivering services directly to employees across the Nation, and providing specialized support to help CBP's workforce navigate the tough operational situations they face every day.

Through his distinguished career at CBP, Troy made significant advancements to the national and economic security of the United States.

Between December 2021 and November 2022, Troy served as CBP's Deputy Commissioner, the agency's senior career official, responsible for overseeing the daily operations of CBP's expansive mission.

Prior to his role as Deputy Commissioner, Troy served as the Director, Field Operations for CBP's New York Field Office where he was responsible for CBP's national security, anti-terrorism, immigration, agriculture, and trade enforcement operations at two of the country's busiest international airports—John F. Kennedy International Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport—the East Coast's largest container seaport in New York/Newark, and CBP's Pharmaceutical, Health and Chemicals Center of Excellence and Expertise.

Troy also served as the first Executive Director of the CBP National Targeting Center, where he expanded CBP's targeting, research, and analysis capabilities, and strengthened interagency and international coordination to screen, vet, and mitigate high-risk cargo and travelers. He established Counter Network and Counterterrorism Divisions within the National Targeting Center, transforming CBP's approach to identifying threat actors and dismantling the transnational criminal and terrorist networks that support them. Under his leadership, and pursuant to National Security Presidential Memorandum–9, the National Vetting Center was established as an interagency solution for vetting support and strategically located at the National Targeting Center. To this day, Troy's national security targeting expertise is recognized worldwide.

From 2013 to 2015, Troy served as the Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of Intelligence and Investigative Liaison, where he ini-

tiated an organizational restructuring in direct support of field components and border enforcement entities that partner with them and promoted initiatives to transcend physical borders. In addition, he has held numerous leadership positions including Assistant Port Director, Seattle; Director of Targeting and Analysis, Office of Intelligence and Operations Coordination; and Director of the National Targeting Center-Passenger.

Troy began his federal career with the U.S. Customs Service in 1993 as a Customs Inspector. He received the Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2016 and was awarded the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2021.

Troy's 31 years of devoted service to our great Nation is a shining example of a life to which we should all aspire and is deserving of our gratitude. His meaningful contributions to CBP have strengthened the organization and his legacy will be the foundation for future leaders. Troy will be missed, but we wish him well as he enters this new chapter of life alongside Jennifer and Alexandria.

HONORING MR. ALFRED WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Mr. Alfred Williams, a pioneer in the world of professional bass fishing and an inspirational figure in the ongoing struggle for racial equality in America.

Although federal laws and court rulings of the 1950's and 1960's mandated racial desegregation, the reality on the ground in many parts of the South, particularly in Jackson, Mississippi, remained starkly different. Persistent and often insurmountable barriers continued to divide communities. It was within this challenging environment that Mr. Alfred Williams grew up, demonstrating resilience, quiet determination, and extraordinary skill that would ultimately break barriers and inspire generations.

After bravely serving our country in the Vietnam War, Mr. Williams returned home and turned his attention to bass fishing. Entering a predominately white arena, he became a trailblazer, competing in bass tournaments where he was often the only Black angler in the field. Despite the obstacles he faced, he consistently demonstrated his talent and tenacity, earning victories and accolades that spoke louder than any words.

In 1983, Mr. Williams made history as the first Black angler to qualify for the Bassmaster Classic, the pinnacle of professional bass fishing. Competing against 42 of the world's best anglers on the Ohio River in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he finished in an impressive 10th place, surpassing legendary names like Hank Parker, Rick Clunn, Denny Brauer, and Roland Martin. This groundbreaking achievement opened doors for future Black anglers, paving the way for figures such as Ish Monroe, Mark Daniels Jr., and others to follow.

Mr. Williams was not only a pioneer in breaking racial barriers but also a visionary innovator in the sport itself. He is credited with popularizing the use of hollow-body frogs in

bass fishing. His innovative techniques, including modifications to weight, hook, settings, and lure design, revolutionized the effectiveness of these baits. These innovations were so impactful that Snag Proof incorporated them into its tournament models, further cementing his legacy in the sport.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Alfred Williams competed in nearly 300 BASSMASTER and FLW events, achieving four pro-level victories, more than 200 tournament wins on Ross Barnett Reservoir, and numerous Top 10 finishes. Beyond his personal achievements, Mr. Williams has dedicated himself to mentoring and inspiring other African American anglers in Mississippi and across the Nation, becoming a beacon of hope and perseverance.

Mr. Speaker, Alfred Williams' legacy transcends the sport of bass fishing. He is a testament to the power of resilience, skill, and quiet confidence in overcoming barriers and achieving excellence. On behalf of the people of Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District and the entire Nation, I am honored to recognize and celebrate his contributions to our society.

HONORING CHANCELLOR DR. PHIL DISTEFANO'S CAREER OF LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Dr. Phil DiStefano, a man whose 15 years of leadership as Chancellor of the University of Colorado Boulder and a half-century of dedication to CU Boulder have left an indelible mark on the university. I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the profound impact that Chancellor DiStefano's leadership has had on CU and across our state.

Phil's journey is nothing short of inspiring. A first-generation college student from Steubenville, Ohio, his academic and professional path has taken him from Ohio to the heights of leadership at one of our Nation's top universities. His journey is a testament to the transformative power of education and the potential that lies within each of us. While he may have started in Ohio, Colorado is his home today, and our state has greatly benefited from his presence.

Throughout his tenure as Chancellor, Dr. DiStefano was committed to making CU Boulder a nationally recognized research institution that shapes tomorrow's leaders and positively impacts society. Under his leadership, CU Boulder has awarded nearly 117,000 degrees and raised over \$2 billion in philanthropic gifts. Through his work in technology transfer, Chancellor DiStefano has paved the way for substantial growth in the university, including the creation of 40 startup ventures and the signing of 223 license and option agreements.

The university's research and innovation efforts have had a significant influence not only on the local economy but also on the entire Nation. Over the past five years, CU Boulder's commercialization activities alone generated a domestic economic impact of \$1.9 billion, supporting an estimated 11,545 jobs and contributing \$1.2 billion to the state's economy, and has ensured that CU Boulder remains at the forefront of research.

As Dr. DiStefano transitions to his new role as Senior Executive Director of the CU Boulder Center for Leadership, we know that his legacy of student success, faculty excellence, and campus sustainability has elevated CU Boulder to the top tier of academic institutions, making it a beacon of excellence across the country. I want to personally express my gratitude to Chancellor DiStefano for his service to our community, Colorado, and our Nation. His contributions will be felt for decades to come.

I thank Phil for his leadership and dedication to CU Boulder. It has been an honor to work alongside him.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER DANIEL T. PETERSON

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the loss of retired Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Peterson—a champion for southern Nevada's veteran community.

Chief Peterson was a highly decorated Army Veteran and unrelenting advocate for those around him.

After flying helicopters in the Army for more than 20 years, he came home to serve as Commander of the Henderson Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, be a member of the Henderson Vietnam Veterans of America, and attend as many Unaccompanied Veterans Burial Ceremonies as he could find. He also attended every Veterans Treatment Court graduation and never hesitated to offer his support to fellow veterans in need.

To be clear: it is impossible to sum up Chief Peterson's decades of service in just one speech on the House floor. That's part of the reason why I had the privilege of working with the Library of Congress for his story to be part of the Veterans History Project.

But while he has too many medals to name here, I can say this: Chief Peterson, you were a mentor, leader, a friend, a protector, and a servant to both southern Nevada and our entire country.

We all owe him a debt of gratitude, and we will all miss him.

TRIBUTE TO BILL ZIMMERMAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Bill Zimmerman, who is completing his term as mayor of the city of Menifee, California. Bill has been a true leader in Riverside County for decades and served as an effective advocate whose many tireless efforts to better our region will be missed.

Bill attended Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California from 1981 to 1984. In 1989, along with his wife Julie, Bill purchased a new home in the community of Menifee. After the town incorporated in 2008, Bill was appointed to serve on its first Planning Commission. He also served on the City's Parks, Recreation & Trails Commission. Bill was first elected to

serve on the Menifee City Council in 2012 to represent District 3.

In 2020, Bill was elected to serve as Menifee's directly elected mayor. As mayor, Bill has worked tirelessly to support the infrastructure and recreational opportunities required from a growing residential community. My office and I have been proud to work hand-in-hand with Bill and city staff to support these efforts with federal resources. In addition to his role at city hall, Bill serves on the Board for Boys & Girls Club, Menifee Valley Historical Association, and is President of the Antelope-Menifee Rural Center Board.

Bill clearly possesses a passionate belief in public service and a dedication to the community he has served so faithfully. I know I speak on behalf of all residents in expressing my heartfelt thanks and praise for Bill's significant contributions to Menifee. I wish Bill and his family the very best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 388, my vote was mistakenly not recorded. I would have voted NO.

HONORING CATHERINE (KATIE) RICE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of more than two decades of extraordinary public service by Catherine (Katie) Rice to the County of Marin Board of Supervisors, as an aide, supervisor, and president.

Supervisor Rice has deep roots in Marin County. Raised in Mill Valley, she graduated from Tamalpais High School and received degrees in both Liberal Studies and English from Sonoma State University. After college, she worked as a journalist for several North Bay publications and developed professional skills researching complex community issues. She settled in San Anselmo where she raised her three children and became an active community leader.

An effective advocate for high-quality education, land preservation, and environmental stewardship, Supervisor Rice co-founded the Ross Valley Schools Foundation, served on the Sleepy Hollow Homeowners Association Board, and assisted in the creation of a master plan for San Domenico School.

In 2003, Supervisor Rice expanded her public service work as an aide to former Marin County Supervisor Hal Brown. Her connections throughout the greater Ross Valley community made her an important asset to Supervisor Brown. After helping him win reelection, he chose Supervisor Rice to lead his office as Chief Aide, a role she held for eight years. When Supervisor Brown was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2011, she was appointed to his seat by Governor Jerry Brown. She was then officially selected by voters in 2012, 2016, and 2020.