

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,

supervised 4,500 employees and managed an annual operating budget of more than \$1 billion. Mr. Russo also served as Director of the Miami VA Healthcare System for six years and at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina for two years. Mr. Russo is a recipient of numerous awards for distinguished service. He has also served on many boards and committees within the Department of Veterans Affairs and external to the agency. It is clear that Mr. Russo has made a profoundly positive impact on the lives of many Veterans, and I am grateful for his service.

PAYING REMEMBRANCE TO
DAVINA KEISER ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HER PASSING

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Davina Keiser, who passed away on January 30, 2024 after her battle with brain cancer. Her family, friends, and community are devastated by this loss. A resident of Sugarloaf, CA, Davina was known as a selfless and caring individual and was a true friend to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Davina was a devoted educator for forty years in the Long Beach Unified School District, including over decade of service as a piano and mathematics teacher at Wilson High School, while simultaneously serving as the elected treasurer for the Teachers Union of Long Beach. She was an effective PTA President and Treasurer at Fremont Elementary School and was a highly recognized teacher throughout Southern California. Moreover, she was a proud elected delegate to the National Education Association Representative Assembly and worked tirelessly in many teaching organizations to ensure that her pupils and students throughout Southern California had access to quality education.

Davina was no less engaged with her San Bernardino mountain community. As a part-time Big Bear resident for over twenty years, she was deeply engaged in local politics, serving as a member of the Big Bear Valley Republican Assembly and as Executive Vice President of the California Republican Assembly. She was a passionate advocate who believed in the promise and opportunity that the Big Bear Valley and the Golden State represent. A 3rd generation Californian, Davina stood for the best of what our home state offers and fought to safeguard the freedoms and prosperity that are corner stones of the American dream.

Davina had an impact on every life she touched, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her. My thoughts and prayers are with Davina's family and fiends as they navigate this difficult loss. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning Davina's passing and celebrating her life.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD
FOR FRED AND SUE WORLEY

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fred and Sue Worley of Emory, Texas, and present them with the Congressional Patriot Award. They have dedicated themselves to serving and uplifting our community.

Fred and Sue have known each other since elementary school, and they married in 1968. Together, they raised five amazing children. Fred's public service career began in 1973 when he became one of the first certified firefighter paramedics in Hunt County. During his time as a first responder, he spearheaded numerous initiatives to streamline ambulance and fire prevention services for North Texas residents. Thanks to Fred's efforts, our community can count on reliable and robust emergency services today.

Furthermore, Fred and Sue have passionately fought for Texas veterans to be honored for their life and service. Through their advocacy, the State of Texas has designated the Staff Sergeant Shawn Henry McNabb Memorial Bridge at Lake Tawakoni. Staff Sergeant McNabb served in the U.S. Army and was tragically killed while serving in Afghanistan in 2009. Fred and Sue were also instrumental in securing the naming of the Mildred McMillan Garrett Memorial Bridge. Mrs. Garrett enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps during the Second World War and served as a city councilmember and mayor pro tempore in Rains County. I highly commend Fred and Sue for their commitment to improving the world around them. I am proud to represent such wonderful and distinguished Americans.

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

HONORING ROBERTA DUTEIL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 102nd Birthday of Bartonville, Texas resident and World War II Navy veteran, Roberta Maxwell Richardson DuTeil. Mrs. DuTeil was born on January 10, 1922, in Waycross, GA.

In 1943, after graduating from the University of Alabama, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy. She trained first at the Midshipman's School then the Communications School, graduating with the rank of Ensign. Stationed at the U.S. Naval Base Headquarters, Terminal Island, CA, she worked rotating shifts around the clock, covering communications for Navy and Army installation in the area. Roberta was honorably discharged from active duty on May 11, 1946, at the rank of Lt (jg) and continued to serve in the Navy Reserves until March 1953.

Roberta married Army Captain Claude DuTeil in 1946 and supported his call to the ministry as he attended and graduated from

Virginia Theological Seminary before being ordained as an Episcopal Priest. Over the next four decades, the DuTeils ministered to congregations in Hawaii and established a full-scale homeless shelter. Upon retirement, the couple moved to Bartonville to be close to their family.

Roberta has been very active in her church and local communities, supporting many charities. She is always proud to participate in patriotic celebrations and has served as a high-lighted participant in the annual Double Oak Fourth of July parade. I was pleased to present her with the 26th District Congressional Veteran Commendation in 2016.

It was a privilege to join the Town of Bartonville for the special celebration of Roberta "Tutu" DuTeil's 102nd birthday on March 13, 2024. I request that my colleagues join me in commending Mrs. DuTeil's service on the mission field and military service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE
FRANK CHOPP'S SERVICE TO
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and legacy of Washington State Representative Frank Chopp. Representative Chopp is leaving the Washington State Legislature after three decades of committed service to the people of the 43rd Legislative District. Representative Chopp's impressive tenure also included 20 years of service as the Washington State House Speaker. I am proud to have worked alongside Representative Chopp and witnessed his strength of character firsthand during my time as a Washington State Senator.

Many of the strides that the State of Washington has made in support of workers' right to organize, critical infrastructure development, access to housing, immigration, expanded healthcare, and educational equity can be attributed to Representative Chopp's exceptional public service. He has been a relentless champion for low-income and working people across our state, doggedly pursuing every single opportunity to provide more affordable housing and safety net services.

Thanks to Representative Chopp's career and many accomplishments, thousands of Washingtonians have access to opportunity and the pursuit of the American Dream. I am very grateful for his incredible service and confident that he will be a staunch advocate for working families as he returns to his roots as a community organizer. His leadership will serve as a model for years to come.

HONORING HARRIET ROBERTS

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 Harriet Roberts, an esteemed Tribal Citizen of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Harriet Roberts is being honored at this year's Yocha Dehe Fire Department Awards for her longstanding dedication