

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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF L.M.  
"BUDDY" PREUSS, III

### HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, January 5, 2024, my district lost a pillar of our community. While we mourn the loss of L.M. "Buddy" Preuss, III, we know his legacy will live on for years to come in Giddings, Texas, and beyond.

Born and raised in Giddings, Buddy was hired as the editor for the Giddings News at just 19 years old. He went on to own and operate the Giddings Times and News, providing a reliable news service to the citizens of his county for more than five decades.

Buddy's life is a true inspiration. A member of the Giddings chamber of commerce, he constantly sought ways to contribute to his community's welfare. Buddy was also a remarkable husband to the love of his life, Louise, and father to his five children. And above all, Buddy was a man of sincere faith. He held on to hope and his love for the Lord, even during his battle with cancer. While he is missed, I find comfort in knowing he is rejoicing in the presence of God, finally pain free.

Buddy was so much more than a reporter, businessman, and community leader—he was a dear friend to many, including myself. My stops in Giddings certainly won't be the same without him. Rest in peace, Buddy.

### RECOGNIZING MIRIAM KREUZER

### HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

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

Miriam has been a trusted member of the Greenwich community for over 13 years. As a Board Member, Miriam spent countless volunteer hours on behalf of the Town of Greenwich. She served for four years on the BET, where she was a part of the Investment Advisory and Human Resources Committees and served on the First Selectman's Havemeyer Committee, the Hamill Rink RFP Committee and as a liaison to Parks and Recreation.

Throughout her time as a distinguished public servant, she applied her deep knowledge of the financial markets to various important roles in Town government, including six years as liaison to the Retirement Board and 18 months as a member of the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits Board, which oversees investments for the health care plan for municipal retirees.

As Congressman for Connecticut's Fourth District, I have had the pleasure of working with Miriam and I have seen firsthand how she has served as an advocate and leader for the people of Greenwich. As she moves on from the BET, I thank her for all that she has done to strengthen our community.

HONORING CATHY GERAGHTY, A  
FORCE OF NATURE

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Chicago Wilderness Alliance in honoring Ms. Cathy Geraghty, a 2023 recipient of the Dr. George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award. This award commends outstanding work in the field of conservation.

Cathy is a true champion of biodiversity. Through her work as the Director of External and Strategic Initiatives with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, Cathy has worked tirelessly to protect the environment. When she isn't working, she spends her free time serving as a proud member of the Chicago Wilderness Alliance Steering Committee. During her two-decade long career with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, Cathy has pushed the organization forward in tackling conservation issues, particularly with her drafting of the Next Century Conservation Plan. The Forest Preserves of Cook County is the first forest preserve district in the United States, and this ambitious plan continues our legacy as leader in the space of forest preservation and restoration. With an implementation strategy that includes volunteer outreach, tying the preserves to the economic future of Chicago, restoring 30,000 acres to full health, and leading with transparency, this plan will continue to improve our forest preserves and increase the community that supports them.

Cathy is truly a force of nature, and I could not be prouder of the work my friend has done to support our environment. Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing Ms. Geraghty's service and congratulating her on receiving the Force of Nature Award.

### RECOGNIZING QUEEN CITY COLLECTIVE COFFEE

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Queen City Collective Coffee 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 Queen City Collective Coffee for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

#### JANUARY 23

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, Douglas Craig Schmidt, of Tennessee, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, and April Joy Ericsson, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine the Patent Eligibility Restoration Act, focusing restoring clarity, certainty, and predictability to the U.S. patent system.

SD-226

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight

To hold hearings to examine improving export controls enforcement.

SD-562

#### JANUARY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine how the climate crisis threatens ocean industries.

SD-608

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Toxic Substances Control Act amendments implementation.

SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism

To hold hearings to examine AI in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine succession planning, focusing on opportunities to build wealth and keep jobs in local communities.

SR-428A