

Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

HONORING KAREN COLLINS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen Collins, whom I have named the 2024 Woman of the Year for Sonoma County because of her excellent work in our community. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Collins grew up in Spokane, Washington, with her dad and two brothers. She received a bachelor's degree in political science and American history from Whitworth University, and a master's degree in American Government from George Washington University. She also earned a junior college teaching credential from San Francisco State University, and is a graduate of the Public Affairs Institute of Washington, D.C.

Ms. Collins is a prominent leader on environmental and agricultural issues. She is an outstanding member of our community, having served on countless commissions and organizations throughout Sonoma County including the City of Sonoma's Environmental Advisory Commission, the Sonoma County Regional Parks Advisory Commission, and the City of Sonoma Parks and Recreation Task Force. She also served as President of the Bay Area Public Affairs Council, as chair of the California State Trails Commission, and as chair and member of various other community organizations. Ms. Collins, dedication as a public servant is clear.

Notably, Ms. Collins has volunteered for many campaigns including Cows not Casinos and ballot measures for the Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District and Sonoma County Regional Parks Department. She also worked on the urban growth boundary campaign and the Sonoma Valley Hospital property tax campaign.

Her impact is not limited to Sonoma County. Ms. Collins served as the Deputy Director of the Container Corporation of America, as the Director of Governmental Relations for the Del Monte Corporation and as Deputy Director of California State Parks. She even started her own company, Going Places! Walking Tours for Women.

Ms. Collins' incredible impact on our community has been recognized by many. In 2019, she was named the City of Sonoma's

Alcaldessa. She received the 2017 California State Senate Woman of the Year award from California State Senator Bill Dodd, the City of Sonoma's Conservationist of the Year Award in 2014 and received the Sonoma Valley Hospital Pulse Award in 2008. These awards exemplify Ms. Collins' constant and unwavering dedication to our community.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Ms. Karen Collins for her excellent service and passion for our community. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Sonoma County's 2024 Woman of the Year.

HONORING MATTIE L. WARREN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable trailblazer, Ms. Mattie L. Warren. Ms. Warren has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Ms. Warren is a woman of great courage and determination. During National Library Week, the local library took the opportunity to honor several people who are special to the branch of the Sunflower County Library System. Among them was a special recognition for Ms. Warren, who has worked for the Library System for 50 years.

As good fortune would have it, Ms. Warren issued B.B. King his first library card. Currently, she works at the library as a cataloger, making sure everyone finds what they are looking for within the library.

People often ask her, "When are you going to retire, and I say, don't worry about that—as long as I still have my mind and I can still do, I am going to thank the Lord and go ahead on." Staff members, family and friends all declared that when Ms. Warren speaks, they listen to everything she says.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Mattie L. Warren for her passion and dedication to her community.

HONORING RENALDINE LAFLECHE

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Renaldine Lafleche, my fellow who has served with distinction in my office and dedicated her time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Renaldine, a proud alumna of Florida International University, brought her background and passion for creating meaningful change to my office. Her commitment to improving transportation and infrastructure across South Florida was evident in her diligent support of my work on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Renaldine's exceptional expertise and strategic insight have been instrumental in advancing my legislative agenda and ensuring critical amendments were included in crucial pieces of legislation.

One of Renaldine's greatest strengths is building bridges and fostering collaboration.

Her dedication to empowering others and uplifting underrepresented voices has left a lasting impression on our team and the communities we serve.

As Renaldine concludes her fellowship today, she leaves a legacy of excellence and service. Her next chapter will undoubtedly be marked by her continued success and impactful work in public service.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Renaldine Lafleche for her drive and dedication to public service.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT GAIL UTTER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Gail Utter of Sherman, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Gail has over 30 years of experience in the investment industry and has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

Gail spent most of her childhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and earned her Bachelor of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University. She later received a Master of Business Administration from the University of North Texas and became certified as a Private Wealth Advisor and Chartered Retirement Plan Counselor. In 2001, Gail established the very successful Utter Wealth Management of Wells Fargo Advisors.

Over the years, she has provided stellar investment results for clients and earned numerous awards and recognitions for her work. Gail was named a Platinum Council Advisor Diamond level advisor, Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisor, and Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State. Additionally, she has been listed in Barron's Top 1200 State by State Advisor for eleven consecutive years, beginning in 2012.

On top of delivering for her clients, Gail serves in several leadership roles with the Austin College Board of Trustees, the Sherman Economic Development Corporation, SMU Perkins School of Theology, and many more. She is a frequent keynote speaker and supporter of beneficial community initiatives throughout North Texas. In her free time, Gail enjoys spending time with her family, taking care of her dogs, and strengthening her faith. I am proud of the outstanding work she has accomplished for our community. I wish her continued success for many years to come.

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

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILY SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th Year Anniversary of Northern Virginia Family Service.

Originally established in 1924 by volunteers in Alexandria, Virginia, Northern Virginia Family Service has been a staple in Northern Virginia communities to help people in need. Those first volunteers in 1924 in Alexandria noticed that poor children in their community had no coats, and their families had no coal to heat their homes. Northern Virginia Family Service addressed those basic and critical needs.

The needs of vulnerable individuals and families in our nation will likely continue to be part of the same challenges we face in our Northern Virginia region. Northern Virginia Family Service has built a steadfast legacy of support and service that they've provided through their mission—"to empower individuals and families to improve their quality of life, and to promote community cooperation and support in responding to family needs." With the continued commitment of partners and supporters, many enjoy the benefits that come with that promise.

This work continues today with major initiatives to address the issues of secure affordable housing in a challenging economy, provide access to necessary health care and medications for children and adults, offer job training that improves quality of life and provides adequate support for families, provide a safe, stimulating place for growing preschool children to learn and play.

More than 100 years later, Northern Virginia Family Service continues to address our local communities' needs with a wide range of programs designed to deal with the current problems of today. Northern Virginia Family Service partners with Northern Virginia Community College through the "Training Futures" program, to provide the only community-based workforce development program in the region that affords students the opportunity to earn college credits.

Mr. Speaker, Northern Virginia Family Service has grown to help more than 35,000 families and individuals every year. As needs emerge and change over time, Northern Virginia Family Service programs also adapt to respond to what is needed when it is required. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending their President and CEO, Stephanie Berkowitz, their Board of Directors, leadership team, members, and volunteers in the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Northern Virginia Family Service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELLE FISCHBACH

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to cast a vote on April 30, 2024, for a bill that I have been a cosponsor of and a strong advocate for, which would delist the Gray Wolf from the ESA.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

YEA on Roll Call No. 169, passage of H.R. 764—Trust the Science Act.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DEBATE TEAM FOR THEIR NATIONAL TITLE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Michigan's Debate Team, on the occasion of winning their first national title. The tenacity and dedication this team has shown throughout their season is worthy of commendation.

The University of Michigan Debate Team in Ann Arbor was founded in 1903 and is one of the oldest debate programs in the United States. Prior to their national championship victory this year, the team finished as runner-up 3 times in the past 3 years. The perseverance the team has shown is evident in this, and their victory is so deserving. The skills and values that this team and all other teams have gained throughout this season are impressive, and no doubt carry them into successful futures. This accomplishment is also an indicator as to why organizations such as debate in universities and colleges are so worthwhile.

The 78th annual tournament was held at Emory University, with 47 universities and colleges represented by 78 different teams. This esteemed tournament is highly competitive, and the University of Michigan rose to the occasion. The topic of debate was concerning U.S. nuclear weapons policy. This weighty topic is no easy thing to discuss, let alone debate, and the University of Michigan Debate Team should be proud of their accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Debate Team at the University of Michigan. Their victory signifies the second national championship title for the University of Michigan this academic year, following the Michigan Football Team's College Football Playoff win. I want to congratulate the Debate Team for their accomplishments, and I have no doubt that they will continue to make their university proud.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS FROM OREGON'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AS THEY VISIT MEMORIALS ON THE NATIONAL MALL

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Veterans from Oregon's Second Congressional District who, through the efforts of Honor Flight of Oregon, are visiting their memorials on the National Mall. When I meet these heroes, I am reminded of the enduring words of Douglas MacArthur, who said, "Duty, honor, country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be." These words, Mr. Speaker, still ring true today. Those who value liberty are indebted to these heroes, for each one of them defended our freedom through acts of service, sacrifice, and bravery

all on behalf of our country. It is my privilege to include in the RECORD their names.

The Veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are: William Await, Navy; Berry Roland, Army; Henry Butler, Navy; Roland Cook, Air Force; Julian Cortez, Marine Corps; David Cunningham, Navy; Duane Desautel, Army; Wallace Hunnicutt, Air Force; Daniel Long, Navy; James Martson, Navy; Fredrick Miles, Air Force; Lorin Myers, Marine Corps Reserve; Gerald Nolan, Marine Corps; Douglas Olson, Army; Richard Patten, Navy Reserve; Henry Perry, Navy; James Potter, Marine Corps; Dale Rosenboom, Army; Helen Rosenboom, Army; Hector Sanchez, Army; Sherrell Spears, Army; Craig Spotts, Navy; Gary Svaren, Army; David Wright, Army; Thomas Wright, Army; Ken Wilson, Navy. These heroes join over 240,000 Veterans, who since 2005, have been honored through the nationwide Honor Flight Network of volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, in his 1988 Veterans Day address President Ronald Reagan said, "We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give, and we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice if it were demanded of them in the line of duty, though it never was. Most of all, we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their nation as they became champions of a noble cause." As a Nation, we must never take for granted the liberties we enjoy today, recognizing that these freedoms have been hard-won by the honor, commitment, and sacrifice of our veterans. Each Member in this chamber and citizen in these United States should be humbled by the courage of the brave veterans who voluntarily underwent the dangers necessary to preserve our country. Colleagues, please join me in thanking these Veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their remarkable service and devotion to our great country.

RECOGNIZING TERRA BENALLY

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

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

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

HONORING ANA SANTANA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ana Santana, whom I