

In October of 2023, the remains of nearly 200 individuals were found improperly stored at a local funeral home. This horrific and shocking crime rocked this close knit community and prompted Colorado officials to declare a state disaster.

As the Coroner, Mr. Keller oversaw this crisis with incredible efficiency and compassion. Families who had worked with the funeral home during some of their most vulnerable moments were left wondering if their loved ones were cared for properly.

Mr. Keller worked overtime to coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to identify the deceased, notify their loved ones, and seek justice for the community members impacted by this tragedy. Mr. Keller's work gave closure to grieving families and helped restore trust to the people of Fremont County.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Randy Keller for his commitment and service to Fremont County.

CONGRATULATING JACKIE  
KALLEN ON HER INDUCTION  
INTO THE INTERNATIONAL BOX-  
ING HALL OF FAME

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 7, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an inspiring trailblazer and groundbreaking Michigan woman, Jackie Kallen, on her induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York.

A Michigan native, Jackie Kallen—born Kaplan—has made an indelible mark on the world of boxing. In an industry that has historically been led by men, Jackie broke through barriers and paved the way for future generations of women in sports management, journalism, and competitive boxing.

Jackie's journey began in the 1970s when, as a show business journalist, she interviewed stars like Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, and the Rolling Stones. In 1977, she began her focus on sports after interviewing Thomas Hearns, then a boxing prospect from the Kronk gym in Detroit. From there, she would serve as Hearns' publicist over the next decade and became a familiar name in Detroit's competitive boxing scene.

In 1988, she made the transition from publicist to manager, where she began guiding the careers of figures like Bobby Hitz, James Tony, and Bronco McKart. Because of Jackie's dedication, she has led fighters to championships, built incredible careers, and inspired countless fans.

In 2004, Kallen was the inspiration for the film *Against the Ropes* and has gone on to author two books, produce a film, and make nationwide appearances as a motivation speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jackie as she celebrates this outstanding occasion. I am proud to celebrate such an inspiring figure work will be sure to inspire generations to come.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GABE AMO**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 7, 2024*

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, 2024, I intended to vote YES on Roll Call No. 240, Agreeing to the Amendment Number 28 by Congressman BRIAN MAST of Florida that "ensures veterans can participate in state-approved medical marijuana programs. Removes the current directive that prevents VA Medical Facility staff from recommending, making referrals, or completing forms and registering Veterans for participation in state-approved marijuana programs."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KATIE PORTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 7, 2024*

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 243, Roll Call No. 244, Roll Call No. 245, Roll Call No. 246, and Roll Call No. 247 on June 5, 2024. Had I been present I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 243, YEA on Roll Call No. 244, NAY on Roll Call No. 245, YEA on Roll Call No. 246, and NAY on Roll Call No. 247.

## RECOGNIZING THE 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE ASTRO- NOMICAL LEAGUE

**HON. SHARICE DAVIDS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 7, 2024*

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate this year's National Convention for the Astronomical League, occurring in Overland Park, Kansas, from July 18 to July 21, 2024. Our community is honored to host hundreds of amateur astronomers as they come together to embrace scientific discovery and expansion. For 78 years, the Astronomical League has worked to educate and expand humanity's understanding of the cosmos.

The Kansas state motto is "ad astra per aspera," which means "to the stars through difficulties." This sentiment is at the heart of who we are as Kansans, and I hope Convention attendees take it with them moving forward. Together, we can overcome any difficulty and strive for what some may believe to be unattainable. With the bright minds that the Astronomical League has fostered, we truly can reach the stars.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating these astronomers as they continue our Nation's proud tradition of leading the world in scientific discovery and nurturing the future of astronomy.

## HONORING PROFESSOR HEIDE WHELAN

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 7, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of Professor Heide Whelan, Professor Emerita of History at Dartmouth College. Professor Whelan grew up in Lubeck, Germany in the aftermath of World War II.

One of her earliest memories was of Russian tank units stationed less than a mile from her childhood home. This experience informed her love of freedom, democracy, and independent thought. She later emigrated to the United States, becoming a naturalized citizen, and used her personal experiences to illuminate Central European and Russian history. Professor Whelan was a masterful teacher who brought her fascination with and love of Russian culture and history to decades of students at Dartmouth. Her classes on Soviet history were consistently oversubscribed and some of the most popular on campus.

Professor Whelan was also a friend and mentor to students—she led several foreign study programs and provided guidance and personal friendship to her students. She cared about her students, and over thirty years later, her students still care for her.

## HONORING DR. YANG DAO

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 7, 2024*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Yang Dao for a lifetime of achievements spanning over five decades of public service and community contributions to the multi-Lao ethnic people of Laos and the Hmong American Diaspora community in the United States and beyond. Born on September 7, 1943, to Yang Mi Nou and Her Kei in the Xieng Khouang Province during the Royal Kingdom of Laos, Dr. Yang Dao was educated in the time of the French colonial administration of Indochina, received a high school diploma in June 1964, and graduated with a bachelor's degree (baccalaureate française) from the University of Paris in 1968. With funding support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Dr. Yang Dao went on to complete a doctoral program in 1972, becoming the first Hmong in history to receive a PhD in Social Science from The Sorbonne University in France.

After completing his graduate studies, Dr. Yang Dao returned to the Royal Kingdom of Laos to serve the government in many important roles, including as the Director of Human Resources in the Ministry of Planning from 1972 to 1974, and was later appointed by the King of Laos, His Majesty King Sisavang Vatthana as a member of the National Political Consultative Council (National Assembly) from 1974 to 1975 during the last unity coalition government consisting of the Royalist and Neo Lao Hat Sak (Pathet Lao) political factions.

The fall of Laos to the communist Pathet Lao in May 1975 forced hundreds of thousands of Lao, Hmong, and other multi-ethnic

refugees to flee to the neighboring country Thailand by crossing the mighty Mekong River, where Dr. Yang Dao and his family joined the exodus of refugees in seeking safety. In July 1976, Dr. Yang Dao's family resettled to France and later migrated to the State of Minnesota (USA) in 1983.

Upon his arrival in the United States, Dr. Yang Dao joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus as an Adjunct Professor teaching Southeast Asian Anthropology and History. He went on to teach at many local Twin Cities higher education institutions including Hamline University, and Metropolitan State University. Throughout his career, Dr. Yang Dao has authored many books, including Hmong History, Culture, and Spirituality at a Glance Through Speeches released in 2023, Hmong at the Turning Point (1993—French and English), and first Hmong-French Dictionary (1964). He has also co-authored many books and has written extensively in academic periodicals and Journals.

Dr. Yang Dao is also a well-known public speaker who has participated in many national and international conferences in the United States, France, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and China. He speaks Hmong, Lao, French, English, Thai, Vietnamese and Cantonese (Chinese). Dr. Yang Dao is also a prolific artist and composer who has created albums and popular songs from Sib Pab Ciaj Vaj (Hmong unity) to Nkauj Hnub Twj Tuaj Ci lab (Hmong face a bright new dawn).

As one of the very few surviving officials of the Royal Lao government, Dr. Yang Dao is still very active in civic engagement, frequently traveling internationally to foster public diplomacy by promoting peace and encouraging educational and cultural exchanges.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in this well-deserved tribute to Dr. Yang Dao, for his lifetime of service to Hmong Americans in Minnesota and across the United States of America.

#### RECOGNIZING MONSIGNOR MICHAEL PICARD'S RETIREMENT

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 7, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual from my district, Monsignor Michael Picard, who has touched and bettered countless lives in our community through his unwavering faith and commitment to his vocation as a Pastor.

Born May 30, 1938, Michael Picard entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia in 1956 at just 18 years old. After nearly a decade of rigorous theological training, he was ordained on May 21, 1966, and embarked on an illustrious 58-year career dedicated to serving the Lord and guiding the spiritual lives of countless individuals and community members.

Affectionately known as Father Mike, he embarked on his pastoral journey as an Associate Pastor at Corpus Christi Church. Then, in 1967, he was assigned to Cardinal O'Hara High School, where he wore many hats: Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Counselor, Basketball Moderator, and Vice Principal for two years. Throughout his tenure there, Father Mike profoundly impacted students and col-

leagues alike. He mentored countless young men and women, guiding them toward successful futures and emphasizing the importance of character, integrity, and unwavering faith.

Father Mike embarked on a new mission in 1981, taking on the role of Principal at Lansdale Catholic High School. Here, he continued to be a beacon of inspiration and guidance for his students and community, exemplifying unwavering dedication and faith. His remarkable talents and unparalleled leadership qualities caught the eye of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, leading to his recruitment as the Director of the Cardinal's Commission and Office for Human Relations.

In 1989, Father Mike answered the call to serve once more and took on a new role at Saint Andrews Catholic Church in Newtown, Pennsylvania. It has been here at Saint Andrew's that Father Mike has served as Pastor, mentor, and friend to over 20,000 parishioners for the past 35 years. While his list of accomplishments is undoubtedly impressive, the quiet, personal moments are what define his profound impact. With every baptism, confirmation, First Communion, Matrimony, and anointing of the sick, Father Mike has been a steadfast presence for so many in life's most significant moments. His unwavering support and genuine kindness have intricately woven together the fabric of the church community, forming a beautiful tapestry of love and faith. In moments of joy and sorrow, he has stood as a steady pillar of comfort, offering solace and hope to all in need. His influence has grown to extend far beyond the physical walls of Saint Andrews, touching the hearts and minds of everyone fortunate enough to encounter him.

For Father Mike, being a Pastor is not merely a job but a lifelong vocation. His tireless efforts in shepherding the largest Catholic church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and fostering a warm, welcoming environment have transformed Saint Andrews into a beacon of hope, inclusivity, joy, and peace for all who cross its threshold. Yet these accomplishments are not what defines him. Father Mike has shown us that true greatness lies in the everyday acts of kindness, compassion, and encouragement and has the power to transform a community.

It is my great honor to commend and congratulate Monsignor Michael Picard—our beloved Father Mike—on 58 years of inspiring service to our community. His exemplary character, unwavering faith, and positive spirit have touched and bettered the lives of so many, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations of our community members.

My sincere and best wishes to Father Mike as he enters this next chapter of life—may it be filled with continued blessings and the same spirit of love and devotion that has defined his life's work. Thank you to Father Mike for his incredible contributions. His legacy will forever shine brightly in our hearts and our community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 7, 2024*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on June 5, 2024, I missed 5 Roll Call votes. Had I been

present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call No. 243, Schweikert of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 43—YES; Roll Call No. 244, Schweikert of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 44—YES; Roll Call No. 245, Steube of Florida Part B Amendment No. 45—NO; Roll Call No. 246, Motion to Recommit to Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025—YES; and Roll Call No. 247, Final Passage of Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025—NO.

#### HONORING DANA CAMPBELL SAYLOR

**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 7, 2024*

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dana Campbell Saylor, a dedicated Phoenix community advocate and personal friend.

From her early years as a student at Arizona State University, Dana knew she wanted to dedicate her life to fighting for social justice—especially on issues related to women's equality. She quickly established herself in the greater Phoenix area as a fierce advocate for the vulnerable and underserved, sitting on countless boards, councils, and commissions to channel her passion for public service.

Throughout the years, Dana served four Arizona Governors, two Phoenix Mayors, and several ASU administrators in varying capacities to help address community issues. She used her advisory positions to propose, pass, and implement legislation to enhance the lives of women, children, and veterans.

Many in the Phoenix community know Dana best for her role as CEO of the Maricopa County YWCA. She was a firm believer and role model of their mission to empower women, stand against racism, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. As CEO, she focused her efforts on transforming the organization into the impactful entity it is today. She established the YWCA as a 501c4 for advocacy, created the YWCA Metropolitan Women's Forum, and acted as YWCA Board Chair for the Pacific Region for several years.

Throughout her lifetime, Dana was recognized with several highly esteemed honors and awards such as the NAWBO Visionary Award, the West Valley Mover and Shaker award, the YWCA Dorothy Willey Award, and an induction into the Phoenix Union Alumni Hall of Fame.

Dana continued to serve others until her passing on May 13, 2024. She will be dearly missed, but her legacy in Phoenix will endure through the countless lives she touched. Godspeed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 7, 2024*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on June 3, 4, and 5, 2024, due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on