

his swift water rescue suit and navigated the icy waters, having to force open the vehicle's door to access the driver. He then securely placed a life jacket on her and coordinated with first responders to ensure a safe extraction.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to extend our deepest gratitude and congratulations to Jeffrey Hammond for his life-saving act.

RECOGNIZING MR. EUGENE "JACK"
KRASZEWSKI

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of a remarkable man: Mr. Eugene "Jack" Kraszewski. A WWII veteran, father, grandfather, and friend, Jack has dedicated his impressive life to serving the United States and his community.

Jack was born on April 15, 1924, grew up on his family farm, and attended school in Pulaski, Wisconsin. However, Jack did not finish high school as he was drafted into the Army at the age of 18 before graduation. Jack was quickly sent off from small town Pulaski to Fort Hulen, Texas, for basic training. At basic training he was extremely successful where he studied and eventually became part of an anti-aircraft unit. After basic training he went on to be deployed and stationed all throughout Europe including Scotland, England, France, Belgium, and Germany. From March of 1943 to February of 1946, Jack valiantly served our country during the height of the tensions of World War II. Jack was even present on D-Day at the Invasion of Normandy, one of the largest amphibious invasions in modern warfare history. All the way from Northeast Wisconsin, Jack was on the front lines of the most notorious invasions in United States military history. I extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to Jack for his unwavering service and commitment to the United States of America.

Following his discharge from the military, Jack returned home and married the love of his life, Marjorie Stender, on October 11, 1958. Jack and Marjorie enjoyed nearly 60 years together and would grow their family, welcoming their two daughters, Anne, and Ruth.

Mr. Speaker, I once again extend my sincere thanks for Jack for his unwavering service and dedication to the United States. He truly embodies all that it means to be part of the Greatest Generation. Our Nation is safer because of his selfless commitment and service. I urge members of this body to join me in honoring Mr. Eugene "Jack" Kraszewski in recognition of his service. Mr. Kraszewski is deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

RECOGNIZING ZAYNE JAMES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zayne James for earning the Ar-

vada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Zayne has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Zayne, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Zayne'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 Zayne James on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. COLIN Z. ALLRED

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, on April 20, 2024, I was absent during the time of the following vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 143, H.R. 3602, End the Border Catastrophe Act.

RECOGNIZING DAMON GOEBEL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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

Damon has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Damon, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Damon'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 Damon Goebel on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROCK
CREEK NATIONAL PARK ACT OF
2024

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to redesignate the United States-owned Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia as "Rock Creek National Park." Redesignating this park will highlight its significance to the Nation, including visitors to the Nation's capital, and will help bring much-needed funding for the park's inviting trails, waterways, and other unique features.

Rock Creek Park is already a "national" park, as it was established by Congress in 1890 "for the benefit and enjoyment of the

people of the United States." Rock Creek Park was the first federally managed urban park and the third federal park ever created, after Yellowstone and Sequoia. Rock Creek Park was designed to preserve animals, timber, forestry, and other interests in the park, and to ensure that its natural state is maintained as much as possible not only for D.C. residents, but for all Americans. The park also preserves the ancient history of the land, as it was used for temporary settlements and as a quarry for weapons and tools by Native Americans from 7000 BCE until the 1600s.

Since Congress first designated Rock Creek Park, several structures and properties have been established or donated to further preserve Rock Creek Park, creating a vast connected park area that falls under a central National Park Service jurisdiction. In 1892, the federal government acquired Peirce Mill in Rock Creek Park, one of the mills used by local farmers during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. In 1950, the Old Stone House located in Georgetown, with its pre-Revolutionary War architecture, was acquired by the park. The building was restored and programs explain the house's rich history from the colonial period to the present day. The Fort Circle Parks were also acquired to interpret and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington, which created a ring of protection for the Nation's capital during the Civil War. The Carter Barron Amphitheater, established in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Nation's capital, became an integral part of D.C.'s live music scene, and has featured acts including Ella Fitzgerald, Diana Ross, and Earth, Wind and Fire, as well as local artists. The redesignated "Rock Creek National Park" would encompass these later additions to the park.

Today, Rock Creek Park offers residents of D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia, as well as visitors, an escape from our increasingly urban environment. Residents and tourists alike enjoy many activities in the park's 2,000 acres, including hiking and biking on the trails, horseback riding, picnicking, tennis, and other recreational activities in some of the open fields. Our residents have expressed their appreciation by volunteering to clean up and maintain the forests, trails, and waterways.

In 1918, landscape architects John Charles Olmstead and Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. wrote of Rock Creek Park, "No matter how perfect the scenery of the park may be or may become, no matter how high its potential value, that value remains potential except insofar as it is enjoyed by large and ever larger numbers of people, poor and rich alike." Redesignating Rock Creek Park as Rock Creek National Park will help recognize the national status of the park and protect and revitalize this remarkable resource in our Nation's capital.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING SAMY A. OSORIO
ALBORNOZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Samy A. Osorio Alborno for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Samy has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Samy, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Samy'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 Samy A. Osorio Albornoz on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING INDIANA STATE
REPRESENTATIVE JERRY TORR

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Indiana State Representative Jerry Torr as he prepares to retire from the Statehouse after almost three decades of service.

Rep. Torr's long and distinguished service in the House has made him a legend in Indiana and has earned him the respect of the hundreds of legislators who have served alongside him over the years.

Jerry's contributions to the state of Indiana have been numerous and significant. Most notably, he was instrumental in making Indiana a right-to-work state and spearheaded the legislation that moved Indiana to daylight saving time. His work to allow Hoosiers with minor pre-existing conditions to be insured illustrates his effectiveness, but also his advocacy and concern for the people of his state.

To those who have followed Indiana politics and government for the past 30 years or so, Jerry has been a fixture. He has consistently represented the best of what it means to be a public servant. Beyond his legislative accomplishments, his leadership has been characterized by integrity and fairness. His presence in the halls of the Statehouse will be missed, but his legacy will inspire Hoosier leaders for years to come.

RECOGNIZING AMIRA PEREA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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

Amira 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 Amira, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Amira'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 Amira Perea on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

COMMEMORATING THE 109TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, 109 years ago, the Ottoman Empire began a concerted and systemic effort to destroy the Armenian people, Armenians from all walks of life, including writers, doctors, and teachers, were rounded up and brutally murdered, clergy were tortured and burned alive in churches, women and girls were brutalized, raped and killed, sons and daughters witnessed their fathers being murdered, and children and the elderly died of exhaustion and starvation on a forced march to Deir ez-Zor. 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children, entire families, were wiped out in an act of mass premeditated murder.

The facts of the genocide are horrific and undisputed by historians. They were recorded by American diplomats serving in the Ottoman Empire at the time who bore witness in official cables to the annihilation of the Armenian population. The U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time, Henry Morgenthau, described it as a "campaign of race extermination." It was the first genocide of the 20th Century—a term coined by Raphaël Lemkin partly in response to this barbarity.

Despite overwhelming and ever-increasing evidence of this methodical mass killing, Turkey has long engaged in a dangerous campaign to deny the genocide and to silence anyone who seeks to speak the truth.

I have sat down with survivors. I have been welcomed into their homes. I have listened to their stories of how their parents, aunts and uncles were murdered, how their property and the lives that their families built were destroyed. I have watched them relive the pain over and over, reopening the wound to keep the history of their families alive.

The United States will no longer stand in dishonorable silence. In 2019, the U.S. House passed my resolution officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide by a near unanimous and bipartisan margin. That same year, the U.S. Senate also passed a resolution affirming the facts of the Armenian Genocide. And in 2021, President Biden finally cast aside decades of shameful silence by our nation to become the first sitting U.S. President to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

These historic achievements happened because of a resilient and enduring Armenian community and diaspora, and decades of work. It's a testament to the efforts of thousands of activists, organizations, communities, and faith leaders. It's a victory for human rights and for truth itself, and it's something that we achieved working together.

But we know there remains so much important work to do. These wounds are still open, they have not fully healed and in tragic ways, some grow even larger.

To this day, President Aliyev of Azerbaijan echoes the genocidal language and actions of more than a century ago with the support of Turkey. Beginning on September 27, 2020, and over 44 days, Azerbaijani forces invaded and murdered innocent Armenians in Artsakh and displaced tens of thousands more. They continued to terrorize the people of Artsakh in

subsequent military attacks, and by blocking the Lachin corridor, leaving 120,000 ethnic Armenian people without access to food, water, medical supplies and services, gas, and electricity for over 9 months. And then in 2023, the Aliyev regime took full advantage of a people they had systematically starved to ethnically cleanse Artsakh's indigenous Armenian population from their land.

As we mark the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide with pledges of "never again," the democratic and peaceful Armenian people face threats like never before. There is real and growing concern that Aliyev has his eyes set on land beyond Artsakh. To this day, Azerbaijani forces remain present on sovereign Armenian land, in violation of Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Though the United States and international partners have condemned Azerbaijan's aggression and military assault against Armenians, the time for strong statements alone has clearly long passed. Condemnation must be followed by real meaningful consequences. The United States must hold Azerbaijan and its leadership accountable. Crimes against humanity cannot be ignored and cannot go unanswered.

The United States must suspend military assistance to Azerbaijan, impose Global Magnitsky Act sanctions on Azerbaijani officials complicit in war crimes and other gross human rights violations, call for Azerbaijan's release of Armenian prisoners of war, hostages, leaders of Artsakh, and other illegally detained persons, and urge the immediate withdrawal of Azerbaijani forces from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia. Further, we must provide robust humanitarian assistance to Armenia and the Armenian people, advocate for the right of displaced persons and refugees to return to their homes in Artsakh, with a commitment to safeguarding their individual and collective property rights. Finally, we must also call attention to the destruction and desecration of Armenian religious and cultural sites by Azerbaijan and urge their safeguarding and preservation.

On this solemn anniversary, as we pause to remember the innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide, we also reflect on the resilience of those who survived, and the perseverance of their children and grandchildren, who built new lives in the United States and around the world, speak the beautiful Armenian language, and enrich our nation with the Armenian culture and heritage. Armenians refused to let the Genocide define their lives or to limit their future potential. Instead, they showed the world that Armenians could face the future with courage, knowing that they have already overcome the worst atrocities of the past.

Despite the struggles the Armenian people have faced and continue to face, it has not broken their faith, determination, or their will to press on. They have overcome the harshest of trials, and yet, they remain strong and unbowed, in Los Angeles, in Yerevan, and around the world. I will always stand with the Armenian community.