

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAVERSE CITY LIBRARY WOODMERE BRANCH

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Traverse City Library for 25 years of service to the Traverse City community.

Since 1999, the Main Library on Woodmere has hosted hundreds of positive initiatives, charity events, and educational opportunities for the community. Originally founded by the Ladies Library Association in 1869, the Main Library was housed in numerous locations before finding its current home. Along with the Main Library on Woodmere, the library system has grown to include the East Bay Branch Library, Kingsley Branch Library, and three member libraries: Fife Lake Public Library, Interlochen Public Library, and Peninsula Community Library. For 155 years, the city library has served as an integral space in the Traverse City community.

The Traverse Area District Library (TADL) was established in 1983, when voters ratified its establishment and approved an operational millage. It's thanks to the people of Traverse City who voted to establish TADL in the 1980s that Traverse City has its current main branch library building on Woodmere Avenue.

The library has spaces for all occasions—from reading on the spacious front porch or curling up with a novel by the cozy stone fireplace. Visitors can also utilize the vast multimedia space and learn from the library's local history collection. For the younger audiences, the library has a dedicated children's section and many educational events.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Woodmere Branch of TADL for an immensely successful 25 years of service. I wish the library and its staff all the best in their future endeavors.

LESLIE GUTIERREZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leslie Gutierrez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Leslie has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Leslie, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Leslie's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Leslie Gutierrez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HIGHLIGHTING CHARLES HULL'S NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles Hull, a constituent who truly embodies the American ideals of innovation and exploration. As an inventor and scientist, Mr. Hull has dedicated his life to the creation of technology that would be useful to his fellow creators.

Mr. Hull is no stranger to trailblazing. His greatest invention, the 3-D printer, came in 1983 and he co-founded the world's first 3-D printing company, 3-D Systems, just three years later. In 1987, 3-D Systems introduced the world to the stereolithographic apparatus machine, which produced more detailed products faster than ever before. The innovation didn't stop there, though, as Mr. Hull is also known as the godfather of the rapid prototyping movement. This movement focuses on utilizing technology, such as 3-D printers, to deliver one-of-a-kind pieces quickly so that inventors and scientists can focus their time on discovery. For these reasons, Charles Hull was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014 and more recently recognized by President Biden with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. This recognition is extraordinary and couldn't be more well-deserved.

I want to thank Mr. Hull for his persistence and dedication to his trade. Our community is better because of him, and I look forward to hearing of his next innovation.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN SELLERS

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2023 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Kevin Sellers, Colonel, United States Air Force, of Grapevine, Texas for the honorable service he performed while in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Mr. Sellers was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force in 1995, serving as an acquisitions and material officer, with deployments to both Afghanistan and Iraq as part of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, respectively. His decorations include the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Meritorious Unit Award, the AF Outstanding Unit Award with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with one Service Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with one Service Star, the Global War

On Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, the Overseas Ribbon, the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Longevity Service with six Oak Leaf Clusters, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Pistol), and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

The selflessness Mr. Sellers demonstrated in the U.S. Air Force continues with his service to his community. He currently serves as a Tarrant County Precinct Chair, the Service Officer for the Grapevine Rotary Club as well as a member of its Foundation Board, and the Commander of the Airport Cities Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 10454 in Grapevine.

Mr. Sellers' service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Air Force and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE BETHANY REPUBLICAN-CLIPPER ON 150 YEARS OF PUBLICATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Bethany Republican-Clipper of Bethany, Missouri, on celebrating its 150th anniversary. The Republican-Clipper has carried on the tradition of delivering local and national news to the residents of Northwest Missouri for over a century.

The Republican-Clipper was born out of the consolidation of two local newspapers in Harrison County; the Bethany Republican, founded in 1873, and the Bethany Clipper, founded in 1905. The papers were purchased and merged by Erwin C. Conger in 1929. The Republican-Clipper is the legacy of a strong journalism history in Harrison County, which at one time had at least 10 news publications, and is considered the longest running business in Harrison County.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating the Bethany Republican-Clipper on 150 years of publication. This newspaper has been keeping the people of Harrison County, Northwest Missouri, and well beyond informed for over a century. I am proud to have such a dedicated publication in the Sixth Congressional District.

MARIANA MICHELLE DAVILA
ROJAS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mariana Michelle Davila Rojas for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Mariana Michelle has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Mariana Michelle, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic

that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Mariana Michelle's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Mariana Michelle Davila Rojas on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

OUTSTANDING TEXAS DISTRICT 8
NATIVE, MICHAEL BISHOP

HON. MORGAN LUTTRELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding District 8 citizen, native of Willis, Texas, and star for the Kansas State Wildcats, Mr. Michael Bishop. It is my privilege to stand before you and pay tribute to Mr. Bishop, as he has now become the fourth Kansas State player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

Mr. Bishop attended Willis High School, my alma mater, and shined on their football team. He then went to Blinn Junior College where his team won two NJCAA championships. After that, he continued his collegiate football career in the Big 12 as a Kansas State University Wildcat. Michael then went on to have a career in the NFL, the CFL, and the Arena Football League.

On December 5, 2023, Mr. Bishop was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame for his many accomplishments. He was widely regarded as the best all-around quarterback in Kansas State history, with an overall 22-3 record and a total of 34 school records, and fourteen Big 12 records. He threw for over 4,400 yards, ran for over 1,300 yards, and totaled 59 touchdowns (39 passing) during his two-year tenure in Manhattan, Kansas. He currently holds eight K-State records and was inducted into the Kansas State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016.

Mr. Bishop is now the head football coach at Legacy School of Sport Sciences in the Houston area, as well as the CEO of 4th Quarter Fitness. He continues to be a regular volunteer for youth football, and basketball teams. He also participates in Toys for Tots, Habitat for Humanity, and numerous activities with the Boys and Girls Club. As a fellow Willis High School graduate, I am proud of Mr. Bishop in all that he has accomplished, and the wonderful citizen that he continues to be in his community.

CONGRATULATING THE ORDER OF
THE POLKA DOTS

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Order of the Polka Dots, the first ladies' organization to parade in Mobile, Alabama. Despite others' claims, the very first Mardi Gras was held in Mobile in 1703.

Since then, the city has been the center of celebration with parades and parties, drawing

approximately one million people each year. The Order of the Polka Dots was started by a group of 20 women in 1949 and has now grown to include 480 members. This year, Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson is naming February 1st, "Polka Dot Day," in their honor. Mardi Gras in Mobile is one of my favorite traditions. It is a time where families and friends gather for parades, colorful floats, and flying Moon Pies. Congratulations to the Order of the Polka Dots on their 75th year anniversary. I am proud to commemorate this special day in the history of their organization.

MAXIE ALEXANDER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maxie Alexander for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Maxie has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Maxie, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Maxie's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Maxie Alexander on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING KENNETH HARDING
WALLS III LIFE AND SERVICE TO
HIS COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Superintendent Kenneth H. Walls III and to grieve his passing. A dedicated public servant, his devotion to his community, state, and Nation is worthy of remembrance and commendation.

Superintendent Walls was born in 1977 in Ypsilanti and graduated from Ypsilanti High School. He showed his spirit at an early age, delivering his first service at the age of three at the former Wells Temple Church of God in Ann Arbor, where his grandfather, Esque Wells, Sr., served as Pastor. He was licensed as a Minister at the age of seven, making history in Michigan as the youngest licensed Minister in the Prelate of Michigan Southwest Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

At the age of 21, Superintendent Walls was ordained as an Elder in the Church of God in Christ, later becoming an Assistant Pastor at the Greater Shiloh Church of God in Christ. While there, Superintendent Walls filled many roles for the church, including District Youth President, National Adjutant in the Church of God in Christ, and Chief Adjutant for the Great Lakes Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. He was finally blessed with a Pastorsip in 2019 when he founded Dunamis Institutional Church of God in Christ in Ypsilanti.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating and honoring the life and service of Kenneth H. Walls III. A leader in his community and a friend to many, his presence will be greatly missed but not forgotten. His memory lives on in his mother, Shirley, and his family. We offer them prayers of solace in this difficult time, and thank them for sharing their son, brother, and uncle with us. He made our corner of Michigan a better and more welcoming place for all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. JOE SOBOTA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Joe Sobota. Over the course of his career, Joe spent over 40 years in public service primarily advocating for the best interests of American small businesses. Joe worked under four different chairs of the House Small Business Committee from 1978 to 1998. While working on the committee, he gained a reputation for his consummate professionalism and exhaustive knowledge of Small Business Administration programs. Joe had a wide range of responsibilities, including SBA oversight and budget activities, acting as liaison between the agency's authorizing and appropriations chairs, and serving as the committee's expert on disaster assistance issues. As the top Democrat on the committee for over two decades, I know just how vital the work of staffers like Joe is and recognize his positive impact on American entrepreneurs during his time in the House.

After leaving Congress, Joe joined the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy in March 1998. At Advocacy, his primary responsibility was addressing the issues facing millions of veteran entrepreneurs nationwide. He has a great deal of reverence for veterans who continued to serve their communities by starting a small business, and it showed in his work. Much of Joe's tenure at Advocacy was dedicated to overseeing the implementation of the landmark Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999. His work to help achieve the goals of this vital legislation helped provide much needed counseling and training to millions of veteran small business owners across the country.

Colleagues in government will remember Joe as a dedicated public servant whose work on behalf of small businesses helped support the dreams of countless American entrepreneurs. His impact and commitment to small businesses will not be soon forgotten. My thoughts are with his family and all who were fortunate enough to know him. May he rest in peace.

CELEBRATING KOREAN AMERICAN
DAY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Korean American Day, celebrated