

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.

RECOGNIZING EVA HERN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTERY COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL

HON. TRACEY MANN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Battery Council International. In March 1924, 25 firms launched the National Battery Manufacturer's Association—the group that would eventually become BCI. Since then, BCI has been the leading trade association for unlocking the potential of energy storage and supporting the commercial integration of essential products. BCI members are committed to safe, responsible battery manufacturing.

The United States' lead battery industry has more than 165 GWh of manufacturing capacity across 39 facilities, 250,000 lead battery collection and distribution sites, and 9 lead battery recycling facilities. Each of these components supports the nearly 100 percent recycle rate for lead batteries, creating an impressive circular economy.

In the last century, BCI members have created batteries to power nearly a billion vehicles in the U.S. alone—powering individuals, families, and businesses along the way.

In 2022, I visited a BCI member, Stryten Energy, which has a manufacturing facility in the Big First District of Kansas. Stryten's stored energy solutions are built in the U.S. and power everything from forklifts, cars, trains, trucks, microgrids, submarines, and more.

Stryten has over a century of expertise and is the only energy storage solutions provider in North America that can offer advanced lead, lithium, and vanadium battery solutions to solve complex storage challenges. Companies like Stryten Energy make BCI a strong and essential voice in the energy and defense industries. I congratulate the Battery Council International on its 100th anniversary and for all the work they do to accelerate the future of energy storage in the U.S. and beyond.

RECOGNIZING DAVID JAIMES GOMEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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

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

HONORING LINDA LEWIS-EVERETT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to present Linda Lewis-Everett with the Sheila Corcoran Hoosier Women Hero Award for her service to the country, community, and the city of Indianapolis.

Each month, my office recognizes women veterans who are often overlooked and underrepresented, especially women of color. Inspired by its namesake, this award was created to highlight exemplary Hoosier women veterans whose service to their community and nation is unparalleled. These women are inspirational and guided by a deep love for their fellow veterans.

Known to many for her commitment to assisting others, Linda's journey of service began at the young age of 22 when she en-

listed in the United States Army, where she proudly served our country and achieved the rank of Sergeant. Her training in the Army led to 22 years in the United States Postal Service, before she retired in 2013. Linda has since continued to dedicate her life to the betterment of all Americans through her work and advocacy in justice, politics, and culture. As one of the Top Ladies of Distinction, her work on health wellness initiatives such as the American Cancer Society and Senior Citizens Connect has furthered Indianapolis' goal of becoming a leader in the medical industry.

Combining her love for philanthropy with heritage, Linda is a steadfast and outspoken advocate for the Black community and women veterans. Her volunteer work with the National Council of Negro Women, the Indiana Black Expo, as well as her organization Boundless Blessing, are a testament to her legacy of service and to her Ghanaian ancestry. In 2019, Linda received the Author Academy Award for her best-selling book: "I Still Hear the Drums." She continues to celebrate her love of community and culture through her church, food pantry, and the various civic and social organizations she supports.

Her kindness, compassion, and selflessness have cultivated a movement spreading positive lasting impacts for our community and beyond.

Especially as we celebrate National Volunteer Month this April, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Linda Lewis-Everett for her decades of continued service to Hoosiers and to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING ESHAYA GRAY-SULLIVAN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eshaya Gray-Sullivan for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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