

Lt. Haver's service for his country both domestically and abroad deserves strong commendation. I am proud to recognize his bravery and patriotism today and am glad that his legacy lives on in the Seventh District of New Jersey.

RECOGNIZING CADENCE DONOVAN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

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

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

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT DEBBIE FLANDERS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Debbie Flanders of Sherman, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Debbie has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

Debbie was born in Mountain City, Tennessee and graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness. During her time in college she was active in the Young Republicans Club and worked for former US Senator Lamar Alexander's 1978 gubernatorial campaign. After graduation, Debbie married the love of her life, John, and they moved to Texas five years later. Together, they raised three wonderful children. Debbie began her career as a caseworker at Texoma Community Center and an editor for the Pottsboro Press, a local conservative newsletter.

In the mid-1990s, Debbie began working closely with the Grayson County Republican Party, and she served as Precinct Chair and Secretary for over a decade. She was one of the founding members of the Grayson County Young Republicans, where she helped educate and empower students in our community to be active in the political process. For her outstanding work and efforts, the GCRP has presented Debbie with the prestigious Eisenhower Award and the Chairman's Award. In 2014, she received the Texas Federation of Republican Women Tribute to Women Award. Currently, Debbie serves as the Vice President and Campaign Chair for the Grayson County Republican Women PAC. She is a de-

voted woman of faith and regularly attends the Central Christian Church in Sherman, where she was the Children's Church Director and a volunteer at the food pantry. I am proud to recognize Debbie today for her important contributions to our community.

It is an honor to bestow Debbie with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH AN- NIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Ridgeland in Madison County, Mississippi, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary in 2024.

The land that is now Ridgeland was once only a footpath along the Natchez Trace for the local Choctaw Indians. Over time, the footpath became a common road for travel and commerce. Turner Brashears, an early settler in Mississippi, opened a stand nearby in 1804 after seeing the potential of the area for business. In 1811, Silas Dinsmor opened the Choctaw Agency in the area. Though small and seemingly insignificant at the time, in 1812 Andrew Jackson camped with his army at Brashears Stand returning from New Orleans.

By 1829, Madison County, named after former President James Madison, was established in Mississippi. The growth in the area was recognized and in 1832 William J. Austin was granted land along the Natchez Trace. In 1853, Austin sold the land to James Burroughs from North Carolina. By 1865, the area was called Yellowley's Crossing by the Illinois Central Railroad, which operated there. This changed the old footpath forever.

The local community began to swell with people and the locals started calling the area Jessamine. The old Brashears Stand was destroyed by a fire in 1896 and Yellowley sold his land to the Highland Colony Company owned by Gorton W. Nichols and Edwards M. Treake. In 1899, the village was incorporated as Ridgeland.

Since its incorporation in 1899, Ridgeland has been a center for trade and travel and offers a vibrant life for its residents. Through many decades of forward-thinking leadership, including that of longtime mayor Gene McGee, Ridgeland has continued to prosper. In 1999, Ridgeland celebrated 100 years and here, in 2024, I am proud to offer these remarks in honor of her 125th anniversary.

Ridgeland has done much through the years to contribute to the betterment of society and I'm proud to represent Ridgeland, Mississippi, in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE CARYVILLE CARES PROJECT

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Caryville Cares Playground project in Caryville, TN, and recognize the community that has supported it.

In Campbell County, TN, roughly one in five people under the age of 65 years old have a disability according to the US Census, nearly double the national average, yet no playground in the community was considered inclusive for those with different needs and abilities.

The Caryville Cares Playground is an inclusive playground, where children of all different ability levels would have the opportunity to play together. Inclusive playgrounds like this are the start of healthy friendships that can last a lifetime and are places where children of all levels of ability are able to experience the joy of outdoor play.

The playground was designed with seven main principles in mind to be fair; be free; be included; be smart; be independent; be safe; be active; and be comfortable. The seven principles guided every step of the planning, construction, and implementation for this project.

The groups that initiated this project spearheaded fundraising, applied for grants, and solicited donations and support from the Caryville community. Their efforts included dinners, auctions, roadblocks, and even a local "Dancing with the Stars"-styled event. They successfully raised more than a half million dollars in both cash and in-kind donations.

After two years of hard work by the team, the playground was fully funded. On April 26, 2024, the gates to the Caryville Cares Playground opened for the first time. Every child in the community will finally have a place to play, thanks to the dedication of the Caryville Cares organizing committee and the incredible generosity of the local community.

It is my pleasure to recognize the community team that took on this important and worthwhile undertaking. The group includes Mr. Brandon Johnson, who served as its president, along with fellow members Mrs. Cheyenne Allen, Mrs. Tayler Franke, Mr. Landyn Ford, Mr. Joe Goins, Mr. Blake Gray, Mrs. Tara Lee Gillespie, Mrs. Kristin Long, Mr. Joshua McDowell, Mrs. Autumn Longmire, Mrs. Ali Dower Miracle, Mrs. Ashley Whited, Mrs. Brandy Nelson, Mr. Micah Nelson, Mrs. Sara Padgett, Mr. Patrick Pebley, Mrs. Kaylee Queener, Mrs. Raewyn Snodderly, Mrs. Elizabeth Tamer, Mrs. Emily Tamer, Mrs. Katy Winter Vincent, Mrs. Ally Winter, Mr. Kevin Winter, and Mrs. Saarah Young.

RECOGNIZING VIOLET KEHL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

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

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

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT LOU HOLTZ

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Lou Holtz of Orlando, Florida, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Coach Holtz is a legendary American who is regarded as one of the greatest football coaches of all time.

Coach Holtz is a native of East Liverpool, Ohio. He attended Kent State University and was a member of Kent State's football team and ROTC program. After graduating in 1959 with a history degree, Coach Holtz commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer in the U.S. Army Reserves. In the following year, he began his extensive coaching career while attending graduate school at the University of Iowa. Over the next several decades, Coach Holtz served as the head football coach for numerous colleges, universities, and professional teams nationwide. Most notably, he led Notre Dame's Fighting Irish to record-breaking, back-to-back victories in the 1988 national championship.

For his outstanding accomplishments, Coach Holtz was granted the Golden Plate Award by the American Academy of Achievement and received honorary doctorates from many academic institutions. He was also inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, the Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame, and the Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame.

After he retired from football, Coach Holtz became a sports broadcaster and established the Holtz Charitable Foundation to provide scholarships for students to attend trade schools. Moreover, he published several books to inspire young adults to develop winning game plans for life. In 2020, President Donald Trump awarded Coach Holtz the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his important contributions to our nation. I am proud to recognize Coach Holtz's spectacular legacy. The lasting impact he made on our community will be felt for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Coach Holtz with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation. May God Bless him.

IN RECOGNITION OF CECILY HAHN FOR THREE AND A HALF YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Cecily Hahn for three and a half years of invaluable service to my office and my constituents in Washington's 1st Congressional District. Cecily joined my office in January 2021, and as a former resident of the 1st Congressional District, she brought a much-needed and valuable perspective on the issues that matter the most to our communities. She worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support and address the unique challenges experienced by the exclave community of Point Roberts and other communities along our Northern Border. Through her persistence, the House passed legislation to add Mount Vernon as a federal court location in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. She has also been a fearless champion of advancing strong privacy legislation, and has elevated the profile of the XR Caucus within the House of Representatives. In addition to her advancement of my legislative priorities, Cecily has served as a wonderful mentor to others on my staff and helped them grow and advance in their own careers.

Cecily brought a great work ethic, strong Washingtonian spirit, and exemplary legal knowledge to the role. Over her tenure, we have learned about all things Taylor Swift and F1, and her impact on our office will be long lived. She built lasting relationships with my team and those who had the pleasure of getting to know her. Cecily has been an amazing staffer and a wonderful friend to all in the office, and we will all sorely miss her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cecily Hahn and wishing her the best in all of her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MADISON GRAY-CONKLING

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

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

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

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT KATHY PUCKETT

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Kathryn "Kathy" Puckett of Howe, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Kathy has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

Shortly after graduating from high school in 1970, Kathy married her high school sweetheart, Logan. Together, they moved to Tehran, Iran, where Logan worked in the oil-field industry and Kathy taught conversational English at the University of Tehran. After a decade of traveling and living in fifteen countries around the world, Kathy and Logan returned home to start a family.

Since then, she has been actively involved with numerous community and political organizations in North Texas. Kathy helped organize food drives, provide voter registration assistance, and elect local candidates. She also taught financial literacy courses and volunteered with her church's youth department to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness.

Kathy previously served as the President of the Grayson County Republican Women and is the current District Director for the Texas Federation of Republican Women in SD30. In her free time, she enjoys quilting, yoga, traveling, and spending time with her grandchildren. I am proud to recognize Kathy today for her outstanding efforts to support those in need. I'm confident she will continue to make a positive impact in our community for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Kathy with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR BARRY BARISH FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Barry Barish of University of California, Riverside, for receiving the National Medal of Science from President Biden in honor of his great achievements and invaluable contributions to the field of particle physics.

The citation for his award reads "For exemplary service to science, including groundbreaking research on sub-atomic particles. His leadership of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory led to the first detection of gravitational waves from merging black holes, confirming a key part of Einstein's Theory of Relativity. He has broadened our understanding of the universe and our Nation's sense of wonder and discovery."

In addition, Professor Barish was awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in physics in recognition of his leadership in the discovery of gravitational waves—first predicted by Einstein a