

the “digital divide.” Today, access to laptops and the internet are well understood as necessary tools for young people to succeed, by school systems and job training programs. Greg saw this basic need long before; it became commonplace because of his empathy and brilliant intellect. This project typifies just one aspect of the Reverend’s giving spirit.

After entering the ministry, Rev. Perry dedicated his life to providing for his community. At the Greenville Congregational Church, he coordinated impressive community efforts—especially for the annual Martin Luther King Birthday march. He considered the march his “baby,” and invariably looked forward to bringing this event to his community annually. Concluding each march, Rev. Perry would give a speech focused on a common theme: “Different American Realities, Shared American Dreams.” He actively supported interfaith events within the city, such as his participation in the “Way of the Cross” procession, which was an event held along leaders of the Baha’i faith. As president of the Norwich Area Interfaith Association, he and his group met with public officials to advocate for community concerns and conducted public vigils. The Clergy Association is known within the community for its success in carrying out its motto: “Fostering Unity in Diversity in Norwich”.

Moreover, Rev. Perry’s empathetic nature guided him to provide resources for and to connect with those in need. At the Greenville Congregational Church, he opened his services to churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike and spoke with anyone after service. He was known to give money to those who could not afford meals and to offer his home to people without houses of their own.

Working for the equality of all was a tireless pursuit of Rev. Perry, but he also enjoyed his leisure time. He was known for his affinity for motorcycles. He was reported to say that if he had so pleased, he would spend his days riding his motorcycle. Instead, he incorporated the motorcycle into his daily travels. When he arrived at the New London County Bar Association’s Law Day Luncheon to accept the Law Day award, bestowed upon him for his endless efforts to bring unity to his community, he arrived on his beloved motorcycle, winning the prize for the coolest Law Day awardee ever.

The absence of Rev. Perry has been felt by many individuals and groups within and beyond Southeastern Connecticut, in addition to the many members of his family who survive him. I had the distinct privilege to know him as a friend, and joined him at ecumenical vigils, MLK marches, and youth programs year in and year out. No matter how sad the services or challenging the state of the world was, Reverend Perry always had a positive hopeful perspective, grounded I believe in his deep belief in the goodness in people. He was a beautiful soul, who will be sorely missed by his family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gregory Perry now joins the pantheon of great American spiritual leaders who have advocated staunchly for the life, liberty, and happiness of their fellow citizens. He stands shoulder to shoulder with the likes of Isaac Backus, a fellow reverend from Norwich who fought for independence in 1776 and later the codification of civil rights in the newly formed United States. I consider myself immensely fortunate to have represented Rev. Perry as a constituent. His leadership, inclusiveness, and thoughtfulness will be greatly

missed by Connecticut residents, especially those of Norwich. We join in mourning the immeasurable loss of Rev. Perry with his surviving family: his wife, Jayne, and their three children, Janine, Greg, and Jade, their respective spouses and descendants. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Rev. Perry’s example.

RECOGNIZING ESTERS PUB

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Esters Pub for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association’s 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Esters Pub for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD “DICK” OVERHEIM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Richard “Dick” Overheim. Dick worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Agricultural Marketing Service for 38 years. He passed away peacefully of natural causes on September 24, 2023, at his residence in the District of Columbia.

During the Korean War, Dick served with the 14th Regiment (Golden Dragons) and the 25th Infantry (Tropic Lightning) from 1953 through 1955. He earned the National Defense Service, Good Conduct, United Nations Service and Korean Service Medals.

After his military service, Dick used the GI Bill to attend Gannon College (now Gannon University) in Erie, Pennsylvania. Earning his degree in Business and minoring in Marketing, he later earned his master’s degree in public and international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. While at Gannon, he was a member of the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity and Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities, co-editor of the yearbook and recipient of the Wall Street Journal Award for his work in finance.

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dick was an agricultural marketing specialist at the Agricultural Marketing Service. Dick’s research focused on wholesale marketing facilities and farmers markets. One of Dick’s earliest research projects was in Honolulu, Hawaii. His report on the project, “Wholesale Food Distribution Facilities for Honolulu Hawaii,” was published in 1968.

Dick’s report found that Honolulu’s wholesale food marketing facilities were “unsuitable, outdated and inefficient” for the city’s growing population. Dick found these marketing inadequacies affected not only food wholesalers, but also producers, shippers and consumers,

Dick’s team interviewed food marketers to assess their needs in meeting the demand of Hawaii’s growing population for fresh fruits and vegetables, groceries and other food products.

Dick was essential in the development of the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market in Jessup, Maryland. Dick kept abreast of the rapid technological improvements in the production, transportation and distribution of food products and the changing food marketing system. Dick’s research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture helped keep America’s food marketing system operating efficiently. Dick’s published reports are important historical documents for researchers studying the changing U.S. food marketing system, city planning and the growth of state and local food marketing authorities. For 38 years, Dick played a key role in our ever-changing agricultural marketing system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life and legacy of Richard “Dick” Overheim.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR SAMUEL LEE PEPPERS LIFE AND SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Pastor Samuel Lee Peppers and to grieve his passing. A dedicated public servant, his devotion to his community, state, and nation is worthy of remembrance and commendation.

Pastor Samuel was born on October 16, 1949 in Itta Bena, Mississippi as the 2nd of 11 children in the Peppers family. He graduated from Valley State University before furthering his education at the University of Kentucky. After graduating from UK, he was recruited to the University of Michigan to continue his studies, where he eventually was employed in the Printing Department for over 30 years.

Pastor Samuel came to faith at an early age, and when he moved up to the University of Michigan, he found a new home in the Greater Fountain Church of God in Christ in Ann Arbor.

He served there for over 50 years, having been their Pastor since 1995. His motto was “You have to be ‘FAT’: Faithful, Available, and Teachable to Serve the Lord!” Known by many in his community as a “living embodiment of the Word of God”, he was a man of great integrity and wisdom whose influence will be felt long after his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating and honoring the life and service of Pastor Samuel Lee Peppers. A spiritual leader to many, his presence will be greatly missed but his memory will live on in his three brothers, six sisters, and a host of nieces and nephews. An avid Michigan sports fan and a long-time season ticket holder, he was certainly smiling down on us as our Wolverines finally won the National Championship in Houston this past Monday. Go Blue.

RECOGNIZING ONYX SVOBODA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

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

Onyx has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Onyx, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Onyx's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School, and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

CONGRATULATING BARBARA GRIFFITH ON WINNING COMMUNITY LIVING, INC.'S 24TH ANNUAL LEGACY BALL LEGACY AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Barbara Griffith on winning Community Living, Inc.'s 24th Annual Legacy Ball Legacy Award.

A resident of Saint Charles, Missouri, Barbara began working in the disabilities field in 1978 and has been involved in various capacities with numerous disability service organizations ever since. Serving as Executive Director and then President and CEO of Community Living from 1998 to 2022, her passion has always been to build awareness and bring about positive changes for people with disabilities. People like Barbara remind us that there are many Americans working every day to improve the lives of their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Barbara Griffith for her achievement.

IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT FRED BEERS

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Fred Beers for his service to the people of San Miguel and Mora Counties during the East Mesa Fire.

Bernalillo County Sheriffs Department Lieutenant Fred Beers, Undersheriff Larry Koren, and Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison were killed when the agency's helicopter, Metro 2, crashed near Las Vegas, New Mexico. Rescue Specialist Matthew King of the Bernalillo County Fire Department was also killed in the crash.

Lt. Beers joined the Bernalillo County Sheriffs office in 2009. During his time there, he served in many roles, including in the metropolitan air support unit, field services, CSI, SVU, violent crimes, the honor guard, and several other units within the Sheriffs Office.

Lt. Beers passionately believed in the importance of the honor guard. Fred visited all over the state to ensure that every fallen officer was recognized and given proper honors. Often, on his own time, he would travel all over the country to honor fallen officers in other states. Every June, for over the last 10 years, Lt. Beers and other law enforcement officers hiked to the summit of the tallest peak in New Mexico in honor of fallen first responders.

Fred was an avid marathoner and even ran the Boston Marathon. He would run over 100 miles a week to keep both physically fit and mentally clear. Lt. Beers was passionate about living a life of service. He served in the United States Air Force as well as in his community as a track and cross-country coach, a Boy Scout leader, a civil air patrol officer, and a volunteer for the Special Olympics.

Fred believed in the importance of family. He had many roles in life, but the ones most important to him were husband, father, son, and big brother.

I didn't know Fred personally. But his life has had a profound impact on mine and the communities I serve.

I represent the Third Congressional District, which includes San Miguel and Mora Coun-

ties. I grew up on the east side of the Sangre De Cristos. Las Vegas and the surrounding area are where I spent my youth. Over the last year, I have seen my communities devastated by fire and the landscapes washed away by flood.

These once beautiful lands are where we lost Fred and his colleagues. Each of these men selflessly answered the call to protect the land, the people, and the homes so far from their own. I am devastated by the loss of these men but inspired by their service and their sacrifice.

In this sea of grief where we now find ourselves, let's remember they will not be forgotten up north where they breathed their last breath.

The places they protected will hold their love and whisper it in our ears as breezes flow through the plains and mountain valleys. May Fred's memory be a blessing. May his service be an inspiration of love in action.

Sacrifice and heroism are cornerstones of America's history, and Lt. Beers' will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING ZACH SIMS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

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

Zach has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Zach, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Zach's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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