

former president and board member of the Direct Marketing Association, and past chair and board member of the Optical Society of America.

Over the span of fifty years, Robert Edmund applied many different approaches that carried the business to where it is today. When he first began at Edmund Optics, Inc., he created an innovative telescope, while also creating processes in direct marketing known by all industries, beyond optics. Robert Edmund was recognized for all his work by being named Direct Marketer of the Year in 1983 by the Philadelphia Direct Marketing Association.

Today, Edmund Optics has become the world leader in optics, thanks to Robert Edmund's metamorphic strategies. Edmund Optics is now a leading global supplier of optics, imaging, and photonics technology that has served a variety of markets including Life Sciences, Biomedical, Industrial Inspection, Semiconductor, R and D, and Defense since 1942.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Robert Edmund, a Barrington resident dedicated to his community and who is a true leader of his industry.

MIA QUINONES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mia Quinones for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth Award.

Mia has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Mia, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Mia's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Mia Quinones on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF PATSY ANN (PAT) DANNER

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense pride that I rise today to honor a great Missourian, former Congresswoman Pat Danner (MO-6) on her 90th birthday. An experienced leader, innovative thinker, and dedicated professional, Pat serves as a prime example of a true public servant and moreover, a kind human being.

Born January 13, 1934, in Louisville, Kentucky, Pat grew up in Bevier, Missouri where she attended public schools and then graduated from Northwest Missouri State University Cum Laude with a BA in political science. On the pursuit to grow as a leader and further

involve herself in public service, Pat went on to work as the District Administrator to Congressman Jerry Litton following graduation. As a testament to the unwavering commitment to her community and serving others, she was appointed to a sub-cabinet position in the Administration of President Jimmy Carter.

In 1982, Pat attained a momentous milestone in her career by securing a coveted position in the Missouri State Senate through a triumphant electoral victory over incumbent Senator Hardin Cox and was re-elected in 1986 and 1990. As a pivotal turning point, Pat successfully ran for Congress in 1992, defeating the incumbent Republican Tom Coleman and secured her seat in Missouri's Sixth District. She was re-elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, 1996, and 1998.

Beyond her extraordinary career accomplishments, Pat's courageousness and resilience as she underwent breast cancer stand as evidence of her unshakeable willpower. As a proud breast cancer survivor, Pat has shared her positivity, vibrance and fearlessness to all those around her. Her dedication and love for her family has created long lasting bonds with a marriage of over 41 years with her husband Markt Meyer and four children, Stephen, Stephanie, Shane, and Shavonne. Their close-knit family made up of 10 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren have continued to serve as an important pillar in Pat and Markt's life, bringing them joy and fulfillment to their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District as we forever enshrine Pat's legacy and wish her the happiest of birthdays. On this special occasion, let us celebrate this milestone and Pat Danner's achievements throughout her distinguished career but most importantly, her impact as a lifelong friend, partner, mother and a proud Missourian.

URGING THE EXTENSION OF PRO-GROWTH TAX PROVISIONS

HON. GUY RESCENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. RESCENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of extending the pro-growth tax provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA).

In 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed the TCJA into law, which ushered in prosperity to the American economy. These benefits included significant investments in American workers, families, and local communities. Thanks to House Republican leadership and Chairman JASON SMITH, Congress has prioritized the restoration of these important provisions, such as the full and immediate expensing for research and development, full expensing of investments in new equipment, machinery, and technology, and business interest deductibility.

Under these important TCJA provisions, job creators across our nation increased innovation, expanded facilities, and reinvested in their employees. For example, the International Paper Company utilized the research and design expensing reforms to advance efficiency and safety standards at their box plant in Eighty-Four, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I hear across southwestern Pennsylvania the need to restore these vital

TCJA provisions. I urge Congress and the Administration to recognize the opportunity before us. Restoring these provisions can strengthen the U.S. economy, help create new American jobs, and increase our nation's competitiveness. I stand with the businesses and workers in my district, and I encourage my colleagues to extend these expired provisions immediately.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM PAGE

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of William (Bill) Henry Page, a fixture of the Dutchess County community who was beloved by all who knew him. William recently passed away on December 23, 2023, at the age of 82.

William was a lifelong resident of Dutchess County and active in his community. In 1962, he married the love of his life, Helen Marie Wilser, in Poughkeepsie, NY. Today, their three sons are raising their families in Dutchess County. William served on the Board of Directors of H.G. Page, the company founded by his father Henry Page, Sr. He and his beloved wife Helen successfully grew Park Page Associates into a prominent real estate development company. In addition, he served on many boards throughout the community and received honors including the Lagrange Symbol of Freedom Award, Family of the Year, and LaGrange Rotarian of the Year.

William, who was also known as "Bill," will be remembered for his tenacity and affection for those around him. At the age of eighteen, he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, but he never let his diagnosis stand in his way. He enjoyed conversation, red wine, and time spent with his family. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of William Henry Page, a man who made a lasting difference in his community.

ALLI GIBSON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alli Gibson for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Alli has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Alli, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alli's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Mandalay Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Alli Gibson on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

CELEBRATING THE FORTY-FOURTH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND DOCTOR NORMAN N. FRANCIS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the forty-four years of Pastoral excellence of Reverend Doctor Norman Nathan Francis. Reverend Doctor Norman Nathan Francis was born to the union of the late Norman Francis and the late Eartha Singleton Cambrice on January 9, 1954, in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is the oldest of twelve siblings.

He is a product of the Jefferson Parish School System. He attended McDonogh No. 27 Elementary School and is a 1971 West Jefferson Senior High School graduate. Reverend Francis accepted Christ in his life in 1974 and was baptized at the St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church by the late Reverend Doctor Arthur Monday, Jr. He acknowledged his call to preach the gospel of Christ and was licensed to preach on December 19, 1975. He received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Theology from the Union Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. He became an ordained minister in April 1980. Following the untimely death of the late Reverend Doctor Arthur Monday, Jr., Reverend Francis was elected pastor by a unanimous vote of the church's congregation. He was installed as the church's third pastor on June 20, 1980, under the auspices of the Westside Missionary Baptist Association.

The church has a functioning youth ministry, a weekly prayer service, and Bible Study. He has implemented the following ministries: New Members, Evangelistic, Senior Citizens, Prison, Drug Prevention, Transportation, and many other ministries and committees. Pastor Francis encourages the entire membership to participate in all church functions. He believes there is a place for everyone who wishes to contribute to the work of the Almighty Father. He has officiated hundreds of baptisms, Christenings, funerals, and weddings.

Pastor Francis is a member of the Free and Accepted Prince Hall Masonic Lodge No. 102 and a Third Degree Mason, a member of the Louisiana State Missionary Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention, LSA Incorporated. He is the First Vice-President of the West New Orleans Missionary Baptist Education Association. He is the Senior Advisor to the Westside Missionary Baptist Association President—Reverend Doctor Orin D. Grant, Sr.

Pastor Francis received numerous accolades from Civic organizations; he was the first recipient of the Global Citizen Award, a Pastor of the Month Recipient, and a Civilians' Clergy Honoree. He was awarded his Honorary Doctorate Degree in Theology from Christian Bible College on April 3, 2011, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's 2016 Citizen of the Year Award and the 2020 Union Baptist College and Theological Seminary Distinguished Alumni Citizen Award. He is listed in Who's Who Among

American Ministers' Registry and many other organizations for his dedicated spirit, but he knows his real reward is in heaven.

Pastor Francis is the loving and devoted husband of First Lady Nedra Washington Francis. He is the proud and caring father of Nathaniel, Chiquita, and Imani Francis, and Willie Moore, Jr.

COMMENDING FERN BILLET ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Fern S. Billet on her retirement.

Fern S. Billet is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where she earned the status of cum laude, graduating with a Bachelor of the Arts in Anthropology before she continued her education at Rutgers University-Camden School of Law. Her illustrious career began as a Law Clerk for Kelly, Harrington, McLaughlin & Foster in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and for three years she was an Associate Attorney, drafting pleadings and preparing written correspondence with courts, witnesses, and clients.

Fern S. Billet would go onto work in the office of Congressman Joseph M. Hoeffel of Pennsylvania's 13th District as a part-time District Representative until 2003 when she stepped into the role full-time for one year. She held many roles in the representative's office including assisting in planning events, attending events on behalf of the Congressman, and working as a constituent service caseworker. In February of 2005, Fern S. Billet joined the staff at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center as a Correspondence Analyst and Congressional Liaison, a role that she has held to the present day. She has also headed several other roles during her time at the Medical Center, such as a one-year tenure as the Interim Vice-President of External Affairs Product Line, three years effectively as the Center's Public Affairs Officer as well as the Community Relations Coordinator and Interim Privacy/FOIA Officer.

Across her several roles throughout her career, Fern S. Billet held responsibility for several staff members in Medical Media and Voluntary Service, helped implement and manage the facility's Privacy and Freedom of Information Act programs, manage, and track oral and written correspondence as well as provide Congressional briefings, visits, and tours as she worked to support Veterans. She also oversaw media interaction, community relations, and all communication with internal and external stakeholders. She worked diligently to promote attention to veteran's affairs as well as, planned, coordinated, and supervised special events to raise spirits and moral of both staff and patients of the center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Fern S. Billet of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a public servant dedicated to the veteran community, upon her

retirement from the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEFFREY B. SENFT

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Jeffrey B. Senft, a man dedicated to the Dutchess County community who was beloved by all who knew him. Jeffrey recently passed away on October 25, 2023, at the age of 71.

Jeffrey was the Founder, CEO, and President of S&O Construction Services, Inc., based in Pleasant Valley, NY. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Construction Management from Utica College of Syracuse University before starting a career in construction. He worked at several firms while developing the expertise that led to him founding S&O.

In the community, Jeffrey served on the Town of Pleasant Valley Planning Board as Vice Chairman and later Chairman, as President of the Northeast Subcontractors Association, and Vice President of the Empire State Subcontractors Association, Inc. He also served as Vice Chair, and later Chair of the Board of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Jeffrey was also a longtime member of the Construction Management Advisory Board and a member of the Pioneer Society at Utica University.

Jeffrey will be remembered for his zest for life, sense of humor, work ethic, and love for family and friends. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of Jeffrey B. Senft, a man whose involvement in the Dutchess County community left a lasting impact.

DAYANA BANUELOS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dayana Banuelos for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Dayana has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Dayana, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Dayana's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Dayana Banuelos on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.