

COMMEMORATING LEADERSHIP
SOUTH BEND-MISHAWAKA'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate everyone at Leadership South Bend-Mishawaka on their upcoming 50th anniversary celebration in May, and in particular, the members of Class 50 on their commencement ceremonies.

As a proud member of Leadership SBM's Signature Leadership Class 43 back in 2017, I know firsthand what an invaluable resource and great organization Leadership SBM really is. Leadership SBM plays a vital role in getting young people better connected within our community and with their peers across a wide spectrum of professions and fields. In fact, I'm still proud to count many of my classmates from Class 43 as dear friends to this day.

Leadership SBM is instrumental in forming tomorrow's local leaders; leaders who will create the kinds of opportunities we all will benefit from. Additionally, the opportunities Leadership SBM provides for continued learning, social connection, and community service projects is a big part of what makes our region in northern Indiana so special. For all these reasons and more, I am proud to be counted as one of Leadership SBM's many alumni going back a half-century.

Congratulations to Leadership SBM on this impressive milestone and on 50 years of excellence. I hope everyone enjoys the very well-deserved 50th anniversary celebration in May, and I look forward to congratulating Leadership SBM on many more anniversaries in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING ERIN CARTER-
HARVEY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, Erin Carter-Harvey, for her efforts with Steele Tryin', a non-profit that organizes events and support for those in the community who are struggling. Most recently, she organized a "drive-by honking" where droves of cars paraded past the house of a local child who was dying of cancer. The activity lifted his spirits. She has also helped single moms who are struggling financially with getting their yards mowed for free. 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 Ms. Carter-Harvey has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

HONORING THE ARC OF NEW
JERSEY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to the Arc of New Jersey as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

For the past 75 years, the Arc of New Jersey has admirably supported individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They have made a significant impact by securing quality education and healthcare, equipping disabled individuals with vital workplace skills, and advocating for this community at all levels of government. The Arc of New Jersey has certainly improved the quality of life for thousands of New Jersey residents, and the Seventh District is both proud and grateful to have such an outstanding organization operating in our communities.

I wish the Arc of New Jersey a wonderful 75th anniversary. I thank them again for their dedication and passion to making our communities safer, healthier, and more inclusive places to live and work. I have no doubt that this organization will continue to thrive in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes due to a weather delay at the airport which prevented me from getting to Washington in time. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 123; YEA on Roll Call No. 122; YEA on Roll Call No. 121; and YEA on Roll Call No. 120.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR D'AMBROSIO

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, Mayor Vincent "Mike" D'Ambrosio, who volunteers at least 30 hours per week in service to the Town of St. Leo. He's been on the Commission since 2020, and has been Mayor since 2022. Under his leadership, the Town has made many advances, including:

Increasing Public Advocacy for Town needs by meeting with state and federal lawmakers, resulting in the Town's first appropriation in its 131-year history.

Hosting seven "Coffee with the Mayor" events attended by more than 250 people.

Facilitating improved communication and involvement with key stakeholders, including: Saint Leo Abbey, Holy Name Monastery, Discovery Fellowship, and Saint Leo University.

Building partnerships to expand participation in: the Saint Leo University Tree Lighting and

Christmas Village, the Greased Pig Contest at the Saint Leo University Fall Festival, and the Dade City Chamber of Commerce Access East Pasco.

Purchasing land to develop a Town Center which will serve as a local gathering spot that enriches the quality of life of the residents and the community.

Establishing the Town's first internship program.

Mayor Mike is charitable, humble, kind, and passionate. His volunteerism with the Saint Leo Sporting Clays Team and the Church Truth Seekers has also been invaluable. While there may only be 24 hours in a day, Mayor Mike dedicates almost every hour of his days to helping others.

It is clear that Mayor Vincent "Mike" D'Ambrosio has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal family matter, I was unable to be in D.C. and vote on April 15, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 123.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 120.

RECOGNIZING DAVID GONZALEZ

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, David Gonzalez, who is a valued volunteer with several community organizations in Hernando County and has been a long-time employee of our community's electric cooperative, Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative. In this capacity, he has served as the face of the organization in the community, presenting millions of dollars in credit refunds to local governments and school boards. Mr. Gonzalez has also served in key leadership roles on the Board of Directors for several non-profits in Hernando with the highest levels of dedication, including: the Hernando Chamber of Commerce, Hernando Education Foundation, Hernando Economic Development Council, Oak Hill Hospital Board, and the United Way of Hernando Board. Whenever there has been a need, Mr. Gonzalez has stepped forward to address it, without concern for who gets the credit. A truly humble problem-solver, Mr.

Gonzalez embodies the concept of servant leadership and has made a lasting impact on the organizations and communities he has served. While we wish him all the best in his upcoming retirement, we know that his departure from the cooperative will leave behind a void that will not easily be replaced.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present during Roll Call vote No. 120 through 123 on April 15, 2024 because my flight to Washington, D.C. was diverted due to weather conditions. Had I been present: on Roll Call vote No. 120, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call vote No. 121, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call vote No. 122, I would have voted YES; and on Roll Call vote No. 123, I would have voted NO.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO, LETICIA FERRER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate this week's Hometown Hero, Leticia Ferrer. During last week's solar eclipse, Leticia's lifelong fascination with the movement of the sun and the moon gave her the opportunity to lead a project in North Texas funded by NASA. Leticia's passion for things out-of-this-world started in childhood and she's dedicated her life to documenting and filming eclipses across the globe. Collecting data on the sun throughout her viewings, last week the Farmer's Branch native had the opportunity to work with the Citizen CATE project as a coordinator of scientific viewing teams of the eclipse at home in North Texas. The Citizen CATE project works with NASA and the National Science Foundation to collect data on the magnetic structure and energy of the sun's corona. Leticia helped lead four teams of North Texans through the process of properly collecting the necessary data and using telescopes to gather images to be studied for years to come. I'm inspired by Leticia's dedication to the advancement of solar science and thankful for her outreach in North Texas during the total solar eclipse.

RECOGNIZING THE IVANOVSKY FAMILY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by the Ivanovsky

Family. The Twistid Arts Initiative was born out of the desire to raise awareness of and increase access to all forms of visual and performing arts in Citrus County. Prior to the creation of this non-profit organization, youth in Citrus County had limited opportunities for exposure to successful arts-based careers. In response, this non-profit organization was developed to provide innovative programming, hands-on education, and immersive events throughout the community.

The Ivanovsky Family has jumped in to help at every Twistid Arts event that has been held to date. They are extremely dedicated to the cause and are willing to do even the most menial tasks to ensure events and programs run smoothly. 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 the Ivanovsky Family is making a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

CELEBRATING THE ROBBINS AREA LIBRARY'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Robbins Area Library for thirty years of service to the people of Moore County.

Thirty years ago, this library was established to serve as a center for community and learning for the people of Robbins, North Carolina. Before it was built, folks had to travel to neighboring towns in order to visit a library. But now Robbin's library has emerged as an integral part of the town. The library houses thousands of books, provides internet access in an area where coverage is limited, and caters to the learning of people of all ages. Additionally, it serves as a central meeting spot, hosting children's events, book groups, movie groups, sports clubs, and more.

Numerous folks have been integral to the success of this storied landmark. This includes people like Theron Bell, who was the chief advocate for the establishment of the library back in the 1990's, and Clara Bernicken, a thirty-year veteran of the local library system and one of the lead story tellers at Robbins. They, and many others, have performed a tremendous service to our community in Moore County. I think I speak for everyone in Moore County in thanking them for all they have done and continue to do.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the Robbins Area Library and all those who have helped it grow and develop on the thirtieth anniversary of its establishment.

CELEBRATING THE NETWORK OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE'S 50TH YEAR OF SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the outstanding work of the Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA), as it commemorates its 50th year of service to the residents of Bucks County. NOVA stands as a beacon of hope and support for victims of serious crimes and their families. NOVA's mission of providing support, counsel, and empowerment of victims of sexual assault and abuse in our region manifests itself through its tireless advocacy and community education.

NOVA directly assists over 3,000 victims annually, providing them with crucial support and resources during their time of need. Additionally, their team of educators conducts personal safety training for approximately 30,000 individuals each year, spanning across different age groups from children to adults. By utilizing individual and group counseling, victims of sexual assault and abuse can regain control of their lives, and through education programs, children and communities learn to be advocates for victims of abuse, as well as prevention and personal safety.

By empowering individuals with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves, NOVA plays a vital role in fostering safer communities. The organization's reputation for delivering exemplary services and programs is well-deserved and wide recognized both statewide and beyond.

In conclusion, as NOVA celebrates its 50th anniversary, let us commend and express our gratitude to all the staff, volunteers, and supporters who have contributed to its success over the years. I am thankful to work with their President, Sarah Larson, Executive Director, Penny Ettinger, and the many other NOVA staff and volunteers serving Bucks County. I am proud to support them in their mission to stand for victims in the fight to end sexual assault.

RECOGNIZING JANINE KELL

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Ms. Janine Kell. Ms. Kell is an engaged and dedicated volunteer with Warrior 321, an anti-human trafficking awareness group. Most recently, Janine was instrumental in hosting the community's second annual Light Up the Night Hernando event to bring awareness about human trafficking to the county.

Janine never sleeps and has truly dedicated her life in every way to fighting on behalf of the vulnerable. In addition to her work to prevent the horrific crime of human trafficking, Janine regularly speaks at local schools, educating students on the Monique Burr curriculum. The Monique Burr curriculum is a