

Bambara and celebrate her well-earned retirement. For over four decades, Dr. Bambara has dedicated her career to the advancement of higher education, enriching the lives of students and bolstering local communities through her unwavering dedication.

Her leadership as the first woman to serve as President of Allegany College of Maryland has proved transformative. Under her stewardship for the past thirteen years, the Allegany College of Maryland has flourished, expanding its academic programs, strengthening community partnerships, and enhancing student support services. Through collaboration with faculty, staff, and administrators, she led the college to achieve numerous milestones, making ACM a place of opportunity for all. The legacy she leaves behind is a testament to her leadership and the collective achievements of the college community.

It is a privilege to acknowledge Dr. Cynthia Bambara's service and dedication as she embarks on her next chapter. Her legacy will undoubtedly inspire future leaders and continue to benefit ACM students and the state of Maryland for years to come.

HONORING MR. JAMES MILLER

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. James Miller and to thank him for his long and exemplary career serving our constituents and servicemen.

Jim's service to our troops began four decades ago while he was pursuing his second Master's Degree at Florida State University, after earning his first from Slippery Rock University. While pursuing his educational goals, he interned with the Mental Hygiene Clinic at the Erie County, Pennsylvania Veteran Affairs Hospital. This would prove to be a formative experience for Jim who, upon graduation in 1989, took a job at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. During his time at Fort Campbell, Jim served in a variety of roles including the Chief of Community Mental Health and the Chief of Discharge Planning. In these roles, Jim assumed responsibility for the well-being of countless troops and their family members. He flourished in Kentucky, but when Americans were called to serve during Operation Desert Storm, Jim followed the 101st Airborne—the mighty Screaming Eagles—across the waves as the division's social work officer. While deployed, he went above and beyond, providing counseling services to the troops and even establishing a mental health clinic similar to the one in which he had once worked in.

Jim stayed with the 101st until 1993, afterward continuing his service at various installations across the nation. Though his capacity differed at each station, the quality of service he delivered never diminished. His nine-year journey concluded in 2002 when he settled in with the North Country's own 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum. During the height of the global War on Terror, Jim provided the Division with the same essential, high-quality care that had defined his time with the 101st years prior. After serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, he returned to his roots at the very same Erie

VA Hospital where his career had started. Eventually, Jim would return to the North Country, first as the chief of the Watertown Veterans Center and then as a clinical social worker with Fort Drum's Soldier Recovery Program.

After a long career tending to our warfighters in their hours of need, Jim is ready for one last transition: on March 14th, he celebrated a richly deserved retirement after a lifetime of service. On behalf of New York's 21st District, it is my distinct honor to thank him for all he has done in service of the North Country, the 10th Mountain Division, and our Country.

RECOGNIZING MY PRESS SECRETARY, TAYLOR DEACON, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. DEAN PHILLIPS**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Press Secretary, Taylor Deacon, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. This week, Taylor will depart my office for a new opportunity serving as Deputy Communications Director and Press Secretary in the Office of Rep. Don Davis, and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

A Michigan native, Taylor's Midwest work ethic shines through in everything she does. From earning a Girl Scout Gold Award to graduating Magna Cum Laude from Elon University, her grit was as evident early in life as it is now on Capitol Hill.

As my Press Secretary, Taylor served as a trusted advisor and liaison to the media, using her sharp communications skills to articulate the accomplishments of our office and forge productive relationships with members of the press. Taylor brought a combination of passion, zeal, and enthusiasm to whatever task she was assigned. Her communications instincts, honed by work experience in the private and public sectors, are top notch, and I couldn't ask for a better companion to dash to an interview during a busy week.

Taylor Deacon has a rare combination of wit and patience that helps her maneuver whatever press landscape came her way. An invaluable member of my team, Taylor brought humor to a job that can often feel heavy and remained unflappable in tough situations. Her colleagues on the legislative team will always remember her skill at turning dry bill text into punchy press releases and consistently being game for a little wordplay on even the most arcane topics. Taylor has explained the difference between official and political work enough in the past year to last a lifetime and still has a bright smile for everyone she encounters. Her charm and grace—as well as her sarcasm—will be deeply missed by her colleagues.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her expertise and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. However, I'm extraordinarily happy that this expertise will continue to serve the Nation and the people of North Carolina's First Congress-

sional District. I wish Taylor all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for three years of faithful service to this Nation—and many more to come.

CELEBRATING WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a champion of our nation's abundant energy resources.

Western Energy Alliance is celebrating 50 years of unifying stakeholders and policymakers in support of oil and natural gas in the West. Their work has helped balance the environment by providing citizens with the energy they need.

Today, just as in 1974, energy policy is vital to America's success. Today, as back then, we also see regulators going out of their way to hamstring innovative solutions from small, independent companies focused on harnessing our Nation's mineral resources—companies that constitute the Alliance's membership.

Fortunately, the Alliance has been a guiding voice and valuable resource for members of Congress and has helped consumers combat high prices at the pump and lower their utility bills.

Congratulations to Western Energy Alliance for reaching the 50-year milestone and I thank them for being a credible advocate of western oil and natural gas.

CELEBRATING EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Eastern Michigan University in recognition of its 175th anniversary. An R2 Doctoral University for High Research Activity, Eastern Michigan University has spent the last 175 years educating the future leaders of this nation and its contributions to society are worthy of commendation.

Established as Michigan State Normal School in 1849 as the first normal school outside of New England, the school opened its doors with 122 enrolled students on March 29th, 1853, and quickly established a reputation of training excellent educators. By 1899 the school had developed the first four-year curriculum for a normal school in the United States and Michigan State Normal School became Michigan State Normal College. The college continued its important mission in educating students through World War II, the Great Depression, and World War II, and later became Eastern Michigan University in 1959 after establishing its graduate school. Following the transition to university status, an international student exchange program was organized with Britain in the early 1970s to allow students to gain broader perspectives and experiences.

With the original seven colleges and schools in the arts and sciences, business, education, health and human services, engineering and technology, honors college, and the graduate school, Eastern Michigan University has produced numerous notable alumni over its storied history. The university's more than 145,000 living alumni encompass several state governors including Michigan's 31st Governor Fred W. Green, State Supreme Court Chief Justices including Marilyn Jean Kelly and Marvin B. Rosenberry, U.S. Senators Royal Copeland and Charles E. Potter, numerous U.S. Representatives, and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater. The University Athletics Department has also produced several notable professional athletes in the National Football League, as well as National Basketball Association Hall of Fame player George Gervin.

Today, Eastern Michigan University's main campus sits in Ypsilanti, Michigan, with over 800 acres available to more than 13,000 students across the undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Since the 1970's, the university has offered courses in Jackson, Michigan, and has since expanded to seven satellite campuses as well as the recently added online course program. Additionally, several programs have been added to the university including the Centers for Corporate Training, the World College, and doctoral programs in educational leadership, technology, and psychology. Outside the classroom, the Eagles have found success in their three NCAA Division 2 national championships and 13 NAIA Division 1 national championships in baseball, men's cross country, men's swimming and diving, and men's indoor and outdoor track and field. The Eagles now compete at the NCAA Division 1 FBS level of collegiate sports and

have twice been NCAA Division 1 national runner up and have made four appearances in the NCAA Division 1 men's basketball tournament.

It is inspiring to see everything that Eastern Michigan University has accomplished over the past 175 years and the university's incredible growth is a testament to the quality education and broad opportunities it continues to provide to students. I am eager to see all that the university accomplishes in the years to come.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent because of a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 92; YEA on Roll Call No. 93; NAY on Roll Call No. 94; YEA on Roll Call No. 95; YEA on Roll Call No. 96; YEA on Roll Call No. 97; YEA on Roll Call No. 98; NAY on Roll Call No. 99; NAY on Roll Call No. 100; and YEA on Roll Call No. 101.

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#### HONORING HERMELINDA SAPIEN

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Hermelinda Sapien.

She has dedicated 55 years to the Center for Employment Training, and the past 25 years she has displayed her unwavering leadership as President and Executive Director.

The Center for Employment Training is an economic and community development corporation. Their job training and placement programs teach marketable skills to people of all educational levels and backgrounds, supporting them through the process of job placement. With 12 locations, including San Jose's, CET's impact is monumental.

Mrs. Sapien's work with CET began as an Administrative Assistant, and her commitment served her well as she moved up to Human Resources Director, Chief Administrative Officer, Deputy Director, and ultimately, President and CEO.

CET's ability to work with our community and support the dignity of self-sufficiency is largely due to Sapien's hard work. She dedicated her career to ensuring CET's financial stability and guaranteeing that the needs of students at CET were being met.

Thousands of people have received the training and support they needed to find meaningful employment that supports them and their families. Hermelinda's work and that of all the CET staff has changed lives and our community for the better. Hermelinda's leadership has made a profound difference.

Hermelinda Sapien will be retiring in June of this year, and it is with great pride and respect that I recognize her accomplishments.

I share with the CET's Board of Directors in their heartfelt farewell to Mrs. Sapien, and we will always remember her impact on the Center for Employment Training's success.