

of Texas made a similar proclamation declaring June 20th officially to be Audie Murphy Day in the State of Texas. On October 29, 2013, Governor Rick Perry posthumously presented him with the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor. Audie Murphy is an American hero and a distinguished Texan. I am proud to honor his legacy today.

RECOGNIZING MS. PEGGY
UPCHURCH

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of Peggy Upchurch in Lake Wylie, South Carolina and the tremendous impact she has had on our great state and our local government.

Peggy is an active member of the York County GOP where she currently serves as the Precinct President for the River Hills Precinct. She is the first Republican member of the York County Council since Reconstruction. She also served as a founding member of the Clover and Lake Wylie South Carolina Federation of Republican Women as both the President and Legislative Chair. Under her leadership, five additional clubs have been added to the SCFRW, including the first federated women's club in the 6th District of South Carolina. Peggy is continually looking for ways to best serve the people of South Carolina and has changed the lives of many by welcoming them into service alongside her.

In addition to her commitment to service, I would like to recognize the impact that Peggy has had on South Carolina legislation. Peggy was instrumental in spotlighting state legislation, recruiting members to help advocate for South Carolina legislators to pass both the Heartbeat Bill and the Saving Women's Sports bill. Peggy has been a tireless proponent of judicial reform during the 2023 legislative season, organizing statewide meetings with multiple judicial leaders to address the issues that face South Carolina and our nation. Peggy has also been elected as a delegate or alternate delegate to the National Federation of Republican Women convention, and most recently led the South Carolina delegation in campaigning for the successful election of 2024–2025 officers who are dedicated to protecting the dignity of biological women in leadership and society.

Peggy is a leader among leaders and the impact she has had on South Carolina is built to last. On behalf of the 5th District of South Carolina, it is my most sincere pleasure to recognize her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen matter, I was absent for Roll Call No. 2. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

JAYDEN CORN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jayden Corn for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jayden has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jayden, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jayden's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K–8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jayden Corn on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ONE STOP AUTO CARE

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 35th anniversary of One Stop Auto Care, an outstanding community auto shop that exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses. One Stop Auto Care has served the communities of Northeast Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Glendale since opening for business on Eagle Rock Blvd in 1989.

One Stop Auto Care was founded by Gerry Vicario when he was 25 years old. Prior to opening the small business, Mr. Vicario worked at his uncle's tire shop, which is where he discovered the need for an auto repair shop in the community.

Mr. Vicario and his wife enthusiastically opened their business and have since expanded their services to include tires, oil changes, tune-ups, brake repair, and more. One Stop Auto Care grew from one employee to eight experienced technicians, and they have remained focused on helping the people of our community.

I congratulate Mr. Vicario and the entire team at One Stop Auto Care for their continued dedication to providing exceptional automobile repair service to Angelenos. I would also like to recognize Mr. Vicario for supporting various community events and organizations throughout Northeast Los Angeles. I look forward to seeing One Stop Auto Care's continued growth and success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating One Stop Auto Care on its 35th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING GLENN JOHNSON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glenn Johnson for

his 20 years of service as Mayor of Pullman and his dedication to the highest standards of servant leadership.

Glenn has been a trusted member of the Pullman community for more than four decades. In 1979, he left behind a successful career in Sacramento, Calif. to become a professor at Washington State University's Edward R. Murrow College of Communications. For thirty-five years, he taught courses in communications and television news, always pushing his students to reach their full potential.

Glenn quickly became beloved on campus, not only by his students, but by all of Cougar Nation for the spirit, talent, and tradition he embodied as "The Voice of the Cougs." Even before Martin Stadium put in a quality set of loudspeakers, Glenn led the crowd in a call-and-response that has become legendary in Cougar football. To this day, every time Glenn calls out "And that's another . . .," the crowd enthusiastically responds with, "Cougar first down!"

In 2004, Glenn began his first term as Mayor of Pullman. Over the next twenty years and five terms, he earned the trust of Pullman residents, city officials, and business leaders alike through dedicated leadership and a commitment to making Pullman a special place to call home. He spearheaded investments and initiatives like Project Downtown, which continues to revamp the city center and inspire incredible growth.

Mayor Johnson has also led with tremendous vision about the future of the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport. I have been blessed to work with him on various projects over the years to remodel the airport's infrastructure, the services it provides, and create the space for new economic opportunities across the region. Glenn's vision and determination were the primary reasons why the airport added a new runway back in 2019 and have been the driving force behind the brand new terminal that is set to open later this year. His leadership has been absolutely essential to the airport's success and ensuring it will continue to connect the Palouse and residents all across Eastern Washington with the rest of the world for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Glenn's committed service to the Pullman community. He has been a fierce advocate for the city, and as he enters his well-deserved retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his years of devoted service and wishing him well in this next chapter.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE
OF DEBORAH A. ZULOAGA

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the 20 years of dedicated service that Ms. Deborah A. Zuloaga has provided as President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of El Paso County (UWEPIC).

Ms. Zuloaga, a native El Pasoan and alumna of North Texas State University, dedicated 11 years to various roles in political and government service in Washington, D.C., before returning to her hometown. Upon her return to El Paso, she continued her service to the

community as an Associate Director and then Resource Development Director at the UWEPC. In 2003, she was appointed the President and Chief Executive Officer, marking the beginning of a transformative era for the organization.

Under Ms. Zuloaga's leadership, the UWEPC not only faced challenges head-on but also thrived. The generous donation from philanthropist Mackenzie Scott in 2020 stands as a testament to the organization's impact and the trust placed in Ms. Zuloaga's stewardship. Her unwavering leadership during difficult times, including the response to the August 3, 2019 tragedy, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, underscores her commitment to community resilience.

Ms. Zuloaga's involvement in various non-profit initiatives, state boards, and community events further highlights her dedication to the well-being of El Paso. Her accolades, including being honored as one of six Women of Impact by El Paso Inc. in 2019, receiving the Outstanding Child Advocate—West Texas award from Children at Risk in 2021, and being nominated for El Paso Inc.'s 2023 El Pasoan of the Year, are a testament to her lasting impact to our community.

Today, it is my privilege to honor Ms. Deborah A. Zuloaga for her exemplary service, leadership, and dedication to our community, and wish her and her family the best upon her retirement.

KALEIGH MELINGER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kaleigh Melinger for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Kaleigh has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Kaleigh, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Kaleigh's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Kaleigh Melinger on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT JUAN
ERIC CANTU

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible person, honorable soldier, and remarkable community member, the late Sergeant Juan "Eric" Cantu. Sergeant Cantu honorably served our Nation in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. A native of Lenoir County, graduating in 1964 and immediately enlisting in the Army. After working in Illinois for a few years, he returned home to Kingston,

earning his industrial maintenance degree from Lenoir Community College in 1986. He served as the Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, President of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 892, and a founding member of AmVets Post 1111.

Mr. Cantu is most known for founding the G.I. Joe Living Military History Museum, displaying memorabilia, uniforms, weapons, and photos from all major conflicts starting with the Revolutionary War. More than just a museum; it is a place of solace where veterans freely share their experiences and heal their wounds. Thanks to him, many veterans' lives have been saved due to the community and camaraderie fostered at the museum.

According to those who knew him the best, they cherished his work ethic, optimism, and community involvement. I thank them for joining me in celebrating the life of this wonderful Veteran. I wish Mr. Cantu's family the best in the future and hope that Mr. Cantu's creation, the G.I. Joe Living Military History Museum, can continue to serve those who gave it all.

HOW ILLINOIS CAN USE SUBCRITICAL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO DEAL WITH NUCLEAR SPENT FUEL

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on December 8th, Governor Pritzker signed into law a measure that will allow new small modular reactor (SMR) technology to proceed in Illinois. A moratorium on new construction has been in place since 1987. Illinois and 15 other states imposed bans primarily because, even with Congressional authorization and funding, the proposed permanent storage repository at Yucca Flats Nevada to this day has not received a single pound of spent nuclear fuel (SNF).

The estimated 87,000 metric tons of commercial SNF has been stored temporarily in holding ponds and dry casks primarily at the sites of U.S. nuclear power plants, both currently operating and shut down. The storage and security costs have been imposed on rate payers.

The law, which takes effect next June 1st, authorizes a state regulatory structure for SMRs and limits them to 300 MWe, or from a fourth to a third the power of the state's six operating reactors.

I have recently been paying special attention to subcritical advanced nuclear technology, which can consume the remaining energy in the SNF. The approach is based on pioneering molten salt research done at Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) in the 1960s. It takes advantage of the large number of neutrons that can be produced by superconducting linear accelerators like the one brought online at the ORNL Spallation Neutron Source in the years since 2010.

Mr. Speaker, Illinois has been first in the nuclear age, dating from the first nuclear reactor in the basement of Professor Fermi's lab at the University of Chicago in the fall of 1942. The first commercial nuclear power plant was built in 1957. Today, more than half of Illinois' power generated comes from nuclear energy.

That is the most of any state. We have more SNF stored temporarily here than any state, more than 11,000 metric tons. We have even proposed constructing permanent storage sites, but without success.

Again, we can lead the nation and the world into the next generation of clean, safe, affordable power.

The pending FY 2024 Energy & Water Appropriations legislation contains a line item for more than \$1 billion for advanced modular power research and development. I urge that a significant amount be devoted to accelerator driven subcritical projects.

Therefore, I include in the RECORD the following article on the new legislation from the Capital News Illinois dated December 8, 2023:

PRITZKER SIGNS MEASURE ALLOWING NEW SMALL-SCALE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IN ILLINOIS

(By Jerry Nowicki & Andrew Adams)

Gov. JB Pritzker on Friday signed into law a measure that will allow for the limited development of new nuclear power generation technology in the state.

The measure, House Bill 2473, does not allow new large-scale power generation facilities like the six plants that are already operational in the state, but rather allows for new smaller-scale emergent technology.

Since 1987, the state has had a moratorium on any new nuclear power construction until the federal government designates a long-term disposal site for nuclear waste—something that has never occurred. The new law will take effect on June 1, 2024, but because permitting nuclear energy takes many years at the federal level, the earliest a nuclear project could be brought online in Illinois would be in the 2030s.

HB 2473 creates a regulatory structure for the construction of small modular nuclear reactors, or SMRs. The bill limits the nameplate capacity of such reactors to 300 megawatts, about one-third the size of the smallest of the six existing nuclear power plants in Illinois. It also requires the state to perform a study that will inform rules for regulating SMRs, which must be adopted by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency by January 2026.

The bill's proponents say it's a necessary step as Illinois tries to end its reliance on carbon-emitting power sources over the next two decades. But its opponents say it distracts from Illinois' efforts to deploy 100 percent renewable energy production and is an endorsement of unproven technology.

The bill passed with bipartisan support in the Senate, 44-7, and the House, 98-8, on the final day of the fall veto session last month. The opposition came exclusively from Democrats. Pritzker vetoed an earlier version of the measure but helped usher the compromise through the legislature.

The bill's sponsors said after its passage that it has the potential to bolster Illinois' electric grid reliability as the state's energy mix becomes increasingly reliant on intermittent technologies such as wind and solar.

Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, sponsored the bill in the Senate, while Rep. Lance Yednock, D-Ottawa, was its House sponsor. Rezin noted last month that she is particularly interested in the potential for SMRs to be developed at the sites of former coal plants, avoiding the need to build new transmission lines, although that process could take many years.

David Kraft, an outspoken critic of nuclear energy and head of the Chicago-based advocacy group Nuclear Energy Information Service, testified against the measure at several points during the legislative process.

Kraft said he was concerned about the lack of existing SMR installations and the