

HONORING CHRIS IGLESIAS, CEO
OF THE UNITY COUNCIL

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 achievements of Mr. Chris Iglesias as he celebrates his 10-year tenure as Chief Executive Officer of The Unity Council, a non-profit that supports social equity initiatives in Oakland, California. In this role, he has led a long-standing organization that is dedicated to improving Oakland's Fruitvale District and the lives of residents who live within it, including seniors, children, communities of color, small business owners, and immigrants. The work of The Unity Council has proved invaluable in bettering the lives of the residents of the largest Latino neighborhood in the Bay Area.

Mr. Iglesias has many accomplishments that prove his dedication bettering the community and building a more vibrant Fruitvale. One of his accomplishments includes securing \$58 million to fund units of affordable housing in the Fruitvale neighborhood. Additionally, he has expanded Bay Area social equity programs, including creating Oakland's Latino Men & Boys program in partnership with Oakland Unified School District and the Oakland Mayor's office and supporting The Unity Council's early education programs in partnership with the city's Early/Head Start Program for early education.

Chris Iglesias has a long history of supporting the people of California and the larger Bay Area. He was previously a Senior Advisor to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, a Director of Regional Workforce Initiatives at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and an Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. He is also the founding director of CityBuild, a construction workforce program in San Francisco that provides workforce trainings for residents. Along with serving as CEO of The Unity Council, Iglesias also serves on the Oakland Thrives Leadership Council as well as the Job and Housing Coalition.

I am happy to congratulate Chris Iglesias on his decade of service, and to thank him for his dedication to underserved communities in the city of Oakland. His impact and legacy will resonate with The Unity Council and the entire community of Fruitvale for years to come. I look forward to seeing this organization's continued growth under Mr. Iglesias' strong leadership. Congratulations to Mr. Iglesias on this significant milestone, and here's to many more years of inspiring leadership.

RECOGNIZING AMANDA RUD

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, Amanda Rud 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. Rud and her fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING VINCENT TAYLOR

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

Vincent 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 Vincent, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Vincent's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Mandalay Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

HONORING TROY CLARKSON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Troy Clarkson as he receives the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce 2024 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award.

Raised in Falmouth, Massachusetts, Clarkson has always had a strong commitment to supporting and bettering the lives of his fellow Falmouth residents. After graduating from Falmouth High School in 1986, Clarkson attended Boston College, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in political science. Clarkson then returned to Falmouth, and at the age of 24, was the youngest person to be voted to the Town of Falmouth Select Board.

Clarkson served on the Select Board for 12 years before later taking on the role of Town Manager for the Town of Bridgewater followed by the Town of Hanover. With extensive experience working in municipal government and a master's degree in public administration from Bridgewater State University, Clarkson was named the City of Brockton's Chief Financial Officer in 2019, a role that he continues to work in today.

Throughout his career, Clarkson has always remained involved in his hometown and the local Cape Cod community. Clarkson serves

on the Falmouth Housing Trust Board and is the President of Carousel of Light, Inc. as well as the founder and President of the Sober Living Foundation. Clarkson has also worked with several local organizations over the years, including the Falmouth Commodores, Falmouth Education Foundation, Falmouth Road Race, Falmouth Village Association, Rotary Club of Falmouth, and Falmouth Community Television. Additionally, Clarkson writes a column for the Falmouth Enterprise on the local issues impacting the community and promotes collaboration and understanding through his writing.

On May 14, 2024, the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce will hold its 110th Annual Meeting and Award Dinner, where Clarkson will be honored as the 2024 Outstanding Citizen of the Year. When it came time for the chamber to decide who to name the Outstanding Citizen of the Year, the vote for Clarkson was unanimous. Clarkson's lifetime of advocacy and dedication to the Falmouth community serves as an example to all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Troy Clarkson, and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for his continuous and unwavering commitment to the Town of Falmouth over the years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ZACH POLETT, THE 'ORGANIZER'S ORGANIZER'

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and achievements of Zach Polett, one of our Nation's greatest recent community organizers. A humble and unassuming figure, Zach was a brilliant political strategist and dedicated activist who—among other accomplishments—helped organize the first health care workers' union in the South, pass statewide minimum wage and campaign finance ballot initiatives, design nationwide voter registration programs and cultivate a new generation of community activists. The loss of Zach in September 2023 has been deeply felt by those fighting for social justice across the country.

The soul of our democracy is sustained by people like Zach, who believe in the fundamental dignity of every human being and the power of collective action to address our most pressing challenges. Though active in many social movements in college to oppose the Vietnam War and support the Civil Rights Movement, Zach originally set out to study medicine at Harvard University and Stanford Medical School. It turns out that his career as an organizer wouldn't stray too far from his original intent. Instead of treating people, Zach treated the structural ills that afflict our communities. He set out to heal the world.

After medical school, Zach moved to Little Rock for an internship with a small nonprofit called Arkansas Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). That internship would change his life and the lives of so many others. Through ACORN, Zach quickly found his calling to help Americans from all walks of life channel their desire for change into community power. Zach was uniquely talented in the

nuts and bolts of organizing, like forging strong connections with people from all walks of life, formulating the hard-nosed political strategy required to win change and managing the administrative tedium essential to the functioning of any organization. His talents were recognized when he was asked to establish ACORN's activities in Louisiana, California and Florida. He helped organize the South's first union of health care workers. He oversaw Project Vote's campaign to register millions of voters. And he created a strategy to pass a ballot initiative raising the minimum wage for hardworking Arkansans in 2014. When he eventually served as Senior Vice President of the Public Interest Network, Zach refused to leave his adopted home state because of his commitment to the people of Arkansas.

Zach met the love of his life, Mary Mayeaux, while searching for ACORN volunteers in Louisiana. He and Mary raised their two sons Mark and David in Little Rock, and became the loving grandparents of Kian, Luka, Luna, and Vera. Zach's family and his chosen family of progressive organizers across America continue to feel the pain of his loss as a husband, father, grandfather, and leader. In his honor, we must continue his life's work to defend our democracy, build power from the ground up and steer our course towards a freer and more just future for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, last week I mistakenly voted Yea on Roll Call No. 191, passage of H.R. 2925, the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2024. I intended to vote Nay. I regret the error.

I oppose H.R. 2925 and I voted against this legislation on February 6, 2024 in the House Natural Resources Committee.

TRIBUTE TO THE USS HORNET CV-12 ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the USS *Hornet* CV-12, a ship served the US Navy during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The predecessor aircraft carrier, USS *Hornet* CV-8 was known as "Shangri-La", the mysterious base from which Lt. Colonel James "Jimmy" Doolittle led the Doolittle Raiders, 21 B-25 bombers, on the Tokyo Raid on April 18, 1942.

In World War II, during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands, on October 26, 1942, the USS *Hornet* CV-8, was attacked and sunk by Japanese dive bomber and torpedo planes with the loss of 140 of her 2,200 sailors. 21 aircraft went down with the ship.

A new Essex-class carrier was commissioned the USS *Hornet* CV-12 on November 29, 1943, 80 years ago.

The USS *Hornet* CV-12 joined the Pacific Fleet in 1944. Her first battle was a strike on the Palau Islands on March 30th 1944. After this, the USS *Hornet* CV-12 participated in almost every major naval engagement in the Pacific for the rest of the war, including the Battle of the Philippine Sea, the invasion of the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

In WWII, in 18 months of combat operations, the aircraft that served on the USS *Hornet* CV-12 destroyed more Japanese aircraft than any other aircraft carrier—668 Japanese planes shot down, 742 Japanese planes destroyed on the ground, 1,269,710 tons of enemy ships sunk or heavily damaged. 73 ships sunk, 37 probable, and 413 damaged.

The USS *Hornet* CVS-12 served 3 tours at Yankee Station during the Vietnam War in the 1960s.

On July 24th, 1969, the USS *Hornet* CV-12 was the recovery ship for the Apollo 11 astronauts, hosting President Nixon as he welcomed back the first men to ever walk on the Moon.

On November 24th, 1969, the USS *Hornet* CVS-12 recovered the Apollo 12 astronauts.

The USS *Hornet* CVS-12 was decommissioned on June 30, 1970.

On her way to the scrapyard, the USS *Hornet* CVS-12 was saved and turned into a floating museum. She opened her doors on October 17, 1998, 25 years ago as the USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum at the former Alameda Naval Air Station in Alameda, California.

The USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum now projects its power as an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the largest museum, research, and educational facility in the world.

Please join me as I salute the sailors who served on the USS *Hornet* CVS-12. I also thank those who now use the USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum and its collections, exhibitions, and educational programming to promote awareness and understanding of history, science, technology, and service as a Smithsonian Affiliate. This historic ship has the unique opportunity to live on, welcoming visitors from across the country to learn about its 80-year legacy.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA MANUEL

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, Barbara Manuel, 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. Manuel and her fellow board members have made a profoundly posi-

tive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING GREY VALDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

HONORING MAJOR VICTORIA C. MAYNARD

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Victoria Maynard for her exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow. Major Maynard will soon transition from the Army Congressional Budget Liaison Office to serve as a Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

A native of Kentucky, Major Maynard was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps from the Morehead State University ROTC program. She earned a bachelor's degree in Geography from Morehead State University and a master's degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Major Maynard has served in a broad range of assignments during her 14 years as an Army officer, including Platoon Leader and Battalion S6 in the 214th Fires Brigade at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Company Commander and Battalion S6 in the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky; a joint planner for NATO in Brunssum, Netherlands; Communications OIC to the USFOR-A Commander; and a Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer in the 102nd Signal Battalion in Wiesbaden, Germany.

She has also served two combat tours in Afghanistan and one humanitarian tour in Haiti.

I had the privilege of working directly with Tori who served as a fellow in my Capitol Hill office in 2022 as well as an Army Liaison this past year. Her professionalism, performance, and commitment to the mission are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and made a lasting impression on both Members of the United States Congress and their staff. Throughout her career, Major Maynard has made a positive impact on soldiers, peers and superiors alike.