

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANDREA SALINAS**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for the recorded vote on Roll Call No. 58. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 58.

## CELEBRATING FLANAGAN'S

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of sharing the inspiring story of Tommy Flanagan and his family. In 1995, Tommy Flanagan bought a bar in Manhattan called Flanagan's at 119 Fulton St. Despite their efforts, the aftermath of 9/11 impacted their business beyond repair, ultimately leading to its closure in 2004. Seeking a fresh start, Tommy, along with his wife Eve and their children, Tommy Jr. and Shannon, made the decision to relocate to South Jersey in 2018. It was here that they discovered the old Buck Tavern, a place that they knew would be their next adventure. This month, I had the honor of attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated and refurbished Flanagan's, a bar that I know will quickly become a cornerstone of the community. Tommy and his family have embraced their new community wholeheartedly and are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead in South Jersey. As they embark on this new chapter, I want to extend my support and well wishes to the Flanagan family. I thank Tommy and Eve for choosing South Jersey as their home. May their new beginnings be filled with prosperity and happiness. God Bless Tommy and Eve and God Bless the United States of America.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, on March 8, 2024, I missed votes in the House in order to attend funeral services for a family member. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 73, Rep. Houlihan Amendment; YEA on Roll Call No. 74 Rep. Tlaib Amendment; YEA on Roll Call No. 75, Rep. Lynch Amendment; YEA on Roll Call No. 76, Ranking Member Waters Amendment; YEA on Roll Call No. 77, Democratic Motion to Re-commit, and NAY on Roll Call No. 78, H.R. 2799—Expanding Access to Capital Act.

## HONORING THE CAREER OF CELIA GOULD

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my sincerest congratulations and recognition

to Celia Gould, for her exemplary service and dedication as the Director of Idaho State Department of Agriculture. During Celia's tenure, she enhanced Idaho's economy via the ag sector, and she significantly contributed to the well-being of our communities.

Celia Gould was appointed Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in January 2007 by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter, and she was the first female to hold the position in Idaho. She is the owner/operator of a fourth generation ranching and farming Operation, G+ Ranches of Buhl, Idaho and holds a master's degree in public administration from Boise State University. Celia spent 16 years in the Idaho House of Representatives, where she served on the Agricultural Affairs, Education, and Revenue and Taxations Committee, she also served as the Chairwoman of Judiciary, Rules, and Administration Committee. Her work has not only made a significant impact on the state's economy but has paved the way for other women to assume leadership roles in Idaho politics.

Celia's leadership has been instrumental in implementing innovative agricultural practices, promoting sustainable development, and fostering an environment where farmers and agribusinesses can thrive. Under her guidance, Idaho has seen remarkable growth in agricultural productivity and efficiency, ensuring that our state remains a leading contributor to the Nation's food supply.

One thing is for sure, if there was a problem in the ag industry—you could count on Celia to not only dedicate the appropriate resources to address the situation, but you could count on Celia to be there to see it through. She is Idaho Ag.

Her commitment to collaboration and partnership with local farmers, research institutions, and government agencies has been pivotal in addressing the challenges facing our agricultural community. Her ability to navigate complex issues and bring together diverse stakeholders towards a common goal is a testament to her exceptional leadership and vision. Idaho Ag is better because of Celia.

I thank Celia for her continued service and dedication to the State of Idaho. I am truly fortunate to be able to call her a lifelong friend, and I look forward to her future endeavors. Her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment serve as an inspiration to us all. Congratulations to Celia.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF WASHINGTON STATE TROOPER CHRISTOPHER GADD

**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Washington State Trooper Christopher Gadd, who tragically died while on duty on March 2, 2004. He was taken far too soon.

Trooper Gadd was born in Pasco, Washington and attended Kentlake High School in Kent, Washington. He continued his education at Green River College and Tacoma Community College, where he earned his Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) certification. In September of 2021, Trooper Gadd began his

career with the Washington State Patrol, as a cadet in Grandview, Washington. Gadd graduated with WSP's 116th Trooper Basic Training class in 2022. He earned two best-in-class awards among his class of 44: the Top Academic Award and the Top Collision Investigation Award.

For the Gadd family, law enforcement and public service is a tradition. Chris's father is a WSP Trooper, and his sister serves with the Texas Highway Patrol. WSP Chief John R. Batiste said Chris knew all too well the risks of public service but still offered that service with unquestioned valor and, now, unfathomable sacrifice.

Trooper Gadd resided in Snohomish County and was known as a loving husband, devoted father, caring brother, beloved son, and committed friend. He is survived by his wife Camryn, 2-year-old daughter Kaelyn, parents, and sister. Our community will miss him dearly, and I am forever grateful for his commitment to service.

## CELEBRATING COSTA MARINE

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight the remarkable journey of Costa Marine Canvas and Enclosures, a true American success story, founded by Joe and Donna Costa in 1971. Starting with humble beginnings in the basement of their apartment, Costa Marine has grown into a leading fabricator of custom yacht enclosures, upholstery, covers, and interiors. Over the years, Costa Marine's commitment to excellence has earned them exclusive partnerships with renowned boatbuilders like Viking Yachts and Ocean Yachts. Despite the passing of Joe in 2011, Donna continues to play a vital role in the company's operations alongside the second-generation leadership of Chris Costa, Jennifer Smith, and Kevin Jelinski. I had the privilege of touring their facility this February, and I can attest to the impressive operation of Costa Marine Canvas and Enclosures. From their dedication to quality craftsmanship to their focus on community and employees, Costa Marine exemplifies the very best. Their story serves as an inspiration to us all. I thank Costa Marine for their outstanding contributions and for representing the best of American entrepreneurship. God Bless Costa Marine and God Bless the United States of America.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79, and NAY on Roll Call No. 80.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was otherwise detained in a meeting at the Senate off the floor yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79 (H.R. 1752), and YEA on Roll Call No. 80 (H.R. 886).

CELEBRATING MT. HARMONY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS BECOMING NEWLY PUBLISHED AUTHORS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, the students at Mt. Harmony Elementary School, located in my district, accomplished a terrific feat: they became published authors. Each grade wrote and illustrated a book documenting their recent visit to the National Mall right here in the heart of our Nation's capital. I thank their librarian Melaney Sanchez, Mt. Harmony PTA Treasurer Jennifer Franco, National Mall Education Specialist Ranger Jen Epstein, and everyone else who helped make this extraordinary, hands-on learning experience possible. Together, they took more than 600 kids to Washington, D.C.

During these visits, the students learned about American history and the principles upon which our democracy rests. From the sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the statue of President Abraham Lincoln, the dark stone walls commemorating the Americans who died in Vietnam to the quiet fountains that honor the fallen of World War II, they saw monuments and memorials that pay tribute to the men and women who have sustained our country for the past 246 years. Some of the children even had the chance to sing patriotic songs for Veterans at the World War II Memorial. Back at school, students worked together to write down their impressions and sketch what they saw on the field trip.

Mr. Speaker, young Americans like the ones at Mt. Harmony give me hope for this country's future. It is inspiring to see them take such a great interest in America's civic culture and history. We all ought to be grateful to the educators, parents, and community leaders who gave them that opportunity. One day, these children will be the guardians of our great American experiment. They will carry on the same work of the historic figures they learned about on their trip—that sacred American duty 'to form a more perfect Union.' Their authorship of these books proves that they have already started to contribute to that crucial mission. For that, they have my thanks and the gratitude of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding the students—and authors—at Mt. Harmony.

## CELEBRATING DAVID DOUGLASS

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this February, I had the privilege of commemorating the 30th anniversary of the tragic passing of a fallen hero, Officer David C. Douglass. On February 18, 1994, Officer Douglass valiantly answered the call of a burglar in the area and tragically lost his life in the line of duty. He was not only a dedicated member of the Lower Township Police Department for 18 years but also served as a lieutenant in the Town Bank Fire Department. His contributions to public safety extended beyond his role in law enforcement; he helped establish the Lower Township SWAT team, instructed at the Cape May County Police Academy, and served as a past president of the Policeman's Benevolent Association. Officer Douglass was a beloved member of our community, known for his integrity, friendship, and mentorship. His legacy lives on through his family, including his wife, son, daughter, and stepdaughter, as well as in the hearts of all who knew him. I thank Officer David C. Douglass for his bravery, his service, and his sacrifice. He will forever be remembered and cherished in our hearts. God Bless Officer Douglass and God Bless the United States of America.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Monday March 11, 2024 due to a Helsinki Commission meeting. Earlier in the day I managed the floor time for both bills and advocated in support of them. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Yea on Roll Call No. 79 (H.R. 1752), and Yea on Roll Call No. 80 (H.R. 886).

## CONGRATULATING VOICES OF UNITY YOUTH CHOIR

**HON. JIM BANKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Voices of Unity Youth Choir as they head to Auckland, New Zealand to compete in the 2024 World Choir Games.

This honor is well deserved, considering the setbacks the choir has faced over the last few years. Perhaps the most significant of these recent challenges was the departure of over 40 of their student participants in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This did not hinder Voices of Unity; they rallied by launching the "Rising With Purpose Rebuilding Initiative," which engaged a new wave of talented North-east Indiana youth.

It was with this soulful new chorale group that Voices of Unity achieved this tremendous success. Unity will be representing Fort

Wayne across the world in the Gospel Music Category of the "Olympics" of the chorale world. This experience will be transformational for the young people involved, and an ideal opportunity for them to represent their community, culture, and Nation to an international audience.

I am proud that our community will be represented by this choir with beautiful song, and I congratulate the singers, staff, and board of Voices of Unity Youth Choir on their great achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE CIVIC WORK, PHILANTHROPY, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OF HAROLD "SANDY" AND CONNIE WOLFINGER AS HONOREES AT THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SALUTE TO OLEAN BANQUET

**HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the civic leadership, philanthropy, and community service of Harold "Sandy" and Connie Wolfinger. In the last few years, I have come to know them personally as friends, and I have seen firsthand the deep connection they have to the community. I am glad to see that their dedication and passion was recognized on March 7th as honorees at the thirty-eighth Annual Salute to Olean banquet. Each of their stories of self-built business and success is a testament to the importance and hope in the American Dream. In return, Sandy and Connie have generously given back to their community through local civic leadership and philanthropy, which has benefited generations of students across the region.

Harold, or Sandy as he is called by friends, was the first in his family to graduate from college before going into forestry where he worked his way up from humble beginnings in several companies before starting his own—Northern Forests LLC, which continues to be a success thirty years later. Connie is a native to the area, growing up between the communities of Olean, Cuba, and Portville in the heart of the Southern Tier of New York. She spent over thirty years herself as a real-estate broker, specializing in land lease and sales and formed her own company, Field & Stream Real Estate—through which she met her soon-to-be husband Harold as a repeat buyer.

The Wolfinger Family Donor Advised Fund and the Connie and Sandy Wolfinger Fund make possible annual grants to organizations chosen by the Wolfingers across education, home care, and medical assistance to special projects in their community. Since 2019 they are responsible for nearly one hundred thousand dollars in charitable grants and contributions affecting the daily lives of those in our community.

Their deep network and civic mindedness also gave birth to the Right Thinkers—a monthly town hall for public discussion on current events and policy issues where two hundred or more come to listen, learn, and speak their minds to panels of experts and elected officials.

The generosity and pride that Connie and Sandy have for the Southern Tier is tangible,