

careful to maintain the organizational commitment to democratic self-governance within each house, which has empowered generations of Oxford House residents to navigate the inevitable obstacles of life with persistence and patience.

After his recovery, Paul and his wife, Jane, decided to remarry, and enjoyed another 34 years together. When he passed away two years ago, Paul left behind not only his beloved Jane but his five children and eight grandchildren. He is sorely missed, but his legacy of good humor and incomparable compassion lives on among his family and Oxford House family. I join the people of Maryland's beautiful Eighth District and people across the United States in expressing the warmest gratitude for Paul's work as we celebrate his life.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 83RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AND THEIR HEROISM

**HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2024*

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the Tuskegee Airmen as we celebrate their 83rd anniversary. As the United States fought to defend freedom with our allies in World War II, exceptional pilots in the fight for air superiority made the difference between victory and defeat.

The Tuskegee Airmen stand out in history, as they not only had to carry the immeasurable weight of battle, but also had to fight racial discrimination.

Prior to the Tuskegee Airmen's incorporation in 1941, the military was segregated, and the Army Air Forces did not accept African American pilots. In the face of this discrimination, these brave men stood up when their country and the world needed them most. They flew with skill and courage on critical missions, demonstrating that excellence knows no color, and that discrimination had no place in our military. The Tuskegee Airmen were among the most talented and decorated squadrons of World War II, earning 3 Presidential Unit Citations, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 1 Legion of Merit, 1 Silver Star, 2 Soldier Medals, 8 Purple Hearts, 14 bronze stars, 744 air medals, and 1 Red Star of Yugoslavia. Their heroism, bravery, and remarkable achievements contributed directly to the desegregation of the United States Military.

On Saturday, May 25, 2024, veterans, officials, airmen, and their decedents gathered at Wings of Eagles Discovery Center to remember these amazing heroes and commemorate their significance nationally and their deep local ties to our community here in the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, and Western New York. Their story will forever serve as a symbol of courage in the face of adversity.

On Memorial Day and every day, we thank the men and women in uniform who have sacrificed so much so that we may live free. We owe them a debt of gratitude that cannot be repaid, both for defending our Nation's freedoms and advancing them for generations to come.

#### COMMEMORATING THE ST. CLAIR ROTARY CLUB'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Clair Rotary Club and the occasion of their 100th anniversary. Since its founding on April 22, 1924, the St. Clair Rotary Club has served as an emblematic example of the Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self."

Throughout the last century, the St. Clair Rotary Club has focused on a lot of community projects benefitting the St. Clair community. Notably, during the 1930s, the club began a student assistance program, helping high school graduates work towards higher education. In 1964, the club started the "Preparation for Employment" program with St. Clair High School and soon after in 1965, the "Seminars for Tomorrow's Leaders" which continues to this day.

The club has managed to preserve their accomplishments and history at the St. Clair Historical Museum, dating back to its founding in 1924. Their team has a remarkable devotion not only to the improvement of the St. Clair Community, but the preservation of the club's rich history. More recently, the club has also notably raised over \$150,000 for the St. Clair Little League Park, donated 32 Chromebooks to the St. Clair High School, and led efforts for community spaces throughout St. Clair. As the club celebrates its centennial, it continues to make a difference through projects like the Storybook Walk in Klecha Park and the renovation of Rotary's Wildlife Landing.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the St. Clair Rotary Club will continue to be a significant benefactor to the wider St. Clair Community for many years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the club and its members for reaching this incredible milestone.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. ANDREA E. CHAPDELAINE

**HON. DAVID J. TRONE**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2024*

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate the remarkable tenure of Hood College President, Andrea E. Chapdelaine. For nine years, Dr. Chapdelaine has dedicated her career to the advancement of higher education, enriching the lives of students and bolstering local communities throughout her career.

Under her leadership, Hood College experienced growth in both undergraduate and graduate enrollment and improvement in student retention. Dr. Chapdelaine spearheaded the completion of the strategic plan, "Moving Together Beyond Boundaries," which introduced new academic programs, expanded strategic partnerships, and enhanced employee compensation.

She oversaw nearly \$100 million in campus investments, including major renovations and

new construction, led the successful "Forging the Future" campaign, and raised nearly \$75 million for scholarships, experiential learning, and the Hood Fund. Her tenure also saw the receipt of a historic \$54 million gift from The Hodson Trust, marking the largest donation in Hood College's history.

It is a privilege to acknowledge Dr. Andrea E. Chapdelaine's service and support for higher education. Her legacy will undoubtedly inspire future leaders and continue to benefit Hood College students and the broader community for years to come.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION FOR EID DAY ACT

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the bipartisan Eid Day Act, which would create a federal holiday for Eid. I thank Rep. GRACE MENG and my other House colleagues that joined me to support this bill. Eid al-Adha is an Islamic holiday which commemorates Abraham's symbolic sacrifice of his son to God, as referenced in the Quran, Old Testament, and New Testament. Eid al-Adha also marks the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, called Hajj. Eid al-Fitr is an Islamic holiday which commemorates the sighting of the new moon, signifying a month-long end to fasting and reflection for all Muslim followers.

Eid is a holiday of great importance to over 3.5 million American Muslims. Whether it be in the military, government, health, business or other leadership positions, Muslim Americans have always contributed to our country. Eid is a meaningful occasion for the Muslim community to reflect and celebrate on the importance of faith, sacrifice, freedom, and justice—the same values that all Americans hold dear. This year, Eid al-Adha will be celebrated on June 16th. We must continually strive to create a more inclusive nation and honor the diverse tapestry that makes up this country. Muslim Americans have meaningfully contributed to the American society since the nation's early history. They cherish American values, take pride in the country's pluralism, multiculturalism, and its embodiment as the land of liberty and opportunity.

Recognizing Eid as a Federal Holiday will allow them to not only freely practice their faith, but also help them feel more at home and connect better with America's spirit as a religious minority. This bill is particularly timely given the alienation that parts of the Muslim American community feel after years of anti-Muslim sentiments as well as recent developments in the Middle-East. As Members of Congress, we need to uphold the values that our nation was founded on, including freedom of religion and equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing and uplifting this important cultural and historical celebration by making Eid a federal holiday.

# HONORING THE CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF COLONEL CARLOS BERDECIA

## HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Carlos 'Slinger' Berdecia of the United States Air Force upon his retirement from the U.S. Military after more than 23 years of service.

Colonel Berdecia was born and raised in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and graduated from the University of North Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in marketing. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from the City University of Seattle. Colonel Berdecia began his flying career in 2003 at Joint Base Lewis McChord in Washington State, flying the C-17A Globemaster III with the 8th and 10th Airlift Squadrons. He quickly upgraded in the 'Mighty Moose' from Co-Pilot to Instructor Pilot in just four years, flying combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. After his assignment at McChord, Colonel Berdecia taught the newest C-17A pilots in the 58th Airlift Squadron at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma. There, he was accepted to the United States Air Force Weapons School, where he graduated in 2009 and earned the callsign 'Slinger.'

After his time at Altus, Colonel Berdecia moved to Charleston, South Carolina, and became a member of the Special Operations Low Level community in the 16th Airlift Squadron, where he executed missions in support of the Combined Joint Chiefs of Staff. In 2014, he was selected to work as the AFRICOM J3's Executive Officer in Stuttgart, Germany, and in 2017, was chosen to return to Altus and Command his previous Squadron, the 58th Airlift Squadron 'Rat Pack.' Due the trust and confidence his leadership had in his ability to lead, Colonel Berdecia was selected as a Secretary of Defense Executive Fellow with Team Rubicon in Los Angeles, California. After his time in Los Angeles, Slinger was assigned to the Pentagon, and after a tour on staff with the Joint Staff, he was brought back to the C-17A. His final assignment in the Air Force was that of the 437th Operations Group Commander at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, leading the men and women of Air Mobility Command's Premier Operations Group.

Colonel Berdecia's exemplary service to the United States Air Force spans more than 23 years and 5,000 hours in airlift aircraft. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Congressional col-

leagues and a grateful country, I extend our deepest appreciation to Colonel Carlos 'Slinger' Berdecia and his wife Eva for their dedicated service to the United States Air Force and our country.

# HONORING THE 'BLACK ANGELS' OF STATEN ISLAND

## HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2024*

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following Proclamation honoring the Black Angels of Staten Island:

Whereas Staten Island Sea View Hospital opened in 1913 specifically to treat patients with Tuberculosis and, at its peak, Sea View Hospital saw nearly 2,000 patients and was one of only four municipal hospitals in New York City that did not discriminate against Black nurses;

Whereas the Black Angels, as they are known, were courageous, dedicated, and bold in answering the call to come to Sea View and risk their lives caring for the grievously sick and "indigent consumptives" of New York City, who had been banished to this woefully understaffed sanatorium;

Whereas the Black Angels' caring demeanor, and years of expertise played a significant role in the first ever human trials of Isoniazid, the first drug to cure tuberculosis. Since its discovery in 1952, tens of millions of lives have been saved;

Whereas the Black Angels were activists and active members of the NAACP, neighborhood churches, and community groups, and became founding members of the Lincoln Hospital Alumni Association, the Urban League Guild, and the Women's Civic and Political Union. They were fierce advocates for the integration of Black nurses into the U.S. military and American Nurses Association, and in New York City they worked toward desegregating the hospital system; and

Whereas the people of Staten Island are grateful for the years of service by all the Black Angels who selflessly served on the front lines at Sea View Hospital to treat tuberculosis patients.

# CELEBRATING THE ARNOLD VOLUNTEER ENGINE COMPANY NO. 2 ON 100 YEARS

## HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2024*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the Arnold Volunteer Engine Company No. 2 on its 100th anniversary.

The Arnold Volunteer Engine Company No. 2 held its first meeting at Arnold High School on May 12, 1924. Shortly afterward, Westmoreland County granted the company an official charter on June 14, 1924. It's 17 founding members dedicated their lives and work to the people of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley. Company No. 2 quickly became a pillar in its southwestern Pennsylvania community. The company constructed its first fire hall in 1928, which is still in use today. Additionally, the firefighters, efforts to engage with the community extended beyond protecting citizens and responding to emergencies. In 1949, they built a clubhouse for members, their families, and the community to gather and socialize. Due to continued outreach and service, they assumed the responsibility of transporting Santa Claus through Arnold, Pennsylvania, during the annual Christmas parade. This tradition continues today.

Over the past hundred years, Company No. 2 operated with professionalism, speed, and dedication. After a destructive fire took the lives of three first responders in 1995, the firefighters began training in rapid intervention tactics and protocols. Company No. 2 still provides this rapid intervention training to fire companies around the Allegheny-Kiski Valley area. The volunteer firefighters of Company No. 2 remain focused on sharing their expertise and working with other fire companies to ensure all first responders are trained and ready to respond to emergencies effectively.

There are 42 active members of the Arnold Volunteer Engine Company No. 2. Notably, five charter members of the inaugural Junior Firefighter Program are celebrating 50 years of volunteer service. I want to thank and honor James Duncan, Donald Ferrante, Joseph Puet, John Tort, Jr., and William Weber for their devotion to the people of southwestern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Arnold Volunteer Engine Company No. 2 on its 100th anniversary and its great work serving the community.