

the separation of church and state, a foundational principle that is the cornerstone of true religious freedom.

I wish her the best in her next role as Vice-President of Federal Affairs with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, where she will follow her other passion, advocating for the humane treatment of animals, inspired by her beloved rescue dogs Atticus and Finn.

#### RECOGNIZING FRANK JONNA

#### HON. JOHN JAMES

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, April 20, 2024*

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my dear good friend, Frank Jonna, as he is honored as the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Businessperson of the Year.

Frank's entrepreneurial instincts can be traced back to working with his older brother, Jimmy, after he founded Jonna Construction in 1965. Early on, Jimmy's leadership taught Frank the meaning of hard work, patience, and perseverance firsthand, propelling him to later become CEO of Jonna Construction.

With over 40 years of dedication to the Metro Detroit area, Frank has served on the numerous Boards including Henry Ford Health, Catholic Central High School, Angel's Place, and Detroit Public Television.

Alongside these accomplishments, his legacy will forever live on in the community Jonna Construction has contributed to and built, including Michigan National Bank Building, the Henry Ford Detroit Pistons Performance Training Center, Mother of God Church, St. Thomas Church, Shenandoah Country Club, and the Chaldean Community Foundation Headquarters.

Frank is the embodiment of the American Dream. In every step of his career, he has showcased a neverending commitment to the Southeast Michigan community, so on behalf of all of Michigan's 10th Congressional District, congratulations to Frank Jonna.

#### RECOGNIZING APRIL AS SECOND CHANCE MONTH

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, April 20, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment to celebrate April as Second Chance Month—a time to recognize that interventions that help justice-involved individuals make our communities safer and healthier, grow our economy, and reduce recidivism.

I am deeply proud of my successes during my Congressional career that have given people a second chance. The impact of the criminal justice system is deep and harmful—breaking families, removing workers from their workplace, and weakening our families, communities, and economy. We know that providing opportunity for improvement strengthens lives, and it also saves taxpayer resources on re-incarceration that could support citizens in other ways, with the Illinois Sen-

tencing Policy Advisory Council estimating that the average cost associated with one recidivism event is \$151,662. Further, economists recognize that integrating individuals with records into the workforce boosts our economy by increasing earnings and tax revenue.

In April of 2008, Congress passed and President George Bush enacted my bill—the Second Chance Act. This law has provided over \$600 million to state, local, and tribal governments as well as reentry-focused non-profit organizations to operate programs and services to ensure the success of people re-entering their communities after incarceration. A study completed by Texas Southern University of the effectiveness of the Second Chance Act in Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia found that education, vocational and work release programs, substance abuse programs, and family support are integral activities in reducing recidivism. Just this week, I joined with colleagues from both sides of the aisle and in both chambers to reintroduce the Second Chance Reauthorization Act to keep these programs running.

Research demonstrates that postsecondary correctional education is greatly needed, has tremendous effectiveness, increases economic well-being, reduces recidivism, and saves taxpayers money. Two of my bills to improve educational opportunity for justice-involved individuals became law in 2019. The REAL (Restoring Education and Learning) Act restored Pell grant eligibility to the incarcerated. According to the Vera Institute study, states can save an average of \$7.6 million in incarceration costs each year for which people in prison have access to Pell Grants. The FAFSA act removed the prohibition on federal student aid to people with felony drug convictions. This policy unfairly targeted poor and minority students and cost society more in terms of crime and lost economic productivity. These policy changes are smart, cost-effective investments of taxpayer dollars.

Unfortunately, more needs to be done to improve educational access for justice-involved individuals. My DEMO (Demonstrating that Empowerment Makes Opportunities) Act would help those with records obtain successful health careers. This bill is modeled on the successful work of Johns Hopkins and the Safer Foundation that created intensive training programs for workers in hospitals coupled with legal services, support services, technical assistance for businesses, and job placement services. The programs are wildly successful, giving people with records good jobs and giving the hospitals quality, loyal workers. My ED ACCESS Act would repeal the lifetime ban on the American Opportunity Tax Credit for those with felony drug convictions. The antiquated lifetime AOTC ban for people with felony drug convictions makes it harder for these individuals to afford college and get their lives on track. My REO (Reentry Employment Opportunities) Act would codify the successful REO program that improves job training for justice-impacted workers. I am pleased that the House passed a WIOA bill this month that included key provisions of my bill.

We also must do more to divert people from the criminal justice system. Each year about 20,000 youth enter foster care due to parental incarceration. I worked with Rep. BARBARA LEE to secure money in FY22 to help parents whose children would be orphaned were they to enter prison. This trauma is avoidable, and

quality diversion programs can strengthen families and protect millions of children from harm.

I support and applaud my home state of Illinois for enacting the SAFE-T Act to eliminate cash bail. Illinois was the first state to end cash bail. This ban was championed by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus. Justice should not target the poor. Individuals who pose a threat to the community will remain in jail, but those who simply can't pay for bail will not. According to a November report from Researchers at Loyola University of Chicago's Center for Criminal Justice, the Cook County jail population decreased by 12% in the month after implementation, with similar decreases in several other Illinois counties.

As we celebrate Second Chance Act month, I recognize our successes and commit myself to continue to do more to help those who made mistakes to get the opportunities to turn their lives around.

#### RECOGNIZING JULIANNA MARTINEZ

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, April 20, 2024*

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

Julianna has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Julianna, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Julianna's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Julianna Martinez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

#### REMEMBERING CHULA VISTA ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF PHIL COLLUM

#### HON. SARA JACOBS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, April 20, 2024*

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chula Vista Assistant Police Chief Phil Collum, a 29-year veteran of the department who we sadly lost to cancer. His service and his legacy will always be remembered.

Those who knew Assistant Police Chief Collum best emphasize his empathy, his compassion, his reputation for being fair, his work ethic, and more than anything, his dedication to his community.

Community was at the heart of everything Assistant Police Chief Collum did. He gave the directive in 2022 to create the Community Engagement Division to help foster community relationships—and he personally led this division.

He was committed to building bridges between officers and the community they serve.

Through the Community Engagement Division, he worked to make sure that the Chula Vista Police Department was actively connecting with community members including residents, students, and business owners.

Assistant Police Chief Collum was also deeply involved in charity work. He volunteered at his church. He went to Tijuana every month to support orphanages and help children in need as part of the Corazón de Vida Foundation—his empathy and compassion for others on full display.

And, Assistant Police Chief Collum was a true trailblazer. He was the Chula Vista Police Department's first Black lieutenant, first Black captain, and first Black assistant chief.

He was also the first openly gay male officer in the department. In his own words, during an interview in 2022, Assistant Police Chief Collum said that he was proud to be a member of the LGBTQ community. He was proud to be a law enforcement officer. He was proud of his husband. He was proud of his community. And that he wanted to celebrate that.

I can't think of a better way to sum up his incredible contributions to our community. He broke down barriers and was a role model for so many.

Assistant Police Chief Collum is survived by his loving husband, William Lopez, and my heart is with his family, his friends, his colleagues, and our entire community as we mourn this immense loss.

We will always remember Assistant Police Chief Collum.

# REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

## HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, April 20, 2024*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and stand in solidarity in the remembrance of the millions of lives lost during this tragic event.

Let us not forget the hate and mistreatment Armenian families faced and make sure that this terrible event is never forgotten in the minds of Americans and our history. The Armenian Genocide was one of the darkest moments in human history, resulting in the deaths of approximately a million Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. Today, let us be reminded to always treat our neighbors with love and human dignity, and inspired by the memory of those lost, to never stop fighting for a better world in their honor.

I join the Armenian communities of Michigan and across my district in recognizing the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide as we remember the lives of the loved ones lost a century ago.

RECOGNIZING U-M DEBATE TEAM

## HON. JOHN JAMES

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, April 20, 2024*

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Michigan debate team for winning the 2024 National Debate Tournament, the first in their history. As an alumni of the University of Michigan, I am incredibly proud of your accomplishment!

On April 8, 2024, the 78th annual National Debate Tournament took place and in a unanimous decision, the University of Michigan's debate team made headlines by bringing home the National Championship. This achievement is the culmination of hours and hours of hard work and preparation and is truly commendable.

In the elimination rounds, Michigan bested many other qualified teams before defeating Kansas in the championship round. U-M is proving once again that our great state of Michigan is yielding the next generation of leaders.

As a Michigan alum, I'd like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire U-M Debate Team, Coach Aaron Kall, and the University of Michigan. Go Blue.