

RECOGNIZING KING OF WINGS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize King of Wings for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to King of Wings for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

CONGRATULATING CHAD KNAUS ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE NASCAR HALL OF FAME

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate Mr. Chad Knaus who will be formally inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame on January 20, 2024. For twenty years, Mr. Knaus was one of the greatest crew chiefs in NASCAR history, winning seven championships in his tenure.

Having been a racer, owned a racetrack, and as a Chairman of the Congressional Motorsports Caucus, I've enjoyed racing from almost every perspective. I know NASCAR Championships require nothing short of perfection, hard work, and relentless attention to detail.

Chad Knaus began his career as a teenager, leading his father to multiple championships. Eventually, he got his start with NASCAR, working as an assistant in the Hendrick Motorsports body shop where he learned under Ray Evernham—a fellow Hall of Famer.

In 2002, Knaus was paired with Jimmie Johnson, a rookie driver, on a fourth Hendrick team. With Johnson, Knaus won a record-setting five championships in a row, bringing his total to seven won championships.

As crew chief for Johnson, Knaus won 81 races over 19 seasons, including the Daytona 500 in 2013, two Southern 500s, four Coca-Cola 600s, and four Brickyard 400s. Knaus won his 82nd and final race as crew chief for William Byron in 2020, placing him in 3rd place for all-time wins by a crew chief. Currently, Chad Knaus serves as the Vice President of Competition for Hendrick Motorsports.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join with me in congratulating Chad Knaus on his induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame. This honor is well deserved for such a distinguished career and winning record.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF SERVICE OF REAR ADMIRAL BRIAN DAVIES

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a dear friend, a former colleague, a devoted public servant, and a true American hero. Rear Admiral Brian Davies was not only one of the kindest people I have ever known, he was the epitome of valor, honor, and dedication. He bravely navigated the challenges of both a distinguished career in the United States Navy and a battle with cancer, and in doing so left a lasting legacy.

When a young Brian Davies enrolled at the United States Naval Academy, he didn't do so with the goal of earning accolades or climbing the ranks; he simply wanted to use his talents in the service of his nation. And that service was extraordinary, proof that there is no limit to what a person can accomplish in the rare instance when a brilliant mind, a humble spirit, and a leader's heart come together.

Much can be said about Rear Admiral Davies' remarkable career: his service on both fast attack and ballistic missile submarines, his six strategic deterrent patrols, his deployments to the Arctic, Western Pacific, North Atlantic and Indian Ocean. Much can also be said about his long list of awards and decorations, including a Distinguished Service medal, the Defense Superior Service medal, five Legion of Merit awards, three Meritorious Service medals, four Navy Commendation medals, three Navy Achievement medals, and various campaign, unit, and service awards. There are even awards and circumstances we can't discuss in detail, like those surrounding the prestigious Presidential Unit Citation he and his entire team received for their top secret work when he commanded the USS *Jimmy Carter*.

But what should never be lost in the litany of awards, honors, and accolades he so rightly earned was his profound humanity. I came to know him as Captain Davies when we served together at the Pentagon; he was the Special Military Assistant when I was Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. Despite his rank and resume, he was approachable and humble in ways that belied his many accomplishments, and someone who went out of his way to uplift and encourage all those around him. Never the loudest voice in the room, and despite his challenging responsibilities, Rear Admiral exemplified kindness in every interaction.

His profound impact extended far beyond the military or the office, as he was a devoted family man whose love for and pride in his daughter radiated through all he did. I will always remember how he went out of his way to support another colleague through the challenges of her husband's deployment, and the way he treated every person he encountered with dignity and respect. His commitment to the principles of "not self, but country," will forever stand as a beacon for all who worked and served with him and those who had the privilege of learning from him. May his memory be a blessing and a source of inspiration for generations to come.

Fair winds and following seas to Rear Admiral Brian Davies. His legacy lives on in the

hearts of those who knew and loved him, and here, in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING HUNTER OWEN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hunter Owen for receiving the Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes a member of the Wheat Ridge community for their outstanding volunteer service and contribution to their local community. Mr. Owen is the recipient of this year's award due to his unmatched willingness and dedication to answer the call of his community. He is a proud member of Wheat Ridge Kiwanis, the Rotary Club, and serves on the Chamber of Commerce Board as Member Chair. His tireless work ethic and dedication to the Wheat Ridge Community is tremendous.

Congratulations to Mr. Owen on his many accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for his continued contribution to the Wheat Ridge community.

HONORING ELIZABETH M. GONZALEZ

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the exceptional career of Elizabeth M. Gonzalez, Chief of Congressional Affairs at U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), and a dear friend with whom I have had the privilege of working with for many years.

Elizabeth was born in Hialeah, Florida to her loving Cuban American parents, German and Celia Gonzalez. Having been forced out of Cuba by Fidel Castro's regime in 1960, her parents instilled in her from a young age a deep appreciation for the sacrifices they made, the value of freedom from communist oppression, and an unshakeable pride in her Cuban heritage.

Known for her drive and pursuit of academic excellence, Elizabeth graduated from Hialeah Senior High as the Valedictorian of her class, later graduating with honors from Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and a Master of Education in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy. Propelled then by her tenacity and heart for service, Elizabeth stepped into what would be a remarkable career in service to our great Nation.

Elizabeth began working in 2002 at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Headquarters as a Presidential Management Intern (PMI), where she developed and managed a distance learning science program for bilingual children that aired internationally on over 30 television stations. She quickly rose in the ranks at NASA, working as a Legislative Specialist and finishing her tenure in the Office of the NASA Administrator as

a Policy Analyst focused on NASA's space exploration mission.

Upon returning to South Florida in 2005, Elizabeth served as the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs at SOUTHCOM, directly advising the Commander on legislative matters. While in this position, she would hone her policy-making skills that she would later demonstrate throughout the rest of her career. In 2009, Elizabeth then pursued an opportunity to serve as Advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Director of Congressional Affairs for U.S. European Commander at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Headquarters in Belgium. After serving two years in this role, Elizabeth returned to Miami to serve as the Chief of Congressional Affairs at SOUTHCOM, a role she has since executed with such excellence as to merit two awards. Elizabeth was hailed by her own colleagues as the "driving force behind Southern Command's outsized success and stellar reputation on our Nation's Capitol Hill," and has been venerated for her "visionary leadership, [and] exceptional strategic guidance".

Among her many hard-earned achievements, accolades, and awards, Elizabeth remains especially proud of her role as a loving mother to her son, Jake. She looks forward now to spending more time with her son and family enjoying white corn dinners after her many years of dedicated public service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend Elizabeth Gonzalez for her tremendous service to our Nation and our shared enthusiasm. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING MIKE MADDUX FROM THE TEXAS RANGERS

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of former University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) baseball player, Mike Maddux, for his success and contribution as the professional pitching coach of the 2023 World Series-winning Texas Rangers.

Coach Maddux, an Ohio native, was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the 36th round of the 1979 Major League Baseball (MLB) draft. However, he chose to pursue his education at UTEP, where he excelled as the star pitcher for the 1985 UTEP National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) baseball team. Following his graduation, Coach Maddux enjoyed a 15-year career in the MLB, playing for nine teams and concluding his playing days with the Houston Astros in 2000. Subsequently, he transitioned to a coaching role in the MLB starting in 2003. Over the years, Coach Maddux contributed his coaching expertise to four MLB teams: the Milwaukee Brewers (2003 through 2008), Texas Rangers (2009 through 2015), Washington Nationals (2016 through 2017), and St. Louis Cardinals (2018 through 2022). Notably, he returned to the Texas Rangers as their pitching coach in 2022.

During his initial tenure with the Rangers from 2009 to 2015, Coach Maddux oversaw a remarkable period of organizational success.

The team achieved four consecutive seasons with a team Earned Run Average (ERA) below 4.00 from 2010 to 2013. Building on this legacy, Coach Maddux helped guide the Rangers to a resounding and overwhelming 4–1 series victory in the 2023 MLB World Series, securing their first championship in franchise history.

Today, it is my privilege to join the University of Texas at El Paso, and many others, in honoring Coach Mike Maddux for his work in helping the Texas Rangers win their first World Series and making El Paso Proud.

RECOGNIZING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Habitat for Humanity for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Special Recognition Award.

The Special Recognition Award is given to a person or organization in Wheat Ridge who exemplifies outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community and aims to recognize them for their achievement. Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Habitat works with low- and middle-income families to build affordable homes. This year, Habitat began construction on 8 units in the Fruitdale neighborhood, bringing in 8 new families to Wheat Ridge.

We are grateful to Habitat for Humanity for their continued contributions to the Wheat Ridge community.

HONORING DR. JOAQUÍN GARCÍA

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Dr. Joaquín García, an esteemed medical professional of Palm Beach County. January 12, 2024, has been officially declared as Dr. Joaquín García Day. Dr. García is the first notable Hispanic in Palm Beach County to have a High School named after him to honor his memory and community contributions.

As a Cuban native, Dr. García continuously strived towards progressing immigrant members of the community in collaboration with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and other various Hispanic-affiliated groups. As a founding member and chairman of the Hispanic Education Coalition of Palm Beach County (HEC), Dr. García avidly promoted the education of children through his support for dual-language programs in the community. Beyond his role at the HEC, Dr. García was deeply involved in an array of advocacy groups including the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, Compass, International AIDS Education Foundation, Cycle for The Cause, and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Health Education Outreach.

Dr. García once stated, "I did not have any natural children, but I consider the tens of

thousands of students in the district to be my children and my responsibility."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Joaquín García's dedication to advocacy on behalf of children and his service to the people of South Florida is truly admirable. May his legacy be honored by the success of the students of Dr. Joaquín García High School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on January 11, 2024 and January 12, 2024.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 4; "yea" on rollcall No. 5; "nay" on rollcall No. 6; "yea" on rollcall No. 7; "yea" on rollcall No. 8; "yea" on rollcall No. 9; and "yea" on rollcall No. 10.

RECOGNIZING STYLUS AND CRATE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stylus and Crate of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's Business of the Year Award.

Stylus and Crate is an example of what makes Wheat Ridge such a wonderful community. They bring together coffee, art, and music enthusiasts alike, while also giving back to the community and doing their part to protect the environment. Stylus and Crate generously donates 3.33 percent of their revenue to charitable causes, often giving and beyond their set goal.

Congratulations to Stylus and Crate on the accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for their continued contribution to the Wheat Ridge community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LYNNETTE R. BUFFINGTON

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lynnette R. Buffington for her years of public service to our community. As the CEO of Greater Grays Harbor, Inc. Ms. Buffington has demonstrated unparalleled leadership and advocacy for the Grays Harbor community.

Ms. Buffington started at Greater Grays Harbor, Inc., the regional economic development council and chamber of commerce, at a tumultuous time: the summer of 2020. Even amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Buffington rose to the occasion and led Grays Harbor County to greater economic prosperity.

Since taking the helm, Ms. Buffington and Greater Grays Harbor, Inc. have secured millions in grants and investments into rural communities and projects across Grays Harbor,