

HONORING EDWIN TORRES
DESANTIAGO

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional achievements of Edwin Torres DeSantiago, who will soon begin his doctoral program in Public Affairs as the University of Minnesota Humphrey School's first DACA recipient.

Edwin arrived in the United States from El Salvador at eight years old. Despite early academic success, Edwin did not believe that he could get a college education in the United States due to his status as an undocumented immigrant. However, when the Obama Administration established the DACA program, he then had the opportunity to attend Saint John's University in Saint Joseph, Minnesota, where he excelled in academics and earned many University-wide awards. During his college education and beyond, he has been a tireless advocate for first generation and Latine students, leading to an appointment to his alma mater's Board of Trustees in 2023. His advocacy for our community members is not limited to students, throughout his life Edwin has championed countless progressive leaders and policies that have improved the lives of so many Minnesotans. Admirably, Edwin recently earned his master's degree in public affairs from the Humphrey School while continuing his career and extensive community service.

Edwin will now embark on the years-long journey of earning a doctoral degree in Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota Humphrey School, where his exceptional achievements and demonstrated investment in the community earned him a full-ride scholarship. Beyond his admission to the program and tremendous scholarship, Edwin's status as the Humphrey School's first DACA recipient to attend the program makes this achievement duly commendable.

Edwin's acceptance to the Humphrey School is a testament to his decades of hard work and leadership. I am so proud to call him a Minnesotan and recognize that Dreamers like Edwin make our state, and our country, a better place. I have no doubt that Edwin will be successful as a doctoral student and look forward to the continued positive change he will bring to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Edwin for his incredible accomplishment and wishing him luck as he starts this new chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
CHIEF RANDY COX

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Somerset Borough Police Chief Randy Cox on his 47 years of service to our community.

Randy felt called to serve from a young age and always wanted to be a police officer. He

began his law enforcement career as a police officer in 1977 for Seven Springs Borough in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He transitioned to the Ligonier Borough Police Department in 1981 and rose to the rank of police chief in 1990. On August 9, 2004, Randy became the chief of the Somerset Borough Police Department, where he served for the past 19 years.

Randy kept a local and positive approach to his law enforcement duties. Through his teaching role at the Westmoreland County Community College Police Academy and Penn State-Fayette, Randy prepared officers for all the hardships associated with law enforcement. Additionally, he graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy's 204th Session in 2001. Randy took this education and incorporated what he learned into training sessions at local academies. He also served as an assessor for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Committee to ensure that all police officers were qualified for the job's rigorous duties. He demonstrated a long-lasting commitment to southwestern Pennsylvania law enforcement officials, and his legacy will be remembered for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, Randy Cox served southwestern Pennsylvania dutifully for the past 47 years. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate him on a long, successful career serving southwestern Pennsylvania communities.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL
OF THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Ann Arbor on the 200th anniversary of its founding. The contributions its residents have made to the State of Michigan and to the Nation over the last two centuries are worthy of commendation.

Originally the Village of Annarbour, this community was named after the wives of its two founders, who were both named Ann, and was also inspired by the large forest in the area. Founded in 1824, historic Ann Arbor predates the establishment of the State of Michigan by thirteen years.

Ann Arbor is home to one of the most prestigious universities in the world: The University of Michigan. The University of Michigan was originally established in 1817 as Catholepistemiad Michigania in Detroit, then a fledgling capital of the Territory of Michigan, and later relocated to Ann Arbor in 1837. Since its founding, the university has brought defining cultural, economic, and intellectual growth to greater Ann Arbor. The students, staff, and faculty come from all 50 American states and over 100 countries globally, contributing to the worldly and diverse culture of this community. In addition to its numerous accolades for its academic prestige, University of Michigan Athletics continues to make Ann Arbor proud. Just this past January, the University of Michigan Football Team defeated the Washington Huskies, bringing a national championship title back to Ann Arbor for the first time since 1997.

It is not just the University of Michigan that makes Ann Arbor special. The cultural and religious diversity of the city has been a source of strength and has also led to Ann Arbor being the site of many monumental political and civil rights activities. From traditional denominations to more contemporary organizations, there is something for everyone in this vibrant city. Beth Israel, one of the oldest synagogues in the state, was founded in 1916. The city was also the home of the first meetings of the Students for a Democratic Society in 1960, a national student activist group. That same year, President John F. Kennedy set in motion the development of the Peace Corps on the steps of the Michigan Union. In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson gave his "Great Society" speech at the University of Michigan's commencement. In 1965, the city was the location of the first American "teach in" in protest of the Vietnam War.

Ann Arbor has long been known as a hotbed for technological innovation and start-ups. The International Radio Corporation, established in Ann Arbor in 1931, was responsible for the first mass-produced AC/DC radio as well as the Argus C3, one of the top-selling cameras in history. ProQuest, founded in 1938 as University Microfilms, has been at the forefront of the preservation of documents for research purposes since their founding. Thomas Knoll, an Ann Arbor native, created Adobe Photoshop in 1987 while completing his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. Duo Security, a leader in two-factor internet security, was founded in 2009. Presently, Ann Arbor is host to over 20 video game and XR studios of varying sizes and hosts monthly meetings of the International Game Developers Association. Ann Arbor is also home to many nationally and internationally recognized businesses like Domino's Pizza, one of the largest pizza brands in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the City of Ann Arbor on the occasion of their bicentennial. For the past 200 years, Ann Arbor has stood as a beacon of progress, diversity, and excellence. From its humble beginnings to its current status as a thriving and exemplary city, this milestone is a testament to their commitment to innovation, education, and community. We are excited to see what the residents of Ann Arbor can accomplish in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESCONTRIAS
STEAM ACADEMY

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Escontrias STEAM Academy, a cornerstone of educational excellence in the Lower Valley of El Paso County.

In 1921, faced with the urgent need for a safe educational environment for children of the Socorro district, Silverio Escontrias, a dedicated Texas Ranger and community leader, generously donated land at U.S. Highway 80 and Buford Road for a new school. His commitment to education laid the groundwork for what would become Escontrias Elementary

School and later, Escontrias STEAM (Science, technology, engineering, art and math) Academy.

Notably, in 1924, the academy initiated a vocational program, teaching practical skills like carpentry, cotton farming, and animal husbandry, exemplifying the academy's commitment to a holistic education, preparing students for both academic and practical success in life. Since then, the Escontrias STEAM Academy has evolved into a hub of innovation. From its humble beginnings in adobe structures to its current status as a leading institution for STEAM education, the academy has remained steadfast in its mission to provide innovative learning opportunities.

As we commemorate its centennial milestone, we remain committed to ensuring that every child, regardless of background or circumstance, has access to the transformative power of education. The legacy of Escontrias STEAM Academy serves as a beacon of hope and opportunity for generations to come.

Today, I am honored to pay tribute to the Escontrias STEAM Academy for its century of educational excellence and its profound impact on the lives of countless students, families, and the broader community.

HONORING MR. WALT KOENIG

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to recognize and congratulate Mr. Walt Koenig, who is retiring from his position as President and CEO of the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce. I greatly appreciate Mr. Koenig's four years of dedicated service which profoundly impacted the San Angelo community.

I was born and raised in San Angelo and am proud to call San Angelo my home. In recent years, I have witnessed significant growth and positive change across the city. Thanks to our leadership in both enterprise and government, San Angelo has become one of the best small cities for business. Mr. Koenig's stewardship and enthusiasm for improving our city across the board have left a lasting impact that is greatly valued by the entire San Angelo community.

Before his tenure at the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Koenig served as the President and CEO of the Kerrville Chamber of Commerce and the Executive Director of the Kerr County Economic Development Program. Mr. Koenig's many contributions on the business level include over 25 years of experience in the telecommunications industry. Along with his history in business, Mr. Koenig also served 8 years as a senior diplomat with the U.S. Departments of State and Commerce.

Mr. Koenig made no waste of his four years serving the community of San Angelo. Under his leadership, San Angelo was established as the Visual Arts Capitol of Texas, the 2024 Best Visitor Center in Texas, and the 2024 People's Choice Award for Best Destination for Arts and Culture in the State of Texas. Along with these accolades, San Angelo has seen significant economic growth due to a surge in new local businesses, tourism, and

overall quality of life. Due to his hard work and enthusiastic support for the city, it is safe to say that Mr. Koenig left the greater San Angelo community in a better position than he found it.

Beyond his duties at the Chamber of Commerce, Walt was also a civic leader for Good-fellow Air Force Base. Mr. Koenig was heavily involved at the base, including going out of his way to speak with students from other countries in their native language. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Koenig consistently went above and beyond in his unwavering support for the community, which left an indelible mark on the city of San Angelo. He and his wife, MG, poured their hearts out for our community, and for that, I will always be thankful.

Walt is a good friend of our office and our community—he will be missed dearly. I am proud to honor Mr. Walt Koenig's incredible contributions to the city of San Angelo during his successful tenure. I extend my most heartfelt wishes to his family for a smooth transition as they embark on their journey to Italy.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL GRACE E. MILLER

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Grace E. Miller for her service serving in the Secretary of the Air Force House Liaison Office since January 2022.

Lieutenant Colonel Miller received her commission through the Air Force ROTC program at the University of St. Thomas in 2006. She began her active-duty career as Assistant Officer in Charge, Blue Aircraft Maintenance Unit, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at McChord Air Force Base, Washington. During this assignment, she deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Deep Freeze. In 2009, she received an AFIT Civilian Institution Program sponsorship to attend the English Literature Master of Arts program at the Pennsylvania State University. She completed her degree in 2010 and then taught at the United States Academy until 2014, achieving the academic rank of assistant professor and serving as Executive Officer to the Dean of the Faculty.

She joined the Air Force Reserve in 2014, serving as Maintenance Operations Officer of the 934th Maintenance Squadron. In 2016, she deployed as Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Maintenance Operations Officer at the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. On her return, she took command of the 934th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, where she led 110 personnel maintaining eight C-130H aircraft to provide combat airlift worldwide. During her time at the 934th, she pursued her doctoral degree at the University of Minnesota, graduating in 2018. In 2020, she was selected for the Air Force Legislative Fellows program and served in the State Department and then in the office of Senator MORAN.

Please join me in recognizing Lieutenant Colonel Miller for her tireless dedication and service to our Nation.

APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICE
OF WILL NEITZEL

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Will Neitzel, a member of my staff for the last five and a half years. Will joined my team as I opened a new office and started my first term, serving Wisconsin's First Congressional District. Will has been an integral member of my team.

While serving in my personal office, Will's candor, hard work, and humor have been tremendous assets to my office. When first starting my office, Will was essential in getting my mail program up and running, working tirelessly to produce dozens of letters each week. As a policy staffer Will helped Wisconsin families and small businesses better understand and navigate federal programs.

After serving as one of my lead staffers in my personal office, Will then moved to the Committee on House Administration when I became Chairman in January of 2022. Will quickly became my Wisconsin advocate with the Committee, always thinking of ways House Administration can benefit the people of Wisconsin's First District. Will also jumped right in and helped lead the Committee's widely successful "Running an Effective Committee in the Majority Series", "Level Up: GOP Staff Development Course", and the "Intern Lecture Series", among many others.

With Will as a part of my Member Services team, the Committee has held briefings and education trainings for over 2,000 Members of Congress and their staff. This team has also successfully completed over 600 Member-related requests. Will also spearheaded the planting of the Sugar Maple tree on the U.S. Capitol Grounds commemorating the 175th anniversary of the State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that the great people of Wisconsin are better off because of Will's service here in the U.S. House of Representatives. I'm so appreciative to have had him in my personal and committee offices. On behalf of my personal office and the Committee on House Administration, we want to thank Will for his great services and friendship. We wish the very best of success to Will, Steph, Jack, and Ada as they start a new chapter back home in Wisconsin.

HONORING FRED R. DOSTER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Fred R. Doster.

Born on June 7, 1937, Fred was a real estate broker who formed his own business, Contra Costa Properties, in 1965. He remained involved with the business until his passing. Fred served in the United States Marine Corps and served his local community as Planning Commissioner for the City of Concord. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Concord Jazz Festival, which evolved