

Let's also be clear about why House Republicans are bringing up this resolution and attempting to override the President's veto. They didn't do it because they're the party of workers' rights. They brought forth H.J. Res. 98 simply as another way to attack the Biden Administration and try to stop the federal government's regulatory and rulemaking authority.

Tuesday afternoon, shortly before the House floor vote on H.J. Res. 98, I met with a group of St. Paul area realtors to discuss several issues including the importance of protecting independent contractor status for real estate agents. Eighty-seven percent of realtors are classified as independent contractors. When the National Labor Relations Board and the Department of Labor are issuing rules relating to joint employers and independent contractors, the agencies must keep in mind the unique classification of realtors as independent contractors. That is why I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 5419 which would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(e)) to ensure that the status of realtors as independent contractors is protected.

The NLRB should work to issue regulations that address the concerns of independent contractors like realtors and protect the rights of working-class Americans whose working conditions are impacted by multiple employers. But it would be prohibited from ever doing that essential work if this veto override was passed, and so I will oppose this legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING STEPHANIE PAUL

##### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephanie Paul for earning this year's Young Professional Leadership Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

For years, Stephanie has shown a commitment to improving Olde Town Arvada. As the Director of Marketing and Events for the Arvada Business Improvement District, she has helped transform Olde Town into a vibrant area that residents and visitors alike can enjoy.

Stephanie was an instrumental part of bolstering the Olde Town Second Saturday summer concert series, doubling attendance since the beginning of her tenure. She actively engages with local business leaders and community members to ensure projects have input from everyone involved.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Stephanie Paul on receiving the 2023 Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional Leadership Award.

#### RECOGNIZING JOSEPHINE BENSON

##### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Josephine Benson, who is a member of

the Pasco County Senior Leadership Team. In June of 2023, in order to avoid disruption of services for vulnerable seniors in Pasco County, the county stepped up to the plate to provide state and federally funded essential case management and services to seniors via three major programs: Community Care for the Elderly (CCE), Home Care for the Elderly (HCE), and the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI). When the former lead agency was unable to continue it that capacity, Pasco County Senior Services Leadership Team acted swiftly because they understood the importance of ensuring seamless continuity of services to seniors. As such, the team spent hundreds of hours researching and writing a 750-page grant that they did not have experience writing, preparing services that they had never offered, and standing up a new team to complete the services, whereby, almost doubling the size of its current Division. They did so while continuing their normal services to seniors throughout the county. In the end, the county was awarded the honor of becoming the new "Lead Agency." This ensured that over 500 at-risk seniors in Pasco would not go without critical care. The Pasco County Senior Services Leadership Team also took on new duties and extra challenges during the transition period. All Program Coordinators took specific parts of the new grant or accompanying duties to learn and provide feedback on or they took on extra work to allow other team leaders to do so. This team truly collaborated with each other and several other departments to make this Lead Agency bid a reality. Taking on this new tier of services demonstrates how this team exemplifies the term "Heroes Among Us."

It is clear that Ms. Benson and the Pasco County Senior Leadership Team has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to vote in favor on the motion to table the motion to vacate the Speaker.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 188.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2024 LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

##### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the 2024 Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame inductees. This year's class of sports superstars includes multiple U.S. Olympians and All-American athletes, an Ironman Triathlete and Ultramarathoner, dedicated coaches, and more.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania

through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

This year's inductees include:

Francis Xavier Baur of Shavertown—Football and Basketball

Frederick "Fritz" Bleich of Hanover Township—Wrestling

Qadry "Missile" Ismail of Wilkes-Barre—Football and Track & Field

Raghib "Rocket" Ismail of Wilkes-Barre—Football and Track & Field

Samuel "Sam" Hyder of Hanover Township—Karate International Competitor

Sean Ribbons, Esq. of Dallas—Ironman Triathlete and Ultra Marathoner

Jayson Terdiman of Berwick—U.S. Winter Olympics Luge 2014 and 2018

Ray Yakavonis of Hanover Township—Football and Track & Field

Edward Zawatski of Larksville—Swimming and Water Polo Athlete and Coach

Taylor Lillian Dean of Mountaintop—Figure Skating U.S. Olympics Committee Representative

Amanda Faust of Larksville—Field Hockey Athlete and Coach

Sara Silvetti of Mountaintop—Field Hockey U.S. Olympics Alternative 2008

Each person honored has made sports history through their outstanding feats of athletic achievement here at home and in many cases around the world. They have left an indelible mark on regional athletics, and I am pleased to celebrate their contributions to our sports communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

It is an honor to recognize these 12 talented individuals on their induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May their stories and impressive careers inspire the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

#### RECOGNIZING ASHLEY PALACIOS

##### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ashley Palacios with Hope House Colorado for winning the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional Leadership Award.

The Young Professional Leadership Award recognizes an Arvada young professional whose leadership and dedication has impacted the world around them.

Ashley is the Director of Operations at Hope House Colorado, an Arvada-based resource center and housing provider for teen mothers and their children. She is currently working to help open their Early Learning Center to give more opportunities to kids in the community. Relentless and compassionate, Ashley has also been a dedicated volunteer tutor with at-risk youth with Whiz Kids for twelve years, as well as a youth soccer coach.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Ashley on her award and thank her for all she does to support young people in our community.

## RECOGNIZING WILLIAM LEWIS

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, William Lewis. A distinguished Army veteran, William, also known as Bill, has been an integral part of the Board of Directors for a local non-profit, One Community Now, serving as a dedicated volunteer since 2013. Bill's commitment extends beyond his role at One Community Now; he serves as a deacon at the First United Methodist Church of New Port Richey and is an active member of the American Legion Post 79. As a leader in Operation Stand Down, Bill plays a pivotal role in fundraising and establishing connections with various Veteran organizations throughout the Tampa Bay area, including American Legions, VFWs, Am Vets, Eagles, Elks, and others. His dedication is evident in his weekly support for veterans at our Veteran Support Center, where he provides lunch and assistance to homeless and at-risk veterans. Bill brings his extensive business experience and strong work ethic to One Community Now's Board meetings, contributing to the organization's strategic direction. At his church, Bill assists his wife, Jean Ann, in managing the food pantry, making personal deliveries of food and supplies to shut-ins. He actively participates in the Pack-A-Sack program, leveraging his network to secure donations of food items. Bill's readiness to respond to any call for assistance reflects his heart for Veterans, children, and anyone facing hunger, driven by his commitment to serving the Lord. In addition to his roles at One Community Now, his church, and at the American Legion Post 79, Bill actively engages in various committees and programs, such as The American Legion's Oratorical Contest, the Christmas Wreaths Across America and the Cub Scouts of America. Despite approaching his 80th birthday in April, Bill's shows no sign of slowing down. He continues to demonstrate an unwavering dedication to others.

It is clear that Mr. Lewis has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

CELEBRATING DR. RACHAEL  
MAHMOOD, THE 2024 ILLINOIS  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Teacher Appreciation Week to celebrate an educator from Aurora, Illinois. Dr. Rachael Mahmood, a fifth-grade teacher in Indian Prairie School District 204 at Georgetown Elementary School, was named the 2024 Illinois Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Mahmood has taught in her district since 2005 and came to Georgetown Elementary

School in 2015. Dr. Mahmood was selected from a group of 13 finalists from across the state and is the first person from Indian Prairie School District 204 to be chosen as Illinois Teacher of the Year.

As the daughter of a Russian mother and an Indian father, Dr. Mahmood found her passion for teaching by overcoming obstacles she faced as a mixed-race student. Her dedication to service, education, and equity has allowed her to make a lasting impact on the lives of her students—whether it be helping them succeed in their studies or achieve their extra-curricular goals.

Dr. Mahmood has also become an indispensable leader beyond the classroom, pioneering various cultural and social initiatives to create an inclusive environment where students can connect with their peers. As one administrator notes, she “embodies the qualities of an exceptional educator and inspiring leader.”

At the end of the 2023–2024 school year, Dr. Mahmood will go on sabbatical, touring schools around the state of Illinois and sharing some of her valuable insight with her fellow educators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Rachael Mahmood on being named Illinois Teacher of the Year and thank her for her commitment to improving education for young people in the Aurora community.

## RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Volunteer Fairfax, a non-profit focused on engaging people and organizations to amplify their community impact.

Volunteer Fairfax was created in 1974 and was known then as the Voluntary Action Center of Fairfax County (VAC). In the late seventies, VAC referred 211 volunteers to worthy causes in support of the greater Fairfax County community. Today, the organization engages over 6,000 volunteers annually who donate more than 18,000 hours serving more than 650 nonprofits and public agencies, a value of over 600,000 added to the community.

Over the past five decades, Volunteer Fairfax has had many milestones, and evolved into the organization they are today. In 1992, the focus of the VAC had begun to change and the center was renamed Volunteer Fairfax. Staff began utilizing an electronic process to accommodate the growing interest from volunteers and created a youth volunteer directory to assist students who are looking for service opportunities.

In 1993, Volunteer Fairfax Hosted their first Volunteer Service Awards to showcase the vital role volunteerism plays in our community. In its first year, 350 people attended the County-wide event. Since its inception, over 3,000 individuals, groups, and corporations have been recognized for their volunteer efforts.

Among the many programs and offerings of Volunteer Fairfax, they have served as the designated lead agency for recruitment and deployment of affiliated and spontaneous volunteers, as well as the management of spontaneous volunteers during an emergency in Fairfax County since the early 2000s. Emergency Response activations include Hurricane Isabel, Derecho. Winter Storm Jonas, and, most recently, the Centreville fires in May 2018. Volunteer Fairfax continues to fulfill its mission by mobilizing people and resources to meet community need through involvement in Fairfax County and Regional Emergency Response and Recovery functions.

Volunteer Fairfax believes that volunteerism, as an ideal and a practice, is a vital part of our American history and heritage. They build their programs around the needs of nonprofit and public agencies and individuals throughout Fairfax County in ways that are flexible and accessible to anyone who wants to get involved. From their Alternative Community Service (ACS) for court and attorney referred clients, to the RSVP-Northern Virginia program that is part of AmeriCorps Seniors, to corporate partnerships that allow people in any industry to take part in volunteer efforts. Volunteer Fairfax is making sure that everyone has a chance to be of service to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Volunteer Fairfax on 50 years of service. Their efforts, made on behalf of some of the most vulnerable populations in our community, truly merit our highest praise. The staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers from Volunteer Fairfax help make Fairfax County one of the best places to live, work, and play. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these remarkable citizens on half a century of service to our community.

## RECOGNIZING HEATHER FIEDLER

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heather Fiedler of Arvada, Colorado, for winning the Image Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

The Arvada Chamber issues the Image Award to exceptional individuals who have a demonstrated commitment to the Arvada community and its public image.

For over 10 years, Heather has been an active member of the Arvada Community Garden, leading their efforts to provide fresh food, community, and gardening education to all Arvadans. She also plays a primary role in the Garrison Garden Paseo project and teaches over fifteen gardening classes every year to over four hundred attendees. Heather's hard work and dedication to the Arvada gardening community has fed and enriched the lives of hundreds of citizens and visitors alike. This award is a true testament to the leadership Heather has displayed as a gardener and leader in Arvada.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Heather Fiedler for winning the Image Award and thank her for her contributions to our community.