

the war effort. Lum assisted in maintaining the airstrip during the day, guarding the airstrip from snipers and sabotage while in a foxhole at night, and getting supplies to the southern portion of the island where the Japanese had a stronghold.

When the war ended, Lum's unit was sent to China to guard Japanese prisoners and help the Chinese repair their country. For their service in the Battle of Okinawa, the 6th Marine Division was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest division award possible.

Corporal George "Lum" Atkinson was awarded the World War II Combat Action Ribbon, the Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal.

When he returned from World War II, he met and married the love of his life, Mary. They settled down in the small town of Gulfport, Florida, where they raised three girls. During this time, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve. He was called up for the Korean War and was stationed at Camp Lejeune. Always willing to serve his country and community, Lum worked for 38 years at Florida Power as a lineman, foreman, and switchman. While at Florida Power, he played on the company softball team. Knowing his love for the game, one of his coworkers asked him to help with Gulfport Little League around 1957. He started coaching and remained active on and off for almost 50 years, serving as President, Secretary, Umpire, Scorekeeper, Manager, Coach, and Groundskeeper. He is still in touch with many of his players. In fact, at his 95th birthday party, about 30 of his former ballplayers came to celebrate him.

In 2002, the City of Gulfport renovated the baseball fields at Tomlinson Park, and because of his dedication and loyalty, they named the new park "Lum Atkinson Ball Fields." Caring about the City of Gulfport, Lum was also a member of the Gulfport Volunteer Fire Department. He retired with the rank of lieutenant when the city changed to a Fire Department with full-time firefighters. When his wife Mary and her sister, Catherine Hickman, founded the Gulfport Community Players and the Gulfport Historical Society, Lum became a member of both organizations. Just as he was a dedicated member of the Gulfport Little League, Lum was an active supporter and volunteer of those two organizations Gulfport Community Players, Gulfport Historical Society, and the Gulfport Little League continue to flourish today, contributing to the vibrant community of Gulfport, thanks in no small measure to the dedication of Lum Atkinson.

Please join me in appreciation for Lum Atkinson and all the men like him, who selflessly defended our freedoms abroad and then came home to build strong families and strong communities. I thank Lum. May God Bless him and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was delayed in traveling to Washington, D.C. from South Carolina, and missed votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 177 (H.R. 7219), and YEA on Roll Call No. 178 (H.R. 7525).

RECOGNIZING JOELYS RIVERA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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

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

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF DELL COMPUTERS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor and celebrate Dell Technologies' 40 years of remarkable service. Founded on May 3, 1984, by Michael Dell in a dorm room at the University of Texas, the company has made a monumental and lasting impression toward making Central Texas a great place to call home. The impacts Dell Technologies has made not only on the region but also the state are impeccable and I am honored Dell Technologies calls Round Rock home.

Throughout their years of service, Dell Technologies has become a global leader in innovation and a critical economic engine for Central Texas. During their many years they have remained devoted to their mission of making technologies that drive human progress. While having their headquarters in Central Texas, Dell Technologies has been able to provide high paying jobs, make economic opportunities, and support our district's growth. Dell Technologies has made enormous contributions to the technology revolution that has defined our changing times, bringing growth and prosperity to Central Texas.

Dell Technologies has touched countless lives for the better and continues to make a positive impact on those it is dedicated to serve. I am proud to help celebrate 40 years of this incredible organization, and to join Central Texas in wishing this amazing company nothing but the best in the decades to come.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF KELLY LUNGREN MCCOLLUM

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Kelly Lungren McCollum, my Chief of Staff since my election to Congress in 2010. Kelly is retiring from Capitol Hill today, having served several Members of Congress for more than twenty-five years.

The daughter of former U.S. Congressman Dan Lungren, Kelly was born in Long Beach, California. Upon her father's first election to Congress, her family moved to the Washington, DC area in 1979. Raised in Vienna, Virginia, Kelly attended Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School.

Kelly graduated from high school in three years and started at Santa Clara University. Shortly thereafter, Kelly began a career in August of 1994 as a Congressional staffer for then-U.S. Representative James Inhofe, who at that time was running for Oklahoma's open U.S. Senate seat. During Kelly's time in Congress, she held every position in my district and D.C. offices, other than Legislative Director.

After her service to the Sooner State, Kelly returned to Capitol Hill and entered a new chapter of her professional life, serving as Chief of Staff to U.S. Congressman Jeff Fortenberry. Around the same time, she would meet her loving husband, Jason, whom she has been married to for nearly eighteen years.

Kelly would continue in Congress, dedicating a period of time to the legislative team of U.S. Representative Louie Gohmert before the beginning of a thirteen-and-a-half-year career as my Chief of Staff.

As my Chief of Staff, Kelly will be best remembered as a true professional, a dedicated servant to the people of Virginia's Ninth District, and a source of responsible leadership for my staff, colleagues, and family. More importantly, she has been a great friend.

Congratulations to Kelly on her remarkable career. Her institutional knowledge, loyalty and leadership are qualities that will be missed by my office and many others. I wish her nothing more than the absolute best.

HONORING JUDGE IRA LLOYD "TOOKIE" KIRKHAM

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my long-time friend, Ira Lloyd "Tookie" Kirkham of Tarkington Prairie, Texas, who passed away on April 29, 2024. Tookie dutifully served the residents of Liberty County for twelve years as county judge before retiring in 2006. He was a patriarch in the surrounding community, a wonderful mentor to many, a fantastic athlete, and a devoted public servant.

Tookie was born on August 26, 1942, in Cleveland, Texas, to Ira Joe Kirkham and Bobbie Chapman Kirkham. The family later moved to Tarkington Prairie, where Tookie attended Tarkington High School, excelling in

many different sports. His athletic accomplishments in high school earned him nine college scholarships, a state championship in the high jump, and All-State honors in football and basketball. After graduation in 1961, Tookie attended the University of Corpus Christi on a basketball scholarship. Nevertheless, he remained a staunch supporter of Tarkington ISD and Tarkington athletics for the rest of his life.

Following college, Tookie accepted a job as a lineman with Southwestern Bell but soon moved on to work at Jefferson Chemical before spending many years at Texaco. During that time, he also started a second career in public service, beginning with an appointment on the Dairy Day Board in 1968. Tookie went on to hold many other public service positions, including serving on the Tarkington School Board, the Cleveland Bank and Trust Board of Directors, the Soil and Water Conservation District, the Trinity River Board, and the Yettie-Kersting Hospital Board. He was also an involved member and leader at Oak Shade Baptist Church, the Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, the Cleveland Rotary Club, and the Tarkington Prairie Masonic Lodge No. 498.

However, the crescendo of his public service career occurred when Tookie was elected as Liberty County Judge in 1994, the first person to ever do so from Tarkington Prairie. Throughout his tenure in this position, Tookie remained committed to bringing jobs and industry to Liberty County. He championed many transportation projects in the area, promoted fiscally conservative policies, and worked to help juveniles turn their lives around. In retirement, Tookie's role in local politics was advisor and counselor to many elected officials, often filling in as a substitute judge for surrounding Southeast Texas county judges. One of Tookie's legacy projects was the State Highway 105 relief route bypass in Cleveland. For his work securing contracts, right-of-way, and funding, the Texas Department of Transportation honored him with its prestigious Road Hand Award in 2012.

Tookie married his high school sweetheart, Cordella Price Kirkham, in 1964 and had two daughters, Kem and Kehle. His four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren were the pride and joy of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I will always appreciate Judge Ira Lloyd "Tookie" Kirkham's support and friendship over the years. I send my deepest sympathy and prayers to his wife, Cordella, and loved ones. He will certainly be missed by all.

RECOGNIZING DESTINY OROZCO URIBE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call No. 177. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass as Amended, H.R. 719, The Information Quality Assurance Act, I would have voted YEA; and

Roll Call No. 178. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 7525, the Special District Grant Accessibility Act, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY WADHAMS' DEDICATION TO HIS NATION AND HIS COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Timothy Wadhams, the former Chair of the Wolfpack environmental association and a community leader in Ann Arbor. His consistent philanthropy and his tireless efforts in supporting our community's conservation efforts are worthy of commendation.

Tim is a native Ann Arborite who attended Pioneer High School, where he is in their Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a member of both the football and basketball teams. To this day, Tim is an active booster of the Pioneer Football Program and started the Pioneer Academic Athletic Fund. His own athletic talents on the field earned him a position on the University of Michigan Football Team, a premier educational institution which he would graduate from with a bachelor's degree in economics and a Master of Business Administration degree.

Tim is not only a former Chief Executive Officer, board member for major business organizations, and longtime supporter of our community's educational institutions, but has also contributed significantly to our state's natural resources conservation. As Chair of the conservation group, "The Wolfpack", Tim was instrumental in leading various conservation and environmental groups to accomplish the organization's goals. The Wolfpack is composed of some of our state's leading organizations in environmental work, but Wolfpack's impact

has also extended past local efforts to advocate that Congress take action to protect our land and waterways from contaminants, to support wildlife, and to preserve our Great Lakes. As Chair, Tim was responsible for leading this coalition that continues to do invaluable work for our natural at areas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Timothy Wadhams for his dedication to conservation, philanthropy, and community development in the Ann Arbor regional area. I thank Tim.

RECOGNIZING AIRPORT DEDICATION CEREMONY IN HONOR OF MR. DUANE SPALSBURY

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Airport Dedication Ceremony in honor of Mr. Duane Spalsbury.

Mr. Spalsbury served as an officer in the Army Air Corps during WWII. He served in the air force as a fighter pilot in the European Theater. He flew a variety of planes including P47, P51, P38, P39 and P63.

When he returned home from the war, he moved to the Gila Valley with his wife Laura Lee Golden where he worked as an accountant. Mr. Spalsbury also helped to found and serve as the first chairman of the Mt. Graham Community Hospital.

He then turned his attention to remote controlled airplanes. He built them and flew them. Mr Duane Spalsbury passed away in Safford, AZ on Friday, November 16, 2012.

We extend our gratitude for his dedicated service and are eternally thankful for his contributions to our country.

RECOGNIZING VANASSA ALEX RADCLIFFE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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

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