

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,

with nearly \$800,000 of that being directly allocated to support small businesses and business development programming.

Ms. Buffington has been a staunch advocate for public funding of major infrastructure projects, increased access to childcare facilities, and overall economic growth in a county that desperately needs it. And this advocacy has led to record levels of public investment, including over \$100 million in federal support for the Aberdeen–Hoquiam Flood Protection Project.

The impact of Ms. Buffington's work has been profound and will have lasting impacts. In fact, work is underway for Greater Grays Harbor, Inc. to join a larger, regional EDA-recognized Economic Development District, and her legislative organizing at both the state and federal level has better positioned Grays Harbor County communities to address their needs.

Ms. Buffington was also critical in securing \$500,000 in strategy development grant funds as part of the Distressed Area Reconnect Pilot Program. These funds are designed to better position both Grays Harbor and Pacific counties to create and connect people to good jobs and renew economic opportunity in rural communities that have too long been forgotten. These funds will significantly increase local coordination and planning activities and serve as an investment in readiness and local capacity-building.

Mr. Speaker, I have been encouraged by Ms. Buffington's community leadership and I applaud her for her successes in our district. Ms. Buffington's leadership and passion for revitalizing rural Grays Harbor County has forever impacted the future of the communities she served. Her advocacy and energy will be sorely missed.

For these reasons, I am pleased to recognize Ms. Lynnette R. Buffington in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING LAURA ERICKSON

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Laura Erickson for her contributions to the Town of Greenwich and service on the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET).

Laura has been a trusted member of the Greenwich community for over 30 years. As a Board Member, she spent countless volunteer hours on behalf of the Town of Greenwich. Laura has served on the BET since 2019, where she was a member of the Budget and Audit Committees and served as the BET's liaison to the Department of Public Works, the Nathaniel Witherell skilled nursing facility, and information technology/cybersecurity.

Laura has long been a distinguished public servant committed to expanding educational opportunities for all. Prior to her time on the BET, she served on the Greenwich Board of Education for four years from November 2013 to November 2017, a tenure that included being Chair of the Board during two budget cycles. While on the Board of Education, Laura served on the New Lebanon School and MISA Building Committees and chaired both the Superintendent Search Committee and the

Budget Committee. Laura is currently a board member of the Norwalk Community College Foundation and has previously served as a board member of the Greenwich Alliance for Education and the Greenwich United Way.

As Congressman for Connecticut's Fourth District, I have had the pleasure of working with Laura and have seen firsthand her leadership and advocacy for our community. As Laura moves on from the BET, I thank her for her dedication and public service.

RECOGNIZING SUZANNE SMITH

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Suzanne Smith, owner of Food for Thought, for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Mayor's Partnership Award.

The Mayor's Partnership Award, selected by Mayor Bud Starker, recognizes an outstanding member of the community. Suzanne Smith is a life-long Wheat Ridge resident and has served the Denver metro area for over 30 years. What started as two parents providing hot lunches for school kids once a month for six years, has turned into Ms. Smith's full-service catering company that continues to serve the community to this day. She is committed to providing a wide-range of delicious dishes through her catering business Food for Thought, as well as to her neighbors and friends. Her hardwork and dedication to the Wheat Ridge Community is tremendous.

I thank Suzanne Smith for her outstanding leadership, going above and beyond to make a positive impact. She is an example of what makes Wheat Ridge such a wonderful place to live and work.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL BRANTLEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Dr. Michael Brantley. Dr. Brantley passed away on January 6, 2024 after a life filled with countless personal and professional achievements.

A U.S. Army veteran, Dr. Brantley honorably served our country, serving as a Captain and a Chief Laboratory Officer. In addition to answering the call to national service, Dr. Michael Brantley was a dedicated public servant and community leader of his hometown of Neptune and the surrounding area. As a member of the Neptune Township Committee (including terms as Mayor and Deputy Mayor), Chairman of the Neptune Township Police Oversight Committee, and a member of the Wesley Lake Commission, Dr. Brantley continually gave back to his community.

A graduate of Morgan State College and Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, Dr. Brantley was also a prominent dentist, operating his own dental practice in Asbury Park for more than 35 years, and shared his knowl-

edge and experience through leadership positions at various medical facilities. His passion for healthcare and his commitment to the community and public service have been widely recognized. Among many other honors, Dr. Brantley was inducted into the Neptune High School Hall of Fame and received the Health Care Service Award from Brookdale Community College.

Dr. Brantley leaves behind his loving family and friends, including his beloved wife of 37 years, Jacqueline. His generous spirit was a joy to everyone he met, and he will be remembered fondly by all those whose lives he impacted.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. Michael Brantley for his leadership and dedication to his community and our nation.

RECOGNIZING CAROL ROBERTS ON HER 46-YEAR CAREER WITH THE BAY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional leader in the Bay County, Florida community. Mrs. Carol Roberts is the President and CEO of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce. On January 31, 2024, Carol will retire from her 46-year career with the Bay County Chamber of Commerce.

In 1977, when she was just 20 years old, Carol began her career with the Chamber as a receptionist. Between 1977 and 2001, Carol held every job at the Chamber until the time she was ultimately named President and CEO. For the past 22 years, Carol has led the Chamber with grit, determination, and grace. Throughout her career, Carol has never shied away from being a guiding force for Bay County through difficulty and hardship, as well as through the wonderful days of exciting change and growth.

I congratulate Carol on an exceptional career. I thank her for serving with her whole heart and working each day to make Bay County a great place to live, work, and play. I wish her only the best in her retirement.

APPRECIATING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR DAVID MARK BARRERAS II

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the proud Co-Chair of the Army Caucus, I extend my deepest gratitude for the service of Major David Mark Barreras II to the United States Congress.

As both my Defense Fellow and an Army Legislative Liaison, Major Barreras made innumerable contributions to the citizens of Central Texas and the Nation.

I extend my best wishes as he transitions to a new assignment and express profound thankfulness to him and his family for their service to our great Nation.