

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.

Michael brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2028. While attending Bowling Green High School, he participated in National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, and was on the honor roll. Throughout high school, Michael was involved in wrestling, earning his varsity letter. After high school, he attended the Northwestern Preparatory School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael Kinzel 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 Michael 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.

RECOGNIZING Lyla AYERS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

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

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

HONORING CLAY SHANNON

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 Clay Shannon of Shannon Family Wines, whom I have named the 2024 Climate Crisis Champion for Lake County because of the important work he has done to promote responsible farming, reduce the need for agricultural chemicals, and address the impacts of climate change on California's 4th Congressional District.

Clay Shannon was born in Healdsburg, California. He is married to Angie Shannon, with whom he has two daughters, Brooke and Audrey. Both his wife and daughter Brooke have active roles in their company, Shannon Family of Wines.

Through his role as the owner of Shannon Family of Wines, Mr. Shannon has advocated

for the need for responsible farming that reduces the carbon footprint of farms. In this role, he farms over 4,000 acres of vineyards in Northern California, 2,500 of which he owns. In 2018, Mr. Shannon began farming his 2,500 acres of land organically. He also has integrated his sheep farming operation with his vineyard. By doing so, Mr. Shannon has dramatically reduced the need for mowing, fungicides, and conventional fertilizers in his vineyard.

Mr. Shannon has been farming for nearly 40 years. This long experience with and love for the land has given him unparalleled insights into the importance of farming organically and naturally. He is an outspoken proponent of eliminating the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in farming. Crucially, Mr. Shannon is also an educator on the importance of building healthy soils for farming.

He has also been a leader in the wine community. He has served as a Board Member of the Lake County Grape Commission, and as a member of the Wine Institute. He is also an active contributor and host of the Lake County Wine Auction, Lake county's largest charity event.

Mr. Shannon's excellent work to advance environmental stewardship has been recognized in the past. In 2021, the Shannon Family received the Wine Institute's Green Medal Award. His land and wineries have also been certified by the California Certified Organic Farmers, an organization that works to advance organic agriculture for a healthy world. Mr. Shannon has also applied for his lands and winery to be certified as regenerative.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Clay Shannon is a leader dedicated to responsible organic farming. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor him here today as Lake County's 2024 Climate Crisis Champion.

HONORING SHELBY BROADSTREET SCHOOL ALUMNI

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 dedicated efforts of the Shelby Broadstreet School Alumni, an enthusiastic and self-motivated group of former graduates from Shelby Broadstreet High School.

This remarkable team has initiated the Shelby Broadstreet Class Clean-up project, which brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds including businessmen, medical professionals, veterans of education, students, and other community citizens. The Shelby Broadstreet School Alumni are tirelessly organizing and serving their community, demonstrating a strong commitment to giving back and revitalizing their hometown.

Chilion Stapleton and Alexis Davis, both graduates of the old Shelby Broadstreet High School in 2001, initiated a meaningful project to give back to their hometown. Together with fellow classmates, they embarked on a plan to make this a recurring tradition. Joining forces with other graduating classes, Stapleton and Davis orchestrated a reunion on Saturday, March 30, dedicated to cleaning up their old stomping grounds.

The initiative was sparked by social media discussions among Broad Street alumni, who learned about littering and clean-up challenges in Shelby. Motivated to make a positive impact, they organized a collective effort to address the issue. Together, they rallied approximately 30 participants, including 13 from the class of 2001. Notably, former students traveled from out of state, including Texas, to contribute to the cause. Despite only three attendees still residing in Shelby, the group was determined to effect change in their hometown. Stapleton highlighted their proactive approach: "We gathered the troops upon discovering issues with littering and waste composite in our hometown and decided to take action for the better." The call to action was broadcasted through their alumni homecoming Facebook page, resulting in an enthusiastic response.

The dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly, with each represented class tackling specific areas of the town for clean-up. The evening concluded with further planning, camaraderie, and shared laughter. This meaningful endeavor not only strengthened community ties but also provided an opportunity for former students to reconnect with their families and roots in Shelby. The Shelby Broadstreet classes are committed to continuing these reunions and cleaning efforts to further enhance their beloved hometown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Shelby Broadstreet School Alumni for their dedication and initiative in undertaking this important community endeavor. Their collective contributions are truly inspiring and reflect the best of our shared values as citizens and neighbors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 169, YEA on Roll Call No. 170, and NAY on Roll Call No. 171.

HONORING IOWA'S 2024 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ann Mincks of West Des Moines, Iowa, who was recently selected as Iowa's 2024 Teacher of the Year.

Ann has taught with Des Moines Public Schools for nearly 16 years and currently teaches English Language Learners at Hoover High School. She has helped to increase literacy proficiency at her school through the use of evidence-based, effective literacy instruction grounded in the Science of Reading. With many of her students new, not only to Des Moines but to the United States, Ann strives to connect them to their curriculum and to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to present Ann with the Iowa Medal of Merit for her dedication

to her students. I thank Ann for her work to support new members of our community and her dedication to students.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her service to Iowa and her achievement as Iowa's 2024 Teacher of the Year.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER OF GREATER WASHINGTON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington.

The Korean Community Service Center (KCSC) of Greater Washington was founded in 1974 by a pastor and his congregation who made a commitment to provide basic transportation and interpretation and translation assistance to newly arrived visitors and immigrants from Korea. This group of individuals also assisted the newcomers with rent for their apartments, set up phone and utility services, and enrolled their kids in school.

Over the decades, KCSC grew and evolved into the largest bilingual and bicultural Korean social service agency in the D.C. metropolitan area. KCSC also began providing services to other Asian immigrant communities living in the metro D.C. area. The organization has served more than 150,000 Asian American immigrant families since it was founded and currently provides services to about 1,000 Asian Americans a month.

Their mission is to assist and empower Asian Americans and new immigrants to become well-adjusted and fully contributing members of the United States through social services, education, advocacy, and development of resources. Offerings such as case management, immigration legal services, housing counseling, comprehensive victims' services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and dating violence, and more help KCSC fulfill their mission every day.

This organization actively serves our community members and strives to improve the overall quality of life for individuals and families. Over the past five decades, KCSC has adapted and changed to meet the changing needs of the Asian American community. With culturally and linguistically sensitive services and programs, clients can feel safe and comfortable at KCSC.

Throughout the lifetime of this organization, volunteers and staff from KCSC have strived to deliver effective, efficient, and accountable services. Their successes over the years are truly successes for the region as a whole. Our diversity is our greatest strength, and KCSC has allowed countless individuals to feel safe and supported here in Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Korean Community Center of Greater Washington on 50 years of service. KCSC, and other groups of service-minded individuals, are why Northern Virginia is an incredible place to live, work, and play. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the staff, volunteers, and supporters of this remarkable organization.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT ESTHER BRUMIT

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Esther Brumit of Denison, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Esther has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

Esther was born in Los Alamos, New Mexico, in 1952. She attended Oral Roberts University and the University of Texas Medical Branch, where she specialized in healthcare. After graduation, Esther worked as a physician assistant at Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City and cared for at-risk and underprivileged children. She later taught orchestra in private and public schools, where she always ended her concerts with "God Bless America". She is passionate about Israel and Judeo-Christian values, which spurred her to organize trips for students to travel to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. so they could learn more about their heritage.

Esther was later asked to serve as an election clerk and judge, which she gladly accepted. She attended her first national convention in New York as a volunteer for President George H.W. Bush's second term. From that moment on, Esther attended all state and national conventions as part of the Republican delegation. Her favorite part of the conventions were the national anthem opening and prayer services. Esther also served as a Precinct Chair and participated in door knocking and phone banking to mobilize Texans to participate in elections. Esther is a true American patriot, and I wish her continued success for many years to come.

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

RECOGNIZING MAJOR JANILL CASTILLO

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Janill Castillo of the United States Army upon her departure from this body as a Legislative Liaison. In her role as a Legislative Liaison, Major Castillo was the face and voice of the Army for Congress, bridging the gap between military leadership and 28 Members of Congress across six states. She built strong relationships with Members and their staff, promoting the Army's message and priorities with exceptional responsiveness and professionalism. Her attention to detail and excellent communication skills while planning CODELS earned her high praise from multiple Members of Congress.

Major Janill Castillo's military career began in 2010 when she commissioned in the Army through officer candidate school, where she became an Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialist. Over the past decade, she has served in various capacities with the Army, including

deployments to Kosovo and Kuwait, and in units in Fort Irwin, California; Fort Cavazos, Texas; Fort Lee, Virginia; Fort Carson, Colorado. She had previously held a nominative position as a fellow on the Joint Staff before joining us in the Capitol. A lifelong learner, Major Castillo has earned three degrees—a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Virginia, a master's degree in biotechnology from the University of Maryland, and a master's degree in policy management from Georgetown University.

I extend my sincere wishes for a smooth transition to Fort Liberty, North Carolina, to Major Castillo and her daughter, Mia, and express my deep gratitude for Major Castillo's continued dedication and service to our great Nation.

CROWN ACT PRESS CONFERENCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking Rep. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN and the rest of my colleagues here for hosting this gathering today.

The introduction of the CROWN Act is an important step in the national conversation on race-based hair discrimination.

The CROWN Act (Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair) helps protect an estimated 2.3 million Black children nationwide who are most vulnerable to race-based hair discrimination.

To date, the CROWN Act has been enacted in 24 states and numerous municipalities.

And while the CROWN Act was signed into law last year in Texas, hair discrimination in Texas is still hurting Black children and minorities across the state.

On February 22, 2024, a Texas judge ruled that the CROWN Act was not violated following the suspension of Darryl George for the length of his locs.

The judge's decision:

"The CROWN Act could've been written to provide the individuals with braids, locs and twists (to be) exempt from any hair length restrictions, but it has no such exemption," said Judge Chap B. Cain III, of the 253rd Judicial District Court in Chambers County. "The CROWN Act is clear and BHISD's dress and grooming code policy is clear regarding male students."

"Courts should always refrain from rewriting legislative text," Cain said, reading what appeared to be a prepared speech. "That's not my job. Where text is clear—it's determinative—judges should not legislate from the bench and I'm not about to start today."

"The immunity that you seek, you can have that from either of those bodies," Cain said. "The legislature can go back, and I suspect they will, and they can decide that hair length cannot be regulated by the school, and then the school board's going to follow it. Or you can go to the school board and ask for a change in their policy."

The CROWN Act is necessary legislation that explicitly prohibits discrimination on the basis of hair texture or hairstyles commonly associated with a particular race or national origin in areas of the law where discrimination