

East Midtown Greenway and developing Sutton Place Park, ensuring they were inclusive and enjoyable for all. His contributions were critical in the remapping and expansion of Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza and the creation of Stuyvesant Cove Park.

Lou's dedication to his community and city extended into the political arena as well. He was a delegate at the Democratic National Convention in 1992, a Democratic candidate for the New York State Senate, and a Democratic District Leader in East Midtown, Manhattan.

As we reflect on Lou's remarkable life and legacy, let us remember his humor, his thoughtfulness, and his relentless pursuit of a better and more connected New York. He will be deeply missed, but his contributions will continue to benefit our city for generations to come.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR BETHANN TELFORD

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. BethAnn Telford of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. BethAnn is a true American fighter and fierce advocate for brain cancer survivors.

Since she was young, BethAnn has been involved in numerous sports and other athletic activities. She is most passionate about long-distance running and was inspired to participate in the 2004 Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. Shortly after, she was diagnosed with brain cancer and underwent several surgeries that forced her to relearn how to walk and talk. Thankfully, BethAnn made a full recovery and refused to allow cancer to stop her from training and competing. Since then, she has completed numerous Ironman competitions and Boston Marathons, dedicating each mile she runs to a child she knows who has been affected by brain cancer.

Furthermore, BethAnn has dedicated herself to supporting brain cancer awareness initiatives. She founded Team BT, a nonprofit organization that has raised over a million dollars for brain cancer research. Through her efforts, our scientific community has moved one step closer to finding a cure for brain cancer. In 2017, BethAnn successfully completed the World Marathon Challenge, which requires competitors to finish 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days, becoming one of few people in the world to undergo this amazing feat. For her sportsmanship and participation in this Challenge, she was granted the Peakside Capital Sportsmanship Award. I am proud of the work BethAnn has done to uplift and inspire our community to overcome the most difficult challenges.

It is an honor to bestow BethAnn with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to our Nation. She is a truly extraordinary woman, and I'm confident this will not be the end of her accomplishments.

HONORING ERIC WAGENAAR

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the storied career and continuing service of Watertown's newly appointed City Manager, U.S. Army Retired Colonel Eric Wagenaar.

Mr. Wagenaar is a native of Carthage, New York, and graduated from Canton's St. Lawrence University with a Sociology degree in 1983. Upon his graduation, Mr. Wagenaar joined the Army as an Infantry Officer working primarily in command, training, and operations positions. His time in command ended in 2002 in Baumholder, Germany. In 2009, after 26 years of patriotic service, Mr. Wagenaar retired at the rank of Colonel. Following his retirement, Mr. Wagenaar took on the role of Civilian Plans and Operations Officer for the 10th Mountain Division before being promoted to Fort Drum Garrison's Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security in 2012. In 2015, Mr. Wagenaar was promoted once again to Deputy to the Garrison Commander and performed admirably in this role for 9 years before being named Watertown City Manager.

While serving in his role as Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Mr. Wagenaar's leadership was nothing short of exemplary. He was responsible for many duties on base that kept the day-to-day operations running smoothly and he performed each to the highest level. Whether helping to resolve installation problems, supporting training regimes, or guiding the direction of administrative programs, Mr. Wagenaar fulfilled his duties to the highest of standards.

Throughout his career, Mr. Wagenaar's high quality of work has earned him several honors and awards including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, and the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal. Furthermore, his aptitude in the field has earned him the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and U.S. Army and German Army Airborne Wings.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize U.S. Army Retired Colonel Eric Wagenaar for his decades of patriotic service. I look forward to witnessing his many future successes as Watertown's City Manager.

HONORING DR. ANITZA SAN MIGEL AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Anitza San Miguel's mission is to spark the resting potential within leaders. She guides them to flourish and project their distinctive brilliance, thereby revolutionizing their mindset to realize their ultimate aspirations. She is a loving wife and mother, a scientist, an innovative educator, an author, and a visionary leader.

Dr. San Miguel holds a bachelor's in biology, a master's in biotechnology, and a doctorate in higher education administration. She has served as a dean of Science at Valencia College, Osceola Campus, since moving to Orlando, Florida, in 2016. She is dedicated to the academic and professional success of individuals at all levels.

She has served as a science professor and dean at esteemed institutions in Virginia and Florida. She currently leads a team in Florida's Ninth District with distinction. Her expertise has been recognized at the National Institutes of Health and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Dr. San Miguel's entrepreneurial spirit led her to create ASM Mentors and the empowering podcast "Sacúdete y Toma Acción" or "Shake It Off and Take Action." She is the author of "Navegador," a reflective journaling tool, as well as a collection of inspirational coffee table books, "Reignite," "Grow," and "Shine." She has shared her guidance in the "Today's Inspired Latina" and "Today's Inspired Leader" book anthologies. Her eloquence and wisdom make her a coveted speaker, mentor, and coach.

Dr. San Miguel's accomplishments are a testament to her optimism and tenacious spirit. Her dedication to shaping the academic and professional trajectories of emerging leaders encapsulates her passion and commitment to continual self-improvement and fostering limitless growth and excellence.

Dr. San Miguel's pursuit of knowledge and development is persistent. Beyond the public eye, she savors moments with her family, explores new horizons, and engages in the reflective practice of journaling.

CONGRATULATING TRINE UNIVERSITY'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trine University's men's basketball team for winning the 2024 NCAA Division III National Championship.

Trine clinched their 69–61 victory over the top ranked Hampden-Sydney College in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in front of a record crowd. 4,546 spectators witnessed the Thunder become national champions in their first ever NCAA Tournament appearance.

This season, Trine has reminded Hoosiers why we love the game of basketball. They have exhibited all the traits that make the game so compelling. Not only have they excited and entertained their audiences in Northeast Indiana and beyond, but their dedication, hard work, and will to win have inspired them.

I commend each player and coach for reaching the pinnacle of success in their division. I know they will continue to grow and achieve, both on and off the court, with the great support of their community behind them.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS WEEK

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the week of March 25th to March 29th as National Area Health Education Centers Week, or AHEC week.

Southern Nevadans are facing a dire shortage of health care providers, meaning longer wait times, fewer choices, and less access to quality care. To solve this crisis, underserved communities like ours need to expand the resources we offer so that medical providers can learn and grow their careers in southern Nevada.

AHECs are a part of that solution. These centers connect students to local populations, which helps facilitate future engagement and boosts care in our communities. That has been and will continue to be key as we fight to ensure every Nevadan has access to the health care they need.

In just the past five years, the AHEC program has already trained two million health care professionals. Across our state, from Elko to Reno to Las Vegas, the AHEC program is strengthening the future of our health care workforce which will help the collective health of all Nevadans.

That's why I'm proud to support this program and why, year after year, I've fought to secure essential federal investments in the national AHEC program.

On behalf of my constituents at the Nevada AHEC program, their national counterparts, and the thousands of Americans who benefit from the care fostered by AHECs, I am proud to recognize this National Area Health Education Centers Week.

I thank all of them for their dedication to keeping our communities healthy.

HONORING SHERRY HOOPER AND HER SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sherry Hooper, the retiring Executive Director of The Food Depot. Sherry understands that food and nutrition are as essential to who we are as humans, as they are to who we are as a community.

Her dedication to building community while feeding the hungry in Northern New Mexico for over a quarter-century has nourished so many. New Mexicans benefited from the experience, compassion, and energy she developed in Kansas and Missouri when she chose our state and The Food Depot.

Under Sherry's leadership and capital campaign, The Food Depot grew from a 5,000 square-foot warehouse to the current 27,000 square-foot location. In 2023, The Food Depot distributed more than 7.4 million meals across Northern New Mexico, valued at \$11.3 million. The distribution also now includes nine northern New Mexico counties.

I've personally joined the hundreds of volunteers who bag and distribute hundreds of tons of food daily. Volunteers contributed over 21,976 hours for savings of \$685,837 in payroll last year and put into practice the concept of love that is inspired by Matthew 25—"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink."

Importantly, fruits and vegetables made up 62 percent of all food provided, making it possible for underserved communities to receive nutrient-rich foods. In fact, this year, The Food Depot is celebrating 30 years of commitment to healthy communities and innovative programming.

Sadly, Sherry's tenure ends in June of this year. She leaves the organization with a strong future. Following in her footsteps will be Jill Dixon, the current Deputy Director, whom Sherry has mentored since 2012.

I am happy that, thanks in part to Sherry's work, Congress recently approved my request for \$84,150 in Community Project Funding for The Food Depot to expand the Casita de Comida in Española—one of my district's most underserved communities where food insecurity runs high. Casita de Comida provides healthy and culturally appropriate food as well as personal hygiene products for free. Sherry and her team presented a compelling project that my colleagues and I wholeheartedly supported.

I offer Sherry our deepest gratitude for the difference she has made. I wish her many interesting new ventures and know she will be a positive force in every avenue of her life in the future.

HONORING AMBER ADAMS AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Amber Adams is the Osceola County regional president and senior vice president for SouthState Bank. She has worked in the banking industry for over 21 years and spent the last 12 years working in Osceola County, Florida. During her time in the Osceola County community, she has served as the chair of the Poinciana Area Council Board, chair of the Poinciana Medical Center Board of Trustees, advisory board member for the Poinciana YMCA, chair of finance for Community Vision, and is a graduate of Leadership Osceola. Amber currently serves in various organizations, including as a board member of the Osceola County Education Foundation and a champion trustee of the Osceola Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Adams is an active member of the Rotary Club of Kissimmee and is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow recipient. She has chaired the annual Operation Outdoor Freedom charity sporting clay shoot for the Rotary for the past three years. This event has raised over \$150,000 for Florida wounded veterans. It is the largest fundraiser for Operation Outdoor Freedom—an organization supported by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through the Florida Forest Service. It provides recreational and rehabilitative activities to wounded veterans.

Amber is proud to work for a company with strong core values that support her efforts to give back to her community. She is also thankful for her husband, Robert, and two daughters, Madison and McKenzie, who have spent numerous hours volunteering for these great organizations alongside her. She is committed to continuing to do her part in making Central Florida and her local community a better place.

ALEK RICHARDSON, RECIPIENT OF THE 2024 EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a very special constituent, Alek Richardson, whose unwavering optimism and unshakable courage will be celebrated on March 27 at the Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties' 2024 Celebration Awards. A resident of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, Alek is this year's deserving recipient of the organization's Education Achievement Award.

On December 9, 2023, Alex received a standing ovation at Slippery Rock University's commencement ceremony when he accepted his certificate for completing the requirements of the school's Rock Life program, a post-secondary education program for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Alek's journey to that moment was nothing short of momentous. Born in Ukraine, his devoted mother, Jean Richardson, recalls: "The miracle story started nearly 30 years ago, when a social worker in Ukraine placed a 4.7-pound infant in my hands and said, 'If you do not take him, he will die here.'"

Upon arrival in the United States, the struggling infant was airlifted to a hospital and given little to no chance of survival. But Alek had other plans.

Five surgeries and six weeks later, Alek was taken off life support. Despite suffering apraxia to his brain—the result of permanent brain damage due to malnutrition, premature birth and significant medical trauma—Alek showed a resounding resilience that was nurtured over the past three decades by a selfless Jean, his champion and cheerleader for life.

Slippery Rock University's motto encourages students to live like a ROCK (Resilient, Optimistic, Courageous and Kind). Alek Richardson has embodied these noble traits since birth. I congratulate Alek—and his mother, Jean—for the inspiration they've instilled across Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District.

HONORING THE LATE MS. DORIE ANN LADNER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a remarkable activist, Ms. Dorie Ladner, a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights Movement.