

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

and President of Diaspora for Puerto Rico, which aided at-risk Puerto Ricans arriving in New York after the devastation of Hurricane Maria. She later worked in the New York Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the New York City Commission on Human Rights, and the Mayor's Community Affairs Office under former Mayor Bill De Blasio. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Surey worked to ensure that resources and information made their way through all of New York's communities, dedicating the strenuous years of the pandemic to aiding her fellow New Yorkers through distributing more than three million vaccines and PPE within the Bronx. Our community had one of the highest rates of hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19, making her work essential.

Her dedication and ambition continue to inspire students to greater heights: she currently serves as a professor of economics at the State University of New York and works as the Director of Campus and Community Engagement at Fordham University. Her work at Fordham has centered around fostering initiatives and partnerships with neighboring communities, and under her leadership, Fordham University received a \$50 million dollar grant that will go towards aiding communities in New York and Puerto Rico affected by climate change. Surey's work will positively impact communities in both New York and Puerto Rico for generations to come, and her dedication to community outreach and influential, impactful policy makes her an inspiration to many.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MR. GARY NELSON

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gary Nelson for his many years of public service to our community as he enters his retirement. As the Executive Director of the Port of Grays Harbor for nearly 24 years, Mr. Nelson has demonstrated unparalleled leadership and advocacy for the Grays Harbor community.

Mr. Nelson joined the Port of Grays Harbor in 2000, when there were only 21 vessel calls handling 85,000 tons of cargo. When Mr. Nelson stepped into leadership, the Port of Grays Harbor, like many other communities in my district, had fallen on hard times when the timber industry took it on the chin. Some folks feared that good things couldn't happen in Grays Harbor County anymore.

But not Gary. Under his visionary leadership over the last 24 years, the number of vessel calls increased nearly 500 percent, and the number of metric tons of cargo was up over 3 million in 2023.

During his tenure at the Port of Grays Harbor, Mr. Nelson oversaw the diversification of the Port's revenue streams and business ventures. This includes the operations at Satsop Business Park and recreational facilities at Friends Landing. He oversaw more than \$275 million in private investment throughout Port facilities, as well as millions of dollars in federal and state grants to modernize and improve the Westport Marina, Marine Terminals

in Aberdeen, and the Bowerman Airport, positioning the Port to accommodate current and future economic growth.

Gary's leadership will continue to impact the entire region for years to come. Put simply, because of Gary Nelson, there are people in Grays Harbor who now have jobs. Because of Gary Nelson, there are families that can now put food on the table. Because of Gary Nelson, the future for our region is brighter.

Beyond his local impact, Mr. Nelson is a nationally recognized leader in the industry. He served as the Chair of the American Association of Port Authorities from 2019 to 2020, chaired the Washington Public Ports Association Legislative Committee, and served on the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association Executive Board.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and thank Gary Nelson for his amazing tenure. Gary's passionate and caring stewardship of the Port of Grays Harbor has impacted the future of the community and shown that not only can good things happen in Grays Harbor County—great things can. I wish him the best in his retirement. He will be sorely missed. I am pleased to recognize Mr. Gary Nelson in the United States Congress.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS WOMEN

HON. MELANIE A. STANSBURY

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of New Mexico Press Women. 75 years ago, New Mexico Press Women was founded by women committed to expanding opportunities in journalism for women. New Mexico Press Women is New Mexico's oldest, largest, and most diverse women's press organization.

New Mexico Press Women will celebrate its 75th Anniversary Conference in just a few days. Countless members—both men and women—have left their marks on the communications professions. New Mexico Press Women will honor and profile courageous communicators at its 75th Anniversary Conference.

New Mexico Press Women encourages excellence through its professional communications contest and through its annual Zia Award, which honors outstanding woman authors who personally or whose book has a connection to New Mexico. New Mexico Press Women has provided encouragement and real assistance to college students entering communications professions by awarding thousands of dollars in scholarship funds over the years.

Through monthly luncheons, statewide conferences, and legislative workshops, New Mexico Press Women and its geographic chapters have brought together major players in New Mexico's history. New Mexico Press Women's gatherings have served as a forum for informing communicators and the public about the implications of current events.

New Mexico Press Women's 75th anniversary is a significant milestone, and I am proud to extend my congratulations to all of its members during the 75th Anniversary Conference.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS CONG

HON. MICHAEL LAWLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I'm proud to recognize a remarkable young constituent, Thomas Cong from Ossining, New York, for becoming a top 40 finalist in the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the Nation's premier science competition for high school seniors.

This achievement places Thomas among the brightest young minds in our country, continuing a tradition of excellence that has propelled alumni to the highest echelons of scientific honor, including Nobel Prizes and National Medals of Science.

Thomas's success is a testament to his hard work, our community's supportive educational environment, and the potential of our youth to lead us into a better future.

Let's celebrate Thomas's achievement as an inspiration and a reminder of the critical role education plays in unlocking the immense potential of our youth. Congratulations to Thomas for making Ossining and our Nation proud.

HONORING GLENDELL BENNETT

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special man, Glendell Bennett of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Bennett celebrated his 100th birthday on March 2, 2024.

Mr. Bennett was born in Chicago and moved with his family to Texas soon after his birth. When he was in high school, World War II broke out. He and a friend heard about the all-Black regiment that was training in Alabama, so they jumped on a train and headed to Tuskegee to volunteer. They worked clearing brush for landing strips and working on aircraft maintenance. Mr. Bennett was later drafted into the Army and sent to Fort Eustis in Virginia, then to Europe. He served with the Quartermaster Truck Company and the Red Ball Express in France, delivering goods and ammunition to those on the front lines. He served in the Army from 1943 to 1947.

When World War II ended, Mr. Bennett attended Prairie View A&M College in Houston. He farmed and later moved to Chicago. While in Chicago, he worked with civil rights leaders, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to promote equality and justice. Mr. Bennett has nine children and three stepchildren. In 2012, he moved to Lexington, KY to be near his children Glenda Bennett Mulder, Kimberly Bennett, Brian Bennett, and Diane Minniefield. Mr. Bennett worked with the Kentucky Senior Employment Program at the Gainesway Community Center and the Goodwill Industries store for several years.

Mr. Bennett is known as a loving, giving person. He and his fellow veterans are true heroes. As members of the "Greatest Generation", they willingly served to protect and defend the freedoms that we enjoy today. I am humbled to honor Mr. Glendell Bennett and celebrate his 100th birthday before the United States Congress.