

people like her. I hope that she and her family enjoy an incredible celebration in April. I wish her much happiness in the coming year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF SENATOR ALAN G. SIEROTY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of former California State Senator Alan G. Sieroty, a champion for disability rights and a leader in efforts to preserve California's coastline and natural beauty. Mr. Sieroty, who passed away at the age of 93, leaves behind an indelible legacy of devout public service and advocacy.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Mr. Sieroty demonstrated his hard-working spirit from a young age. After earning his bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University and graduating from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, Mr. Sieroty began a lifelong career in public service. He served as an Administrative Assistant and Executive Secretary to California Lieutenant Governor Glenn M. Anderson and went on to become the Deputy Director of the Chile-California Program.

In 1967, Mr. Sieroty became a California State Assemblymember and, after a decade of service, was elected to the California State Senate, where he served until his retirement in 1982. While serving in the State Assembly and Senate, Mr. Sieroty authored over 100 bills, many of which were critical pieces of environmental protection legislation. One of his most significant accomplishments was his leading role in creating the California Coastal Commission in 1972. Today, the Commission continues to play an integral part in protecting California's coastal waters and regulating environmentally sustainable development.

Mr. Sieroty's commitment to his community expanded beyond his extensive career in public service. He served on the board of several nonprofit organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California and the Venice Family Clinic. In addition, Mr. Sieroty and his family partnered with the Los Angeles Family Housing nonprofit to transform a former motel into a temporary housing facility for unhoused seniors.

Mr. Sieroty will be remembered for his decades of service to California and his critical efforts to preserve our environment for future generations. His enduring spirit will live on in his family and the communities he dedicated his life to serving. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Sieroty's loved ones. I know they and the people of California will join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

HONORING SHARON SCHAUER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sharon Schauer, a member of the Yolo Crisis Nursery. Ms. Schauer is

being honored at this year's Yolo Crisis Nursery Crab Feed for her limitless volunteer contributions, which have greatly benefited the Yolo Crisis Nursery and our community.

The Yolo Crisis Nursery was founded in 2001 as a child-abuse prevention program. The Nursery aims to help children thrive and become resilient after traumatic experiences. The Nursery fulfills its mission through signature programs such as Crisis Overnight and Respite Care, Wraparound Services for Families, and a Specialized Infant Day Care and Preschool.

Since joining the Friends of the Yolo Crisis Nursery group in 2016, Ms. Schauer has brought a superior level of professionalism to the organization through her management and leadership. Not only has she been an active member, but also she has served as a Co-Chair of the organization since 2020, as well as a Board Associate on the Yolo Crisis Nursery Board of Directors.

Ms. Schauer's talents and contribution to the Yolo Crisis Nursery are invaluable. She is the only member of the volunteer organization to have a critical role in planning all fundraising events. Ms. Schauer is a skilled project manager with a background in business and finance. As a result of this, she has made every Crisis Nursery event a resounding success through her budget management and keen attention to detail.

Ms. Schauer's vision for expanding the resources of Yolo Crisis Nursery came to life when she added a fall Barn Dance to the organization's annual calendar of events. The result of this event is that it strengthened our community and raised awareness for child abuse prevention programs offered by the Yolo Crisis Nursery. The Nursery has provided more than 5,000 care packages of basic needs as part of their services and 3,000 safe stays in the Nursery's loving, home-like environment for children whose caretakers found themselves temporarily unable to provide a secure environment.

Through Ms. Schauer's selfless leadership, she has motivated the group of volunteers at the organization to raise approximately 10 percent of the annual operating budget for the Yolo Crisis Nursery through their unique events and community outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Schauer for her dedicated service and philanthropic actions in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD
FOR FRED MOSES

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Fred Moses of Plano, Texas and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Fred is an outstanding leader who has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

As a young man, Fred was passionate about the political process and knew he wanted to play a bigger role in shaping the future of our Nation. Shortly after graduating from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut with a bachelor's degree in marketing, he was elect-

ed Justice of the Peace in Bridgeport and officiated marriages. Fred later moved to Plano and has remained active in local Republican politics for over 40 years. In 2008, he was elected as the Chairman of the Collin County Republican Party and worked diligently to advance the conservative agenda in North Texas. For his outstanding leadership and service, Fred was awarded the prestigious John McVeigh Award by the Collin County Republican Party.

Furthermore, Fred has launched numerous charitable initiatives to benefit our community. Since 1980, he has worked with the Plano Community Forum to provide scholarships for students in need and established scholarship endowment awards at colleges and universities nationwide. He has also supported charitable programs to help eradicate cancer and heart disease. For his work, Fred was awarded the Living Legend Award by Collin County Community College and inducted into the Minority Business Hall of Fame in 2019. Fred is a devoted man of faith and serves as an Associate Minister at Shiloh Baptist Church in Plano, where he also teaches Sunday School. In his free time, Fred enjoys golfing and volunteering with local community organizations.

It is an honor to bestow Fred with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINA OWENS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a Hoosier whose exemplary service has led to the betterment of Indianapolis and our Nation. Christina Owens of the Indianapolis Vet Center served as a combat medic in Iraq and has since been aiding and encouraging veterans through the various changes in life that arise after military discharge.

Christina's service to country began in Iraq as a combat medic in the U.S. Army and continues through her work with the Indianapolis Vet Center and the Indianapolis Veteran Court Mentor Program. As the Post Commander for IUPUI's American Legion Post No. 360 and as District 11's Vice Commander, she continues to serve her community in a significant way by providing support to Hoosier veterans and their families, enabling so many to overcome immense challenges and lead healthy and meaningful lives.

Her work to engage veterans through programs like Irreverent Warriors is inspiring, and as a liaison between veterans and a variety of services, her mentorship and advocacy directly impacts the lives of Hoosier veterans. For her unwavering advocacy, Christina has received numerous accolades, and the legacy she has fostered will be cherished by Hoosiers for years to come.

Each month, our office recognizes women veterans who are too often overlooked and underrepresented. Beginning with its namesake, the Sheila Corcoran Hoosier Women Hero Award was created to highlight exemplary Hoosier veterans whose service to their community and Nation is unparalleled. I am proud to honor Christina Owens for her service to our community and country by recognizing her here today.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the inspirational woman veteran, Christina Owens.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL PHILADELPHIA HARRIS

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of Lieutenant Colonel Paul Philadelphia Harris, who passed away at his home on Saturday, February 17, 2024.

Lt Col Harris was born here, in Washington, D.C., to two loving parents. He grew up in Satellite Beach, Florida before making the decision to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. As a Marine, he served at home and overseas in Syria, Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan.

A lifelong learner, Lt Col Harris devoted much of his free time to education. While enlisted, he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in logistics on his own time.

His dedication to excellent service and to his country was evident. He served as a Marine for 30 years and rose through the ranks from Private to Lieutenant Colonel Electronics Maintenance Officer. He also served as a Marine Security Guard and bravely completed two tours in Okinawa, Japan, as well as a deployment to Southwest Asia as part of the Global War on Terrorism. Throughout his service, Lt Col Harris earned various awards—including four Expert Rifle Badges, three Expert Pistol Badges, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy and Marine Corp Commendation Medals, as well as Kuwait Liberation Medals for both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, four Southwest Asia Service Medals, three Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, and a Marine Security Guard Ribbon. Prior to his retirement in October 2005, he was awarded many unit commendations in recognition of his exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding achievement. After retiring from the service, he continued to provide insight and brought his expertise to various roles as a government contractor.

Paul's love for dogs was well-known and he devoted much of his time to caring for his wife Marty's service dogs. He was often seen walking Sergeant III throughout the neighborhood in the early mornings. During his free time, he volunteered at the local SPCA, providing animals in the shelter with love and care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Lieutenant Colonel Paul Philadelphia Harris' life and legacy of service. He will be greatly missed by his friends and loving family who will remember him for his kindness, courage, and strength.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF DIXON'S ANNUAL CRAB FEED

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rotary Club of Dixon, as they celebrate the 20th anniversary of their Annual Crab Feed.

Since its chartering in 1930, the Rotary Club of Dixon has worked tirelessly to give back to the Dixon community. The Rotary Club of Dixon is an organization of men and women who are united to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace worldwide. It generously serves our community with time and the money it raises.

The Rotary Club of Dixon held their 20th Annual Crab Feed on February 24, 2024. This event serves as the organization's largest fundraiser of the year, and all members work tirelessly to ensure the event's success. The Dixon Rotary uses the money it raises at this event and others to fund high school scholarships, the Dixon 4th of July Fireworks, its work on behalf of local veterans, and the eradication of polio worldwide. They have generously given over \$90,000 to our community in 2022 and 2023.

The Dixon Rotary is dedicated to serving the veterans and armed service members in our community. This can be seen when the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery opened in 2006. Members of the Dixon Rotary arrived to place wreaths on the graves of fallen service members. Ever since this event, Dixon Rotary has continued to support the cemetery and has donated thousands of dollars to continue this tradition. Further, they annually purchase Christmas gift cards to give to the veterans living in the three different veterans' homes in Dixon. Dixon Rotary generously supports the Veterans Standdown, which is an event dedicated to connecting homeless and at-risk veterans with services and support by making breakfast for attendees. The organization also assists at events at the Travis Air Force Base by preparing and serving food to airmen and their families.

The Rotary Club of Dixon has worked tirelessly to support Dixon schools and students. Every year, the organization donates between \$12,000 and \$15,000 in high school scholarships, \$1,500 and \$2,000 to new teachers for their classrooms, \$1,000 to Bids for Kids, and \$6,000 to Camp Royal, the leadership training opportunity provided to outstanding high school students through Rotary. Throughout their history, Dixon Rotary has been committed to supporting educational programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Rotary Club of Dixon is deeply appreciated for their work on behalf of Dixon's veterans, current armed forces members, and students. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Dixon Rotary's outstanding work in our Solano County community, and the 20th anniversary of its annual Crab Feed today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS REMOVAL ACT OF 2024

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Abandoned and Derelict Vessels Removal Act of 2024," which builds upon legislation by the same title sponsored by the late Congressman Pete Stark (D-CA) in 1997.

As detailed in a blue-ribbon report published by the State of California and other Pacific State's Oil Spill Task Force in 2020, the problem of abandoned and derelict vessels is a pervasive problem. Vessel owners abandon personal and commercial boats due to damage from severe storms, high maintenance and disposal costs, and many other factors. Abandoned and derelict vessels are a safety hazard, blight to our waterways, and eyesore. As these vessels decay, they pollute our waterways with debris, fiberglass from hulls, leftover gasoline, motor oil, battery fluids, and other harmful chemicals. This endangers people enjoying the water and harms the environment.

My new bill legislates the 2020 blue-ribbon report's recommendations, improving the intergovernmental response to abandoned and derelict vessels. Specifically, my bill would unlock up to \$1.5 billion annually from the federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to remove abandoned vessels at no expense to taxpayers. Under current law, federal responders can only tap the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for the costs of stopping fuel leaks from vessels. My bill would also hold those dumping their derelict vessels in our waterways accountable. Every vessel removed is one step closer to keeping our working waterfronts and waterways safe and clean for all to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working across the aisle to advance the proposed reforms in my bill. As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I plan to legislate key provisions from my bill in the coming "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024" and the "Water Resources Development Act of 2024." I encourage all Members of the House to join me in cosponsoring this commonsense bill.

RECOGNIZING PAUL RUSSO ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Paul Russo, a dedicated public servant, on his upcoming retirement. For the past forty years, Mr. Russo has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of our Nation's heroes through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Since 2018, he has been employed as the Director of the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System. In this capacity, Mr. Russo has overseen the delivery of healthcare for more than 130,000 Veterans in Florida. In addition to running the main hospital, Mr. Russo has managed eight outpatient clinics,