

and was recognized as “Best in Texoma” by the publishers of the Sherman Herald-Democrat for three consecutive years.

Before he was first elected to the Texas House in 2018, Reggie served as the Chairman of the Grayson County Republican Party and the Northern Regional Director of the Texas Republican County Chairman’s Association. As a legislator, he serves on the Appropriations Committee and Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee. Throughout his time in the Texas House, Reggie has consistently fought to protect the unborn, lower taxes, defend our Constitutional rights, promote individual liberty, and support our schools and educators. He is actively involved in charitable organizations and previously served on the board of Big Brother Big Sisters and Friends of Scouting with the Texoma Valley Boy Scouts. Along with his family, Reggie attends the First Baptist Church in Van Alstyne. Without question, he has accomplished so much for our community and the State of Texas. I am proud to call Reggie a good friend of mine, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

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

RECOGNIZING MATTHIAS ALDACO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, today I am introducing the Captive Primate Safety Act of 2024.

The private ownership of primates poses significant public health and animal welfare issues. Primates are not pets: they are highly intelligent and social animals whose needs cannot be met when they are inappropriately confined. However, primates are easily obtained on the Internet and through out-of-state dealers and auctions.

There have been several high-profile incidents of pet primates attacking humans including when a Connecticut woman was mauled by her neighbor’s pet chimpanzee and lost her hands, nose, eyes, lips, and mid-face bone structure, along with enduring significant brain injuries. There is no reason to tolerate the risk of an avoidable tragedy like this that puts the public and first responders at risk. Beyond the immediate health risk of an attack, these animals also often carry dangerous viruses that can be transferred to humans such as COVID-19 and Herpes B.

The Captive Primate Safety Act supplements the more than 30 state laws that already outlaw the private ownership of primates by amending the Lacey Act to ban interstate or foreign commerce, or possession, of any prohibited primate species.

It should not take another tragedy to make common sense change. I thank my colleagues Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK, Congressman JOE NEGUSE, Congresswoman NANCY MACE, and Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL for their partnership, and I look forward to advancing this critical legislation to safeguard public health and animal welfare.

RECOGNIZING BRENDA FRAZIER

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, Brenda Frazier, who is described as a volunteer with extraordinary integrity, empathy, and commitment to the cause. Brenda began her journey with A New Generation Pregnancy Center in June of 2014, bringing with her a knowledge and passion for ministry work. Her primary role as a volunteer is to work one-on-one with clients who find themselves pregnant and are not sure what to do. Her connectivity, understanding, and clarity in providing support, education and truth have provided hundreds of clients with the information and knowledge to help them with their decision-making process. Brenda exemplifies purity in action, deed and word. Her kind and thoughtful outlook provides a respite to many people who find themselves in uncharted territories. In addition to her client advocacy position, Brenda provides unwavering support for the pregnancy center’s fundraisers. She has been an instrumental part in the planning, organization and execution of our Annual Clay Shoot. From finding sponsors to sourcing exquisite silent auction and raffle prizes, her zeal for event planning is phenomenal. She does not miss a beat, championing the center’s cause along her path, and providing an avenue for individuals and organizations to understand the mission of services provided to our community. Her energy and enthusiasm for helping others knows no bounds.

It is clear that Ms. Frazier has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR STEVE SIMMONS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Steve was born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1955. Throughout his childhood, he frequently moved around the country with his family until they finally settled in Anna, Texas. In high school, Steve was an active member of his school’s football team and had a desire to play college football. His football coach, Hal Porter, had a tremendous impact on young Steve. Coach Porter’s influential leadership style inspired Steve to say, “I want to be special to my kids like he is special to us.” From that day on, Steve knew he wanted to become a football coach himself and make a difference in the lives of our youth.

After graduating from high school in 1973, Steve attended McMurry University and pursued a coaching-teaching career while playing football. He married the love of his life, Doreen, in 1978. They moved to Van Alstyne, where Steve kickstarted his football coaching career at Van Alstyne ISD. He also coached at Chillicothe and Celina before joining the United States Marine Corps Reserves. While in the Marines, Steve earned the rank of Corporal and received a Marksmanship Award while continuing to coach football. He credits his strong faith in God to guiding him towards a long-term coaching opportunity at Howe ISD. For his dedication and efforts, he was named Campus Teacher of the Month twice and was recognized as Teacher of the Month by KLAKE Radio. Steve was also inducted into the Howe Hall of Honor and selected as one of the top educators in Howe ISD’s history. From helping to fundraise, driving students on field trips, and speaking at pep rallies, Steve has made a wonderful impact on the lives of our children while strengthening his faith and community involvement. His signature chant, “Highly Motivated, Truly Dedicated”, continues to encourage students to be the best they can be.

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

RECOGNIZING SAM SMITH

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Sam 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 Sam, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This

award is a testament to Sam'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 Sam Smith on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING MIA MONROE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mia Monroe upon her retirement from the National Park Service after 50 years of extraordinary public service.

A Bay Area native, Mia grew up in San Carlos, in a family that valued connections to the natural world and encouraged exploration from the beach and the redwoods to their garden at home. Mia absorbed this appreciation of the environment, organizing the original Earth Day at her high school and creating the first recycling center in San Carlos in her family's basement. While pursuing her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley, Mia signed up to volunteer with the Sierra Club and met Amy Meyer, a legendary Bay Area environmental advocate who was leading the effort to protect the Golden Gate area by turning it into a national park. Amy became a mentor to Mia and the two would become lifelong friends with a shared passion for environmental stewardship.

In 1972, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) was successfully established. Shortly thereafter, Mia began leading student trips to the park as part of her work for the San Francisco School District where she taught students about science through outdoor education. When this program ended, she was recruited by the GGNRA in 1978 to become a park ranger. Her first assignment was at Fort Point coordinating youth environmental education programs. Her supervisor, aware of Mia's background in forestry, suggested she trade posts with a Muir Woods ranger who was interested in military history. A better fit for both, the trade became permanent, and Mia formally began her career at Muir Woods in 1982.

Mia was stationed at the Muir Woods Redwood Creek Watershed for over 40 years. During that time, she held a variety of positions and led innumerable projects to restore and protect the local ecosystem and connect countless visitors, traveling from across the globe, to the natural environment. In addition to her service with the National Park Service, Mia is one of the founders and the lead coordinator of the Xerces Society's Western Monarch Count, which engages volunteers in collecting data on the overwintering monarch population on the Pacific coast. Her work has contributed to the rise in attention to critical monarch conservation efforts. She is also a member of the Steering Committee for One Tam, a cooperative environmental advocacy organization composed of the National Park Service, California State Parks, the Marin Municipal Water District, Marin County Parks, and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Mr. Speaker, I have personally worked with Mia Monroe for more than a decade on a di-

versity of critical issues affecting the GGNRA. Known for her forward thinking, deep knowledge of the local ecosystem, and welcoming demeanor, Mia leaves an indelible legacy on Muir Woods, the greater Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and all those visitors whom she has taught and inspired. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing heartfelt gratitude to Mia for her generosity of spirit, innumerable good deeds, and in sending her best wishes on her next endeavors.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR BRITTON BROOKS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Britton Brooks of Sherman, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Britton is an outstanding lawyer and prosecutor who has dedicated himself to serving and protecting our community.

Britton was born in Tyler, Texas. In 2004, he graduated from Austin College with a bachelor's degree in psychology and received his Juris Doctor from St. Mary's School of Law three years later. For fifteen years, Britton served as the assistant district attorney for Collin County and Grayson County and is well renowned for successfully prosecuting numerous felony cases involving murderers and child predators. In 2018, he established a private practice specializing in family law and personal injury. For his excellent work and efforts, Britton was named Sherman Community Leader of the Year twice and selected as the Best of Texoma criminal, family, and divorce attorney in 2019.

When he is not in the courtroom, Britton is actively involved in numerous community and charitable initiatives. He served three terms on the State Republican Executive Committee for SD 30 and was a board member for the Sherman Independent School District, Grayson County Crisis Center, and Sherman Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, Britton was the previous President of the Sherman Kiwanis Club and Chairman of the Wilson N. Jones Hospital Board of Trustees. I am proud of the work Britton has accomplished for our community and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

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

HONORING THE CALIFORNIA ARTICHOKE & VEGETABLE GROWERS CORPORATION DBA OCEAN MIST FARMS

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a century of agricultural excellence by The California Artichoke & Vegetable Growers Corporation dba Ocean Mist Farms.

In 1924, four Italian immigrant families founded The California Artichoke & Vegetable

Growers Corporation in Castroville, California. In the beginning, they only grew artichokes, broccoli, and brussels sprouts. Later in the second half of the 20th century, they expanded their growing operations to include cauliflower, cardoon, fennel, iceberg lettuce, leeks, and a variety of specialty vegetables, making them one of the premiere vegetable growers in the Salinas Valley.

Then in 1995, The California Artichoke & Vegetable Growers Corporation started doing business as Ocean Mist Farms, a name they continue to use today. With their new name, Ocean Mist Farms started growing organic artichokes and other organic produce while expanding to Southern California to provide fresh produce year-round.

I recognize Ocean Mist Farms for their numerous contributions to the fresh produce and agriculture industry, for being an exceptional employer by creating jobs for thousands of people over the years, cultivating environments where people could learn and grow, and for their philanthropy and service in the community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of California's 19th District, I commemorate Ocean Mist Farms, formerly known as The California Artichoke & Vegetable Growers Corporation, for their success as the largest grower-shipper of fresh artichokes in North America, and for their outstanding leadership in the industry and community over the past century.

RECOGNIZING ALAN WIKETT

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 of one of my constituents, Mr. Alan Wikett. Mr. Wikett is the founder of Warrior 321, an anti-human trafficking awareness group. According to those who have worked alongside him, Mr. Wikett's passion for prevention and assistance is unrivaled. Though he is supposed to be retired, he is constantly on the road educating different organizations and gathering new intel to help the organization better keep our community safe. He has spearheaded many successful initiatives to educate victims of human trafficking about the availability of services that can keep them safe and at-risk populations about how to avoid becoming a victim. Mr. Wikett has also spoken to countless civic organizations to help garner support and raise awareness about the dangers of human trafficking.

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

HONORING BILL MORITZ

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the devotion, wisdom, and innovative