

women by connecting them to critical feminine hygiene kits that will carry them through their monthly cycle. To date, Project Lioness has distributed over 1,000 hygiene kits stocked with panty liners, feminine napkins, tampons, and wipes. To date, Street Team Movement has washed over 30,000 loads of laundry, provided over 500 haircuts, and has given out over one million hygiene items. Since launching the hygiene vending machines in 2020, Street Team Movement has given out over 5,000 hygiene kits in five States.

On February 22, 2024, Briana Daniel was honored as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Black History Month.

#### HONORING CLAY FIRE TERRITORY CHIEF TIMM SCHABEL'S CAREER IN SERVANT LEADERSHIP

### HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 23, 2024*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Chief Timm Schabbel, who recently retired as Fire Chief of the Clay Fire Territory in South Bend, Indiana, after 35 impressive years with the department.

During his nearly four decades in public safety, Timm has served in different roles within the fire department, including as a firefighter, Engineer, Lieutenant, Chief of Operations, and Fire Chief. Timm was promoted to Fire Chief in 1997, making him the longest tenured chief officer in the agency's 75-year history.

Under Chief Schabbel's leadership, Clay Fire became the first internationally accredited fire department in Indiana. In addition, Clay Fire also expanded under Chief Schabbel's tenure, essentially tripling the area the department covers. These achievements were only possible thanks to Timm's vision and determination.

The many awards and accolades he has received over the years—including Firefighter of the Year from Clay Township, Fire Chief of the Year from the state of Indiana, the President's Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Sagamore of the Wabash award—are all a testament to Timm's commitment to excellence and an accomplished career spent in the service to others.

The broader South Bend community and St. Joseph County are unquestionably better off and safer thanks to this good man who exemplifies what it means to be a leader and a true public servant.

Timm's example and leadership are also reminders that first responders are on the frontlines of some of the most difficult situations our communities face. When there is a problem, first responders like Timm answer the call and willingly put themselves in harm's way to keep us safe, and for that all of us are extremely grateful.

I am proud to join so many Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second District in expressing our appreciation to Chief Schabbel for his service and in wishing him and his family all the best going forward during Timm's very well-deserved retirement. I thank Timm.

#### CELEBRATING THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOSOVO'S INDEPENDENCE

### HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 23, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kosovo's Independence Day on February 17th. This date marks 16 years since Kosovo declared independence in 2008 after enduring years of conflict. Kosovo has since emerged as an independent democratic nation and today is one of the most valuable allies of the American people.

In celebrating this occasion, I also celebrate the many Albanian-Americans who have made Michigan their home. Our community continues to grow and foster immense cultural, economic, and creative growth throughout the State of Michigan. These families embody the values of freedom and democracy that represent the American Dream.

Historically, Michigan itself has played a substantial—and proud—role in Kosovo's road to stability and democracy through the deployment of Michigan National Guard units to the region as peacekeeping forces.

I am delighted to honor the independence of Kosovo alongside the vibrant and ever-growing Albanian-American community that calls Michigan its home. Kosovo's remarkable transition into sovereignty, alongside our state's everlasting bonds with the Albanian-American people, represents the power of democracy both at home and abroad. The shared principles between our two nations truly represent the ideals that have turned our connection into economic prowess, shared defense, and international cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in commemorating this wonderful occasion. Kosovo's Independence Day allows us to reflect not only on the meaning of freedom, but also the Albanian-American contributions throughout Michigan's Ninth District and the entire state.

#### RECOGNIZING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO CADEN LEONARD

### HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 23, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Caden Leonard. As a sophomore at Southlake Carroll High School, Caden has made waves in the cross-country world. After winning the Class 6A individual state title and leading the Dragons to the 6A team championship, he went on to lift his team to a bronze medal at the Nike Cross Nationals (NXN) final. In qualifying for the NXN, he clocked a personal best, walking away with bronze and First Team All-Region recognition at Nike Cross Regionals South.

Not only is Caden an exceptional athlete, he's also a servant in the community, volunteering with the Young Men's Service League, the local branch of the Special Olympics, and serving in youth ministry at White's Chapel Methodist Church. Caden's dedication to aca-

demics, athletics, and public service led Gatorade to name him as Texas' 2024 Boys Cross Country Player of the Year.

Congratulations to Caden on his incredible accomplishments and well-deserved recognition. I look forward to following his cross-country career and cheering him on.

#### CONDEMNING RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY HAMAS IN ITS WAR AGAINST ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, on February 14, during Roll Call No. 44, I recorded my vote as Present. The reason for my vote is as follows:

All acts of sexual violence are horrific. We should all be fighting to end it here at home and all over the world.

So, while this resolution rightly denounces any sexual committed by Hamas, I am disturbed that it completely ignores and erases any sexual abuse and violence committed by Israeli forces against Palestinians, especially children.

War crimes cannot justify more war crimes. We must stand up for everyone's safety and human rights, no matter their faith or ethnicity.

There are numerous, well-documented reports of sexual violence, including rape, committed by Israeli forces against Palestinians in their custody. Children detained and stripped to their underwear in public, for the world to see.

The UN and human rights groups have raised alarms for years—but Congress has never cared.

We all have a responsibility to denounce sexual violence in all forms, regardless of who is responsible. This resolution falls well short of that responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, outreach was made to the sponsor of H. Res. 966 on several occasions to support the inclusion of Palestinians who had been victims of sexual violence into the Resolution. However, the sponsor denied adding in any language that supports the well-documented fact that Palestinians have faced many atrocities similar to those described in the Resolution. Sexual violence is abhorrent and must be fully investigated and prosecuted. The intentional omission of Palestinian lived experiences in this resolution is dehumanizing and a disservice to survivors everywhere.

#### HONORING YOKEENBA JENKINS AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 23, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Yokeenba Jenkins was born and raised in Osceola County, where he attended elementary, middle, and high school, graduating from Osceola High School.

He spent his college years at Bethune Cookman University. Following his college years, Yokeenba found his passion for music, becoming one of the biggest DJs in the urban industry.

When he was not on tour, he would spend his time coaching youth football at the age of 18 and volunteering his time at Chambers Park, where he is now a recreation supervisor.

Yokeenba is a child of God, husband, father, mentor, community spokesperson, and leader. Yokeenba is a person with a passion for shaping the youth in his community. He is hard working, dependable, has great energy, and has a drive to see his programs succeed. He is always willing to help out wherever needed and assist his fellow co-workers, family, and community in any way possible.

He is a dedicated individual who displays an enormous sense of pride in his daily work. Since taking on his role at the Chambers Park Community Center, he has been instrumental in creating some well attended recreation programs while maintaining a successful summer camp program where a large portion of the community benefits from. In addition, he has organized essential events that promote fellowship within the community, such as Breakfast with Santa, Daddy and Daughter Dance, and Back to School Jam, among others.

He has done an excellent job of stepping right into the role and ensuring its continued success. He is an excellent team player and works very well with diverse populations of families, participants, employees, and co-workers who visit his facility daily. He is a capable and independent leader who takes pride in being an active member of the Kissimmee community.

On February 22, 2024, Yokeenba Jenkins was honored as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Black History Month.

#### RECOGNIZING ALEXA BARTELL

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 23, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of 20-year-old Alexa Bartell from Arvada, Colorado.

Alexa's friends and family knew her as an outgoing, compassionate, and energetic young woman, saying she could light up the room with her infectious personality. She loved basketball, music, and connecting with others. Tragically, Alexa's life was cut short in April of 2023 by an act of reckless endangerment when she was driving near her hometown. Everyone who was fortunate to meet Alexa could see how intelligent, funny, and kind she was, and this tragedy took away her bright future.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, we honor the life of Alexa Bartell and continue to send support and love to her family and friends. In remembering Alexa, we not only mourn her passing, but also celebrate the joy and warmth she brought into the lives of those around her.

#### RECOGNIZING RARE DISEASE DAY

### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 23, 2024*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rare Disease Day on February 29, 2024. According to the Federal Drug Administration, over 7,000 rare diseases affect more than 30 million people in the United States. That's nearly one in every ten Americans.

The National Institutes of Health recognizes more than 7,000 rare diseases. Of those 7,000 plus diseases approximately 95 percent have no treatment. Instead, many patients receive treatments that are not approved by the FDA for their specific conditions. This treatment process can lead to patients experiencing difficulty with insurance reimbursements. All Americans deserve quality access to affordable health care, and we must do more to assist our fellow Americans with rare diseases in reaching these standards.

Rare diseases not only have a debilitating impact on the individuals affected but also the families and loved ones who support them. On average, individuals with rare diseases do not receive an accurate diagnosis for more than four and a half years, in addition to difficulty in finding medical experts and treatments for their conditions. This leaves patients, families, and caregivers waiting indefinitely for diagnoses, treatments, and additional support for indefinite periods of time.

Rare Disease Day is a significant step in increasing public awareness and encouraging funding for research into these conditions. It is critical that Congress continue to partner with patients, advocates, scientists, and health care employees to seek solutions that will prioritize public funding for the health, wellness, and treatment for all those impacted by rare medical conditions.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to commemorate this important day and remind my fellow Americans to recognize those impacted by rare diseases, in addition to the medical professionals committed to finding treatments for them.

#### COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND THE ERTEGUN BROTHERS

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 23, 2024*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Black History Month, a time dedicated to recognizing the contributions of African Americans to the rich tapestry of American history. This month serves as an opportunity to reflect on the achievements, struggles, and enduring resilience of the Black community.

One noteworthy aspect of Black history that deserves recognition is the profound impact of African Americans on the world of music, particularly in the realm of jazz. Jazz, born from the African American experience, has become a universal language, transcending borders

and connecting people from diverse backgrounds. It is a powerful expression of creativity, resilience, and cultural richness.

In this context, I'd like to emphasize the significant partnership of the Turkish Embassy and the Ertegun brothers. Sons of Turkey's first ambassador to the United States, Ahmet and Nesuhi believed in the power of music to bring people together. Beginning in 1940, musicians such as Duke Ellington, Johnny Hodges, "Lead Belly," Teddy Wilson, Lester Young, and members of the Benny Goodman, Ellington and Count Basie orchestras performed at the Turkish Embassy. Their father insisted that in the embassy, all, regardless of color, be treated with dignity and respect.

As co-founders of Atlantic Records, the Ertegun brothers were instrumental in bringing together artists from different backgrounds, breaking down racial and cultural barriers in the world of music. Ahmet traveled to New Orleans and Harlem to sign the greatest black musicians of the time, including Stick McGhee, The Harlemaires, and The Drifters. In the 1960s, Atlantic Records, often in partnerships with local labels like Stax Records in Memphis, helped to develop the growth of soul music, with artists such as Ben E. King, Solomon Burke, Otis Redding, Sam and Dave, Percy Sledge, Aretha Franklin, and Wilson Pickett.

The Turkish Embassy's commitment to hosting these jam sessions exemplifies the importance of cultural diplomacy and the unifying power of music. Through these events, artists of diverse backgrounds, including African American musicians, have had the opportunity to showcase their talents, bridging cultural gaps and promoting understanding.

As we commemorate Black History Month, let us go beyond celebrating the achievements of the past but also recognize the importance of continued collaboration and dialogue to build a more harmonious future. The blending of Black history and jazz, coupled with the dedicated endeavors of entities such as the Turkish Embassy and the Ertegun brothers, stands as a powerful tribute to the transformative potential of cultural interchange and the unifying power of music.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the significance of Black History Month, celebrating the contributions of African Americans to the arts and culture, and recognizing the positive impact of initiatives like the Turkish Embassy-hosted jam sessions in fostering unity and understanding.

#### HONORING ABIGAIL ELLIS AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 23, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Abigail Ellis is currently a registered mental health counselor intern, a devoted mental health advocate, a mentor, and an educator. She is steadfast in her commitment to effecting positive change in her community.

Raised in Moore Haven, Florida, she developed a passion for community service early on—learning from her grandmother, Ida M.