

Bob McDonald, Dave Albo, and I looked at each other and then looked down the dais. Kenny Melvin and others looked back and instantly we knew Roy was right; we amended the bill to make the penalties equitable.

Years later, the Supreme Court of the United States struck down the federal law because the inequitable drug penalties were unconstitutional.

Roy Scherer proved that, at least in Virginia, a well-reasoned conscientious citizen could address his government and be heard. We will always be indebted to his example.

Roy was also a big supporter of concealed carry. Being that he had no driver's license, Roy would ride his bicycle to the Capitol and keep his gun on him as the route he traveled to the Capitol was through an unsafe part of town. However, when he wanted to eat in a restaurant nearby, he would have to hide his gun in a bush outside of the restaurant. This led him to fight for concealed carry in restaurants in Virginia.

Roy is survived by his beloved wife and best friend, Sally, his sister Barbara, and his brother Frank, as well as many friends. I wish them all my deepest condolences for their loss.

A true Libertarian and a dedicated citizen, Roy made an impact on everyone he met, including myself. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LAUREN CURRY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lauren Curry on becoming the new Chief of Staff for Gov. Brian Kemp.

Lauren has made history, once again, this time becoming the first woman to permanently hold the position. Previously, she made history when she became the first female deputy Chief of Staff to the governor.

Lauren graduated with a bachelor's from Wofford College. She then pursued a master's from the University of Georgia.

Her entire career has been dedicated to public service. She has held an array of impressive positions in state government, such as Deputy Director of Georgia's Environmental Protection Division, and Director of government and public affairs at the Georgia DNR.

Lauren is also a veteran of Governor Kemp's staff, having served as his Chief Operating Officer and as his director of governmental affairs and policy.

I congratulate Lauren. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this position.

TAU CHAPTER 100TH CELEBRATION

HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the members of Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,

Incorporated as they celebrate 100 years of sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action.

Tau Chapter was chartered in the 13th Congressional District on January 24, 1924, and was the first Black Greek letter organization chartered on the campus of Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. Delta Sigma Theta, A Service Sorority, was founded 111 years ago on January 13, 1913, on the campus of Howard University by twenty-two collegiate women. Just two months after its founding, the Founders of Delta Sigma Theta, in their first act of public service, participated in the Women's Suffrage March in Washington, D.C., advocating for the right to vote for all women.

It is no coincidence that an organization committed to public service, and political awareness would have trailblazing and dedicated members who have contributed so much to congress. From my great state of Michigan, I want to recognize my predecessors, also members of Delta Sigma Theta, Congresswomen Barbara-Rose Collins, Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick and Brenda Lawrence.

In the 100 years since its chartering, Tau Chapter has continued the mission of sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action within Detroit, MI. Congratulations.

RECOGNIZING LAKEMORE MAYOR RICHARD COLE, JR.

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Richard Cole, Jr., on his service as the Mayor of Lakemore, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Mr. Cole's drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He leads by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As Mr. Cole goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Cole for his commitment to the people of Lakemore and to Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE WHEAT RIDGE COMMUNITY AND FAMILY COALITION FOR EDUCATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wheat Ridge Community and Family Coalition for Education for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 City Council Partnership Award.

The award is given to an organization in the Wheat Ridge community that has demonstrated dedication, service, and leadership to the local area. The members of this organization selflessly volunteer their time, even in the face of challenging circumstances, to nurture and uplift young people growing up in Wheat Ridge. Initially formed as a response to the impact of the pandemic on Wheat Ridge families, the coalition has continued to support and address the needs of the community, ensuring that every family has the safety and support they need to navigate uncertain times.

Congratulations to the Wheat Ridge Community and Family Coalition for Education on the accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for their contributions to the Wheat Ridge community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROLINE WEST

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to extend my condolences to the family and the Tampa Bay community mourning the passing of Caroline West. Caroline passed away at the age of 26 due to complications of Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood (AHC), a rare neurological disorder that she was born with. Despite experiencing the challenges from a rare generic condition, Caroline was a champion for improving health care for people with medical complexities and a beacon of inspiration to me and everyone whose paths she crossed.

Born five weeks prematurely, Caroline suffered a seizure and stopped breathing in the first 12 hours of her life. Throughout her life, she underwent specialized speech, physical and cognitive therapy coordinated with the help of the Chronic-Complex Clinic at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, a national leader in pediatric care. Although her battle with AHC was challenging and debilitating, Caroline was able to receive an education while creating lasting memories.

Caroline was always vibrant and loving, and her joy centered around spending precious moments with her family and friends. From indulging in her favorite music by Miley Cyrus and Taylor Swift to getting pampered with nails and makeup, she embraced life with a fun-loving spirit. Despite her limited speech, Caroline communicated effortlessly through her expressive eyes, warm hugs and an innate ability to sense when someone needed comfort, making her a uniquely perceptive and uplifting presence in the lives of those around her.

I am proud of Caroline's resilience and of her mother, Tish, for her unconditional love and willingness to fight for Caroline and every child with medically complex conditions. Caroline and Tish's invaluable work and advocacy inspired my work on the ACE Kids Act, which created a national medical home model for children with medical complexities. Tish and Caroline advocated for this bill in Washington and locally in Florida and in Congress, including Tish's testimony before the Energy and Commerce Committee. Because of their tireless advocacy, ACE Kids was signed into law.

in 2019, so now children with medical complex needs can access better and more coordinated care, which will improve health outcomes, lower costs, and make families lives easier.

I have the deepest gratitude to Caroline and Tish for their sacrifices in helping address the unique challenges my neighbors with medically complex conditions face under the health care system to bring the best care. Caroline is survived by her parents, Tish and Bill West; her siblings, Billy, Drew, and Mallory; and many family members and friends who were all very dear to her. Additionally, I want to extend my gratitude to the medical team that helped Caroline and her family through this journey.

Keri Eisenbeis, BayCare Health System's Chief of Staff and Chief Communications Officer, emphasized the West Family's dedication to advocacy, stating that "the West Family, including Caroline, have been tireless champions for medically complex patients, including those at BayCare's St. Joseph's Children's Hospital." In addition to extending their condolences, they "mourn Caroline's passing, but celebrate the legacy of advocacy she inspired which led to the passage of the ACE Kids Act."

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere condolences to Caroline's family and friends. She will be remembered by her warm smile and contagious laugh. Caroline was taken from us too soon, but she leaves with us infinite life lessons and an immeasurable impact on those who knew and loved her.

Rest in peace, Caroline.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEPHEN WISE TEMPLE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the outstanding achievements of Stephen Wise Temple on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. Since its founding by Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin in 1964, Stephen Wise Temple has grown to become one of the strongest pillars of the faith community in Los Angeles. Stephen Wise Temple's core principles of creativity, inclusivity, and generosity truly embody the values of its namesake, Rabbi Stephen Samuel Wise, and further the mission of tikkun olam, "repairing the world."

The history of Stephen Wise Temple serves as a testament to the American ideal that greatness can spring from humble origins. Initially, the congregation consisted of just 35 families and lacked a permanent location. Through the dedication of Rabbi Zeldin and the perseverance of its members, the Temple never once faltered in its conviction to provide a place for the Reform Jewish community of Los Angeles, until finally, in 1969, the congregation moved into its current home in Bel-Air, overlooking one of the most beautiful views in all of Los Angeles.

Under the stewardship of their outstanding clergy, including Senior Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback; Rabbis David Woznica, Ron Stern, Sari Laufer and Josh Knobel; Senior Rabbi

Emeritus Eli Herscher; and Cantor Emma Lutz, Stephen Wise Temple today provides a spiritual home for Southern California's Jewish community. It is a place where people connect with their faith, with their neighbors, and with the State of Israel. Now more than ever, people also turn to Stephen Wise Temple for courageous moral leadership.

In the face of rising bigotry and hatred, Stephen Wise Temple has worked to increase awareness of antisemitism in our local communities and to combat its normalization through educational initiatives and interfaith partnerships. Last year, they also convened an important discussion of international efforts to combat antisemitism with European representatives.

"The Wise Way Forward", as it has come to be known, is perhaps best personified by the Temple's Center for Tikkun Olam, which advocates for efforts to promote climate justice, prevent gun violence, and provide food relief for the homeless. Additionally, in partnership with Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), the Temple also works to assist newly housed veterans by providing them with furniture, appliances, and other amenities to help them transition off the street and into new homes. In sickness and in health, in sorrow and in joy, Stephen Wise Temple and their congregants answer the call to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Stephen Wise Temple and join in celebration of this momentous anniversary.

HONORING LAUREN COUGHLAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor Lauren Coughlan, a dispatcher with the Vacaville Police Department. I have named Ms. Coughlan as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County in California's 4th District as a result of her extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

Ms. Coughlan was born in California and from an early age had a desire to become a police officer and help our community. Last year she completed her bachelor's degree in emergency management and plans to continue her education with the goal of earning her master's degree in clinical psychology.

Ms. Coughlan's law enforcement career began in 1998 when she was 16 years old as a Vacaville Police Department cadet. She later served as an intern for the department assigned to Patrol, Records, Property & Evidence, Crime Prevention and Dispatch until she was hired as a full-time dispatcher in July 2003. In 2016 she was promoted to communications supervisor of the Vacaville Police Department, where she presently serves.

Ms. Coughlan attended a 3-day Yoga for First Responders training in Colorado, with the intent to bring it back and help local first responders alleviate their high stress levels. On June 21, 2023, she achieved this goal by hosting a yoga class at the Solano Events Center, for members of the Solano County Sheriffs Office, Solano County Probation Department, California Highway Patrol, Fairfield Police Department and Vacaville Police De-

partment. She additionally assisted in teaching classes at the Fairfield Police Department, California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System Users Group Raining conference and multiple classes at the Vacaville Police Department.

Ms. Coughlan is an active member of Solano Family First Responders, a nonprofit organization supporting the first responder community and their families. She also is an assistant team leader with the Emergency Tactical Communications Team, responding with SWAT to critical incidents and a member of the Vacaville Telecommunicator's Emergency Response Team, responding to dispatch mutual aid requests throughout the state during wildfires and other major events.

Ms. Coughlan is an active member in our community, regularly managing and presenting 9–1–1 presentations for kids at local elementary schools and other community outreach events such as First Responder's Day at Hemlock Elementary School and National Night Out. She coordinates and participates in the communications center's annual tree donation for Festival of Trees. She also played a major role in coordinating the New Year's Eve fundraising event for retired officer Walt Simon and plays a supporting role in many other fundraising events supporting first responders.

Ms. Coughlan currently lives in Vacaville with her foster puppy, Sundae, and enjoys traveling in her spare time. She is proud of her Irish heritage and dual citizenship. Ms. Coughlan is passionate about mental health, wellness, and resiliency. She plans to focus on continuing her education and training in resiliency and the neurobiology of stress and trauma in the first responder environment.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Ms. Coughlan for her persistence, service, and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING TALLMADGE MAYOR DAVID KLINE

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to David Kline on his service as the Mayor of Tallmadge, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Mr. Kline's drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He leads by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As Mr. Kline goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Kline for his commitment to the people of Tallmadge and to Northeast Ohio.