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It is my honor to congratulate Caitlen Ruliffson on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING COLONEL JAMES
COLLINS

HON. NANCY MACE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Colonel James Collins' service as the Chief, House Liaison Division, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, where he was responsible for the liaison between the Army and the United States House of Representatives. A truly outstanding leader of impeccable character, Colonel Collins skillfully managed an office that played a vital role in advancing the Army's interests while maintaining effective relationships with the 117th and 118th Congress during a critical time in our Nation's history.

Under Colonel Collins' leadership, the House Liaison Division conducted numerous outreach events to enhance congressional trust and confidence during two National Defense Authorization Act legislative cycles. The House Liaison Team was instrumental during MLA luncheons and enabled countless engagements that provided members and staff the opportunity to speak directly with Army Senior Leaders from both the Secretariat and Army Staff.

Colonel Collins was instrumental in enhancing the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison within the Army Secretariat and Headquarters, Department of the Army Staff, as well as the Army's standing with the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and commend Colonel Collins' personal example, commitment to excellence, and exemplary performance of duty that reflects distinct credit upon himself, the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, and the United States Army. We bid Colonel Collins farewell and best wishes in his next assignment as the Citadel's Professor of Military Science.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINA
SCHEPPELMANN'S CONTRIBU-
TIONS TO THE ARTS

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christina Scheppelmann, who is stepping down after five years of service as the General Director of Seattle Opera.

Seattle Opera thrived under Christina's leadership. Her passion for the performing arts will undoubtedly leave a mark on the City of Seattle for years to come. In the process of navigating a global pandemic that halted over two years of in-house performances, Christina led Seattle Opera to be able to deliver the entirety

of its programming during the 2020–2021 season by recording performances for patrons to stream online. She helped hire artists to present free, online performances and expand virtual educational programming for youth and Veterans. When pandemic restrictions began to partially lift in 2021, Christina committed to offering Seattle Opera's first celebratory outdoor rendition of "Die Walkure" by Richard Wagner.

Throughout her tenure, Christina forged a deep commitment to community engagement as well as diversity, equity and inclusion. Under her leadership, the Seattle Opera presented a number of works by and about people of color. The productions included "Blue", a story about a Black family that draws strength from their community in the face of a police killing and "Bound", a story about a daughter of Vietnamese immigrants, as well as A Thousand Splendid Suns and X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X. In all of these productions, she engaged the community through Advisory Boards, outreach to the specific communities represented in the productions, and nonprofit organizations working on the issues. Her goal, in her words to me, was that these productions "showcase how Seattle Opera is keeping relevant stories centered on-stage."

In 2020, she led Seattle Opera to launch its Racial Equity and Social Impact plan. The effort contributed toward hiring a diverse staff and brought over 100 new artists from around the world to debut performances. Her addition of community programs such as the Jane Lang Davis Creation Lab and the Seattle Arts Fellowship—will serve as trademark opportunities for underrepresented communities to build careers in the arts.

Christina's leadership at the Seattle Opera exemplifies the need for all of us in the United States to ensure we support the arts and the unique ability arts have to add positively to our society. As Christina moves on from her role at the end of the 2023–24 season to lead La Monnaie De Munt in Brussels, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating her many accomplishments and contributions to Seattle Opera. On behalf of Washington's 7th Congressional District, I thank Christina for her service to the people of the Pacific Northwest and dedication to the performing arts.

HONORING SUELLEN BRILL
BRAZIL

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Suellen Brill Brazil, a resident of Daphne, Alabama, as she is inaugurated as the 55th International President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). This ceremony will take place on July 1, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois.

She is the first International President from Alabama in GFWC's 134-year history, and she will serve in this capacity from 2024 to 2026. Her leadership theme, "Educate, Engage, Empower," aims to encourage meaningful discussions, provide skills, and promote action. Suellen brings over 50 years of experience in various leadership roles, characterized by enthusiasm and dedication. GFWC, a global vol-

unteer service organization, focuses on issues like domestic violence, food insecurity, and education.

Suellen has been active in her local community, especially in addressing domestic violence and supporting the vulnerable. Professionally, Suellen concluded a 44-year career as an Elementary Administrator, managing schools and students. She is also active in her church and is a proud mother and grandmother. Suellen's presidency represents a significant milestone for GFWC, bringing her wealth of experience and dedication to furthering its mission of community service and empowerment.

We are so grateful for all she has done for Alabama's First Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING MONICA TELLES
RODRIGUEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

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

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERIFF
ROY WHITEAKER

HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and public service career of Sutter County Sheriff Roy Whiteaker who recently passed away at the age of 84 years old.

Roy was born in Calico Rock, Arkansas, to Corbin and Irene Whiteaker. From a young age, Roy displayed a strong sense of duty and integrity, traits that would guide him throughout his life and career.

Roy would join the United States Army in 1959, where he would become a military policeman beginning his law enforcement career. While in the Army, Roy was stationed in Panama for nearly three years, where he would marry his wife.

The young family would then move to Yuba City in 1962, where Roy would continue his law enforcement career with the City of Yuba City Police Department, being hired as the City's first narcotics Detective. He would also be instrumental in helping to organize the first Yuba-Sutter Narcotics Task Force.

Roy would then run for Sutter County Sheriff serving from 1971 to 1990; when he was first

elected as Sheriff, he was reportedly the youngest Sheriff ever elected in California at that time.

During his tenure, Sheriff Whiteaker would oversee many high-profile cases such as the arrest of Juan Corona, who was convicted of murder after 25 bodies were found buried in Sutter County orchards; as well as in 1989 when the Sutter County Sheriff Office seized \$4.25 million worth of illegal drugs, or what would be \$11 million today accounting for inflation.

Current Sutter County Sheriff Brandon Barnes was quoted as saying, "Roy was a tremendous leader and he served as a mentor to so many, including myself. He will be missed but never forgotten." The impact of Sheriff Whiteaker cannot be understated, he helped mold and influence the Sutter County Sheriff's Office into the force that it is today.

Roy is survived by his loving wife Gladys, along with his two children Janet Tracy, and Jim Whiteaker, as well as many grandchildren. On behalf of the people of Northern California, I thank Sheriff Roy Whiteaker for his service to the Sutter County community. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Rest in Peace.

WELCOME EMILY CLAIRE OLSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dustin and Carolyn Olson, of Denver, Colorado, on the birth of their new baby daughter. Emily Claire Olson, was born on April 29, 2024, at 2:45 a.m., weighing 7 pounds and 8 ounces. She has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by her parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing. On behalf of my wife Roxanne, and our entire family, we want to wish Dustin, Carolyn, and Emily all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my votes for H.R. 6192, H.J. Res. 98, and H.R. 7423. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 182; NAY on Roll Call No. 183; YEA on Roll Call No. 184; YEA on Roll Call No. 185; and YEA on Roll Call No. 186.

RECOGNIZING MATHANIEL
SANCHEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mathaniel Sanchez for earning

the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Mathaniel has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Mathaniel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Mathaniel'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 Mathaniel Sanchez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 153.

HONORING MS. MIA NORTON

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Mia Norton for her invaluable work as a congressional intern serving in my D.C. office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions she has made to the office and serving the people of Western North Carolina this spring.

Mia is from Clyde, North Carolina, located in NC-11. She will soon be concluding her sophomore year at American University, where she is studying journalism and political science.

Interns work with congressional staff to serve constituents in my district. Mia was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants, and she exceeded every expectation.

It was a pleasure to work with Mia, and I am proud to have such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office. Mia exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that Western North Carolina has to offer. Congratulations to Mia on the successful completion of her internship.

HONORING THE CENTRAL
CABARRUS HIGH SCHOOL BAS-
KETBALL TEAM

HON. DAN BISHOP

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate the Central Cabarrus boy's high school basketball team on winning back-to-back 3A state championships. In recent years, the Central Cabarrus Vikings have been the dominant force to reckon with in North Carolina boys' basketball.

Local Charlotte news anchor Jim Tritsch described it perfectly when he said, "there is no defense they cannot breach; there is no level of dominance they can't unlock."

Led by Coach Jim Baker, the Vikings put up an astounding record of 95-1 over the past three seasons. The Vikings' most recent win not only earned them a second consecutive championship but raised Central Cabarrus' winning streak to 65 straight games, the longest current winning streak in the country.

Once again, on behalf of the 8th District of North Carolina, congratulations to Coach Baker and Viking Nation on this outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING BRUNO SUACEDO
MARTINEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

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

Bruno has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Bruno, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Bruno'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 Bruno Suacedo Martinez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF
TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of a milestone in our region's history. Toledo Public Schools celebrated 175 years of education today.

As the school system notes, "or 175 years, Toledo Public Schools has been one of the most influential institutions in the history of our city. The lives of hundreds of thousands of Toledoans have been formed within the walls of their neighborhood schools, leading to each one's mark on the future of our society. From its inception on May 8, 1849 to present day, TPS remains a progressive, forward-thinking school district."

The first Toledo Public School Board was convened 175 years ago today. Only two years later, in 1851, Lagrange School was the first school to open. Two years after that, on August 15, 1853, the cornerstone was laid for the high school. When it opened in 1854 it also provided an education for girls, graduating the first young lady in the original Class of 1857. Leading social change again and again, Toledo Public Schools became integrated in 1871 and opened a school for children with disabilities in 1918.