

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, 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.

Supervisor Rice is known for her critical thinking skills and professional style, always applying informed decision making and attention to the concerns of her constituents. She doesn't shy away from complicated issues. She has taken lead roles in a multitude of initiatives, including flooding in Ross Valley and developed a keen understanding of how to work with agency partners such as the United States Army Corp of Engineers.

Always steadfast in her values to protect our vulnerable communities, she was largely responsible for the completion of major projects including Project Homekey, permanent supportive housing in Larkspur, and the establishment of the Marin Wildfire Protection Authority, which organizes countywide wildfire prevention and preparedness efforts.

It was my privilege and honor to work with Supervisor Rice. She is not afraid to rise to the occasion and embrace complex challenges from mitigating sea-level rise and greenhouse gas admissions to improving community health and reducing homelessness. I appreciate her collaborative leadership style, strong work ethic, and wit.

Mr. Speaker, Katie Rice was a tireless advocate for Marin County and her legacy cannot be overstated. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing my sincere gratitude for her decades of good work and in sending her best wishes on her next endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING THE PATRIOTISM OF JORDAN RAMIREZ

##### HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the patriotism of Jordan Ramirez.

Jordan Ramirez resides in La Puente with his parents and older sister. He and his family started participating in 5K races when Jordan was 4. Their first race was at Disneyland, where Jordan dressed up as Captain America because he loved superheroes and would often talk about showing support for firefighters, police and military members.

Jordan broke a world record by doing seven marathons in seven continents by the age of 10. As he's gotten older, Jordan's mindset about showing his support to military and first responders has remained the same. When races were canceled due to the pandemic, Jordan found the walks to be another way to express that support.

When Jordan first began his appreciation walks in September 2020, his father, Dimas Ramirez, created an Instagram account to document the journey, called "thankyouforyourservicewalk."

The account has connected Jordan with many of the departments they have honored, and continues to be a means for other first responder departments' requests to build morale.

Jordan's purpose behind the walks is twofold: to thank first responders for their service,

and to show appreciation and respect for what they do. The walks are different from the marathons he's run because with those, he would "usually just run for the fun of it, but the walks . . . it's doing something else for our military and first responders."

Most of these walks are in southern California, but the walks have also taken him to San Francisco, New York City, and Washington, D.C.

Jordan is currently a high school sophomore and working on his next goals: earning a nomination to the Naval Academy to become an officer in the Marine Corps and then to become a firefighter.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible contributions and patriotism of Jordan Ramirez.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVID WINNACKER

##### HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Winnacker as he retires from his role as Chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

David has worked tirelessly to promote public safety and improve quality of life for residents of the East Bay. David served with the Fresno Fire Department and Alameda Fire District before joining the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) in 2017. David also served in the Marine Corps and remains in the Marine Corps Reserves. He has earned the rank of Colonel, serving as the Commanding Officer for the Fourth Reconnaissance Company and as the Deputy Commander of the Twenty-Third Marine Regiment.

During his time with MOFD, David has shown his dedication to mitigating wildfire risk and making our community safer. Under his leadership, MOFD developed a strategic plan to implement early warning systems and provide real-time fire spread modeling. He has worked to expand MOFD's outreach to the community, providing critical education and resources to property owners to implement fuels mitigation techniques at their homes. Further, he has worked collaboratively with local elected officials, insurance industry representatives, and other key stakeholders to improve emergency preparedness throughout the fire district. David's efforts have been critical in reducing wildfire risk and keeping residents safe.

Please join me in congratulating Chief Winnacker on his well-deserved retirement after years of outstanding service.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF MARK ROSS

##### HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative JOHN GARAMENDI to

recognize Mark Ross as he retires from his role with the Martinez City Council.

Throughout his life, Mark has been a strong advocate for the City of Martinez in California and has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Contra Costa residents. Mark grew up in Martinez, attending Alhambra High School, and earned his degree in English Literature from UC Berkeley. He went on to start Ross Company Realtors where he has helped guide clients through Contra Costa's real estate market for the last 30 years.

Mark has been a devoted public servant and has continually shown his commitment to Martinez residents. He has served on the Martinez City Council since 1996 where he has been critical in fostering a strong sense of community throughout the City. During his time on Council, he has worked to improve public safety, bolster Martinez's historic downtown, and protect Martinez's open spaces and environment. Further, Mark has spent much of his time focusing on California's environment. He played a critical role in the Alhambra Creek Restoration Project, which has helped to protect the watershed and native plant life. Additionally, Mark has served as a Director on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) board since 2001, where he has worked on reducing emissions, supporting the health and safety of Bay Area residents, and leading regional efforts to address the challenges associated with climate change.

Please join me and Representative GARAMENDI in thanking Mark Ross for his many contributions to our region and in congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.