

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 &

Van Til has grown to include more than twenty locations, and the organization continues to evolve to meet the needs of the communities it serves.

Jeff Strack generously serves his community by giving his time and efforts to numerous charitable endeavors. He also serves on several local, national, and advisory boards. In addition, Strack & Van Til has a long history of supporting organizations that focus on hunger relief, first responders, military, educational foundations, local sports teams, and more. For his outstanding commitment to so many earnest causes, Jeff Strack is to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the LaSalle Council Boy Scouts of America and its 2024 Good Scout Award recipient, Jeff Strack. For his lifetime of leadership and tireless dedication to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, Jeff Strack is worthy of the highest praise.

RECOGNIZING TECHNION-ISRAEL  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the work of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology as it is celebrating its centennial. As Israel's first university, the Technion has educated generations of engineers, architects, and scientists who have helped lay the Nation's infrastructure and establish its crucial high-tech industries. At every juncture of the country's development, the Technion has been there, protecting the State of Israel.

The Technion is a global leader in science, engineering, research, and technology education. Its unique culture of entrepreneurship empowers students to be visionary change-makers and global innovators. The Technion is a global university with a presence in New York and China, having partnerships with institutions like the University of Michigan, Cornell University, and MIT. By having the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech on New York City's Roosevelt Island, they can bring academia and industry together, featuring the Runway Startup Postdoc Program.

In the past 100 years the Technion has become the leading university in Israel and Europe and one of the top 100 universities in the world. In 2020, the Technion was ranked No. 12 in the world for producing entrepreneurs, having generated 602 founders who have set up 509 companies and have raised \$12.4 billion. Technion graduates comprise the majority of Israel-educated scientists and engineers, consulting more than 50 percent of the country's founders and managers of high-tech industries. Seven out of ten Israel-educated engineers are Technion graduates and 85 percent of the Israel technological workforce are companies led by Technion graduates. Technion alumni have founded a total of 1,075 companies, valued at more than \$1 billion and have attracted \$2.5 billion in venture capital per year.

I also want to highlight the American Technion Society (ATS). Over the past 85

years, the ATS has raised a transformative amount of funding for Technion students, faculty, research, and infrastructure. This not only empowers Israel's economic growth and security, but better the lives of people around the world.

I give a big congratulations to the Technion and all of its accomplishments in the past 100 years. I am excited to see how it will continue to grow in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING HIS HOLINESS DR.  
VASANTH VIJAYJI MAHARAJ  
FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize His Holiness Dr. Vasanth Vijayji Maharaj for his lifetime dedication to promoting peace, spirituality, and brotherhood.

At a young age, His Holiness committed himself to the teachings of non-violence, meditation, and religious unity. Accordingly, he has organized numerous events to educate people on moral integrity, sustainable environmental practices, and healthy lifestyle choices to improve societal well-being.

His Holiness has also worked to combat poverty and homelessness throughout India by organizing public gatherings and events. Collectively, his events have helped to distribute clothing items and food to more than 15,000 individuals in need.

Notably, His Holiness's movement for non-violence has received international recognition and engagement. In 2005, he organized the Historic Peace March in India, bringing together practitioners of multiple religions to promote unity. He also organized Vasanth Vizag, in which over 750,000 people gathered to advocate for peaceful conflict resolution. In 2008, he held the World Peace Festival where attendees participated in a candle lighting ceremony to signify harmony between countries around the world. His Holiness's commendable efforts to unify diverse peoples through shared values transcend national boundaries.

At all of these events, His Holiness showcased his unique approach to cultivating mutual respect and understanding between people by highlighting what they have in common. His vision is for teachers, parents, children, and policymakers to work together to combat social injustices. As a result of his teachings and guidance, his millions of followers have established over 100 peace centers and charitable trusts across the world.

His Holiness's efforts to promote interstate and interfaith cooperation have been recognized by organizations worldwide. In 2009, he was appointed as Diplomatic Counsellor of India by the International Parliament for Safety and Peace and given the prestigious title of Ambassador of Peace by the Universal Peace Federation. His Holiness was also nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize to recognize the impact he has had throughout the world.

His Holiness has empowered and uplifted countless individuals physically and spiritually, and it is for that impact, Mr. Speaker, that I wish to extend my gratitude and appreciation to His Holiness Dr. Vasanth Vijayji Maharaj.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING  
FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE  
CENSUS ACT OF 2024

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Ensuring Full Participation in the Census Act of 2024, which would prohibit the U.S. Census Bureau (Bureau) from including questions on the decennial census about citizenship, nationality or immigration status.

Prior to the 2020 census, the Department of Justice wrote to the Bureau requesting that it "reinstate on the 2020 [c]ensus questionnaire a question regarding citizenship." From 1970 to 2000, this question was sent to only approximately 16 percent of the population in the decennial census through the so-called "long-form." However, the long-form system was dropped from the census and replaced with the current American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is sent to approximately three million people annually on a rotational basis, and allows the Bureau to get the necessary information on citizenship. Asking questions about citizenship status to every person in the decennial census has not been done in almost 70 years because it would discourage people, largely minorities, who are already undercounted in the census, from participating in the census. The ACS was created to make the decennial census simpler for people to complete, which facilitates higher participation rates and preserves privacy.

Fortunately, after a protracted legal and political process, the citizenship question was not included on the 2020 census. However, this legislation is necessary to ensure it cannot be asked on a future decennial census. The representative sampling provided by the ACS is more than sufficient to determine citizenship statistics in the U.S. We must ensure that all individuals are counted in the decennial census, thereby providing accurate allocation of federal funds and representation in Congress, and not reduce participation by asking a question that is already asked elsewhere.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH WEDDING  
ANNIVERSARY OF ROBERT AND  
KATIE PYLE

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th wedding anniversary of Robert and Katie Pyle.

Robert was born in 1936 and Katie in 1940, both in Hobson City, Alabama. The Pyles attended school in Calhoun County. Robert graduated in 1956 and Katie was valedictorian of her class in 1958.

After graduation, Robert was drafted in the U.S. Army and enrolled at Tuskegee Institute School of Nursing. After a few years of separation, Robert was stationed in Korea. Katie wrote him letters often to update him on her life in Hobson City. When Robert came home from Korea, he walked Katie to the bowling