

TRIBUTE TO KAREN FLOCK—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2024*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Karen Flock of Ventura, California.

Karen Flock epitomizes a life of advocacy and service to marginalized people in our region. Her first exposure to advocacy was as a volunteer with the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) in 1973 and 1974, while she was a college student. Armed with a B.A. in Economics from Reed College in 1975, the UFW enlisted Karen to help Ventura County farm workers negotiate their collective bargaining agreements after they voted for UFW representation in elections conducted by the Agricultural Labor Relations Board.

Karen dedicated five years to the UFW farm worker movement in Ventura County, then joined Channel Counties Legal Services to stand up for Rancho Sespe farm workers who were being evicted from their homes. These efforts to stop the evictions eventually led Karen to join Rodney Fernandez, who she worked with to create the Rancho Sespe Housing Complex on Highway 126 in Fillmore.

Fernandez recruited Karen to work with him at Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), the purpose of developing homes for farm workers, low wage workers, seniors and the disabled. Karen rose from Project Manager to Real Estate Development Director, and her work with CEDC over the next thirty-five years fueled her passion and honed her affordable housing development skills into a lifelong career. In 1986, Karen completed a National Internship in Community Economic Development, and in 2006–2008 she was recognized by NeighborWorks with America's Harvard Award for excellence in Community Development.

In 2016, Karen took her skills to the San Buenaventura Housing Authority, and is currently the Real Estate Development Director, where she leads the agency's efforts to create new affordable housing developments. In this role, she has been a tireless activist and a major player in protecting the homeless population of Ventura. She believes that homelessness must be addressed by providing housing for people.

On October 18, 2023, Karen received the 1st Annual Carmen Ramirez Housing Advocacy Award from H.O.M.E (Housing Opportunities Made Easier). She also received the El Concilio del Condado de Ventura 16th Annual Latino Leadership Award for Community Service.

I am honored to recognize Karen Flock for her continued commitment and tireless efforts to provide affordable housing on the Central Coast. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Karen Flock, for her incredible service to her community.

RECOGNIZING ELIANA ROMERO-YEATTS

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eliana Romero-Yeatts for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

RECOGNIZING JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM WINNING THE NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL TITLE

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2024*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jacksonville State University Women's Bowling Team for winning the NCAA Division I National Title in the program's first season.

On April 13th, The Jacksonville State Gamecocks beat Arkansas State in a best-of-seven match to secure their title win. The game was played at Thunderbowl Lanes in Alley Park, Michigan.

Impressively, the Gamecocks completed this accomplishment in the program's first year. This is the first national championship for Jacksonville State in over thirty years and the first ever at the Division I level.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Shannon O'Keefe, the Jacksonville State University Women's Bowling team, students, faculty, and all the fans. Go Gamecocks.

HONORING MR. JOHN F. SARGENT, JR.

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2024*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. John F. Sargent, Jr. for his dedicated service to the U.S. Congress and the American people with over three decades of federal service while working at the Department of Commerce and at the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Mr. Sargent recently retired from CRS as a specialist in science and technology policy. During his time at the agency, Mr. Sargent made invaluable contribu-

tions to Congress with his expertise to national security and economic competitiveness, defense research and development policy; and federal support for manufacturing in high-technology industries.

Mr. Sargent was born in Newport News, VA and raised in Alexandria, VA where he attended Bishop Ireton High School captaining the football team his senior year and serving as the president of the Model United Nations club. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in systems engineering and earned a commission in the United States Army. Mr. Sargent served in the Army Reserve where he rose to the rank of Captain.

Mr. Sargent begun his career in the private sector with a small publishing company that focused on government publications and then entered federal service at the Department of Commerce, serving as the first public affairs director of the Technology Administration. Mr. Sargent subsequently served as a senior policy advisor to the Under Secretary for Technology and the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy where he coauthored many influential reports on the role of technology in national competitiveness, the information technology workforce, and biotechnology, among other topics.

Eventually, Mr. Sargent joined CRS and was instrumental in the Service's coverage of federal research and development programs and activities that contributed to national security and economic competitiveness. He led the agency's analysis of the implementation of the America COMPETES Act as well as its reauthorization. Mr. Sargent took over leadership of CRS' flagship federal research and development funding report and led its annual development for many years. He was recognized in Congress for his expertise on the operations and policies of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, National Science and Technology Council, and coverage of technology assessment and science and technology advice to Congress. Mr. Sargent served as a senior reviewer for CRS' written products and as a mentor to new analysts. Throughout his career at CRS, he embodied the agency's mission values of providing authoritative, objective, non-partisan, and timely service to Congress.

On behalf of the American people, I thank Mr. Sargent for his decades of service to the country.

TRIBUTE TO MARIAN SHAPIRO—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2024*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Marian Shapiro of Goleta, California.

Marian Shapiro grew up in Berkeley, and first arrived in the district in 1960 as a UCSB freshman. She returned in 1968, when her husband was in a doctoral program at UCSB. Her husband's job took them to a small university town in rural Kansas, where Marian

raised her two kids while advocating for women's reproductive rights and LGBTQ rights. She fought against hatred and led the way in human rights efforts.

In 1980, she traveled from Kansas to D.C. as a delegate to the National League of Women Voters conference. In her televised meeting with President Jimmy Carter, she spoke on behalf of the Floridian delegation asking President Carter to address the immigration crisis in Florida. A woman of many talents, she lobbied legislators while singing and playing the guitar at many women's movement events.

Marian designed and led a number of workshops in conservative towns for Parents & Daughters and Parents & Sons, teaching them how to talk about puberty, dating, emotional management, and consent.

In retirement, the Shapiros were thrilled to return to Goleta, where Marian taught for 11 years at Santa Barbara City College. She served on several boards, including Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County as well as the Democratic Service Club, and always volunteered to elect candidates for public office. One of her proudest accomplishments has been organizing her Big List of individuals who share her views on caring for the planet and human rights, and who respond to her Shapiro Action Alerts. The group has grown to include 650 recipients who appreciate her calls to action and her notices of important events or protest demonstrations they may not know about.

At 81 years old, Marian enjoys making pottery and has become an excellent photographer. She adores her children and relatives. You will often see Marian lending her photography skills to events for political candidates and non-profits alike. Her captures continue to be featured in publications like Noozhawk, Montecito Journal and the Santa Barbara Independent, often depicting the ongoing social and political movements of our district and has contributed many letters to our local publications.

I am honored to recognize Marian Shapiro. Throughout the Central Coast and, indeed, across the Nation, countless people know Marian Shapiro for her tireless service to a multitude of causes. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Marian Shapiro, for her incredible service to her community.

#### RECOGNIZING KAYRA RODAS

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2024*

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

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

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr. Don tragically passed away on April 24th. His passing is a loss for New Jersey and this entire chamber.

Don will be missed, not only by family and friends, but also by his constituents. He came from a family of committed public servants. I also had the pleasure of serving with his father, Congressman Donald Payne, Sr., for many years on the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Like his father, Don was steadfast in his service to his constituents and the entire state of New Jersey. During his public service career, he was a passionate advocate for fair housing, for unfettered access to healthcare, and for those who were often forgotten by people in powerful positions. The Tenth District of New Jersey has lost a dedicated and effective public servant. He will be sorely missed.

I send my condolences to his wife Beatrice, their children, and his staff during this difficult time.

#### "VALDEZ FIMBRES FAMILY DAY" NOVEMBER 24, 2023

#### HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2024*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Valdez Fimbres family who have been members of the Tucson community for generations. They held a family reunion on November 23, 2023 at the KayCee Club in Tucson, Arizona to celebrate their shared heritage, strengthen family ties, recognize marriages, and births, and honor those who have passed on.

The Valdez Fimbres family currently enjoys nine generations, many living across the country, but most of them reside in Tucson, Arizona.

Feliciano Fimbres, born in 1895, and Aurelia Valdez, born in 1899, were both first generation U.S. Citizens. They married on May 20, 1921, in Tucson, AZ and raised their eight children, Ernesto, Gilberto, Manuel, Carlos, Rudolfo, Maria del Carmen, Federico, and Gloria in Tucson, Arizona.

The Historic American Buildings Survey of the U.S. Interior Department conducted two studies in 1980 which are registered with the Library of Congress as Fimbres House No. 1 and Fimbres House No. 2. The summary states: "The name Fimbres has been associated with this section of South Meyer Avenue since 1881, when the City Directory lists a Santos Fimbres. The builder of this house,

Feliciano Fimbres, Sr., (probably related to Santos), lived here with his family until the late 1930's Fimbres, a laborer and wagon driver, lived across the street until he built this dwelling (Fimbres House No. 1), around 1905. Feliciano and Julia Fimbres had seven children. Two of them, Julia and Gabriel, lived in the apartments that Feliciano added at Meyer Avenue in Barrio Historico/Barrio Libre."

Julia Fimbres (the daughter), married Jesus Sanchez and lived next door at Meyer Avenue, also constructed by Feliciano Fimbres, Sr. in 1926. Jesus and Julia Sanchez died in 1959 and 1974, but their daughter, Evangelina Cota, still occupies that space with her family. The property at Meyer passed out of the Fimbres family in 1939, and has been rented by a succession of short-term tenants since that time. The dwellings were converted for commercial use after 1974 by a service agency for the handicapped.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR ELAINE YIN— CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

#### HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2024*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Dr. Elaine Yin of Santa Maria, California.

Dr. Elaine Yin is a dedicated obstetrician-gynecologist based in Santa Maria, California. She embodies the essence of compassionate care and service to California's 24th District, where she's resided for over two decades. Dr. Yin has a strong commitment to women's health, practicing at the Santa Maria Women's Health Center and collaborating on research with researchers at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo while maintaining affiliations with Marian Regional Medical Center and French Hospital Medical Center.

Dr. Yin obtained her medical degree at Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple, where she laid the foundation for her expertise in robotic surgery and high-risk obstetrics. She utilizes her knowledge in collaboration with researchers at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, making significant contributions to important studies examining the relationship between nutrition and outcomes for mothers and newborns in patients with obesity-related conditions. Through this research, Dr. Yin seeks to improve clinical outcomes and empower women with knowledge and resources to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

One of the main highlights of Dr. Yin's career was establishing the obstetrics-gynecology residency program at Marian Regional Medical Center six years ago. Her spearheading of this program marked a monumental milestone in medical education for the region, producing highly skilled professionals who have filled the gap for obstetrics-gynecology professionals in Santa Barbara County.

Dr. Yin's impact on our community goes beyond her professional career. A patron of the