

development. Students are recognized in their junior year and rewarded for their aspirations to enter public service. After being selected, students receive a scholarship for graduate or professional school, participate in leadership development activities, and have special opportunities for internships and employment with the federal government.

Congratulations to all of this year's nominees, and I look forward to seeing where each of them go in their future.

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT THOMAS LEISER

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

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

In 1974, Thomas graduated from Indiana University and earned his Juris Doctor from Indiana University School of Law four years later. He began his career as a clerk and bailiff for Marion County Criminal Courts before being selected to serve as a Deputy Prosecutor. In 1982, Thomas stepped into the real estate industry and worked as an investment advisor for Leiser Real Estate Advisory in New York City. After a brief moment serving as an associate business law professor, he began working for the Trammell Crow Company in Dallas and rose up its ranks to become its Senior Managing Director. With plenty of experience in the commercial real estate market, Thomas co-founded Bandera Ventures in 2003. Since then, his agency has completed over a hundred real estate projects throughout the United States worth nearly \$3 billion dollars. Currently, Thomas is working on a billion-dollar project to construct a data center.

Separately, Thomas has supported numerous humanitarian initiatives around the world. He worked closely with the Agape Manna nonprofit to develop a bakery to provide orphaned children in North Korea with food. Thomas also supported efforts to help North Koreans seek freedom from the Communist regime and begin a new chapter in life in South Korea. He is the co-founder of Crosswater Ministries, which supports Mission activities for the Highland Park Presbyterian Church to deliver food and medical supplies to Cuban families. I am proud of the outstanding work Thomas has accomplished for our community and those in need. I wish him continued success for many years to come.

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

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2024 BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue

Department on the occasion of its 76th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and to thank its volunteers for filling an essential role in keeping our community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than seven decades it has provided lifesaving fire suppression, fire prevention, and emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Burke and the surrounding communities. It also provides, houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment, provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership, and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the county's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in cooperation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. I am honored to recognize the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as Officers or as members of the Board of Directors and to include in the RECORD their names:

##### Board of Directors:

President—Ian Dickinson  
Vice President—John Powers  
Secretary—Maria Suarez Ortiz  
Treasurer—Larry Bocknek  
Board Member—Kathleen Beer  
Board Member—James Stahlman  
Board Member—Kenneth Senn

##### Officers:

Chief—Keith O'Connor  
Deputy Chief—Tina Godfrey  
Deputy Chief—John Hudak  
Captain II—Melissa Ashby  
Captain II—Kevin Grottle  
Lieutenant—Caitlin Edwards  
Sergeant—Gavin Kuzemchak  
Quartermaster—Chuck Fry

In addition to the men and women who have generously assumed the responsibilities of serving as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department is also presenting awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exemplary service during the last year:

Rookie of the Year—Damion Jedlicka  
Officer of the Year—Kevin Grottle  
EMS Officer of the Year—Garrett Canterbury  
Career Member of the Year—Tony Albertson  
Administrative Member of the Year—Nancy Stone

##### President's Award—Gary Shiple

Team Award—75th Banquet Committee; Larry Bocknek, Tina Godfrey, Maria Suarez-Ortiz, and Shaun Kurry

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 76 years of service and in thanking all of the brave volunteers who do not hesitate to drop everything when the community calls in need of help. To all of these men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents I say: "Stay safe."

#### RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS GERACI ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 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 Nicholas Geraci of North Ridgeville, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Nicholas's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2028. Attending one of our Nation's military academies offers the opportunity to serve our country and receive a world-class education. At the same time, these young men and women undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Nicholas brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2028. While attending North Ridgeville High School, he participated in Key Club, coached middle school track and field, coached powder-puff football, and was on the honor roll. Throughout high school, Nicholas was involved in track and field, earning his varsity letter. After high school, he attended the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio, majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nicholas Geraci on his offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Nicholas will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DOUGLAS D. DELAIR

#### HON. COLIN Z. ALLRED

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, on April 18, 2024, Douglas "Doug" D. DeLair, died in Lincoln, Nebraska at the age of 81. He was born on December 12, 1942, in Oakland, California, to the late Raymond DeLair and Evelyn (Crumbly) DeLair.

A distinguished captain in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, Doug served admirably as a helicopter pilot.

His disciplined spirit later guided his fulfilling career in bankruptcy law in Lincoln, Nebraska alongside his beloved wife, Sandra DeLair.

Beyond his professional achievements, Doug was a devoted bowler and golfer, his sportsmanship and enthusiasm endearing him to many.

Doug will be remembered not just for his achievements but for his generous heart, sharp wit, and the unwavering support he provided to his friends and family. He was a pillar

in his community, often volunteering his time and legal expertise to those in need.

He is survived by his wife Sandra and their children Dianne, Deborah (partner Antonio), John, Robert (wife Christine) and Danielle (husband Joshua). Doug was blessed with eleven grandchildren including Lucy, Everett, Elaina, Ivy, Breanna, Claudia, Lydia, Sharon, Anthony, Lizzy, and Gabe. Doug was also a brother to Steven DeLair (wife Sally), Stanley DeLair (wife Bertha), and John DeLair (wife Gail).

Doug was preceded in death by his parents Raymond and Evelyn (Crumbliss) DeLair.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 162; YEA on Roll Call No. 155; YEA on Roll Call No. 156; YEA on Roll Call No. 157; YEA on Roll Call No. 158; YEA on Roll Call No. 159; YEA on Roll Call No. 160; YEA on Roll Call No. 161; NAY on Roll Call No. 170; YEA on Roll Call No. 171; NAY on Roll Call No. 168; YEA on Roll Call No. 169; NAY on Roll Call No. 166; YEA on Roll Call No. 167; NAY on Roll Call No. 164; and YEA on Roll Call No. 165.

#### RECOGNIZING LARISSA BATRES LINARES

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

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

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

#### HONORING MARIA CONTRERAS TEBBUTT

### 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 Maria Contreras Tebbutt, whom I have named the 2024 Climate Crisis Champion for Yolo County because of the important work she has done to promote cycling as an alternative form of transportation to ad-

dress the impacts of climate change on California's 4th Congressional District.

Maria Contreras Tebbutt was born in King City, California. She and her husband Mark have a daughter, Nicole. She is a graduate of Davis High School and has lived in Davis ever since graduation.

Through her role as the Outreach Director of the Bike Campaign, Ms. Contreras Tebbutt has educated our community about the value of cycling. This campaign, along with its counterpart, the Bike Garage, was founded in 2011 to help teach people about the benefits of cycling and encourage people to ride their bikes more. These two locations offer training, internships, and jobs for youths, as well as enrichment opportunities for seniors who volunteer. The Bike Campaign works closely with city governments, county health departments, school districts, and community service groups.

Her advocacy for cycling has also given Ms. Contreras Tebbutt the opportunity to advocate on behalf of seniors and people with disabilities. She recently partnered with Cycling Without Age—Trishaw Electric's assist rides program, which provides opportunities for seniors and those with disabilities to enjoy cycling in Davis. This program allows those with mobility limitations to enjoy parks and green spaces more easily. Her work on this program has given her the opportunity to partner with the Davis Senior Center, the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, Yolo Hospice, various faith-based organizations, Rancho Yolo, and various senior residential facilities in the county. Ms. Contreras Tebbutt's advocacy on behalf of cycling has meaningfully benefited some of the most vulnerable in our community, which is laudable.

Ms. Contreras Tebbutt's cycling work has also given her the opportunity to connect with our local leaders. She has built partnerships with the City of Davis's Public Works Program, the City of Woodland's Department of Transportation, the Woodland Chamber, the Woodland City Council, and the Davis City Council. She has also been an influential voice in the planning of various community cycling events, such as the Zombie Ride, Ice Cream Ride, and the Polar Bear Ride.

Ms. Contreras Tebbutt's life-long advocacy for cycling and its mental and physical, as well as environmental, benefits, make her an important community leader in combatting the climate crisis.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Maria Contreras Tebbutt is a leader dedicated to promoting cycling as an alternative method of transportation. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Yolo County's 2024 Climate Crisis Champion.

#### HONORING THE MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR CULTURAL PRODUCTION

### 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 the Mississippi Center for Cultural Production. This organization has gone beyond the call of duty to ensure that rural communities in Mississippi are taken care of, and their stories are told.

The Mississippi Center for Cultural Production, also known as "Sipp Culture," is an approach and resource for cultivating thriving communities. Based in the rural South, Sipp Culture is honoring the history and building the future of Rural Hinds County, especially in the Town of Utica, MS.

Sipp Culture supports community development from the ground up through cultural production focused on self-determination and agency designed by them and for them. The organization believes that history, culture, and food affirm our individual and collective humanity. Their goal is to strengthen the local food system, advance health equity, and support rural artistic voices—while activating the power of story—all to promote the legacy and vision of Utica, MS.

At the core of it all is the unwavering belief that gathering and sharing local stories is the best way to support safe and thriving communities for the future. Honoring growth, story, and imagination is an approach that can cultivate healthy and equitable places everywhere. For Sipp Culture, it all starts in Utica. I firmly believe the work Sipp Culture has done for the communities in Hinds County can be a model for what should be done for rural communities all across the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Mississippi Center for Cultural Production for their service to the citizens of Mississippi.

#### HONORING BERNARDSVILLE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Bernardsville on its 100th anniversary. I am truly grateful to be celebrating this monumental milestone with them all.

Over the past 100 years, Bernardsville has blossomed into a vibrant town with exquisite natural scenery, rich culture, and a bustling town center. Bernardsville is also home to my congressional district office, so I can personally attest to its unique charm and history. I am proud to have such a remarkable town within the 7th district, and I look forward to watching it continue to flourish in the coming decades.

I wish Bernardsville a wonderful centennial anniversary. May their next century be filled with as much success as this one.

#### HONORING THE 2024 OHIO MILITARY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

### HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Ohio Military Hall of Fame will hold a ceremony at the Statehouse in Columbus on Friday, May 3, to mark the induction of its 2024 class. Selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor that has