

with his grandchildren. I commend Judge Phillips for his commitment to upholding the rule of law and improving the world around us.

It is an honor to bestow Judge Phillips with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

#### RECOGNIZING CHETAN SHEELY

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

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

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

#### HONORING SAMMY MCDOWELL

### HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sammy McDowell, who was a community leader, restaurateur, and friend to all.

Sammy grew up in Minneapolis and was a fixture in the community throughout his life. He worked in food service for many years before starting his own catering service and restaurant. His flagship restaurant, Sammy's Avenue Eatery opened in 2012 on West Broadway Avenue in North Minneapolis. Not only has Sammy's served delicious food for over a decade, it has also become an important gathering place for the community. He had recently expanded and began operating a Sammy's Avenue Eatery pop-up in Saint Paul, in a space which features Black-owned businesses. Even as a business owner, Sammy never compromised his generosity towards others and always went the extra mile to check on the wellbeing of his friends, as well as his customers. Sammy's passion for his community was contagious, and I know that the spaces he created will continue to be sources of friendship, inspiration, and comfort.

Sammy was also a well known devoted member of Shiloh Temple and sang in the choir there for many years. He was worshiping among loved ones at Shiloh just before his death. He had a hand in many things throughout the community, and was always a familiar face at events around the city. This past week, a balloon release was held in several U.S. cities to celebrate Sammy's life. These nationwide celebrations are a testament to Sammy's admirable ability to make an impression on those around him. His company will be dearly

missed by those who had the privilege to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the incredibly full life of Sammy McDowell and recognizing his accomplishments in entrepreneurship and community-building, and his immeasurable impact on the people and city of Minneapolis.

#### RECOGNIZING RYDER GASTON

### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Mr. Ryder Gaston. Mr. Gaston has spent his life serving our country and his community. He opened a non-profit, Cryoeze22, in New Port Richey, which serves military, veterans, law enforcement, first responders, and their families. Cryoeze22 utilizes holistic, scientific-based therapies. He and his family also work closely with each client to connect them with needed services in the community. He is committed to being part of the solution to help reduce suicide, depression, PTSD and an array of other health issues that often negatively impact our nation's heroes.

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 Mr. Gaston has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

#### CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR MARK RUSSELL

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mark Russell of Sherman, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Mark has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

Mark is a graduate of the Hobe Sound Bible College in Florida, where he received a bachelor's degree in educational administration in 1970. He began working at the Wright-Patterson AFB Medical Center's Radiation Oncology facility that same year while completing post-graduate studies. Mark later received his Master of Science in Radiological Physics from Ohio State University and a Master of Health Administration from Washington University. Throughout his extensive career, he has published numerous studies on the topic of oncology and worked diligently to bring us one step closer to defeating cancer. From 2007 to 2012, Mark served as the Director for Physics and Technology Services at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Florida.

When he retired in 2013, Mark continued to make an impact on our community in many different ways. He actively volunteers for the Grayson County Republican Party and is a

member of the Conservative Men's Club of Texoma. Additionally, Mark works closely with the Southwest Conference of the Bible Methodist Church and devotes himself to strengthening his faith, family, and love of country. In his free time, he enjoys reading, learning history, woodworking, and flying. In fact, Mark is a licensed commercial pilot and a former certified flight instructor. I am proud of the work he has accomplished for our community, and I am sure he will continue to make a positive impact on the world around us.

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

#### RECOGNIZING MIGUEL AGUAYO

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

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

Miguel 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 Miguel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Miguel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

#### HONORING AND COMMENDING WILLIAM SAMUEL ON HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representatives MARK POCAN, STEVEN HORSFORD and DEBBIE DINGELL, to honor and commend William Samuel on his retirement.

On April 30, 2024, William Samuel retired as the Director of Government Affairs at the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), and from his position as Chair of the AFL-CIO's Legislative Committee.

Mr. Samuel has dedicated his life to fighting for America's workers. He started his career as a legislative representative for the National Treasury Employees Union and the American Federation of Government Employees. Later, Mr. Samuel worked as the chief lobbyist at the United Mine Workers of America for 11 years, where he led the successful campaign to win passage of federal legislation guaranteeing lifetime health benefits to more than two hundred thousand retired miners and their dependents.

Mr. Samuel continued his career fighting to improve the lives of America's working class in the Clinton Administration, serving as Associate Deputy Secretary of Labor, then as a

Senior Advisor to Vice President Al Gore, serving as the Vice President's principal advisor on labor policy.

Finally, Mr. Samuel ended his career after 23 years at the AFL-CIO, advocating for its twelve million, five hundred thousand members.

On behalf of the Congressional Labor Caucus, I would like to thank Mr. Samuel for his partnership in fighting to raise standards for all workers, congratulate him on his accomplished career in the labor movement, and extend great appreciation for outstanding service to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Bill Samuel on his career of service and in wishing him a happy and healthy retirement.

#### HONORING JIM HOST

#### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exceptional man, Mr. Jim Host, of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Host will receive the 2024 Tom Jernstedt Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2024 Men's Final Four in Phoenix, Arizona. This award is presented to honor individuals who have made a meaningful impact on college basketball.

Mr. Host grew up in Ashland, Kentucky. He earned one of the first two baseball scholarships given by the University of Kentucky in 1955. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in radio arts and played one year of pro baseball as a pitcher for the Chicago White Sox. A shoulder injury ended his baseball career. He was the youngest person to serve in Governor Louie Nunn's cabinet, as Commissioner of Public Information and Commissioner of Parks. He ran for Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky in 1971. Mr. Host served as Governor Ernie Fletcher's Secretary of Commerce from 2003 to 2005. His service to Kentucky continued as the first Executive Director of Rupp Arena, founding chairman of the Kentucky Horse Park, and chairman of the Louisville Arena Authority.

Mr. Host was founder and CEO of Host Communications. His nationally known sports marketing company brought business knowledge and fresh ideas to college sports marketing. He began working with the NCAA in the mid-1970's and transformed the promotion of college basketball and the post-season tournament. Before his involvement, there was no "Final Four" label and not even an official program for the tournament. With his entrepreneurial and innovative skills, he introduced corporate sponsorships, the national radio network, and many other successful ideas that made college basketball what we enjoy today.

Mr. Host has earned many well-deserved accolades. He is a member of the UK Alumni Association Hall of Distinguished Alumni, the UK Athletics Hall of Fame, the National College Basketball Hall of Fame, and the National Tourism Hall of Fame. He was named Kentucky's Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998. From the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, he received the Chairman's Cup Award, the John Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award, and is a lifetime trustee.

For his outstanding service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and for his latest award, the 2024 Tom Jernstedt Lifetime Achievement Award, it is my honor to call him my friend and to recognize his accomplishments before the United States House of Representatives.

#### RECOGNIZING STEPHEN TONER

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, the Honorable Stephen Toner. Judge Toner exemplifies servant leadership through his extensive involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. Beginning his journey in the program as a youth, he attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, a commitment he has sustained into his adult life. Noteworthy is his dedicated service to the Withlacoochee District for more than a decade, holding positions such as District Commissioner, District Vice Chair, and presently, District Chair. Furthermore, he plays an active role on the Council Executive Board for the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council. Engagement in scouting has afforded Judge Toner a constructive avenue to contribute to his community. On numerous weekends, he can be found instructing merit badge classes, engaging in service initiatives at camp, or simply conversing with scouts, serving as a positive role model for them. Judge Toner plays a pivotal role in inspiring the youth involved in the program to strive for excellence. His dedication lies in ensuring their readiness to tackle life's challenges, irrespective of their magnitude. By emphasizing focus on tasks, objectives, and goals, he instills motivation. Notably, he prioritizes the well-being of our youth over personal interests, establishing trustworthiness and fostering a sense of confidence. The Boy Scouts of America's mission is to "prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." Judge Toner exemplifies this mission through his dedication to supporting the youth of our community. Leading by example, he remains steadfast in his willingness to contribute in any capacity necessary to further this noble cause.

It is clear that Judge Stephen Toner has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

#### CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR MIKE SHAW

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mike Shaw of Denison, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Mike has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

Mike grew up in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles. From a young age, he maintained a strong commitment to helping others and

serving our nation in any way he can. In 1958, Mike joined the United States Marine Corps, where he specialized in operating sophisticated communications technology. With his new skills in hand, he began a career as a communications technician on the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line, a network of radar stations located in the U.S., Canada, and Greenland. His efforts helped protect our national security and allowed the United States to effectively detect incoming Soviet aircraft and prepare a response.

After spending two years in the Arctic, Mike returned home and worked as a field engineer in the oil fields of Texas and Louisiana. He also served as a technical representative for the U.S. Army Signal Corps during the Vietnam War before going back to working on the DEW Line for an additional five years. In 1999, Mike retired and moved to Denison with his family, where he volunteered at local museums in various capacities. He served as the President of the Denison Genealogical Society and was the Precinct 201 Chair for the Grayson County Republican Party. For his extensive work and efforts to uphold conservative values, the GCRP awarded Mike the Eisenhower Award and the Chairman's Award in 2015 and 2020, respectively. In his free time, he enjoys studying history, genealogy, and collecting artifacts. I am proud to recognize Mike today for his outstanding contributions to our community.

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

#### RECOGNIZING SOPHIA SLAUSON

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

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

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

#### COMMEMORATING THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK APRIL

#### HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 49th anniversary of the fall of Saigon.

Forty-nine years ago today, on April 30, 1975, the Republic of Vietnam was overthrown by communist forces in an event known as