

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KANSAS CITY NATIONAL SECURITY CAMPUS

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Kansas City National Security Campus and its 75 years of contributions to national security.

In November 1948, during the presidency of Harry S. Truman—whose hometown I represent—the Atomic Energy Commission selected the Pratt and Whitney airplane engine production plant in Kansas City as a site to produce nonnuclear components for nuclear weapons. The Kansas City Division of the Bendix Aviation Corporation began operations in the spring of 1949.

Seventy-five years and several name changes later, the Kansas City National Security Campus' mission to ensure the United States nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, and reliable remains essential to America's national security.

The site works to provide the National Nuclear Security Administration with electrical, mechanical, and material components manufactured and procured to exacting quality specifications to help meet important national security objectives and keep our nuclear stockpile ready at a moment's notice.

Today, the site employs nearly 7,000 people dedicated to this important national service. The Kansas City National Security Campus' contributions to the Kansas City area are important to job creation and sustaining economic growth, and Missourians are proud of its central importance to our strategic deterrence.

It is a distinct privilege to represent the Kansas City National Security Campus in the United States House of Representatives. Please join me in recognizing the Kansas City National Security Campus for its 75 years of contributions to our national security.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH CAROLINA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS FOR HELPING BUSINESSES SUCCEED

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, small businesses continue to face major challenges due to lingering impacts of COVID-19, high inflation, and limited access to capital, and other resources.

Thankfully, in South Carolina and across the Nation, Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) provide critical assistance to small businesses through a network of over 3,000 skilled and trusted business advisors—at no fee.

The South Carolina SBDC, led by Director Michele Abraham with a team of over 50 professionals, assisted 4,523 individuals in 2023 alone to:

- Create and retain 2,355 jobs
- Obtain \$89.9 million in capital investments

Increase revenues by \$50.3 million  
Start 203 new businesses, and  
Win \$10.9 million in government contracts

This resulted in a net federal tax return for the jobs impacted of eight times what we invested in the program. In other words, the return on investment is stellar.

Hosted by a consortium of four universities—Clemson, South Carolina State, University of South Carolina, and Winthrop—the South Carolina SBDC serves all small businesses regardless of race, gender, location, or military status.

We are grateful for the work they do and the lives we see changed day-in and day-out.

RECOGNIZING AVERY DION

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

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

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

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

RECOGNIZING DINEEN PARIS

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Ms. Dineen Paris, a volunteer at Hope Services, a local nonprofit on their Dream Team. This group consists of volunteers willing to provide guidance, direction, and support to the Hope Services Executive Team. As part of this work, Ms. Dineen has been instrumental with fundraising and organizing a free dance for those living with disabilities. Dineen has also dedicated hours of support and was a key participant in the planning and launch of the Hope Services Life Skills and Vocational Training Center in Land O'Lakes, Florida that opened on February 10, 2023. The Center is dedicated to providing life skills to those adults living with disabilities throughout the communities we serve. Along with her late husband, Leonard, Dineen built and donated two Little Free Libraries of books that are now located at the Wesley Chapel District Park and The Tampa Premium Outlets. These libraries are available to all residents within our community. Dineen has been a champion for Hope Services throughout the larger community it serves and is a very generous donor monetarily in addition to her time and talents.

It is clear that Ms. Paris has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and on the lives of countless people she has worked with in the fight against the horrific crime of human trafficking. I am grateful for her service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALFREDA SCHMIDT

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart I pay tribute to the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Alfreda Schmidt—a beloved Lansing icon, community advocate, and dedicated public servant who touched the lives of countless people throughout her 97 years on this earth. Alfreda was loved and respected for her commitment to service, compassion for others, and tireless advocacy. She was known affectionately as “The Lady with the Hat,” for her collection of over 100 hats, and was rarely seen without one. Just as she believed that each hat had a purpose, she believed her purpose was to help others.

Born in 1926 in Dansville, Michigan, she grew up on her family farm and would go on to attend the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Central Michigan University. In 1951, she married her late husband, Frank Schmidt, at St. Mary Cathedral in Lansing, and together they raised four children, all instilled with Alfreda's beliefs that you never do anything alone, and that helping others is always the right thing to do.

These beliefs guided Alfreda through a long life of community and public service. She was elected to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, serving from 1979 to 1981 and 1998 to 2000. She also represented Lansing's 2nd Ward on the Lansing City Council from 1981 to 1993. Alfreda was one of the first women to join the South Lansing Kiwanis Club in 1989 and was named 2003 Kiwanian of the Year in recognition of her leadership and commitment to her community.

Throughout her decades of serving the public and taking on community projects, she stressed the importance of listening as the key to understanding people's problems. Frank would drive Alfreda all over Lansing to meet with people who had called Alfreda in the hopes she could help solve their problem.

Alfreda's dedication to Lansing knew no bounds. Among an endless list of city projects and improvements, she was the driving force behind raising hundreds of thousands of dollars and rallying 2,000 volunteers to build the Hawk Island Park playground in just one week. She led fundraising efforts to reopen the swimming pool at the Alfreda Schmidt Community Center, a community center renamed in her honor in 2012.

Alfreda's passion for supporting veterans and honoring their sacrifices exemplified her deep sense of gratitude and respect for those who served our country. She advocated for Wreaths Across America, a nonprofit organization that distributes wreaths for placement on veterans' graves in military cemeteries.

She helped initiate Veterans Appreciation Day at the Ingham County Fair. Most recently, she served on the Mayor's Veterans Commission and just last month she raised funds for

a new sign honoring veterans at the Evergreen Cemetery in Lansing.

Alfreda Schmidt passed away on April 14, 2024, just a few months shy of what would have been her 98th birthday. I send my deepest condolences to her dear family, friends, and to all who knew and loved her. As we mourn the loss of a true Lansing legend, let us also celebrate Alfreda Schmidt's extraordinary life. May her memory be a blessing for generations to come. With profound gratitude for her contributions to her community, I ask that we honor her legacy of service, compassion, and unity here in the People's House.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIDLAND

**HON. AUGUST PFLUGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to recognize and congratulate the Junior League of Midland on their 75 years of service to their community. What began with a charter membership of just 29 women has turned into a robust network of over 600 volunteer members, working on projects that greatly support the city of Midland and effectively training women to be leaders in the community.

For seven and a half decades, the Junior League of Midland has played a crucial role in developing community-oriented institutions such as the Museum of the Southwest, Teen Court, Rays of Hope, and many others. Beyond the development of these important institutions, their network of volunteers provides crucial support to the community—such as donating hygiene supplies to thousands of students in need, hosting after-school reading programs, and providing job-skills mentoring programs to survivors of domestic abuse.

The members of this organization spend countless unpaid hours working toward the greater good of the people of Midland; for that, I cannot thank them enough. I am confident that the Junior League of Midland will continue to inspire and be of service to others across the community for many more years to come.

Again, I want to congratulate the Junior League of Midland on their dedication to serving the Midland community for the past 75 years. I can say without a shadow of a doubt that I am beyond proud to represent these women in Congress.

RECOGNIZING AVA CONLEY-WILLOUGHBY

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ava Conley-Willoughby for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Ava 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 Ava, de-

velop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ava's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Ava Conley-Willoughby on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING KATHLEEN COSSEY

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Kathleen Cossey. Since 1990, Kathleen, has been helping vulnerable children and has made a lasting imprint on the lives of the kids she has worked with. From 1990–2008, Kathleen volunteered 40–60 hours per week as a Guardian Ad Litem. She spent time with the kids assigned to her and advocated on their behalf within the judicial system. Since 2009, Kathleen has been volunteering with two other non-profits serving at-risk children in Citrus County, Voices for Children and Jessie's Place. Kathleen prides herself on being a consistent presence in the lives of the children she works with. She goes above and beyond in everything she does for both organizations. Kathleen is an invaluable volunteer in both organizations she serves. 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. Cossey has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REBECCA NEIL FOSTER

**HON. JOHN W. ROSE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the incredible life of Rebecca Neil Foster. Rebecca was many things to many people: a beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, and most recently, grandmother. Above all else, Rebecca was an amazing human being and devoted Christian, who did everything to serve others and leave this world better than she found it.

Rebecca was born on September 30, 1968 to Wesley and Faye Neil. A native of Fentress County, Tennessee, she graduated from Clarkrange High School where she competed on the 1983, 1984, and 1985 girls' basketball state championship teams. Memories of those wins sparked joy throughout her life.

Rebecca earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and later a Master of Science in Nursing Informatics from Tennessee Technological University.

She had a distinguished 29-year career in healthcare, most recently in the role of Chief

Nursing Officer for Cumberland Medical Center. In 2019, she graciously agreed to take on a new occupation focused on constituent care rather than patient care as my District Director for Tennessee's 6th Congressional District.

Her dedication to service lives on through her family. Rebecca took enormous pride in her husband, Allen, who serves as Mayor of Cumberland County; her daughter, Brooke, who followed in her footsteps in nursing; and her son, Shade, who is a sworn police officer for the City of Crossville. She is also survived by her mother-in-law, Edna Foster, a daughter-in-law, Haley Foster, and a son-in-law, Trevor Wright.

Rebecca had a lifelong passion for singing. She served as Music Director at Oak Hill Baptist Church for nearly 15 years. In fact, just last Sunday Rebecca was on stage with her daughter singing her heart out and worshiping the Lord with the help of the pulpit to keep her balance.

There are simply very few among us as special as Rebecca Neil Foster.

She was first diagnosed with cancer in 2023. During the difficult period that followed, many around her were fearful, but she chose to be faithful. Despite the intense treatments she underwent and the sometimes-painful side effects she endured, she continued to work as she was able, and did so with a smile on her face. In fact, if you've talked to Rebecca since last July, you were much more likely to find her smiling and showing pictures of her precious granddaughter, Asa, than talking about her health battle.

The day before her passing, Rebecca shared a page from her prayer devotional on social media. It was titled "Unafraid," and based on the book of Hebrews, chapter 13, verses 5 and 6, which reads, in part, "I will never leave you; I will always be by your side." Rebecca never questioned the presence of the Lord. She lived a full life as a result. She knew God's plan for her was not to live in fear—but to live in faith and to love others while she was here.

Rebecca knew each day and the good things in it are blessings from God. She kept cheerful faith throughout a painful health struggle. This week she went home to Heaven and received her eternal reward. Glory be to God for Rebecca Foster who came into our lives, and with her talents and vivacious spirit, left us forever changed for the better.

HONORING EULESS POLICE OFFICER JERRY LEE COOK

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Officer Jerry Lee Cook's retirement after 39 years with the Euless Police Department. I want to thank him for his commitment to our community and dedication to our country. Before his work as a police officer, Jerry enlisted in the US Navy in 1970 and served as an Aviation Mechanic before being honorably discharged as an E-5 in 1978. After being in the military, his training led him to Isfahan, Iran where he worked as an Aviation Mechanic for Bell Helicopter International. When he returned to North Texas, he joined