

at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for serving the community for over 70 years. Touching countless lives over their storied history, their dedication and impact on the greater Michigan community is worthy of commendation.

Established as the University of Michigan Women's Hospital in 1950, the University of Michigan sought to provide world-class maternity and obstetrics services while opening a facility to teach nurses and medical students and support research dedicated to transforming care for all women. With their program philosophy based on multispecialty team care, the hospital provides well-rounded care for women, including midwifery, a family planning clinic, fetal diagnosis and therapy, and minimally invasive surgery. The hospital also conducts advanced research and treatment on comprehensive infertility services, BRCA gene mutations, and cervical, ovarian, and other women's cancers.

With nearly 90 expert physicians and over 133,000 patient visits per year, Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital delivers over 5,400 children and performs nearly 4,000 procedures each year. The hospital provides comprehensive and specialized treatment for women's health. Women face specific health challenges and the Von Voigtlander Hospital ensure that they have the best healthcare possible for their needs. One specific area of work is on endometriosis, a condition that impacts women only and is a chronic condition that can significantly reduce a woman's quality of life. The Hospital's commitment to excellence has helped Michigan Medicine achieve exceptional rankings among national medical programs each year and helped Michigan Medicine achieve the number one overall rank for hospitals in Michigan. Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital has been recognized as the No. 3 gynecology program in the Nation, the No. 1 gynecology department in the State of Michigan, and was awarded Magnet Status Designation in 2017. Only 6 percent of U.S. hospitals received the Magnet status Designation, which required organizations to meet rigorous standards for patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice. The hospital has also been recognized as a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health.

Providing world class medical care requires world class facilities. In 2011, the University of Michigan Women's Hospital became the Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital following a \$15 million gift from the Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation. The program moved into a new state-of-the-art 12-story facility on the University of Michigan Medical Campus that is now home to both Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital and C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. The new facility is the length of two football fields, and at 1.1 million square feet, it has all the resources needed for the hospital to continue providing the best care for women possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital at the University of Michigan. For more than 70 years, the hospital has demonstrated all exceptional dedication to furthering the study and treatments for women's health while providing incredible care for women across the State of Michigan. We thank the physicians, nurses, and staff of Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital for their com-

mitment and service to their community. We need more hospitals dedicated to women's health research and treatment, and I am excited to see all that is accomplished at Michigan Medicine over the next 70 years.

RECOGNIZING LEE JOHNSON

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 of one of my constituents, Lee Johnson, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundred of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Lee Johnson and fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

COMMEMORATING THE PASSING OF SONIA IRIS COLLAZO

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today commemorate the passing of Sonia Iris Coilazo, a beloved matriarch, community advocate, and proud daughter of Puerto Rico. Sonia I. Collazo was born on February 23, 1948 in Orocovis, Puerto Rico to Alfredo Gonzalez and Adela Melendez de Gonzalez. She passed away in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on March 26, 2024.

Sonia's journey is one of strength and perseverance. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she learned the value of community and the power of education from an early age. After receiving her formal education in Orocovis, she attended the Universidad Interamericana de Puelto Rico—Bananquitas before moving to Philadelphia. Upon arriving in Philadelphia, she continued her education at Temple University and worked as a kindergarten teacher at Potter-Thomas School.

She also quickly became involved in her community, becoming one of the first employees at Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha (APM), a Latino-based health, human services, community, and economic development non-profit organization serving the Philadelphia area. Sonia went on to have a long and respected career in the City of Philadelphia's Department of Human Relations, retiring after more than 26 years of service. She was a proud member of AFSCME District Council 47.

Her warmth and generosity have touched countless lives, bringing hope and encourage-

ment to those in need. Whether through volunteering, advocacy work, or simply lending a listening ear, Sonia's impact was felt far and wide. Sonia's advocacy extended beyond her immediate circle, as she was one of the lead organizers of the 'Walk for Peace,' an initiative that began in 1996 to address violence among young people. In retirement, Sonia volunteered much of her time at Congreso de Latinos Unidos retirees' program.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of her tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to serving others, we honor Sonia as a loving mother, community organizer, and champion of Puerto Rico. Her legacy inspires us all to strive for a more just, compassionate, and inclusive society.

COMMEMORATING THE WARSAW MASONIC LODGE'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Warsaw Masonic Lodge No. 73 F.&A.M in Warsaw, Indiana, as they prepare to celebrate their 175th anniversary on May 30, 2024.

Since its founding in 1849, the Warsaw Masonic Lodge has played an integral role in the Kosciusko County community. As a fraternal organization, the Warsaw Masonic Lodge is dedicated to the kind of values that all of us should espouse: respect for history, duty to country, a desire to serve others, and a commitment to forge a better future.

As the oldest institution still in existence in Warsaw, Indiana, the Warsaw Masonic Lodge has stood the test of time and made significant and long-lasting contributions to the social and cultural life of Warsaw and all of Kosciusko County.

This is above all a testament to quality of its members and the men who have walked through the Lodge's doors over the years. The Warsaw Masonic Lodge and organizations like it do much to contribute to the health of our communities in northern Indiana, and for that I am extremely grateful.

I join many other Hoosiers in wishing the Warsaw Masonic Lodge a very happy 175th anniversary and many more successful and active years ahead.

RECOGNIZING JENNIFER REY

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 of one of my constituents, Jennifer Rey, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause- to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members

have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Jennifer Rey and fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
DETECTIVE KELSEY WADE

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary actions of Detective Kelsey Wade of the Sumter Police Department, whose quick thinking and bravery undoubtedly saved a life on the night of February 9, 2024.

On that fateful evening, officers were dispatched to respond to a shooting incident on Thomas Drive. Among them was Detective Kelsey Wade, who arrived at the scene promptly and without hesitation.

Upon her arrival, she encountered a male victim with a serious gunshot wound to his neck. Undeterred by the severity of the situation, Detective Wade immediately sprang into action, identifying the severed artery and pinching it shut while providing first aid to the victim.

Detective Wade's decisive actions undoubtedly played a pivotal role in stabilizing the victim's condition and ensuring that he received the necessary medical attention in a timely manner. Her selfless dedication to duty and unwavering commitment to protecting and serving her community exemplify the highest ideals of law enforcement.

In recognition of her heroic efforts and exemplary service, I commend Detective Kelsey Wade for her bravery and professionalism. Her actions on the night of February 9th are a testament to her exceptional character and the values she upholds as a member of the Sumter Police Department's Investigations Division.

Please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Detective Kelsey Wade for her selfless service and dedication to the safety and well-being of our community.

CONGRESSIONAL EDUCATION
AWARDS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of outstanding public school employees in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

School employees work tirelessly because they understand that their efforts are not just about fulfilling a job description, but about shaping the future.

They deserve recognition because they are the architects of knowledge, the mentors of

tomorrow's leaders, and the unsung heroes who work behind the scenes to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Ten years ago, I established the Congressional Teacher Awards program with the aim of providing special acknowledgment to educators within Florida's 16th Congressional District for their outstanding achievements. This year, we expanded the event's scope to encompass all school employees, recognizing their invaluable contribution in both teaching and inspiring students.

The following public school employees from Manatee and Hillsborough counties were nominated and selected to receive Florida's 16th District's 2024 Congressional Education Award for their accomplishments:

Manatee County: Michelle Ayling, State College of Florida Collegiate School; Jensina Barnes, Palm View K-8; Pauline Barnes, Manatee High School; W. Shane Baxley, Manatee Technical College; Amy Bradl, Willis Elementary School; Patrice Cairo, Gene Witt Elementary School; William Cirone, Manatee Technical College; Joadie Durfee, Harvey Elementary School; Rennie Finck, Lakewood Ranch High School; Katie Fradley, Willis Elementary School; Jennifer Harper, Williams Elementary School; Jen Johnson, Sea Breeze Elementary School; Kami Lake, various Manatee County schools; Debra McCarthy, Lakewood Ranch High School; Chelsea McCay, Daughtrey Elementary School; Stefanie Miniham, Braden River High School; Patricia Pearson, Braden River Middle School; Katherine Price, Willis Elementary School; Jodi Samson, McNeal Elementary School; Laura Schuyler, Braden River Middle School; Jessica Spence, McNeal Elementary School.

Hillsborough County: Kathy Dodd, Newsome High School; Donna Hart, Newsome High School; Melissa Hart, Winthrop Charter School; Aliya Norman, Reddick Elementary School; Kimberly Opperman, Reddick Elementary School.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, I congratulate each of these outstanding educators and offer my sincere appreciation for their service and dedication.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOOMINGDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 80th anniversary of the Bloomingdale Baptist Church, who serves as a beacon of faith and hope to the residents of East Tennessee, as the oldest Baptist church in the region. Since its founding, the church has been a cornerstone of spiritual guidance and unwavering support to the Bloomingdale community.

On April 2, 1944, a council of eight preachers and thirteen deacons answered the call for faith services and formed the Bloomingdale Baptist Church, the first Baptist church in the area. Since then, thirteen charter members, in an assembly of letters, statements, and baptisms, built community service, faith, and charity as the strong foundations to rest the church. To this very day, these spiritual values

live loudly within the hearts of Bloomingdale Baptist Church congregants and its leadership.

Throughout Bloomingdale Baptist's history, a tradition of devoted leadership has remained a perennial source of inspiration and renewal. The first elected pastor, James Taft Richards, led worship services with a passion and faith that invigorated church members until 1950. His successor, Pastor Joseph William Byrd, renowned as a symbol of resolve, served as the longest-tenured Southern Baptist pastor to lead a single church. Following Pastor Byrd's tenure, Pastor Phillip R. Whittemore helmed the church, upholding its enduring legacy of faith and community service until his retirement in 2023. Now, as the church looks forward, Pastor Wade Childress provides stability and an uplifting vision for the future as Bloomingdale Baptist Church's interim pastor.

Bloomingdale Baptist Church has not only served as a place of worship, but a welcoming center for community life. It has witnessed countless baptisms, marriages, and gatherings, each event enriching the lives of its congregation and the Bloomingdale community at large. As Bloomingdale Baptist Church celebrates this remarkable milestone, we recognize its steadfast and profound impact for generations of church members, instilling faith, love, and service to the community it serves and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bloomingdale Baptist Church on its 80th anniversary. I wish Pastor Childress and the entire congregation another 80 wonderful years of continued faith and service in the Bloomingdale community.

HONORING THE 2024 GOOD SCOUT
AWARD RECIPIENT JEFF STRACK

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I take this time to recognize the 2024 Good Scout Award recipient, presented annually by the LaSalle Council Boy Scouts of America. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization is hosting a celebratory event on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at the Porter County Expo Center and Fairgrounds in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Each year, the LaSalle Council Boy Scouts of America presents the Good Scout Award to individuals whose efforts have had significant positive impacts on their communities in Northwest Indiana and across the state. This year, the LaSalle Council Boy Scouts of America will be honoring Jeff Strack, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indiana Grocery Group/Strack & Van Til.

Jeff's impressive career with Strack & Van Til spans over thirty years. He has held numerous positions with the organization including Vice President of Operations and Chief Marketing/Strategy Officer, among others. Currently, Jeff is the company's President and CEO, a position he has held since 2016. During that time, Mr. Strack has created a culture of success by developing an executive team that is focused on customer satisfaction, employee appreciation, exceptional service, quality products, and community involvement. Under his outstanding leadership, Strack &