

## RECOGNIZING SAUL ZAPATA

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saul Zapata for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

## HONORING REVEREND CECIL WILLIAMS

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and incomparable moral and spiritual leader of the Bay Area, Reverend Cecil Williams, who passed away at the age of 94 on April 22, 2024.

Albert Cecil Williams was born September 22, 1929 in San Angelo, Texas. After graduating from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1955, he moved to the Bay Area and became the pastor of Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco.

Reverend Williams took over Glide Memorial Church when the congregation numbered only 35 people and transformed it into a world-renowned congregation and nonprofit. He challenged the status quo and sought to create a church that was inclusive of all, forming the Council on Religion and the Homosexual in 1964, bringing religious leaders and LGBTQ activists together. Reverend Williams began performing marriage ceremonies for gay couples decades before gay marriage was legal in California. He also hosted civil rights rallies and welcomed several activists to speak at Glide Memorial Church.

Reverend Williams used his position at the church to serve his community in many ways. Glide opened its own free health clinic, legal clinic, HIV prevention center, and women's health center. He created the Free Meals Program in 1980 and fed three hot meals a day to 2,000 community members in San Francisco.

Reverend Williams continued his work in the community his whole life. After retiring from his role as church pastor in 2000, he remained the Minister of Liberation and CEO of the GLIDE Foundation until just last year.

Cecil Williams is preceded in death by his wife Janice Mirikitani, who shared the title of founder and president of the GLIDE Foundation with Reverend Williams. He is survived by

his son, Albert Williams Jr. and daughter, Kimberly Williams.

Reverend Williams has been a friend and mentor since I was in college. His decades-long leadership of Glide made an enormous impact on our community. I remember taking Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm to Glide and the excitement and love Reverend Williams displayed to her.

His presence in our community will be deeply missed. May he rest in eternal peace and power, reunited with his beloved wife, Janice.

## RECOGNIZING POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd and the law enforcement officers who keep Polk County safe every single day.

This week marks the annual observance of Police Week. Though we set aside one week a year to honor law enforcement, I encourage all Americans to join me not only this week, but every day, in recognizing the honor, courage, and commitment of America's law enforcement.

Our law enforcement officers are heroes in the community. They keep us safe and are willing to put their lives on the line every day in the course of their duties. It is impossible to fully express our gratitude or adequately recognize the professionalism of the men and women who voluntarily put their lives on the line for our safety and security. It is with deep respect that we pause today to honor the memory of the heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion and made the ultimate sacrifice.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all the law enforcement officers who bravely and selflessly serve Polk County. It is an honor to recognize them and all men and women in law enforcement.

## RECOGNIZING JODY YOUNG

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Jody Young, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Ms. Young and her fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

## CELEBRATING PENNSVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to celebrate of the 100th anniversary of the Pennsville Fire Department located in South Jersey. This great fire department began its long history in April of 1924 when Jeer A. English decided to fill a void in the township by establishing a fire department. In 1939, it was recognized that additional emergency crew members were needed so a rescue squad was created and eventually this squad merged with the fire department creating the Fire and Rescue Department we have today. Through the years, the department has ensured that their firefights are as prepared as possible by requiring 180 plus hours of training before the young men and women can put on the uniform. The people of Pennsville always know that when someone from the Pennsville Fire and Rescue Department shows up that they are in good hands. The Fire and Rescue Department also gives back to the community through their Fire Prevention Open House to educate children on safety and by visiting the children's hospital each year to hand out gifts. The Pennsville Fire and Rescue Department has done a great deal of outstanding service to the people of Pennsville, and I have no doubt that they will continue to for the years to come. God bless the Pennsville Fire and Rescue Department and God bless the United States of America.

## RECOGNIZING NOAH TRASK

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Noah Trask for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

HONORING WASHINGTON STATE  
SENATOR MIKE PADDEN

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, my heart is full today as I rise to recognize my good friend and former colleague, Washington State Senator Mike Padden, who will retire at the end of the year after serving the people of Spokane Valley and the Fourth Legislative District for 28 years. I'd like to be the first of many to congratulate him on a distinguished career of service and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Senator Padden, a graduate of Spokane's very own Gonzaga Law School, was first elected to the State House in 1980. He quickly earned the trust and confidence of his peers who elected him as their Majority Floor Leader in 1995. Shortly after, Senator Padden stepped away from the State House to accept an appointment as a judge on the Spokane County District Court, a position he would be re-elected to three more times before retiring—the first time—in 2007.

If there's one thing my colleagues should know about Mike, it's that he is a devout public servant who committed himself to putting people before politics. That's why, in 2011, Mike answered the call to serve once again, this time in the State Senate; a position he will hold until the year's end.

For nearly three decades, Senator Padden cultivated a reputation built on principled conservatism. He is a staunch defender of life, a steadfast advocate for stronger public safety, and a fierce promoter of everything Eastern Washington has to offer. While serving in various leadership roles on both the House and Senate Law and Justice Committees, Mike made it a top priority to build relationships with his colleagues across the aisle to pass meaningful legislation and improve lives.

Thanks to his dogged determination and commitment to delivering results, he successfully strengthened laws around DUI convictions, expanded access to housing by reducing barriers to condominium construction, and provided critical support to businesses trying to help their employees invest in the company's future. These are just a few of his most recent legislative achievements from a long career of service that will be remembered for years to come.

In addition to serving in the State Senate, Mike has spent the past six years on his parish council, volunteers for Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels, is a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus, and acts as a state commissioner—and one time Spokane chapter president—for American Legion Baseball.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Mike's committed service to his community and our great state. He has been a tremendous advocate for those he has represented, and as he looks ahead to his well-deserved retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his almost three decades of devotion and public service. The best is yet to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to make the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 179; NAY on Roll Call No. 180; NAY on Roll Call No. 181; NAY on Roll Call No. 182; YEA on Roll Call No. 183; NAY on Roll Call No. 184; NAY on Roll Call No. 185; and YEA on Roll Call No. 186.

HONORING MONIQUE KOLTERMAN

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Mrs. Monique Kolterman of St. Veronica Catholic School who is an extraordinary educator very selflessly dedicated to the instruction and guidance of children during one of the most dynamic periods of their lives.

Throughout her career as an elementary school teacher, Mrs. Kolterman has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless young men and women as they advance into the next chapter of their academic career.

In 2009, Mrs. Kolterman joined the Diocese of Arlington as an instructional aide at the Nativity Catholic School in Burke. She remained there until 2012. Three years later, she was hired at St. Veronica Catholic School as an instructional assistant for the second grade. By 2019, she began her tenure as a lead teacher for the fifth grade.

Prior to her time in Arlington, Monique held various teaching positions throughout Ohio. There, she was a social studies teacher, a middle school English teacher, a CCD teacher and eucharist minister, a substitute teacher for French courses, and a learning resource assistant.

For years, Monique has served children from all over the United States with tremendous passion. As the teacher for Josiah and Elijah Hawatmeh, who are the nephews of my Chief of Staff, Nicola Hawatmeh, Mrs. Kolterman has left a lasting impression not only on their lives, but on the countless children she has influenced throughout her outstanding career.

Mr. Speaker, I join the wider St. Veronica community in thanking Mrs. Kolterman for her tireless commitment to her students and their families. With National Teacher Appreciation week fresh in our hearts, I am proud to honor her and all the men and women who dedicate their lives to educating the next generation.

HONORING ALFREDA HELEN  
ABBOTT

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of long-time

community activist, Alfreda Helen Abbott, who passed away at the age of 92 on March 2, 2024, in Oakland.

Alfreda was born on March 8, 1931, and raised in Oakland, graduating from Oakland High School in 1949 and with her Bachelor of Arts from UC Berkeley some years later.

After completing her degree, she married Robert P. Abbott on June 6, 1954. They were married for 56 years before Robert passed away in 2010.

Alfreda was an avid traveler, who had visited six continents. Along with traveling, she enjoyed caring for her plants, spending time with family, fine dining, and public service.

Her love for public service manifested in her professional life, where she served as a Deputy Public Officer for Alameda County and a Group Counselor for the Social Service Bureau. She was also an original member of the Oakland Black Caucus in the 1960s. Alfreda was one of the founding members of the Black Women Organized for Political Action and continued to serve on the state board for several years.

Alfreda had a long career in the government, serving as an Advisor and Field Representative for California State Senator Nicholas Petris for over 30 years. Upon her retirement from Senator Petris' office, she returned to local government to serve as Chief of Staff for Oakland City Council member Dezie Woods-Jones.

Alfreda always stayed active in her community, serving on the Oakland Unified School Board, the Oakland Planning Commission, the Bay Area Urban League, the NAACP, the Black Educators Association, the California Democratic Party, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and the Board of Directors of the Museum Association. I honor Alfreda Abbott's long-standing commitment to community activism in Oakland and beyond.

Alfreda Helen Abbott is survived by her two sons, Ross Abbott and Brian Abbott, one "daughter-in-love", Carolyn Abbott, two Goddaughters, Michelle Randle and Carla Kennedy, and a grandson, Kamal Kennedy, along with a host of cousins.

RECOGNIZING JIMMIE LEE  
RODGERS

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Jimmie Lee Rodgers who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.