

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.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAISY COCCO  
DE FILIPPIS

**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 Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis. She is the President and leader of Hostos Community College who has more than earned all our heartfelt admiration and thanks for her tireless work in administration and academia.

Dr. Cocco De Filippis' work in higher education began with her role as Provost and Senior Vice President of Student Affairs at Hostos Community College in 2002, where her unwavering commitment to compassion shaped the lives and academic careers of her students until her departure in 2008, when she took on the role of President at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, Connecticut. She served this institution for twelve years, inspiring students to new academic heights.

She inspired these students with her own work and her own academic journey. Dr. Cocco De Filippis herself graduated summa cum laude from Queens College, with a Bachelor's in English and Spanish Literature, and then went on to pursue a Master of Arts in Spanish Literature, again from Queens College. Dr. Cocco De Filippis didn't stop there: she pursued a Master of Philosophy in Spanish Literature and a Ph.D. in Latin American Literature from the City University of New York Graduate Center. She was also the first person of Dominican ancestry to do so, cementing her legacy as a legendary pioneer in Dominican women's studies, Caribbean, and Dominican Diaspora literatures. For her work in these fields, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Santo Domingo, the oldest university in the Americas. Dr. Cocco De Filippis' resume is no doubt an inspiration to her students, just as it is an inspiration to me.

Dr. Cocco De Filippis returned to Hostos Community College in 2020 as President and led the school through the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, navigating the difficult world of online learning and community preparedness with grace and hope. Hostos College reported significant advancements under her leadership. A myriad of impactful initiatives aimed at improving student life and accessibility have been implemented during her tenure, positively impacting both enrollment and retention. In early 2023, Hostos College unveiled a brand-new, cutting-edge research center established due to the generous donations garnered under Dr. Cocco De Filippis' leadership, which has allowed members of the Hostos faculty to explore new and more effective ways of teaching, all with the goal of improving Hostos' learning environment for students and professors alike.

We are honored to recognize Dr. Cocco De Filippis' leadership and her achievements today. Her contributions have been invaluable to the lives of many, and we thank her for her relentless dedication to empowering others through education.

HONORING THE ARC NASSAU'S  
50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Arc Nassau's founding. On this remarkable milestone, we commemorate five decades of service and their commitment to enhancing the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental differences in Northeast Florida.

The Arc Nassau's vision of education and motivation is realized through life skills training, vocational opportunities, and long-term employment. These programs provide the individuals with a sense of belonging in their community.

As we celebrate The Arc Nassau's impressive tenure, let us look towards the future with a renewed commitment to their mission. In this spirit, I am pleased to announce that The Arc Nassau and Northeast Florida Advocates for Autism and Related Disabilities have merged to strengthen their long-standing services to the community.

Northeast Florida, let us follow The Arc Nassau's example, and see the able, not the label.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing The Arc Nassau. Here's to another fifty years of impact, progress, and transformation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM  
KAMERLING

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a beloved member of our community, Tom Kamerling. On Tuesday, we lost a true legend, a man whose voice resonated through the halls of Arkansas Tech University for many years. Tom's contributions to our community, both on and off the airwaves, will be forever cherished and remembered.

As the public address voice of the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys and Golden Suns, Tom was more than just a broadcaster; he was the embodiment of professionalism and dedication. His voice became synonymous with Tech athletics, guiding fans through countless memorable moments with his unmistakable tone and unrivaled passion for the game.

His impact extended far beyond the broadcasting booth. Tom's kindness and generosity touched the lives of everyone he encountered. Whether as a mentor to aspiring broadcasters or as a friend to those in need, he always went above and beyond to make a positive difference.

His unwavering faith and commitment to serving others serve as an inspiration to us all. Even in his absence, his spirit will continue to guide and uplift our community for generations to come.

My thoughts and prayers are with Tom's family and loved ones during this difficult time. May they find solace in the knowledge that his

legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. In honor of his memory, let us strive to embody the same kindness, professionalism, and unwavering faith that defined Tom Kamerling's life.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
DAVID E. LUCAS AND THE HONORABLE  
ELAINE HUCKABEE  
LUCAS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor two distinguished public servants, community leaders, and dear friends of longstanding, Georgia State Senator David E. Lucas and Macon-Bibb Commissioner Elaine Huckabee Lucas. Their collective service of over more than six decades to the people of Macon-Bibb, the State of Georgia and humankind was recognized on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. during a community celebration at the Saint Peter Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia.

State Senator David E. Lucas was born to the union of the late David Lucas and Beatrice Poole Lucas, both educators on April 23, 1950 in Byron, Georgia. He graduated from Lanier High School in Bibb County in 1968 and went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Tuskegee University, attended Atlanta Law School in 1980, and has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Mercer University Medical School. At Tuskegee, he was on the 1971 SIAC Championship football team and after graduation in 1973, he returned home to Macon. In 1974, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, becoming the youngest member of that body. He has tirelessly represented Bibb County and Middle Georgia in both the Georgia House and State Senate for almost 50 years, becoming the most senior member.

Throughout his career Senator Lucas has fought for civil rights, voting rights and equal opportunity. He championed policies that uplift Georgia's seniors and improve healthcare access and outcomes in urban and rural communities. In the General Assembly, he has served on committees crucial to the economic development and wellbeing of our state, including Insurance, Energy, Utilities, Telecommunication, Appropriations and Transportation. I was blessed to serve with him for 16 years and can say without reservation, that there is no one who knows how to leverage the inner workings of state government for his constituents better than State Senator David Lucas.

In addition to his public service, Senator Lucas is a self-employed independent Insurance Agent and owner of TBL Inc., an entertainment promotions business. He has been a social studies teacher, football, basketball, and tennis coach; owner of the Macon Chiefs semi-professional football team and the Georgia Titans basketball team; and a charter member of the 100 Black Men of Macon-Middle Georgia. He has been married to the love of his life, Commissioner Elaine Huckabee Lucas for more than 47 years and reared four children—David, Jr., Aris, Leonard and Albert (deceased) with 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.