

1993 he was selected for the 1992 delegation to the UN Earth Summit where he led negotiations on five chapters of Agenda 21 on behalf of the United States. He continued his high-stakes environmental work and advocacy until his retirement in 2004. Luckily for Eastern Connecticut, Zell's retirement was only in name. He continued his tireless work in Groton town committees including the Town Council's Climate Change and Sustainable Community Task Force, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Committee, and the Utility Drinking Water Quality Management Plan.

Zell was tirelessly active in municipal efforts to prepare for climate change, serving the community with groups such as the Groton Energy Efficiency and Conservation Commission and the advisory board for the Groton Utility Drinking Water Quality Management. One of Zell's most ambitious local efforts focused on the expansion of the area's commuter rail service, Shoreline East. His vision included extending the existing rail line from New London to Westerly, Rhode Island, making a route from New London to Norwich, and creating new stations in Groton and Stonington. He worked tirelessly to bring together stakeholders from across the region, creating a coalition of advocates with environmentalism and equity at the heart of its mission. Zell was at the forefront of this burgeoning expansion effort, leveraging his decades of experience in government and conservation to successfully push for legislation that called for an Eastern Connecticut Rail and Transit Feasibility Study, which was finalized and published in later 2023. This study will be instrumental in the further development of widely available and accessible rail in southeastern Connecticut, for which we have Zell to thank.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Zell Steever's service and spirit. His loss is felt deeply across the state and Nation. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, two sons, John and Scott, two stepsons, Jonathan and Gabriel, six grandchildren, and his brother Sanford. His resolute mission to protect the planet we call home and his devoted service to his communities will serve as a lasting legacy in the hearts and minds of Connecticut's future environmentalists and conservationists as they continue the work he dedicated his life to.

#### RECOGNIZING MICHAEL WHITAKER

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Communications Officer Michael Whitaker, of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. On Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, Officer Whitaker was working in the Communication Section as an Intake Operator when a constituent called 911 to advise that his 3-month-old daughter, Harmonie, was choking and could not breathe. After de-escalating the parent and helping him become calm enough to follow instructions, Officer Whitaker proceeded to provide life-saving instructions on how to clear the baby's

airway. The father followed all the instructions and was able to clear her airway. With Harmonie able to breathe fresh oxygen again, EMS arrived on scene and transported her to a nearby hospital for observation. Thanks to Officer Whitaker's swift actions, professionalism, and composure, Baby Harmonie is doing great today.

This is just one example of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Communications Officer Whitaker exhibits every day when he goes to work. Officer Whitaker is a shining example of what it means to be a Citrus County First Responder. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Officer Whitaker has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

#### HONORING JESSICA KIM AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Jessica received her B.S. in psychology and business administration from the University of Florida. She met her husband, Hunter, at UF. She continued her studies and received her Juris Doctorate from Barry University School of Law.

She believed that education had the power to transform lives and dedicated her early professional career to making education accessible. As the chief operating officer for NeoCity Links, Jessica helps develop strategic initiatives to promote economic growth. She coordinates business development efforts by working with public, private, and nonprofit sectors. She has proven expertise in a wide range of areas and successfully developed new international partnerships for Osceola County.

Jessica focuses her time outside of work on empowering women leaders through mentorship. She serves as the president of the PCUSA National Korean Presbyterian Women and actively strives to create opportunities for engagement and enablement for women to reach the highest level of leadership and potential.

Jessica resides in Windermere, Florida, with her husband and loves snuggling with her five children, reading, cooking, and kickboxing.

#### RECOGNIZING JAZZY MODECKER

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

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

Jazzy has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Jazzy, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jazzy's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

#### HONORING THE CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT PAM CONKLIN

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Superintendent Pam Conklin upon her retirement as Superintendent of the Travis Unified School District after more than 25 years of service in education. Ms. Conklin's steadfast dedication to enhancing the quality of education in Solano County and advocating for her students has left a lasting impact on the Solano County community.

Ms. Conklin began her educational career as a teacher with the Novato Unified School District. Throughout her twenty-year tenure with the District, Ms. Conklin demonstrated a genuine commitment to fostering an environment of community and respect in her classrooms. She ultimately became the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources for the District, where she spearheaded efforts to ensure all students, regardless of their background, can reach their full potential.

In 2015, her passion for education led her to serve as the Oakley Union Elementary School District Superintendent. During her tenure, her collaboration with the Contra Costa County community and her critical leadership helped ensure the continued success of the Oakley Union School District.

Upon her departure from the Oakley Union School District, Ms. Conklin began working at the Travis Unified School District as the Human Resources Administrator and in 2017, she began serving as Superintendent. Her critical efforts to advocate for the students, teachers, and families of Solano County and Travis Air Force Base were indispensable to our community.

As Superintendent, Ms. Conklin played a pivotal role in supporting Travis Air Force Base and helping nine schools in the District earn the designation of "Purple Star Schools," schools that are committed to and equipped to meet the unique needs of military-affiliated students and their families.

While her leadership as Superintendent will surely be missed, Ms. Conklin's decades of service to the students of Northern California and Travis Unified School District have left an indelible legacy. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Ms. Conklin and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING HAYDEN MARCHANT'S  
GRADUATION FROM THE  
HOCKADAY SCHOOL

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Hayden Marie Marchant's graduation from The Hockaday School in Dallas, Texas. Hayden entered The Hockaday School as a pre-K student and attended the school for her entire academic career. Her graduation, years in the making, as she highly distinguished herself both inside and outside of the classroom and earned the respect of her peers and teachers.

Among her many accomplishments at Hockaday was to serve as the editor of the school yearbook Cornerstones. The Hockaday yearbook is an exceptional annual challenge, trying to capture the year for the over 1,000 students coming not just from the Dallas/Ft. Worth metropolis, but from across Texas and the globe. This was in addition to her many athletic talents, being a member of the high school crew, soccer, and track & field teams.

Her extracurricular experiences were not limited to journalism and sports, but also included a significant focus on religious life and values. Hayden frequently led Bible study at Hockaday and served as an active member of North Dallas Young Life. She is also a member of First Baptist Church and is a major volunteer at the Fields Youth Group. Each Sunday morning, she manages the sound and lights for the youth service, mainly out of view, but her service is essential. She has demonstrated servant leadership at both ends of the spectrum, being out in front and behind the scenes. This balanced leadership approach will serve her well in the future and will benefit many as she continues to grow.

Hayden is the daughter of proud parents Matthew and Lindsay Marchant of Dallas and the sister of Kendall who graduated from Hockaday two years ago. Her supportive grandparents, Rodney and Sherry Hill of Frisco, and Kenny and Donna Marchant of Coppell, join in celebrating her graduation.

The Hockaday School prides itself on their four cornerstones of character, courtesy, scholarship, and athletics. For fourteen years, Hayden has lived up to and excelled at these school values, and they will guide her well as she starts college.

Hayden Marchant will attend Baylor University in Waco, Texas in the fall of 2024. Hayden was admitted to the Hankamer Scholars and Business Fellows programs, as well as the Honors College. Hayden has chosen to be a Business Fellow which is a highly selective program for high-ability students. Through the Business Fellows program, Hayden will be a student in both entrepreneurship and religion. She has already taken the entrepreneurship mantra very seriously at a young age, as she is the creator and head designer of the Rocking M Beads jewelry business.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Hayden Marchant on her high school graduation and all of her classmates on this important milestone. Our best wishes for her continued success as she starts her studies at Baylor University this fall, sic'em Bears.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW HARE

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Lt. Matthew Hare, of the Inverness Fire Department. For the past three years, the Inverness Fire Department has been going through a rebuilding phase. Lt. Hare has been a vital part of this process and has been the go-to guy for any project that needs to be completed. He is constantly working to improve his skills and further his education. His excellent work ethic has allowed him to become one of the department leaders and he is a role model to his peers. Lt. Hare operates in a manner that brings great credit to himself, his family, the City, and the citizens he serves.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Lt. Hare exhibits every day when he goes to work. He is a shining example of what it means to be an Inverness First Responder. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Lt. Hare has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING HANDS OF THE  
CARPENTER

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hands of the Carpenter from Golden, Colorado on receiving the 2024 Golden Rotary Club's Ethics in Business Award.

For over two decades, Hands of the Carpenter has provided crucial support to single mothers through free and low-cost automobile repairs and maintenance. Hands of the Carpenter has grown significantly since its inception, going from assisting a handful of women each year to helping over 600 last year alone. For many single mothers, a reliable vehicle can make a world of difference. Hands of the Carpenter helps bring stability to often uncertain circumstances.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize the Hands of the Carpenter organization for all they do for our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my votes for H. Res. 1210, H.R. 4510, H.R. 6571, and H.R. 3950. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 202; YEA on Roll Call No. 205; YEA on Roll Call No. 211; and YEA on Roll Call No. 212.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF  
MRS. ANN DOUGHERTY KRAUS

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Ann Dougherty Kraus—a pillar of our Dallas community.

Mrs. Kraus's journey is one of remarkable achievements and selflessness. She graduated second in her class from Western Kentucky University. She subsequently moved to Japan in 1952 to care for American soldiers injured in the Korean War. She later married William Kraus in France in 1956.

A Dallas resident from 1959 until 2024, Mrs. Kraus was a giant in our community. She raised her four children here, along with her community service as a member of the Dallas County Medical Alliance, Medical Center Board, and President of the Parent's Club at the St. Mark's School of Texas. She was also a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Dallas, Texas.

My heart goes out to all who knew and loved Ann, especially her sister, Margie Joy, her children, Greg, Peter, Sharon, and Stephen, her six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. May her memory be a source of comfort and strength.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed the first vote in the 4:45 p.m. vote series on final passage of H.R. 7530, the DC Crimes Act on May 15, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 201, on the final passage of H.R. 7530, the DC Crimes Act.