

# RECOGNIZING WHEAT RIDGE CYCLERY

## HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wheat Ridge Cyclery for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's Business of the Year Award.

Wheat Ridge Cyclery has been a pillar of the Wheat Ridge community since 1973. Now in their 50th year, they employ over 80 individuals and are the largest and oldest independent bike shop in Colorado.

Their philanthropic endeavors include sponsoring the Colorado High School Cycling League and the Colorado Mountain Bike Association and providing paid advocacy days for employees to assist in trail stewardship efforts. Wheat Ridge Cyclery also partners with Bicycles for Humanity to collect bikes that would have otherwise been thrown into Colorado landfills. These bikes are taken to Bicycle Empowerment Centers in Africa to help provide basic transportation and mobility. Wheat Ridge Cyclery's continued support to communities near and far is commendable and greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Wheat Ridge Cyclery on the accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for their continued contributions to the Wheat Ridge community.

# PANCYPRIAN ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA'S 2024 PERSON OF THE YEAR

## HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the PanCyprian Association of Florida's 2024 Person of the Year, Savas Tsivicos. A native from Cyprus, Mr. Tsivicos currently serves as Supreme President of AHEPA, the largest Hellenic-American organization in the country which has just celebrated its 100th anniversary last year. I'm proud to call myself an AHEPAN, a devoted member of the Tarpon Springs, George Washington Chapter No. 16. As the longest-standing Hellenic-American organization, AHEPA has helped to assimilate and educate Greek immigrants, like my grandparents, as they arrived in America. AHEPA has a lot to be proud of—its good works have elevated the stature of American citizens of Greek ancestry since its first convention in Atlanta in 1923. AHEPA has served as a beacon of all that is true and good about our culture.

As a member of Congress, I have come to rely upon AHEPA's advice and counsel on a variety of issues, especially as it relates to my work as Co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus and Congressional Hellenic-Israel Alliance. Together, we have worked to strengthen U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus, secure religious freedom and protection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and promote solutions for Cyprus. With Mr. Tsivicos at the helm, AHEPA has continued to lead on the world stage call-

ing out the intransigence of Turkey's President Erdogan. It has joined in the fight to prevent the sale of F-16s and F-16 modernization kits to Turkey. And, I am confident, that he will lead AHEPA to continue its work as an important partner in the charge to ensure the United States stands firm in its commitment to defend Greece against Turkish aggression.

Domestically, AHEPA concluded an eight-year campaign that donated 20,000 gallons of milk to assist victims of the Flint Water Crisis and helped neighbors recover from the East Palestine train derailment through a \$7,500 donation; surpassed \$1 million to sponsor over 100 service dogs to help veterans who suffer from PTSD, collectively awarded millions of dollars in scholarships annually; and is set to begin work on two new affordable senior housing communities sponsored by chapters in Des Moines and South Bend.

I subscribe to the old Greek proverb that a society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit. The AHEPA pioneers who more than 100 years ago had a vision of eradicating bigotry and discrimination by promoting the ancient Hellenic ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence to encourage a more perfect society are beaming with pride from above. The fruits of their vision and their labor continue to prosper because of the efforts from those, like Mr. Tsivicos, who carry forth the mission throughout our country. Again, congratulation to the entire organization and to Mr. Tsivicos on leading AHEPA to have another productive year. I wish him continued success and many more years of fruitful educational, philanthropic, and civic endeavors.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the House floor on the afternoon of January 11, 2024, and the morning of January 12, 2024, because these two vote series conflicted with a funeral in Ohio that I attended to honor the life of a dear friend of mine, who sadly passed away recently. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 6; NAY on Roll Call No. 7; NAY on Roll Call No. 8; YEA on Roll Call No. 9; and NAY on Roll Call No. 10.

# HONORING BAYARD RUSTIN

## HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Bayard Rustin. His life was dedicated to civil rights advocacy, but because he was a gay man, his hard work and accomplishments were often shadowed.

Mr. Rustin was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, where he was raised by his grandparents, Julia and Janifer Rustin. Julia was an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

and Bayard was introduced to the fight for civil rights when he campaigned against the discriminatory Jim Crow laws.

In 1948, Rustin traveled to India to learn from leaders of the Gandhian movement on nonviolent civil resistance. He brought those skills back to his work in the United States, assisting in writing "Speak Truth to Power: A Quaker Search for an Alternative to Violence." This was one of the most influential pacifist papers of its time, though Rustin remained an anonymous contributor due to fear that his known sexual orientation would compromise readers' respect for his contributions.

Rustin was instrumental in organizing the March on Washington in 1962. And yet, other prominent organizers did not want Rustin to receive any public credit for his hard work. His other accomplishments include organizing a group called "In Friendship" to provide legal assistance to people threatened with eviction and being named the first president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization's A. Philip Randolph Institute, which works towards integration and unionization of African Americans into formerly all-white unions. Later in life, he went on many humanitarian missions to provide aid and care to refugees in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Haiti.

Despite never receiving the recognition he deserved, he kept organizing and campaigning for what was right. Rustin worked for his own rights as a Black gay man and promoted values of nonviolence in civil resistance.

His unwavering dedication and vision of a peaceful and equitable nation is a guiding light. Though he was never given the recognition he deserved in life, I ask us to honor him now.

# RECOGNIZING VETERAN LAWRENCE DENNIS EGAN

## HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Egan. He courageously served our country in the U.S. Navy; then he came home to serve our community as a dedicated volunteer.

Larry was born in 1943 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma as the youngest of seven children. After moving to California, Larry enlisted with the U.S. Navy where he served a term as a hospital corpsman. Upon returning from service, Larry began his career in the sales industry. He held sales and leadership positions at Gallo Winery, Remy Martin, and other companies in the beverage industry. In the 1990s, Larry pivoted into business ventures, opening his own concession business, S&S Concessions.

In 2007, Larry began serving as the executive director of the Downtown Pomona Owner's Association. Throughout his 13-year tenure, Larry oversaw critical revitalization efforts for the City of Pomona, which include the return of the Pomona Christmas Parade and the Downtown Trolley. He retired in 2020, known as the "Downtown Pops" for all his revitalization efforts.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. On Sunday, December 17, 2023, Larry passed away at home, in the company of his two

daughters. He is survived by his two older sisters, his two daughters, his two sons-in-law, and his four grandchildren. I offer my deepest condolences on their loss.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Lawrence Dennis Egan. His years of military service and commitment to the city and the people of Pomona are worthy of the highest commendation. He will be missed.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF JAMES BALYS

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 18, 2024*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief James G. Baly on the occasion of his retirement from the Erie County Sheriff's Office, and to thank him for the dedication and commitment he demonstrated to his community through his long and distinguished career in law enforcement and corrections.

Chief Baly began his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff Thomas Higgins in October of 1995, was promoted to Sergeant in February of 2013, then Lieutenant in August of 2016, and Captain in July of 2020. Finally, he joined the Command Staff in July of 2021 as 1st Deputy Superintendent of Correctional Health and six months later was promoted to Chief of Correctional Health. Through all of these roles, Chief Baly demonstrated a commitment to service to the public, to upholding the rule of law, and to his fellow officers. Before his service as a sworn officer in the Erie County Sheriff's Office, he supported the protection of public safety as an electrician with the Buffalo Fire Department.

Chief Baly now enjoys a well-earned retirement with Jeanine Colpoys, his wife of 29 years, and his children Allison, Olivia and Ryan. Like myself, Chief Baly is an alumnus of Buffalo State College; he grew up in West Seneca, NY.

Again, I commend Chief Baly for his long and distinguished career and thank him for his dedication to the safety of the public and the rule of law. His commitment has been exemplary.

#### RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 211

##### HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 18, 2024*

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of five exemplary individuals from Boy Scout Troop 211 who recently became Eagle Scouts: Patrick Harrigan, Ian Lochridge, Noah Brunet, Garner Abrams, and Garrison Abrams. Each of their Eagle Scout projects were carefully crafted and will leave a lasting impact on our community.

Patrick Harrigan constructed raised gardens and beds for Tucson Village Farm. TVF is a working urban farm built by and for the youth

of our community. It is a seed-to-table program designed to reconnect young people to a healthy food system, teach them how to grow and prepare fresh food and empower them to make healthy life choices.

Ian Lochridge and volunteers cleared half an acre of vegetation, leveled the land, pre-painted 200 inches of horse fencing, and built a fence into a coral. Ian did this for a local non-profit organization called the Brave Brays, which provides equine therapy to help preteen girls overcome their challenges.

Noah Brunet constructed a sensory path to support students with special needs and added a brick walkway to the outdoor classroom and garden at DeGrazia Elementary School.

Garner Abrams cleaned up and beautified the United States Flag grounds, the brick patio surrounding the flagpole, a lockbox for storing the U.S. flag, repainting the flagpole, and adding a bench for seating at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy.

Lastly, Garrison Abrams removed trespassing items and illegal catchments in the area of Rice Peak, and the Santa Catalina Mountains. He communicated with both Arizona Game and Fish Department and the US Forest Service in returning our public lands back to its natural state.

The dedication and hard work exhibited by Patrick Harrigan, Ian Lochridge, Noah Brunet, Garner Abrams, and Garrison Abrams in these projects are commendable. Their commitment to Troop 211 and the community does not go unnoticed. We take pride in having these outstanding young individuals in our district and encourage them to continue their exceptional work.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DR. BOB POSTON

##### HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 18, 2024*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Robert "Bob" Poston, the esteemed founder of Vet to Vet, a nonprofit organization comprising over 1,500 members dedicated to supporting veterans in claiming the benefits they have rightfully earned. Dr. Bob's remarkable contributions warrant acknowledgment and sincere appreciation.

Dr. Bob Poston, a native of Cartersville, Georgia, enlisted in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Flourishing in the military, Dr. Bob seized every educational opportunity; and, after ascending to the rank of Sergeant, accepted a commission, ultimately retiring as a Major. His two tours in Vietnam earned him accolades and awards, including the Bronze Star for bravery. Bob was also awarded two Purple Hearts, as he still bears the physical reminders of his sacrifices, with bullets embedded from a sniper's rifle.

Among Dr. Bob's myriad of accomplishments, he was a former president, and remains an active member, of the Gideon's, conducts weekly meetings at Young Street Baptist Church to aid those grappling with PTSD, spousal abuse, or drug addiction, and leads a jailhouse ministry on weekends, as well as currently serving as the President of the Vet to Vet organization. I have known Dr.

Bob for many years and can personally attest to the fact that he consistently serves his country and community, and it is my pleasure to have this opportunity to express my gratitude for his transformative impact on Bartow County and our entire community.

On behalf of the citizens of Bartow County and Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I offer my heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Bob Poston for his unyielding dedication to his fellow veterans, and his community and country.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF VED NANDA

##### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 18, 2024*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished member of Denver's academic community and a cherished friend, Professor Ved Nanda. His recent passing is a profound loss, not only to the University of Denver and our local community, but to many across the U.S. and the world.

Professor Nanda was more than just an esteemed colleague; he was a kind and passionate individual whose impact on our community extended far beyond the walls of the university. His commitment to education, international law, and the promotion of cultural understanding left a mark on all who knew him.

Born in 1934 in Gujranwala, India, Ved Nanda built an exemplary career starting at Punjab University where he received an M.A. in Economics. He went on to receive a law degree from Delhi University, a law degree from Northwestern University, and completed subsequent postgraduate work at Yale University.

After joining the University of Denver's (DU's) Sturm College of Law in 1972, Professor Nanda inspired generations of scholars, students, and activists, whether it was through his teachings or the 24 books he authored—spanning various fields of international law.

For over five decades, Professor Nanda uplifted the students of DU and the Indian diaspora community, becoming a prominent figure and a bridge between our two nations. He also served in several illustrious positions, including Chairman of the Board of Hindu University of America and Vice President of the American Society of International Law.

In 2006 Professor Nanda was honored with a \$1 million founding gift from the University of Denver to launch the Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law, promoting programs and scholarships in the field of international law. He was also honored with the prestigious Gandhi-King-Ikeda Award for Community Peace Building in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2018. These accolades are a testament to his significant impact on the field and tireless efforts to advance knowledge and cultural exchange. His work was noticed and rightly honored for its impact.

For more than 30 years, Professor Nanda shared his wisdom with the larger Colorado community through his regular columns in the Denver Post. His clear and reasoned explanations of international issues provided important perspectives to readers.

As we remember and mourn the passing of Ved Nanda, we also celebrate the enduring legacy he leaves behind. I have no doubt his