

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

philanthropy of a Pikes Peak community champion, Bill Moritz. He was prematurely taken from us on March 16, 2024 at only 72 years of age by cancer. Bill was a man of unwavering faith and tireless dedication to the Lord, to community service, and to mission-based companies.

After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, Bill met his wife Mary Lee Martin in 1975. Together they raised four children. In 1985, Bill earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the O.W. Coburn School of Law, embarking on a career and path that would impact countless lives.

A Christian discipleship ministry, The Navigators, brought the Moritz family to Colorado Springs in 1985. Bill founded Moritz & Associates, PC in 1988 and practiced law in Colorado Springs for over 35 years. He specialized in estate planning, non-profit organizations, and business law. He was lead attorney for From Success 2 Significance which provides training and strategies that empower generous families to live a more significant life.

Out of personal tragedy in 1998, when the Moritz's daughter Breanna Joy was killed in a car accident, there emerged Joy to the World Foundation Thailand. Bill and Mary Lee founded this anti-trafficking ministry to protect vulnerable children and families in northern Thailand. His passion for wise and impactful philanthropy led him to co-found a community foundation in Colorado Springs in 1989. Bill served as the Executive Director of the New Horizons Foundation until his death. In 2003 Bill founded Joy to the World Foundation to help philanthropic families and ministry professionals multiply the impact of their generosity and service.

Bill's 35 years of wise counsel helped numerous ministries, including among may others: The LeTourneau University Foundation, Navigators, Baptist Bible College and Seminary, Harvest Workers, Christian Broadcasting Network, International Bible Society, Compassion International, Oral Roberts University, Seattle Pacific University, Young Life, The Christian and Missionary Alliance Denomination, Summit Ministries, Christian Blind Mission International, HCJB World Radio, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Mission of Mercy, and the YMCA. Bill also authored a book, *Unlocking The Full Potential of Your Assets; Creative Uses of the Charitable Remainder Unitrust*.

Bill is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, their three children—Joni, Josh, and Amy—along with their spouses, and 11 cherished grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally attest to the outstanding life of Bill Moritz. We practiced law together for a short time early in our careers. I saw firsthand his integrity, his Christian commitment, and his devotion to his family.

Today I ask my colleagues to honor a life of significant generosity, philanthropy, and innovation. Because of Bill Moritz's life Colorado's Fifth Congressional District and indeed the world are a better place.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM COFIELD WIDNER

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William Cofield Widner

on his well-deserved retirement from Southern Company after 43 years of service.

Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, Southern Company provides clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy to 9 million customers nationwide, including throughout the State of Georgia and its First Congressional District.

Throughout his career, Cofield's hard work, dedication and commitment to the communities where he has lived and served has made an indelible mark on our state and Nation.

A Georgia native, Cofield began his career at Southern Company in 1981 and has served in various roles including at Georgia Power and Southern Company Gas. A portion of his career focused on serving customers in his hometown of Newnan. He also supported Georgia Power's residential and commercial customers, resource planning, nuclear development and regulatory affairs organizations, which recently announced the successful operation of America's first new carbon-free nuclear energy reactors in more than 30 years at Plant Vogtle.

Additionally, Cofield's work with the Georgia Department of Economic Development's "Georgia Allies" partnership has helped continually enhance the state's business climate, keeping Georgia ranked as the number-one state for business according to Area Development magazine.

On behalf of the people of the State of Georgia, I congratulate Cofield and wish him, his wife Jane, his sons Drew and Jack, and his grandson Bo the very best as he enters the next phase of his life.

HONORING WILLIAM SAMUEL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ms DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation that I rise today to recognize William Samuel, the Director of Government Affairs at the AFL-CIO, as family, friends, and colleagues gather to wish him well as he marks his retirement from a decades long career fighting on behalf of America's working families. Bill has been an extraordinary leader, advocate and friend. And, while I have no doubt that he will continue to stay engaged, the AFL-CIO and the labor movement will not be the same without him.

A graduate of Oberlin College and the George Washington University Law Center, Bill knew early on that he wanted to focus his professional life on labor law. He began his career as a legislative representative for the National Treasury Employees Union and the American Federation of Government Employees, representing federal employees across a multitude of agencies.

Bill went on to serve as the chief lobbyist at the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). At the time, the UMWA had not found its voice and he helped to turn that around. For Bill, the fight to ensure safe working conditions, fair wages, and secure health and retirement benefits has always been a core value. It is his deep commitment to those values that have

guided his career. That was perhaps most profoundly exemplified as Bill led the successful effort to pass federal legislation guaranteeing lifetime health benefits to hundreds of thousands of retired miners and their dependents. In doing so, he quite literally changed their lives.

In 1995, Bill transitioned to federal service when he joined the Clinton Administration, serving as associate deputy secretary of labor under Secretaries Robert Reich and Alexis Herman. In 2000, Bill became senior policy adviser to Vice President Al Gore, a role in which he was both a principal adviser on labor policy issues and liaison to organized labor. This professional diversion allowed him the opportunity to shape and implement policies that he had long advocated for.

Following his federal service, Bill returned to the labor movement, joining the AFL-CIO where he served as the Director of Government Affairs for nearly twenty-five years. Made up of 55 affiliated unions and representing more than 12.5 million working Americans, it takes a unique combination of organization, insight, and leadership to work with such various entities to create a unified message and agenda. Bill has a unique talent for building consensus—a skill set which he has used throughout his career. Coordinating with each member union, engaging with leadership as well as rank and file, while also providing guidance and advocacy to Congressional Members and staff, Bill has built a distinguished reputation with all those who have had the opportunity to work with him. I, like many others, am so grateful to have benefited from his expertise and counsel. I thank him for that as well as his many years of friendship and support.

In a professional career that has spanned more than six decades, Bill Samuel has left an indelible mark on the labor movement in America. Many of those whose lives have been improved by his work will never meet or know Bill. Throughout his career he has been a champion for working Americans, standing up time and time again to protect their rights to safe working conditions, fair and livable wages, as well as secure health and retirement benefits. Today, as he marks his retirement, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and deepest thanks to Bill for his outstanding service. My very best wishes to him, his wife, Tracy, and his children Jack and Lucy, for many more years of health and happiness as he begins this new life chapter.

MARRIAGE OF AMAN CHANDI AND UDHAY KAHLON

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the union of my constituents and good friends, Aman Chandi and Udhay Kahlon, two individuals whose relationship began by chance and has grown into a commitment rooted in their shared traditions and love. With genuine happiness, I offer them my congratulations on their engagement and upcoming marriage.

At an airport surrounded by travelers, Aman and Udhay met by chance, and were encouraged to pursue one another by friends and