

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

into what we now know as the Concord Pavilion.

Prior to his successful real estate business, Fred constructed boats, one of which was a wooden ski boat he built in 1958 and which is still owned by his family. In line with his passion for dirt bike racing, he also started Motorsport, a chain of motorcycle parts and accessory stores. Throughout his life Fred enjoyed water skiing, snow skiing, dirt bike racing, and recreational sailing and racing. He also enjoyed traveling in general. Fred and his wife Carol spent many years together traveling by air, land, and sea. Fred's many passions made for a dynamic and fulfilling life.

Sadly, Fred passed away on April 28, 2024 at the age of 87. He is survived by his loving wife Carol; his devoted children: Bradley Doster, Greg Doster, Julie Opp (Doug), Karen Harless (Roger, predeceased); grandchildren Bethany Doster, Allison Doster; Rebecca Stuart-Doster, Hailey Doster, Jeremy Opp, Joshua Opp (Jen), Danae Boyle (Matt); Jessica Brook, Martin Harless, Kelsie Navarro (Felix), and great grandchildren, Caden, Calvin, and Zoe Opp, Oliver, Amelia and Finn Boyle; and Sophia and Claire Brook. He is also survived by his stepchildren, Donald Babcock, Michelle Wheeler, and Susan Bennett, and their children and grandchildren.

He will be remembered for his devotion to his family, love of travel, and insightful guidance. Please join me in honoring Fred R. Doster for his many contributions to the East Bay.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
BETTY WILLIAMS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mrs. Betty Jo Cook Williams of Texarkana, Texas, who peacefully passed away on May 12, 2024 with her family by her side.

Mrs. Williams was born on December 20, 1943, at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. She spent most of her childhood on a small family farm in Henderson County, Texas, where she developed a passion for horticulture, con-

servation, and self-reliance. Mrs. Williams graduated with honors from East Texas State University with a bachelor's degree in art and a master's degree in education. It was during this time that she met her husband of 58 years, Doug. Afterwards, Mrs. Williams began her career as a schoolteacher at Texarkana Independent School District, where she taught for 33 years. She participated in professional development workshops and trained with the Hatton W. Sumner Institute to improve her understanding of individual freedom and civic responsibility. Throughout the years, Mrs. Williams was recognized as a distinguished educator who strived to make a difference in students' lives.

After retiring from TISD, Mrs. Williams stayed in touch with Highland Park Elementary School and volunteered to help train new teachers. She was a board member of the Bowie and Miller County Literacy Council and a treasurer for the Texas Classroom Teachers' Association. For her outstanding work, the TCTA selected Mrs. Williams as the "Retired Teacher of the Year" in 2003. She also served as an election judge for Bowie County for over twenty years and attended numerous GOP conventions statewide as a delegate. I am saddened to hear of Mrs. Williams' passing. Her legacy of dedication, public service, and family values will be remembered for many years to come.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor Mrs. Williams' wonderful life. She will be dearly missed by her friends, family, and all who knew her.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF VIRGINIA BASLER AND HER SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Virginia Basler, a resident of Ypsilanti, Michigan and veteran of WWII, and to mourn her passing. Her dedication to her country and local community over a long and exceptional life is worthy of commendation.

Virginia was born in Alpena, Michigan, on a family farm as the middle of three children. During WWII, while her older brother enlisted in the Air Force, Virginia and a friend moved down to Ypsilanti to work at the Willow Run Bomber Plant. For almost two years, she worked on the production line, drilling rivet holes for B-24 Liberator bombers.

As soon as she met the age requirement, Virginia enlisted in the Coast Guard Women's Reserves (SPARS) to serve her country in another way. She attended Boot Camp at Sheepshead Bay, New York, where she was trained as a baker, and she was assigned to the Coast Guard Station in Washington, D.C. where she would remain for the duration of the war. After her service was finished, Virginia came back to Ypsilanti where she again worked at the Willow Run Plant, now a Kaiser-Frazer car factory.

In the decades after, Virginia lived a full life. She married Leonard, a WWII veteran himself, and raised a family of three children. She continued her life of service, cooking for the Ypsilanti Public Schools and Eastern Michigan University. Following her retirement in 1990, Virginia was active in the community, volunteering for Meals on Wheels and the local charity Thrift Shop. She was also very active with the American Rosie the Riveter Association, attending events with other Rosies and WWII vets. We were overjoyed to host Virginia and other Rosies in the Capitol during the Honor Flight event in 2023.

Getting to know Virginia over the years meant a lot to me. As a Rosie, she and her colleagues were not only vital members of our Nation's efforts during the Second World War, but they opened doors and have been inspirations for the generations of women that followed. Her wisdom and strength inspired many, including myself, to reach for achievements that in past generations would have been unthinkable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today celebrating the life of Virginia Basler. Virginia was an incredible representation of answering our Nation's highest calling. She served her country with honor in WWII and afterward throughout her local community, bringing joy, enthusiasm, and love to everyone she met along the way. We mourn with her loved ones and thank them for sharing Virginia with us.