

Efforts to remedy these disparities by promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in education have been met with relentless resistance from conservatives. They've rolled back affirmative action and continually seek to suppress instruction of Black history and literature. This concerted effort to perpetuate inequality and silence our voices cannot go unchallenged. We must raise our voices against these regressive measures and utilize every available avenue to resist discrimination and promote equity in education and beyond.

We must continue to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in education, in the workplace, and in the marketplace, to uphold Brown v. Board's legacy of desegregation and equity. By doing so, we honor the promise of a just America and ensure that every individual has access to the opportunities they need to thrive.

#### HAITIAN FLAG DAY

### HON. MAXWELL FROST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, on May 18th, we celebrate Haitian Flag Day to commemorate and celebrate the pride, strength, history, and courage the Haitian flag represents.

With over 30,000 Haitians in Central Florida, Haitians' work and passion have profoundly impacted the lives of countless people in Orlando and beyond. Their commitment to serving our community is a testament to the strength and solidarity that defines the Haitian people.

I want to express my gratitude to the Greater Haitian American Chamber of Commerce for all they do to contribute to Orlando's economic and cultural vibrancy.

The humanitarian crisis in Haiti weighs heavy on the hearts of countless people, especially as individuals see friends and family enduring unimaginable hardships. During these times, it is important to be mindful of the importance of community, compassion, and unity in the face of adversity.

In Congress, I am advocating for the aid and support that Haiti urgently deserves, not just deserves but needs and demands, by advocating for efforts to invest in Haiti's economy, create jobs, foster trade, and provide stability.

Especially on Haitian Flag Day, remember that pride, history, and culture will help guide us all in the fight for a better day for the people of Haiti. The work that our Central Florida Haitian community is doing is critical to these efforts. I will continue to fight for and with the Haitian people.

#### RECOGNIZING BORICUA COLLEGE

### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Boricua College on the special occasion of its 50th anniversary and in appreciation for decades of higher education. Boricua College was the first private, not-for-

profit post-secondary educational institution established in the United States specifically designed to meet the academic needs of Puerto Ricans and other Spanish-speaking people. Today, it is a diverse institution for learning and professional development.

Boricua College inspired educated and passionate advocates for the Puerto Rican Diaspora during the 1960's and 70's in New York City. Visionaries like Dr. Antonia Pantoja, founder of Universidad Boricua and the precursor of Boricua College, founded by Dr. Victor Alicea, believed that higher education and cultural pride were crucial to addressing poverty and creating economic empowerment. The significant migration of Puerto Ricans to New York City warranted a grassroots response to navigate the socio-economic opportunities and challenges of plantando bandera in a new environment. Thus, Boricua College was created and became a beacon of hope for the Latino community in Brooklyn.

Since its founding in 1974, Boricua College has grown from its humble beginnings on a single-floor storefront in Williamsburg to a multi-campus institution spanning Brooklyn, Manhattan, and the Bronx. The first Boricua College class had just 26 students. When it opened its doors, it broke all barriers to higher learning with a cadre of Puerto Rican bilingual professionals in New York City. Today, Boricua College has an enrollment of thousands of students pursuing an Associate, Bachelor or Master's degree in the field of Human Services, Business, Liberal Arts, Childhood Education and inter-American Studies to list a few. It is also a designated Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education.

The growth of Boricua College exemplifies the growth of Latinos' economic and political empowerment across the country. The college may not have millions in endowments, if at all. However, it does have an unwavering commitment to educational advancement. By 2060, nearly 1 in 4 Americans are likely to be Latinos'. Thanks to vital institutions like Boricua College, we are making even greater contributions in every sector of society—education, politics, business, the arts, and sciences.

This fine institution is as successful as the administration and leadership. Therefore, I would also like to salute Founder and President Dr. Victor G. Alicea for a lifetime of public service, Board of Trustees Chair Benito R. Fernandez, the deans, faculty, staff, and graduates. Mr. Speaker, please join us in recognizing Boricua College on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and offering our best wishes for another 50 years of serving the community.

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT QUINT AVENETTI

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Quint Avenetti, of Rockwall, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Quint has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

Quint was born in Hayden, Arizona, in 1962. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1980 and participated in active service for nearly three decades. From providing security to several U.S. Embassies around the world to being deployed during the Gulf War and Global War on Terrorism, Quint served with distinction and merit. He specialized in Joint Targeting, Geodesy, Counterfire Radar, Artillery Operations, and Fire Support. As a result of his exceptional leadership and expertise, Quint achieved the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5.

After retiring from the military in March 2008, Quint moved to Rockwall with his family. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Combat Systems Sector for Navmar Applied Science Corp. In this role, Quint works diligently to train the next generation of Marine Joint Fire Observers, enhance security at diplomatic locations for the State Department, and develop unmanned aircraft technology. In addition to his work in protecting our national security, he serves on the Advisory Board for Veterans Mortgage of America to help veterans succeed in home ownership. Quint is the Commandant of the CWO2 James Randolph Detachment of the Marine Corps League and is involved with many veterans' advocacy organizations. He also serves as a mentor to Eagle Scouts and was the previous Scoutmaster of Rockwall Troop 989. I am proud of Quint's contributions to our community, and I am sure he will continue to make a positive impact on the world around us for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Quint with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

#### RECOGNIZING JACOB MCCULLOUGH

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

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

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

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

#### HONORING THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OLD SITE

### HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Shiloh Baptist Church Old Site on 170 years of service to the community.

This remarkable milestone is a testament to the thousands of congregants who, through their unwavering faith and love for their neighbors, have helped build a legacy of service at the church.

For 170 years, Shiloh Old Site has been an advocate for justice, equality, and perseverance. Throughout the years, this community has been a catalyst in halting the spread of racial injustice in the city of Fredericksburg and has worked tirelessly to provide supplemental education to Black residents to offset the shortfalls of a racially segregated educational system. Through its ministries and its purpose-driven youth mission, the church works to provide families and children with programming that nurtures a community service mindset.

Shiloh Old Site is a pillar of the Fredericksburg community—always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need. The community's commitment to Fredericksburg and its residents is both inspiring and humbling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking Shiloh Baptist Church Old Site on 170 years of dedicated service to the Fredericksburg community. I look forward to celebrating their continued success and contributions to Virginia in years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING JACK CLOUSE

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

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

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

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

#### RECOGNIZING BERNIE RICKE'S LEADERSHIP OF UAW LOCAL 600 IN DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bernie Ricke, President of UAW Local 600 in Dearborn, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement. His dedication to the UAW over the last 51 years, and his leadership of Local 600 for the past 15 years, is worthy of commendation.

UAW Local 600 currently has over 30,000 active and retired members, representing a diverse membership from the Ford Rouge Complex, AK Steel, truck drivers, independent part suppliers, as well as healthcare and technical

office professionals. They currently have over 47 autonomous bargaining units throughout Southeastern Michigan.

Bernie was born into the auto industry as the son of an engineer who worked at Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler. At the age of 18, Bernie took a job in a Ford warehouse and shortly thereafter joined the UAW as a member of Local 600 in November of 1973. He quickly took on more roles within the union, holding positions of Financial Secretary, District Committee-person, Bargaining Committee-person, and Vice President of the Parts Depot Unit. From 1997 he served as the Second and First Vice President of Local 600 before being elected President in 2009. His leadership over the last 15 years has earned him the respect of not only local leaders but national leaders as well. UAW VP Chuck Brownning said about Bernie "He's unselfish, He's humble. And he's a really powerful presence in our union." Rory Gamble, the former president of the UAW, said "Bernie's leadership legacy will fare well over the years as historians look back at his impact on the UAW and Ford. He was steady, fair, and successful for members in the worst of times. If the measure of a man is the dignity he brings to others, he will always be a giant in our union."

Bernie and I got to know each other through the many community projects that he has dedicated himself to. Outside of his work with the UAW, Bernie and his wife, Sue, are pillars of the Detroit community. Together they run the Bernie Ricke Charity Fund out of Trenton, MI. Bernie is a lifetime member of the NAACP, member of the Labor Advisory Board for Health Alliance Plan, and serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Bridging Communities Incorporated. Bridging Communities is a non-profit organization that serves the community of Southwest Detroit by providing a variety of services to the homebound elderly including meals on wheels, minor home repairs, transportation for doctors' appointments and medical care. In 1999 and again in 2004, Bernie was given the "Spirit of Detroit" award by the Detroit City Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bernie Ricke for all that he has done for the people of Southeastern Michigan. Together we have been through the thick and thin of life, surviving the tough times by breaking bread at his famous garage parties. We wish him all best in retirement, though we know he will still be working hard to support the UAW and his Detroit community in whatever ways he can. I thank Bernie.

#### RECOGNIZING CAIT OWEN

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

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

Cait 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 Cait, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Cait's hard work, de-

termination, and perseverance at Ralston Valley High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

#### RECOGNIZING GUEST CHAPLAIN PASTOR DAVID MASON

#### HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank our guest chaplain, Pastor David Mason, for his opening prayer on May 10th. I've had the pleasure of knowing David for quite some time, as he serves as Pastor at my home church, Walnut Valley Baptist in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

David and his wife, Aamie, who serves as a family counselor, are dear friends of mine who have a heart for sharing the gospel and ministering not only inside the church building but in the community with individuals wherever there is a need.

David and Aamie have been faithful servants and leaders for many years. It was a pleasure to host them in D.C. this week.

I, along with others in Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District, are grateful to Pastor Mason and his wife Aamie for their servant hearts and their obedience in serving God.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays caused by storms in my home state of Louisiana, I was unable to be present for votes on May 14, 2024.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 196, and YEA Roll Call No. 197.

#### RECOGNIZING DALE "DOC" DOUGHERTY

#### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the City Manager of Garden City Dale "Doc" Dougherty for his diligent service to the people of Garden City community since 2018.

Born and raised in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Mr. Dougherty has extensive experience in public administration. He carries a bachelor's degree in health care management from King's College, a master's degree in Sports Management from the United States Sports Academy, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame. Furthermore, Mr. Dougherty has obtained the highest certification in city management and the highest credential in the parks and recreation industry. He began his career as the Director of Community Affairs with the Town of