

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

have named the 2024 Woman of the Year for Lake County because of her excellent work in our community. Woman of the Year recognizes women who contributed significantly to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

Ms. Santana was born in Los Angeles, California, to Manuela Garcia de Santana and Galdino Gomez Santana. Ms. Santana received an associate degree in early childhood education from Yuba College and a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Pacific Union College. She is married to Jose Luis Alfaro. Together, they are parents to Daniella, Luis-Alberto, and Thomas.

Ms. Santana's leadership and commitment to our educational community are commendable. For nearly two decades, she has worked at the Lake County Office of Education as a champion for family advocacy and services. Her active participation in various commissions and organizations, such as the Healthy Start Youth and Family Services Program Director, the Juvenile Justice Committee, Upper Lake Unified School District Board Member, and the Latinos United of Lake County Secretary, is a testament to her unwavering dedication as a public servant.

Notably, Ms. Santana has advocated for those in need and orchestrated countless community outreach events. As chair of the Lake County Children's Council and a past board member of St. Peter's Hispanic Congregation, she has dramatically inspired her colleagues and those in our community. Many have recognized her incredible impact on our community. Recently, the Press Democrat named her Lake County's Most Influential Woman.

As a past president and secretary of the Upper Lake High School Boosters, Ms. Santana continues to support her children by volunteering or promoting any event they are involved in. She has always been committed to her job and volunteer positions. Ms. Santana's philanthropic acts stem from her mindset that everything she does is worth it as long as it suits the children. She has helped direct events connecting our communities to different health initiatives, again showing her passion for outreach.

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

#### HONORING ATTORNEY PAHEADRA ROBINSON

#### 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 Attorney Paheadra Robinson.

Paheadra Robinson, B.S., J.D., class of 1994, was recognized as a Remarkable Woman of Mississippi by WJTV for her body work around Social Justice and Medicaid Expansion. If she's not supporting her three children in their extracurricular activities, you can find her taking on a leadership role in several critical issues.

Robinson graduated from Lanier High School before attending Tougaloo College. From there, she went on to earn her law degree from the University of Mississippi.

Robinson currently serves as principal of the Bratton Consulting Group. She's been addressing civil rights and consumer protection issues through advocacy and community education for more than 20 years.

Robinson brings a rich tapestry of experience to her role. As an attorney, advocate, and seasoned consultant, she has navigated the halls of legislation and the grassroots of community movements with equal adeptness. This unique blend of experiences empowers her with an unparalleled perspective on driving change. At the heart of Robinson's work is a profound passion for economic justice and community upliftment.

Her approach is deeply empathetic yet strategically sharp, ensuring that her clients not only envision change but also effectively enact it. Robinson's expertise lies in not just advising organizations but in truly empowering them. Her guidance helps turn visions into impactful actions, fostering growth in leaders and tangible progress in communities.

With Robinson and The Bratton Group, LLC, your nonprofit's mission finds a powerful voice and a clear path forward. She embodies the ideal blend of heart, intellect, and action—making her an exceptional asset in the journey towards a better world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Attorney Paheadra Robinson for her dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

#### RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH ILIFF ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

#### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Elizabeth Iliff of Lorain, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Elizabeth's offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2028. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Elizabeth brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2028. While attending Marion Steele High School, she participated in National Honor Society, L.E.O. Club, student government, and was on the honor role. Throughout high school, Elizabeth was involved in cheerleading and golf, earning her varsity letter in both. I am confident that she will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Elizabeth Iliff on her offer of

appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Elizabeth will excel during her career at the Military Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to our Nation.

#### IN MEMORY OF DR. GLEN C. KNECHT, SR.

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week a beloved former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina, passed away but will always be cherished as evidenced by his obituary.

Dr. Glen C. Knecht, Sr., 94, was received into the glory of his Savior on April 23, 2024, at his home, Laurel Haven, in Laurel, MD. Born March 19, 1930, in Ogdensburg, NY, son of Robert and Wilma Knecht, Glen grew up in Syracuse, NY. Glen was brought to transformative, saving faith in his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at summer camp as a teenager.

At 16, Glen began attending Maryville College where he met the love of his life, Betty Jane Greenwald. As the story goes, on their first date she told him she wanted to be a country schoolteacher and Glen replied, "That's great because I want to be a country preacher!" Glen went on to graduate from Maryville and later from both Fuller Theological Seminary and Princeton Seminary where he received a Master of Theology Degree. He also received a Doctor of Divinity Degree (Honorary) from Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA.

Their marriage ceremony was broadcast on the live CBS television program, *Bride and the Broom* and from there the couple embarked on a 72-year journey of service and devotion to the Lord and each other. Together, they answered the call to missionary work in Tabriz, Iran in 1958, and traversed the Atlantic Ocean with their young children, Todd and Beth, in tow. While in Iran, he provided a complete seminary education to an Iranian pastor. He preached in both Persian and Turkish in the church there and in English to the U.S. government personnel in Tabriz. After five years, their term was complete. They returned to the U.S. again by boat, having added Wendy and Janet to the family.

Glen's first pastorate was at the Union Presbyterian Church in Kirkwood, Pennsylvania where he served before departing for the mission field. Upon his return he served for eight years as pastor of the Oxford Presbyterian Church in Oxford, Pennsylvania, during which Glen, Jr. and daughter, Amy, were born. His next pastorate was at the Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church (then located) in Hyattsville, Maryland, a stone's throw from the U.S. Capitol. Glen served as senior pastor there from 1971-1983. From 1983-1997, he was Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC. From 1997-2007 he served at Fourth Presbyterian Church, in Bethesda, MD, first as Assistant Pastor (Minister of Visitation) and then as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care. His last pastorate was at the Christ Reformed Evangelical Church, Annapolis, MD from 2007-2016. He was a member of the Potomac Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of America at the time of his death.