

Lakeshore Boulevard in Oakland and became the first Black businessowner in the Lakeshore shopping area. Together, Lois and Melvyn founded Oakland Federal Savings and Loan, the first Black-owned savings and loan company in Oakland. They also owned apartment buildings throughout the East Bay and a nightclub in Richmond, California.

"Auntie Lois" was known for being a stylish dresser, great dancer, and the best cook. She loved to travel and spent many days taking trips with her friends in her senior travel group. She was known for being thrifty and instilled that quality in her nieces, encouraging us to save and invest our money to be independent women.

She delighted in meeting her cousins, the Parrishes, later in life after she turned 100. Her family stories were engaging, and her memory was keen and sharp.

Lois is preceded in death by her parents William C. Parish and Willie C. Parish and her sisters Juanita A. Franklin and Mildred P. Massey. She is survived by her loving nieces Mildred Whitfield, Beverly Hardy, and me, along with several great and great-great nephews and nieces, and a host of extended family and friends.

Auntie Lois was a phenomenal woman and a loving Auntie who, despite having no children, was like a second mother to all of us. She will be greatly missed by all who had the honor of knowing her, especially those who were part of her family. May she rest in peace.

#### RECOGNIZING MARTELL SWAIN, JR.

#### 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 service and patriotism of one of my constituents, Martell Swain, Jr. (Master Sergeant Retired), who enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 17 in 1961. MSgt Swain's early training in the Army was in Infantry. In 1963, he was assigned to a unit that eventually became the famous Air Calvary Division. A year later, the status of his entire Brigade was changed to Airborne. All troops were required to become Paratroopers to remain with this unit. It was during this time he was promoted to Sergeant. In July of 1965 the entire Division was ordered to Vietnam by our President. This was the first Division to go to Vietnam as a unit. It was not the last. Serving two tours in Vietnam, Sergeant Swain was involved in extremely heavy combat, earning the coveted Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star with "V" for Valor, Meritorious Service Medal, numerous Air Medals, 2 Army Commendation Medals, 2 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal, 2 Presidential Unit Citations, and other awards and medals.

Despite the fact that MSgt Swain never earned his high school diploma, he participated in many educational opportunities available through the military and became an instructor for Red Eye Air Defense Missile Systems and Anti-Tank Systems. Sergeant First Class Swain attended Drill Instructor School and served in that capacity for three years in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His last assign-

ment was as a Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor at Syracuse University, preparing Cadets for active duty as officers in the United States Army. While there, he was promoted to Master Sergeant. MSgt retired after 23 years of faithful service. In 2022 Master Sergeant (Retired) Swain was honored by the National Infantry Association with induction into the Order of Saint Maurice in the rank of Centurion. MSgt Swain will be presented with an honorary high school diploma from a high school in Citrus County this year. With immense gratitude, we congratulate him on this important honor and thank him for his many years of distinguished service to our country.

#### RECOGNIZING JAMES SCALICE

#### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past month, it was my honor to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for an incredible young man, James Scalice. James has learned an incredible amount through the merit badge program earning 41 total badges in subjects such as Life Skills, Business, and Science. Within his troop, this young man has developed leadership skills through elected positions and has learned the value of serving his community by participating in countless hours of service to his church and community. He has displayed his love for God by earning two religious emblems including "Pope Pius the twelfth" from the Catholic Diocese of Camden. With a deep love for his country and great respect for veterans, James decided to help out the American Legion Post 28 in Absecon, South Jersey for his Eagle Scout project.

#### RECOGNIZING GABRIEL TZINTZUN

#### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

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

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

#### RECOGNIZING ERNEST SCANGO

#### 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 service and patriot-

ism of one of my constituents, Ernest Scango. Mr. Scango was born on January 8, 1923 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was drafted into the United States Army on March 5, 1943. After training at Fort Benning, Ernest joined the 551st Paratroop Infantry Battalion. As a Parachutist and Rifleman, Ernest participated in the major battles taking place in France. He took part in Operation Dragoon which was designed to secure the southern coast of France and the critical Mediterranean ports while forcing the Germans to open a second front while facing the D-Day invasion in Normandy under Operation Overlord. Then, he subsequently re-deployed and took part in the Ardennes Offensive and Rhineland campaigns which were critical to ending war in Europe.

Today, Mr. Scango lives in Homosassa, Florida where he just celebrated his 102nd birthday. This month, he is receiving the distinguished insignia of "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" ("Knight in the Legion of Honor") from the French government. As a Member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Scango and his fellow brothers and sisters-in-arms demonstrated incredible bravery and skill as they fought to save the world from the evils of Nazism, hatred, and genocide. We all owe this hero a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid. Today and always, we remember his patriotism and courageous actions. We must honor his service and sacrifice by continuing to protect the sacred values of freedom he fought so hard to defend.

#### RECOGNIZING IgA NEPHROPATHY DAY

#### HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to again recognize May 14th as IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day. This year, I'd also like to recognize that 2024 represents the IgA Nephropathy Foundation's 20th anniversary. For twenty years, this organization has worked on behalf of all families affected by IgA Nephropathy (IgAN), a rare genetic autoimmune disease which affects over 150,000 people a year in the United States.

IgAN is the most common form of glomerulonephritis, which is the leading cause of kidney disease after diabetes and hypertension. It is particularly devastating because while it can present at any age, it most often affects younger Americans in their 20s and 30s when many are considering starting a family. About half of those affected by IgAN will go on to develop end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) which leads to dialysis, transplant, or death. What makes IgAN particularly insidious is that it can recur in a transplanted kidney. Unfortunately, there are usually little or no immediate signs and symptoms and patients are often not diagnosed until their kidneys are already damaged, or they "crash into dialysis" in an emergency room.

This year, I include in the RECORD a letter which was sent to the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the impact of rare kidney disease as a health equity issue for the Asian American communities. The letter, which was signed by twelve organizations ranging from rare kidney disease patient

groups, national AANHPI organizations, national nephrology foundations, and key healthcare providers across the country, urged raising awareness and improving outcomes in rare kidney disease in the disproportionately impact Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities. Asian populations have the higher proportion of IgAN at 40–50 percent. This powerful letter cites that Asian Americans are at several times higher risk of IgAN than white Americans and is a significant driver of ESKD. The letter also calls attention to successful rare kidney disease screening programs used in other countries which have reduced the rates of ESKD for people under 20 by about 50 percent. Programs show that early intervention and screening can have a big impact.

As I noted last year, novel therapies to treat IgAN have been recently approved and it is my understanding that numerous clinical trials are underway with more therapies are on track for FDA review later this year and 2025. These therapies give families hope and are already helping promote kidney health and delay the progression to dialysis or transplant for thousands of people.

I once again want to thank the IgA Nephropathy Foundation and note that Mary Schneider from Venice in my district remains a Board member of this outstanding organization. I understand that the IgAN Foundation is hosting an Advocacy Day this year, and hope that it is a major success. On this day, May 14, 2024, we honor all families facing this challenging disease and recognize IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day.

APRIL 12, 2024.

Re Request to Raise Awareness and Improve Outcomes for Rare Kidney Disease in AA and NHPI Communities.

Hon. Secretary XAVIER BECERRA,  
*Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY BECERRA: We are writing to urge you to take action beginning this May to address the high rates of rare kidney diseases (RKD), including IgA Nephropathy (IgAN), as a significant health equity challenge for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities in the United States.

We recognize and appreciate that the Biden Administration has placed equity and the needs of underserved communities at the center of all of its efforts, including at HHS. Given your role as Co-Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, we wanted to emphasize the opportunities presented by the rapidly changing treatment and care paradigm in RKD, including IgAN, which has the potential to improve outcomes for patients, particularly within the AA and NHPI communities. Taking action now can ensure that the AA and NHPI communities are not left behind as what has been called a "golden age" of research in RKD begins to yield advances in care and treatment, while also preventing significant costs for American's healthcare system, including Medicare and Medicaid.

Asian Americans are at several times higher risk of IgAN than white Americans. In one global study, among patients who had renal biopsies with glomerulonephritis—the most common cause of kidney disease in the United States following hypertension and diabetes—Asian populations have the highest proportion of IgAN, at 40–50 percents. In chronic kidney disease, Asian patients have both worse prognosis than white patients and increased risk of progression to end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

While it is a rare disease in the United States, IgAN is the most common form of chronic glomerulonephritis, a significant driver of ESRD. IgAN can be especially devastating because onset often begins when patients are in their twenties or thirties, potentially leading to kidney failure much earlier in life than other causes of ESRD.

Thankfully, we now have effective tools to deploy, including cost-effective urinalysis and two new Food and Drug Administration-approved therapies to address IgAN, with over 60 more clinical trials underway in IgAN, FSGS, C3G, Minimal Change Disease, and others.

However, many barriers to care remain for AA and NHPI communities, from lack of patient and provider awareness of RKD and kidney disease generally, to cultural and linguistic barriers unique to the AA and NHPI communities. Evidence shows that interventions can be cost-effective and transformative, with a recent paper showing a universal urinalysis program in Japan reduced ESRD rates among people under 20 by nearly 50 percent.

We urge you to increase awareness of rare kidney diseases, including IgAN, as a health equity challenge for the AA and NHPI communities, and to take further steps to mitigate current barriers to screening, diagnosis, and treatment. The upcoming Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May and IgAN Awareness Day on May 14 represent an opportunity to initiate these critical efforts.

We look forward to partnering with you to improve the health and well-being of the AA and NHPI communities and tackling the challenge of RKD together.

Sincerely,

Juliet K. Choi, President & CEO, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

Yanlin Wang, M.D., Ph.D., FASN, President, Chinese American Society of Nephrology.

Bonnie Schneider, Founder & Executive Director, IgAN Foundation.

Josh Tarnoff, CEO, NephCure Kidney International.

Raymond Hsu, MD, MAS, School of Medicine, University of California-San Francisco.

Kevin Longino, CEO, National Kidney Foundation.

Jenifer Ngo Waldrop, Executive Director, Rare Disease Diversity Coalition.

Fahmeedah Kamal, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Stanford University Medicine.

LaVarne Burton, President and CEO, American Kidney Fund.

Li-Li Hsiao, MD, Ph.D., Founder, Kidney Disease Screening and Awareness Program (KDSAP), Harvard Medical School.

Shikha Wadhvani, MD, MS, FASN, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Northwestern University.

Gary A. Puckrein, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, National Minority Quality Forum.

## RECOGNIZING CAPE MAY MUSEUMS, ARTS, CULTURE

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending the Cape May MAC annual Volunteer Appreciation reception last Tuesday to meet with some great people. This organization has been a champion of the arts, cultures, and history that have taken place in Cape May County, South Jersey since its

founding in 1970. Since that time, it has evolved Cape May from a beach resort to the United States' top Victorian theme destination. MAC has been able to do this by bringing to life the Victorian lifestyle of the 19th century by providing several activities that visitors can participate in. These include several tours whether it be a guided walking tour, golf-cart tour, or a hybrid tour incorporating both the historic houses of the district and the three historical sites MAC has. These historic sites include the Emlen Physick Estate built in 1879, the Cape May Lighthouse which has been in use since 1859, and the Fire Control Tower No. 23, a restored 1942 coastal artillery lookout tower from World War II. It was an honor to have the opportunity to visit this extraordinary organization that does so much for its community and tells the story of 19th century South Jersey so well. God bless Cape May MAC and God Bless the United States of America.

## SUPPORTING THE YOUTH POISONING PROTECTION ACT

### HON. MIKE CAREY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill that will prevent deadly chemicals from falling into the hands of children, our Youth Poisoning Protection Act.

It's a parent's worst nightmare: a faceless stranger over the internet teaching your child how to take their own life, and your child, in a moment of vulnerability, listening to them.

That's exactly what happened to Kristine Jonsson, a vibrant sixteen-year-old from Hilliard, Ohio whose life was cut tragically short in September 2020. Kristine was open with her parents about her mental health struggles, but it was behind closed doors on an internet forum that she learned about sodium nitrite.

With the coaching of strangers online, Kristine was able to purchase sodium nitrite on Amazon.com and get it shipped to her front door, all without the knowledge of her parents.

Sodium nitrite is a chemical used in the preservation of meat and fish, which in high concentrations is deadly if ingested. In fact, one spoonful of the chemical is one hundred times more lethal than other poisons. High concentrations of some chemicals can be harmful if used improperly, which is why they are usually highly regulated or banned for sale to consumers.

Thanks to online forums like the one Kristine saw, the number of suicide deaths using sodium nitrite is steadily rising. In recent years, the share of sodium nitrite usage as a method of self-poisoning has grown nine times over.

By passing this bill, we can save lives.

The Youth Poisoning Protection Act would prevent the commercial sale of highly-concentrated sodium nitrite, so it can never fall into the hands of a vulnerable young person.

I want to thank my colleague, Rep. TRAHAN of Massachusetts, as well as Senators J.D. VANCE of Ohio and TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois for partnering with us in this important effort.

With their support and yours, we are one step closer to preventing these senseless tragedies.