

their character and the exceptional coaching they have received. Through countless hours of practice and unwavering determination, they have honed their skills to perfection.

Under the leadership of Coach Coltin Rice, the team has gone undefeated since 2017. Their dedication, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to excellence have propelled them to new heights, setting the bar even higher for future teams.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the Everett High School Rifle Team, and wish them every continued success in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THIENSVILLE VILLAGE PRESIDENT VAN MOBLEY

HON. GLENN GROTHMAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 5, 2024

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the remarkable leadership and service of Van Mobley, President of the Village of Thiensville, whose unwavering dedication has significantly enriched the lives of his constituents and propelled the progress of his community over the last twelve years.

Throughout his dedicated career, Van Mobley has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to public service and community development. His journey began in 2006 when he was appointed to the Village Board as a Trustee, filling a vacant seat, and subsequently earning the trust of his constituents through two additional three-year terms. In 2012, he was elected Village President, a position he has since held for four consecutive three-year terms.

Under President Mobley's stewardship, Thiensville has experienced remarkable growth and advancement. His visionary leadership has spurred significant infrastructure improvements and development projects throughout the village. Notably, he spearheaded the development on South Main Street, overseeing crucial water infrastructure installations and the establishment of key properties, including the Thiensville Health Alliance, Reuter Insurance, and a new Village parking lot. His pivotal role in the Pigeon Creek flood control project has been instrumental in safeguarding Main Street from flooding during major rain events.

President Mobley's commitment to collaboration and intergovernmental cooperation has been exemplified by his efforts to merge fire and EMS services with the City of Mequon, resulting in the formation of the Southern Ozaukee Fire and EMS Department. This innovative partnership has garnered recognition from the Wisconsin Policy Forum for its effectiveness and efficiency.

Beyond infrastructure, President Mobley has overseen numerous enhancements in Village Park, including the construction of the Port Washington State Bank River Stage, new Comfort Station, playground upgrades, and boat launch improvements. Van Mobley's dedication to preserving Thiensville's rich history and heritage is evident in his personal investment in the historic Thiensville State Bank building on Green Bay Road, which he purchased and meticulously renovated.

In recognition of his exceptional service and tireless efforts on behalf of the residents of Thiensville, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to Van Mobley. His accomplishments have had a profound and lasting impact on the community, and I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND PROFESSOR EMERITA DR. ANN WYLIE'S EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 5, 2024

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, a great Marylander and important member of our University of Maryland community celebrated her eightieth birthday: Dr. Ann Wylie. She has educated countless students from across Maryland and America ever since she first became an Assistant Professor for the University of Maryland's Department of Agronomy in 1972. The following year, she became a founding faculty member of the University of Maryland's renowned Department of Geology.

From the President's Medal and the Scholar-Teacher Award at the University of Maryland, College Park, to the Butler Prize awarded by the Geological Society of Washington, Dr. Wylie has received widespread acclaim for her research and leadership in academia. Crucially, Dr. Wylie has displayed a commitment to service that deserves the admiration of every Member of this Congress. Her work on how exposure to minerals—including many mined in Maryland—affect human health has helped us better safeguard the well-being of the American people. Whether for the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. geological survey, the U.S. Bureau of Mines, or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, she has made important contributions to our government's understanding of these issues.

As a Terp, I'm also grateful for her leadership in the University of Maryland, College Park's administration. Throughout her distinguished career, she has served as Interim Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Senior Vice President and Provost, Vice President for Administrative Affairs, Interim Dean of the Graduate School, and many other vital positions. My staff and I have had the pleasure of working closely with Dr. Wylie on many occasions over the years—especially when she served as Chief of Staff to my friend Dan Mote during his tenure as the university's president.

Mr. Speaker, we at the University of Maryland, College Park, could never have known just how lucky we were to have Dr. Wylie join our community more than a half century ago. She has propelled the university and its students to greater heights and leave an indelible mark on campus. I ask that all my colleagues join me in wishing my fellow Terp well as she marks this terrific milestone. May they also join me in thanking her for her many years of service and leadership.

HONORING TONY SPANIOLA

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 5, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an incredible advocate—Tony Spaniola—whose unwavering commitment and tireless work have made an indelible mark on his community, the state of Michigan, and beyond.

In 2016, Tony's world shifted when he learned that his home, and many others near Lake Huron in Oscoda, Michigan, had been exposed to contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, more commonly known as PFAS, a class of chemicals used by industry and, in Oscoda's case, our military. At the time, the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda had been identified as the first site contaminated with PFAS in Michigan, and the first U.S. military PFAS site in the country.

This revelation ignited a fire within Tony—one fueled by a determination to confront the threat of these "forever chemicals." Studies have shown PFAS exposure may lead to an increased risk of cancer, decreased fertility in women, developmental delays in children, and other health risks. Tony became a driving force behind efforts to address PFAS contamination on local, state, and federal fronts.

His leadership was instrumental in the founding of the Need Our Water (NOW) community action group in Oscoda. Tony's vision also extended beyond Michigan, as he co-founded the Great Lakes PFAS Action Network, and also serves on the leadership team of the National PFAS Contamination Coalition. He played a pivotal role in the creation of the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team, where he currently serves on the Citizens Advisory Workgroup. Furthermore, his efforts contributed to the establishment of the bipartisan Congressional PFAS Task Force of which I am proud to be a member—a group dedicated to advancing legislative solutions and raising awareness about the urgent need to address PFAS contamination nationwide. Because of his relentless advocacy and uncanny ability to bring stakeholders together, Tony has earned the respect and the ear of senior Pentagon leadership, including Undersecretary of Defense Bill LaPlante, and has played a major role in pushing the Department of Defense to act more urgently on PFAS cleanup.

Tony has been an advocate his entire life, which can in part be attributed to the influence of his father, Francis Spaniola, a retired Army officer who served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1975 to 1990, representing Corunna in Shiawassee County. During his father's tenure in the state legislature, when the toxic flame retardant polybrominated biphenyls, more commonly known as PBB, was mistakenly sent to Michigan farmers as livestock feed and entered the food supply, Tony worked alongside his father at the forefront of tackling the PBB health crisis. Together, they initiated legislation that led to the creation of the Michigan Cancer Registry, regulated PBB, and compensated farmers for poisoned livestock.

I have had the privilege of bearing witness to Tony's unwavering passion since I took office in 2019 and remain grateful to have been

able to work with him in our fight to clean up contaminated sites across Michigan and this country.

In recognition of his extraordinary contributions to our state and his steadfast advocacy on behalf of impacted families and communities nationwide, it is my honor to recognize his service.

**HONORING ALVIN JOSEPH PICARD,
VETERAN OF THE GHOST ARMY,
FOR RECOGNITION WITH THE
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 5, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Alvin Joseph Picard, a son of South Louisiana who by nature of his service in World War II has been recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest expression of national appreciation through Congress.

Mr. Picard was a native of Vermilion Parish, Louisiana, born on December 9, 1919. He grew up amid the Depression and reached adulthood at a time of national crisis. When America entered the Second World War, Mr. Picard enlisted in the United States Army. He held the rank of Technician Fifth Grade with Signal Company of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops. This top-secret unit is now known fondly as the “Ghost Army.” The 1,100-man unit was assigned a critical task: to mask and misrepresent the whereabouts, trajectory, and strength of Allied forces in Nazi-occupied France.

Operating in the European theater, the Ghost Army was engaged in battlefield operations beginning in June of 1944. The unit’s deception strategies were critical to many Allied victories across Europe, including the D-Day landings. As a Cryptographic Technician in Signal Company, Mr. Picard employed “spoof radio” to confuse Axis forces and conceal the movements of other Allied troops. His efforts and those of others in the Ghost Army saved countless American lives.

Thirty years after the war, a U.S. Army report noted: “rarely, if ever, has there existed a group of such few men, which had so great an influence on the outcome of a major military campaign.” While aiding the victory in Europe, the Ghost Army also laid the foundation for modern defense strategies, on which our national security depends. As we confront present threats in psychological, cyber, and information warfare, the legacy of the Ghost Army and soldiers like Mr. Picard endures.

Although the Congressional Gold Medal reaches Mr. Picard posthumously, he is survived by a grateful family, community, and country. On behalf of Louisiana’s 3rd District, I thank Mr. Picard for his service. May God bless his family and his Veteran Brothers of the Ghost Army.

HONORING SCOTT NICHOLAS

HON. NICK LaLOTA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 5, 2024

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of the late Scott Nicholas, a remarkable individual from Smithtown, New York. Scott Nicholas was not only a Captain in the United States Naval Reserve but also a dedicated professor at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY.

Mr. Nicholas graduated from the State University of New York Maritime College and served in the United States Naval Reserve from 1999 to 2010. His contributions during Operation Iraqi Freedom aboard the USNS *Algol* earned him well-deserved recognition. Furthermore, he served with distinction on the USNS *Mendonca* and *Pililaau* from 2006 to 2008 and as Captain on the USNS *Brittin* from 2008 to 2010.

Beyond his service in the Naval Reserve, Mr. Nicholas continued to serve his country as a professor of Nautical Sciences and Simulation at the United States Merchant Marine Academy until his untimely passing on November 19, 2023. His dedication and commitment to his Nation exemplify true heroism.

My heartfelt condolences and profound appreciation for his service extend to his beloved wife, Heather, and his entire family. May the United States and the State of New York forever cherish patriots like Scott Nicholas. May his legacy endure, and may he find eternal peace.

**RECOGNIZING THE ALZHEIMER’S
ASSOCIATION 5TH ANNUAL GALA**

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 5, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Alzheimer’s Association on their 5th Annual Gala and thank them for their work to increase awareness and understanding of this disease and other related dementias. I’m grateful for how they empower North Texans with knowledge and strategies to cope with the complexities of Alzheimer’s disease.

The Dallas and Northeast Texas chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association advocates for those in our community impacted by Alzheimer’s disease, while pushing forward vital research endeavors focused on treatment, prevention, and finding a cure. Leading the way in Alzheimer’s research, the association is a critical piece of expediting global advancements towards ultimately ending the heartbreaking effects of this disease on individuals and families. As they celebrate their 5th anni-

versary, I sincerely thank the Dallas and Northeast Chapter for their tireless work in our community.

RECOGNIZING MOTAZ AZAIZA

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 5, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Motaz Azaiza, a Palestinian journalist, for his ongoing coverage of the Palestinian people and his commitment to telling their stories.

Mr. Azaiza has focused his life’s work on capturing the daily life of Palestinians in Gaza. Since the war began, he has bravely used his platform to document the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the lives of the innocent people who have been killed. Mr. Azaiza’s images on the ground have exposed the war crimes being committed by the Israeli government for the world to see. We applaud his efforts and bravery for risking his life to report on these atrocities.

Please join me in recognizing the numerous contributions of Motaz Azaiza in the field of journalism

**RECOGNIZING THE HOT SPRINGS
WORLD CLASS HIGH SCHOOL
EAST TEAM**

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 5, 2024

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Hot Springs World Class High School Education Accelerated by Service and Technology (EAST) team on winning the 2024 Founder’s Award at the 2024 EAST Conference. This award is given to students who demonstrate a commitment to EAST’s core values of authenticity, innovation, collaboration, dedication, and service. Mr. Speaker, it is evident that these students exemplify all of these and more. The team’s accomplishment stems from an interactive map they created for the solar eclipse passing through the state of Arkansas on April 8, 2024. The map allows individuals to see all viewing options for this once-in-a-lifetime event happening across the country. I am proud of the students for collaborating with the local community, working as a team, and accomplishing their goals.

I’m proud to recognize the students on this team and their EAST facilitator, Ms. Breanna Burris, for all their hard work on this extraordinary project. They have not only achieved a prestigious national award, but they have simultaneously improved the lives of their peers in Hot Springs.