

educational and emotional development of more than 1,500 students, as well as provided over 58 million dollars in tuition assistance for families pursuing education with private, competitive programs. Director Adusei's influence has also extended beyond the classroom: her work as an author and creative have led to the founding of Latinx Pitch and Black Creators HQ, a platform that provides resources and support for Black and Latinx authors and illustrators looking to bring diversity into children's literature. She is also a published author, with many of her books highlighting parts of her own identity and experience. Director Adusei's initiatives amplify underrepresented voices and have helped positively shape the world of children's literature.

Denise Rosario Adusei's life is a testament to the transformative power of community, education, and cultural heritage. Her multifaceted background and educational pedigree serve as the bedrock for her remarkable career, and her dedication to building up community around the youth has shaped many young lives. I am thrilled she is part of the Bronx community and am excited to continue watching her amazing work.

RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER  
GENERAL FRED A. HOCKETT, JR.

### HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Promotable Fred A. Hockett, Jr., a constituent of Michigan's 13th District, on his promotion to Brigadier General in the United States Army Reserve.

His military career started in 1987 as an Army Reserve Infantryman with the 70th Division. He later transitioned to active duty with the 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, Colorado. After attending the United States Military Academy Prep School and the United States Military Academy at West Point, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. Serving in various leadership, command, and staff positions, he currently serves as the Deputy Commanding Officer for Support for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Colonel Promotable Hockett has been recognized for distinguished performance of duty that represents exemplary achievement in the finest traditions of the United States of America.

Throughout his career, his leadership has positively impacted the lives of countless service members. There is no doubt that his service and achievements will have a lasting impact on the Army's future ability to protect and defend the freedoms guaranteed by the United States Constitution. I am humbled to offer him the thanks and congratulations of a grateful Nation.

### WAKING UP TO THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP FOR MENTAL HEALTH

### HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, as our nation confronts political chaos, the civilizational emergency of climate change, and existential threats to our democracy, I have found myself unable to sleep. This is an experience that it turns out I share with millions of Americans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found that more than one third of all adults in the United States sleep fewer than the clinically recommended seven hours per night. As we mark Sleep Awareness Week, recognized this year by the National Sleep Foundation between March 10–16, we must elevate the importance of sleep health to our mental and physical health and confront the sleep disparities that closely correspond to racial and socioeconomic inequalities.

Sleep quality, it turns out, has been causally linked to mental health. Researchers from Keele University and the University of Sheffield found that greater improvements in sleep quality led to greater improvements in mental health. Though we have progressed by leaps and bounds in our society's discourse on mental health, we have yet to sufficiently emphasize the links between getting enough sleep and feeling mentally well.

The call to "get more sleep" is a tall order for many Americans, especially in light of the social disparities that already affect sleep health for so many. African Americans are 65 percent more likely and Hispanic Americans are 59 percent more likely to report poor sleep quality than white Americans, even though all groups report a similar ease in falling asleep. Americans who earn enough to make ends meet are much more likely to report a good night's sleep than people who are struggling to get by and living paycheck to paycheck. Closing these divides and achieving sleep equity must be one of our national public health priorities.

Our nationwide quest to get a good night's sleep is inextricable from our work for a more democratic society, where we want everyone to be fully functional and participatory. We need well-rested citizens who can participate and govern themselves, their families, and their communities. Our struggle to create the conditions for a peaceful night's sleep is as much a societal imperative as an individual question. During this National Sleep Awareness Week, we must commit to the fundamental importance of a good night's rest for all Americans.

### RECOGNIZING THE 2024 FAIRFAX COUNTY STUDENT PEACE AWARD RECIPIENTS

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2024 Fairfax County Student Peace Awards.

The Fairfax County Student Peace Awards began with one high school in 2006 to encour-

age high school-aged students to think about peace as both a means and an end, and to recognize young people who work as peacemakers. By 2013, the program was being offered in every public high school in Fairfax County, as well as in many private schools.

Participating high schools choose one Junior or Senior, or one student group active in promoting peace or removing the causes of conflict. Examples of outreach include committing to peace by engaging in activities that strive to end conflict, either locally or globally, promoting the understanding of divisive issues and situations to bridge differences, and working to resolve conflicts among students or members of the community who feel isolated or alienated.

I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of this year's Student Peace Award winners:

Husna Basiri, Annandale High School  
Level the Field, Centreville High School  
Ria Jakhete, Chantilly High School  
Edison Minds Matter, Edison High School  
Tranh Dinh, Fairfax High School  
Hiena Hailemariam, Falls Church High School  
Ajanae Elise Massenburg, Hayfield Secondary School  
Susy Reyes, Herndon High School  
Dalya Paka, Justice High School  
Jenna Naffa, King Abdullah Academy (KAA)  
Mackenzie Craig, Lake Braddock Secondary School  
Lina Liakakos, Langley High School  
Daniel J. Gonzales, John. R. Lewis High School  
Sophie Massoudi, Madison High School  
Aymar Ahmed, Marshall High School  
Kaiya Amani Williams, McLean High School  
Phillip Ha, Mount Vernon High School  
Mountain View Mirror, Mountain View High School  
Jason Saenz-Hernandez, Quander Road School  
Samantha Katz, Robinson Secondary School  
Eden Aklog, South County High School  
Virginia Banton, South Lakes High School  
Namaste, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology  
Eli Kopp, West Potomac High School  
Roee Zahid, West Springfield High School  
Westfield Student Ambassadors, Westfield High School  
National Art Honor Society, Woodson High School  
Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these young people are the building blocks of a more peaceful and tolerant world. I commend them on their efforts and dedication and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each award recipient and thanking them as well as Fairfax County Public School System and sponsor organizations for all they have done for our community.

### RECOGNIZING ASHA MCKENZIE

### HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, in an era defined by the relentless flow of information and never-before-seen levels of interconnectedness, some of the people we rely

most upon are our journalists. Their dedication to bringing the truth to light, to fostering public discourse and to accuracy and integrity in their reporting is what makes their role that much more pivotal. News 12 anchor and reporter Asha McKenzie embodies these qualities, and I want to recognize her during this Women's History Month.

An Emmy and Associated award-winning journalist, Asha has spent a decade in service to New York, including eight years spent in our own Bronx community, where she dedicated herself to being a voice for the voiceless. Her dedication has helped ensure that quality, fact-based reporting remains accessible to the wider public, and this effort has absolutely aided New Yorkers in staying informed and up to date on the most pressing issues we face. Her commitment to amplifying marginalized voices is admirable, and a trait we should hope to see within more of our media personalities.

Asha's work has centered primarily around providing coverage on pressing social issues. Her award-winning documentary, "No Blind Eye", is a necessary deep dive into the reality of bullying and school violence, a threat so many of our young people sadly face. Her report on the Bronx-based startup "Health in Her H.U.E.", an organization dedicated to ending the racial disparity in healthcare, brought critical attention and awareness to this pressing problem and brought a potential solution to many New Yorkers. Asha leads by example, and her empathetic and insightful contributions have served as a cornerstone for journalistic integrity in her field.

Asha's passion for change and belief that everybody's voice must be heard have made her a leader and icon in our community. I look forward to seeing more of her phenomenal work and cheer her on as she continues to mentor and inspire the youth across New York.

#### HONORING LINDA MALLON

#### HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Mallon on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of the New Hampshire Office of the Public Guardian.

Linda has long been at the forefront of providing guardianship and advocating for individuals who experience intellectual, cognitive, and mental health challenges. Her hard work and dedication helped develop the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) from a small group in a borrowed space to a team of over fifty people serving over 1,200 incapacitated adults. From creating standard policies and procedures to budgeting and outreach, Linda fulfilled many different roles to support the office's work and help those in need.

I commend Linda on her retirement after 40 years with the OPG and her unwavering dedication and commitment to helping individuals who face these complex health challenges. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Linda for her many years of service and for being a part of what makes the Granite State great. I am honored to recognize and congratulate

Linda on her retirement, and wish her the best of luck in the years ahead.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on Friday, March 8, 2024, I was unavoidably detained and missed a Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 73.

#### REINTRODUCTION OF THE BIOMASS FOR TRANSPORTATION FUEL ACT

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Biomass for Transportation Fuel Act," formerly titled the "Biomass and Biogas for Electric Vehicles Act" last Congress. I thank U.S. Senators ANGUS S. KING, Jr. (I-ME) and JEANNE SHAHEEN (D-NH) for sponsoring the companion bill and Congressman JARED F. GOLDEN (D-ME) for cosponsoring my House bill.

In passing the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140), Congress made electricity from renewable biomass—including biogas and waste-to-energy from feedstocks such as separated yard or food waste—eligible under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Despite years of Congressional urging, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has yet to approve a single biomass electricity facility under the program. Some applications for biomass electricity—known as "pathway petitions" under the RFS program—have been pending now for nearly 10 years.

Current law and USEPA regulations already define "renewable biomass" to include biogas, namely methane captured from livestock and agricultural byproducts, food waste, or residential yard waste. As such, our bicameral bill complements the significant investments California is making under the state's successful Dairy Digester Research and Development Program.

Currently, the USEPA requires facilities to prove with near-perfect traceability that the electricity generated is used as a transportation fuel to participate in the RFS program. Most renewable biomass facilities are selling electricity into the grid and, therefore, cannot prove definitively that each electron generated is used exclusively by electric vehicles.

The "Biomass for Transportation Fuel Act" would enable biomass facilities generating renewable electricity to finally participate in the RFS program. Instead of requiring that biomass facilities meet the impossible task of proving that the electricity generated and sold into the grid is used directly as a transportation fuel, our bill directs the USEPA to finalize the long-overdue federal regulations necessary for renewable biomass electricity producers to participate in the RFS program.

Our bill would also authorize USEPA to collect a reasonable fee from industry to cover the costs of reviewing any applications for renewable electricity submitted under the RFS program. In a 2016 "advance notice of proposed rulemaking," the USEPA cited inadequate agency resources as a major impediment to approval of renewable electricity under the RFS program. The USEPA could waive these application fees for municipally or tribally owned biomass facilities under our bill. This fee-for-service model is based on the USEPA's regulatory regime under the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2003 (title V of Public Law 108-199), which is widely regarded as successful and enjoys broad-based support in Congress.

Lastly, our bill would make biomass from federal forestlands eligible under the RFS. Current law only allows biomass collected from non-federal lands, including privately-owned land, state- or locally-owned public lands, and tribal land held in trust by the federal government, to qualify as renewable biomass under the RFS. This restriction is arbitrary and hampers market-driven incentives to reduce the overload of hazardous fuels for wildfires on our National Forests and other federal forestlands. However, I want to be clear that our bill would not open federal forestland to timber harvests or commercial hazardous fuels removal where such activities are prohibited currently.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to cosponsor the "Biomass for Transportation Fuel Act." As California and other western states face increasingly severe and year-round fire seasons due to the climate crisis, we must create a market for forest byproducts to incentivize commonsense hazardous fuels reduction. Renewable electricity from biomass also helps to reduce our nation's greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a clean energy economy. While these measures alone will not solve the climate crisis or prevent all catastrophic wildfires, they are undoubtedly part of the solution.

#### RECOGNIZING SUREY I. MIRANDA-ALARCÓN

#### HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, to celebrate Women's History Month, I want to highlight the life and work of Surey I. Miranda-Alarcón. Born in Puerto Rico in 1989, Surey Miranda-Alarcón would grow into a passionate community organizer and equal-opportunity policy advocate across her home island and within the Bronx. She was educated in public schools in Hatillo, Camuy and Lares, then later earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's in economics from The New School in New York City. Surey began a career in public policy while still in university, working in both the United States House of Representatives and the Puerto Rico House of Representatives.

Surey's upbringing would continue to inform and influence her work: while living in New York, she played an integral role in forming a coalition dedicated to supporting beneficial initiatives for Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans living in the United States. She is the founder