

of one of my constituents, Dr. John Hamil, who has partnered with CARES Senior Health Clinic to treat its dermatology patients for more than ten years. The doctor and his team treat all skin conditions, including skin cancers. Their work has often been lifesaving.

Dr. Hamil and his colleagues who volunteer to serve this vulnerable population are making a profound impact on the lives of the patients they serve. Each of these volunteers have servant hearts, and their dedication to our community is impressive. It is said that a society can be judged by how well it treats its most vulnerable citizens. These medical professionals go above and beyond to ensure none of the patients seeking help at CARES Senior Center fall through the cracks.

It is clear that Dr. John Hamil and his fellow volunteers have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

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HONORING SOUTHERN  
OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, Southern Opportunity Foundation.

The Southern Opportunity Foundation is a non-profit dedicated to positive change in the South. The Southern Opportunity Foundation organization offers a range of impactful programs designed to address social and economic disparities in the Southern region. From education and workforce development to healthcare access and community empowerment, we strive to make a lasting difference.

The Southern Opportunity Foundation healthcare programs are designed to break down barriers to access, providing essential services and support to underserved communities across the Southern region. From preventive care and health education to facilitating access to medical resources, we are dedicated to promoting a culture to wellness and resilience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Southern Opportunity Foundation for their dedication and tenacity to serving their community and desire to be an example for all.

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HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, MS.  
CAROL COUCH

**HON. KAT CAMMACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, I wish Ms. Carol Couch a very happy 100th birthday.

Carol has always been known for her confident and strong personality. Carol joined the U.S. Army in April 1942 and was assigned to 1612th SCU Sta Comp WAC Det in Washington, D.C. While there, Carol worked to decode enemy messages which was then a top-secret job. After World War II, Carol and her husband Edgar Cox were honorably dis-

charged, and they packed all their belongings, including three young children, into a truck to move to Florida.

After opening a collections bureau, her plans changed and Carol drew up plans to build a million-dollar building providing office space to professionals, including doctors and dentists. Her husband thought her plans too ambitious and attempted to stop her, but Carol went to the courthouse and had herself declared separate from her husband so she could continue without his permission.

A woman of many interests, Carol became partner in a road construction company, oversaw the construction of her home, worked with doctorate students to form their thesis papers at the University of Florida, and maintained a multitude of hobbies. She even worked for 15 years at the University of Florida as a typist with an incredible speed of 120 correct words per minute.

In her later years, Carol worked for the Census Bureau and volunteered at Grace United Methodist Church, Friends of the Library, and several other organizations. Carol gradually bowed out of these responsibilities and gave up driving in her early 90s. Of all she accomplished, however, being a veteran was her favorite accomplishment, and she always drove with an American flag in the back windshield.

For the last several decades, Carol has made her home in North Central Florida, and has been a treasured member of several veterans' groups. I am honored to wish her a happy 100th birthday on May 22, 2024, and to thank her for her dutiful service to our Nation. I Congratulate her on this milestone. I am elated to celebrate with her.

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HONORING THE EDINA HIGH  
SCHOOL BOYS' HOCKEY TEAM

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Edina High School Boys' Hockey Team, who won the Class AA state championship in the Minnesota State High School Hockey Tournament.

This year's win marks Edina's 14th state championship overall, and second championship in five years. The team, led by head coach Curt Giles, finished the regular season with an impressive record of 20 wins, 4 losses, and 1 tie. In the postseason, the team earned another five wins in order to secure their spot in the championship game against Chanhassen High School. The championship game was incredibly competitive, and especially meaningful for Edina—who fell just short of the title in 2023. Chanhassen took the lead with a goal at the end of the second period and held it until Edina defenseman Robbie Hoch scored a goal to tie the game in the third period. A few minutes later, Edina senior Bobby Cowan scored the winning goal on a power play. Cowan's goal clinched the championship for the team, who won the game 2–1, in front of more than 20,000 spectators. The win would not have been possible without the phenomenal efforts of goalie Joey Betram, who had more than 30 saves.

I am so impressed with the hard work that these students put in on the road to the state

championship game, and I am especially proud to see them take home the title for their school. While some members of the team will continue playing for Edina next year, I know that others are graduating and stepping into life after high school. Whether those graduates choose to continue playing hockey or not, I have no doubt that the lessons they learned on this team will be immensely helpful in their lives ahead.

I'd also like to recognize all of the parents, teachers, school support staff, and team staff who worked to help this team succeed in every game that they played on their way to the championship. This level of success does not come without support, and we are lucky to have a community that is so invested in helping young people achieve in their endeavors outside of school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Edina High School Boys' Hockey Team on their state championship title and recognizing all of the hard work that it took to get there.

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RECOGNIZING GERALD MULLIGAN

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, Gerald Mulligan. "Gerry" as he is lovingly referred to, is a prominent figure in Citrus County, known for his dedication to community development and service. As the former Publisher of the Citrus County Chronicle, Gerry has used his platform to advocate for various causes over the years, notably the establishment of a YMCA in the area. His commitment to this project spans back to the 1990s, and he played a pivotal role in its development. His tireless efforts as a volunteer, advocate, and community leader are highlighted by his co-chairing the capital campaign committee to build a YMCA in Citrus County, which successfully raised over \$8 million in four years, allowing the YMCA to be built without incurring any debt. Being so engaged and associated with so many in the community, Gerry Mulligan played a role as a connector in nearly every relationship the YMCA established during the capital campaign. His leadership roles, including serving as the first Advisory Council Chair of the Citrus Memorial Health Foundation YMCA (where he continues to serve as a Council member today) and serving on the YMCA of the Suncoast's Board of Directors, highlight his commitment to the YMCA and the community. You can often find Gerry at any of the special events at the Y, as he continues to be an active YMCA member and volunteer. Gerry's involvement in the community extends beyond his role at the YMCA. He actively engages in numerous volunteer efforts and civic organizations, including the Rotary Club of Crystal River and a founder of the United Way in Citrus County. Gerry's civic contributions have been widely recognized, as evidenced by his induction into the Florida Newspaper Hall of Fame and his recognition as Citizen of the Year for Citrus County in 2021. Gerry Mulligan's leadership, support, and advocacy create a lasting legacy in Citrus County. In addition to the work he continues to do with the

YMCA in Citrus County, his multifaceted involvement across various sectors demonstrates his dedication to making his community a better place for its residents. Gerry's work as a community champion continues to earn him the admiration of his fellow citizens and the well-deserved recognition.

It is clear that Mr. Mulligan has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

#### HONORING SILVESTER TATUM

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Command Sergeant Major Silvester Tatum, retiring from Mississippi Army National Guard with over 42 years of military service. A devoted husband and father, he has spent his entire career working parallel business and army professions, serving as the embodiment of a Citizen-Soldier. He has executed a lifetime of achievements in education, military discipline and training, assignments, commands, and missions that are remarkable and historical.

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Tatum is decorated with the Legion of Merit, the Combat Infantry Badge, and many other awards and honors. He served in many tactical, operational, and strategic assignments, including two overseas combat tours to the Middle East. His career culminated with his selection as the first African American Senior Enlisted Leader of the Mississippi National Guard on 1 April 2021. In this role, CSM Tatum has faithfully and impartially discharged the unique duties of his assignment with excellence. CSM Tatum serves as the principal advisor to the Adjutant General of Mississippi on all matters pertaining to providing a ready enlisted force, health of the force, and enlisted professional development of more than 13,000 Citizen Soldiers, Airmen, State employees, and federal technicians. Areas of focus are to ensure the force is equipped and trained to respond to any contingency, natural or manmade.

From Rolling Fork, Mississippi, Tatum enlisted in the Mississippi National Guard in 1981, has served as one of the most influential senior enlisted leaders our ranks have ever witnessed, maintaining the highest standards during the most dynamic and complex times in history. CSM Tatum is a true American hero and a proud Mississippian who always placed the needs of others before his own; I am immensely grateful for his dedication to our country and to the State of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Command Sergeant Major Silvester Tatum for his dedication to serve the state of Mississippi and his country.

COMMEMORATING THE 325TH ANNIVERSARY OF VAISAKHI AND THE LEGACY OF GURU GOBIND SINGH JI

#### HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 325th anniversary of Vaisakhi on April 13, 2024, and the legacy of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who espoused the values that we as Americans cherish, including liberty, equality, and religious freedom.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji founded the Khalsa community in 1699, and its sole purpose has been upholding the dignity and human rights of everyone, regardless of their nationality, race, religion, or social status. Sikhism teaches that all human beings are inter-connected as one human family, with one Creator who lives through everyone. Sikhism also teaches that every person has innate dignity and deserves to be treated with respect and kindness. Guru Gobind Singh Ji taught that the highest form of worship is to love and care for humanity. For this reason, the Khalsa community cares for God's creation without any distinction.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji preached his belief in pluralism and freedom of conscience during a time of religious intolerance. He lived by a maxim that captures one of Voltaire's philosophies. "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." His father, Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, adhered to the same principles and was even executed because he protested the government's forced removal of the Janeu, the sacred thread. Even though as a Sikh, Guru Teg Bahadur Ji himself did not believe in wearing the Janeu, he protested for the right of Hindus to wear it. He was executed because he refused to give up this principle when given an ultimatum by the intolerant monarchy of his time.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji followed in the footsteps of his father and promoted interfaith dialogue. Not only would Guru Gobind Singh Ji build Sikh Gurudwaras, but he also built Muslim Mosques and Hindu Mandirs. When asked which religion he felt is the most excellent, Guru Gobind Singh Ji would respond "Just as my faith is the most excellent for me, yours is the most excellent for you." He taught that religious labels do not matter in God's eyes.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji was also a major proponent of education and women's rights. He was an intellectual who authored many influential works and poetry that is still read today. Much of his poetry is included in the Sikh prayers. He encouraged people of all identities and backgrounds to study, which was very rare at the time. Women were given the equal rights to become soldiers in the Khalsa army, which was an army comprised completely of volunteers. According to Sikh writer Bhai Vir Singh Ji, Guru Gobind Singh Ji taught that "it is a sin to be cruel, but it is a bigger sin to tolerate cruelty." This was during a time where being religious meant that you left society to primarily focus on meditation. Guru Gobind Singh Ji taught abandoning a suffering world in the name of religion is selfishness disguised as prayer. He preached that religiosity meant fighting against cruelty and uplifting the downtrodden.

Regarding issues of war and peace, the Khalsa army adhered to a humanitarian code fostered by the Guru Gobind Singh Ji. They were outnumbered in every battle they fought, yet their spirit was unmatched. Wars were only fought for human rights. Battles were often fought to rescue young girls who were kept as slaves and forced to leave their religion. Sikhs would make sure to not only give food, water, and first aid to their soldiers but also to enemy soldiers. No land was ever conquered, no loot taken, and no prisoners of war were ever caught. Additionally, all the Khalsa army arrows had gold on them. This was to make sure that if an enemy soldier was injured, they could afford treatment, and if they died their family was not left penniless. Guru Gobind Singh Ji's own sons fought on the front lines of the battlefield. All four of his sons gave their lives fighting. His younger two sons were captured and executed at age 7 and 9, along with his elderly mother. Guru Gobind Singh Ji and the Khalsa army sacrificed everything in the name of freedom.

When a Sikh decides to become a part of the Khalsa community they go through the baptism ceremony called the Amrit Sanchar. They vow to serve humanity and fight for social justice. They also give up all ties to caste. Guru Gobind Singh fought against the caste system because he believed it undermined the principle of unconditional human equality. The Khalsa of yesterday fought as soldiers on the battlefield. The Khalsa of today fights for justice as teachers, doctors, lawyers, and political activists. They are very much a part of the American fabric and embody the spirit of freedom.

The Khalsa community serves humanity in their Gurudwaras, the Sikh place of worship. Gurudwaras feed thousands a day in their free kitchens called "langars." This practice was founded on the belief that no human should ever go hungry. These community kitchens are places where people from all cultures and religions are welcome to eat for free. The community has taken the concept of selfless service to great heights and continues to provide free humanitarian aid in natural disasters all around the world. By creating the Khalsa, Guru Gobind Singh Ji broke all barriers and united the human race, as one family. Today, the Third Congressional District of New York joins the Sikh community in celebrating Khalsa Sajna Diwas and honors the contributions that Sikhs have made to the District and the Nation.

#### HONORING THERESA SULLIVAN FOR RECEIVING THE MALCOLM BALDRIGE QUALITY AWARD

#### HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Theresa Sullivan, the CEO of Samaritan Healthcare in Moses Lake, Washington for winning a Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award for healthcare. The Baldrige Quality Award is the highest formal recognition given by the President of the United States for performance excellence.

Samaritan Healthcare is a hospital that provides vital services for our rural communities