

been tasked with looking after. In her vocation as a recreational therapist, Kim has cared for all kinds of patients, including stroke victims, those suffering from traumatic brain injuries, cardiac patients, amputees, trauma patients, people with spinal cord injuries and neurological disorders, and cancer patients. With every patient, Kim has provided tailored and individualized therapy and care that fits the person's specific needs and interests, and which helps them successfully re-enter their community after they have experienced a life altering event.

Part of what has made Kimberly such a special person to all those who know her is how she has consistently gone above and beyond to help others and how she has been an agent for positive change. This passion for helping others has included starting the therapy dog program on the rehabilitation unit, spearheading a neuro group for stroke survivors and their families, coordinating the annual rehab reunion for previous rehab patients, and serving on the Board of Directors for the Special Olympics.

So many people have benefited from Kim's care over the years, and she has undoubtedly made the greater South Bend community a better and kinder place to live. I and many other Hoosiers are extremely grateful to Kimberly Dudeck for her many years of caring for patients and doing diligent, dedicated work to help others recover and lead better, more fulfilling lives. I wish Kim and her family all the best going forward and a very well-deserved and happy retirement as she begins the next chapter of her life. God bless Kimberly Dudeck.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITLEY COUNTY 4-H FAIR

##### HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Whitley County 4-H Fair.

Though 1924 marked the first year of the fair's uninterrupted, century-long run, its history extends all the way back to 1856 in various forms. This long-standing tradition has made Whitley County a leader in Indiana fairs since before the American Civil War.

The fair has always been about helping, educating, and entertaining Hoosiers. But it has also fulfilled an even deeper role for Whitley County residents: fostering a sense of community. This is its most significant and cherished contribution.

Whether through its ball games, picnics, or opportunities for proud farmers to display their finest produce for neighbors, the fair has fostered countless moments of community over the past century.

This legacy is perhaps best exemplified by a 1935 article in the *Prairie Farmer*. When the marshal of that year's parade was thrown from his horse and broke his ankle, the farmers at the fair took up a collection to pay his medical bills and lost wages. The article states, "That's the kind of folks these big-hearted Whitley County farmers are. They're always ready to help a neighbor . . ." That was true then, and it remains true today.

The 4-H fair has made an indelible impact on the families, farmers, and businesses of Whitley County, and it will continue to do so for another hundred years or more. As the slogan for the fast-growing fair in 1935 declared: "Forward, Whitley County!"

#### RECOGNIZING PORTUGUESE AMERICANS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

##### HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of June as National Portuguese Heritage Month, honoring the contributions Portuguese Americans make to our country.

As the descendant of immigrants from the Azores, I admire the rich culture and history of Portuguese communities in the Central Valley, throughout California, and across the country. To me, Portuguese Heritage Month brings back memories of Festas—celebrations spent enjoying Portuguese culture, and food. I for one, have spent many days with friends and family enjoying sopas, sweet bread, and linguica. Bullfights, parades, and, of course, the bodo de leite are cherished traditions in our Valley. These events are made possible by the dedication of cultural organizations who commit themselves to keeping Portuguese heritage alive.

Over 350,000 Portuguese Americans call California home—the largest community in the United States. This community shapes life in our State, and, especially, the Central Valley. The story of the Valley would be impossible without the stories of thousands of Azoreans who crossed an ocean and a continent determined to live the American Dream. Today, that dream is realized. Portuguese-Americans are leaders in dairy and farming, serve proudly in the U.S. military, and give back to our country in countless ways. Three Representatives of Portuguese heritage serve our Valley in Congress, and I am honored to be among them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in proudly recognizing Portuguese Americans' invaluable contributions to our Nation's history, culture, and prosperity as we celebrate National Portuguese Heritage Month.

#### CONGRATULATING BETH AHEARN ON HER RETIREMENT

##### HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an unwavering leader in my state who is retiring after several decades of dedicated service to environmental stewardship, legislative leadership, and an inclusive democracy.

For over thirty years, Beth Ahearn has worked tirelessly to protect Maine's environment, advance climate policies, expand voting rights, and secure elections. As the Director of Government Affairs for both Maine Conserva-

tion Alliance and Maine Conservation Voters, Beth's guidance was instrumental in shaping impactful policies for the betterment of Maine's natural resources and democratic processes.

Prior to Beth's tenure with Maine Conservation Voters, her experience and breadth of knowledge were influential in various capacities. Beth's previous roles included lobbying on behalf of Moose Ridge Associates, representing children as guardian ad litem, as staff attorney for Maine Audubon, and as an Assistant District Attorney in Cumberland and Androscoggin Counties.

Throughout her distinguished career, Beth oversaw several achievements that will protect Maine's environment for generations to come. In addition to crafting common sense legislation to make conservation, climate action, and voting rights political priorities, Beth guided the restoration of alewives on the St. Croix River, led the passage into law the Extended Producer Responsibility Program for Packaging and secured funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program.

Beth Ahearn's commitment to the environment and strengthening our democracy makes me very proud to represent her and the State of Maine in Congress. I wish Beth the best in her retirement, and I wholeheartedly thank her for her many years of influential work.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DOUG DURHAM

##### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doug Durham who passed away at the age of 94 on April 11, 2024. Doug served honorably in the United States Navy during the Korean War and continued his dedication to serving our country after leaving the service.

Born in Reed City, Michigan on July 7, 1929, Doug served on the first ship to leave the United States for Korea, the USS *Endicott* DMS 25. On the *Endicott*, Doug took part in the mission to sweep mines in Hungnam Harbor and assist in the Christmas Miracle evacuation of 105,000 servicemembers from the Chosin reservoir. He was honored as a Humboldt Hero and was selected to participate in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. to see the memorials built to honor him and others that served.

Doug continued to serve his country in the private sector after leaving the Navy. He was instrumental in the development of a groundbreaking missile detection system during his 30-year career at Lockheed. His contributions to this field were invaluable. He was a committed patriot, but his service to this country was not purely through national defense.

Doug had a passion for volunteering. He devoted much of his time to the Humboldt Senior Resource Center, Area 1 Agency on Aging, the Ingomar Club Board, and the Historical Committee. When Alzheimer's claimed the life of Doug's spouse, Virginia, he established a caregiver support group to make sure that others had the help and training they needed to care for family members stricken by the disease.

Doug was captivated by the beauty of our natural world and found solace in nature. He

was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was a strong advocate for the protection of salmonids and worked tirelessly with CalTrout to push for the enactment of policies protecting these fish and their habitat. He was a master rosarian and taught classes on the cultivation of roses. He loved spending time with his many friends. His wit, humor, and kindness left an indelible mark on all he met.

Doug is survived by his sister, Judy, and preceded in death by Virginia, his wife of 50 years, as well as his father, Jules, mother Harriette, stepmother Eleanor, and sister Georgia. He is remembered as a loving husband and brother, a community leader, a patriot, and a dear friend to all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that Doug Durham was a dedicated public servant who will be missed and whose many contributions to Humboldt County and the nation are worthy of commendation. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his many contributions and express our deep condolences to his family and friends.

CONGRATULATING FAYTHE  
PETERSEN ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. MIKE FLOOD**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to congratulate Mrs. Faythe Petersen of Norfolk, Nebraska on her retirement.

Faythe is a longtime public servant with over 44 years of service with the Norfolk Fire and Rescue.

Over decades, she supported generations of first responders both on call and off. She assisted with public education programs, helped plan for emergencies and disasters, and coordinated with local, State, and Federal public safety responders.

With her efforts, Norfolk Fire and Rescue was better able to serve the community of Norfolk. I know she will be greatly missed in the department.

On behalf of the First District of Nebraska, I thank Faythe for her service to the community of Norfolk, and extend best wishes to her on her retirement.

HONORING JOHN AGENOR  
CANNADY, SR.

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Agenor Cannady, Sr., who peacefully passed away on Saturday, April 20, 2024, surrounded by his loving family at his home in Alexandria, Virginia. John, age eighty-seven, leaves behind a legacy of love, wisdom, and service that is deeply cherished.

John was a U.S. Airforce Technical Sergeant, he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1954, serving with distinction in various locations worldwide, including Libya, Spain, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, and England. He also served at multiple locations within the United States, Nebraska, Indiana, Kansas,

and North Carolina. John retired in 1977, at Pease AFB in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, after serving our country for 23 years. His very noble contributions earned him numerous Air Force Medals, symbolizing his unwavering dedication to his country.

Following his military service, John worked in the Intelligence Community, for the U.S. Government, at Raytheon/E-Systems, as an Electronic Technician. There, he continued to serve our National Security community for more than 12 years, and eventually retired with a total of more than 35 years of dedicated service.

John Agenor Cannady, Sr. was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Antionette Cannady. He leaves behind five children, nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. His legacy lives on through his large and loving family who remember him as filled with profound knowledge, an enthusiastic advocate of education, a generous and wise man.

HONORING MIKE HOWARD

**HON. JAKE LATURNER**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation for a member of my staff, Mike Howard, who has recently embarked on a new job off the Hill after nearly three years of service as my communications director. Mike began in my office in August of 2021, and has served since then as a trusted advisor who has constantly sharpened our team and ensured that we are able to get out the message of our work here in Congress to my constituents from Galena to Atchison.

Mike has spent countless early mornings and late nights preparing with me for interviews, town halls, committee hearings, and making sure that we are able to clearly explain the work that we do here. Mike will be sorely missed as he moves on to this new role, but I would like to thank him once again for his dedication and commitment to the people of the Second Congressional District of Kansas.

CONGRATULATING ROMEO  
LUCCHESI

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Romeo Lucchesi, the Visual Information Specialist at the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr. VA Medical Center in Memphis, for his successes in video marketing and film-making. Earlier this year, he won a Gold Aster Award for excellence in healthcare advertising for his special video production "A Tribute to Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr." Earlier this year, he also won an Emmy Award for his documentary video essay "The Green Beret Who Fought Muhammad Ali." Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. was a Tuskegee Airman from Memphis. During World War II, Weathers was credited with shooting down German planes while protecting U.S. Army Air Corps bombers. As a re-

sult of his stellar flying record, he earned an Air Medal with 7 Clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the American Theater Ribbon Victory Medal WWII. After the War, he worked for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and eventually returned to Memphis, where he continued to support African Americans in the military, aviation, and elsewhere. Lt. Col. Weathers's inspirational story moved me to introduce legislation to rename the Memphis VA after him. Lucchesi produced a memorial video of Lt. Col. Weathers for a renaming ceremony of the Memphis VA Medical Center in July 2023. "The Green Beret Who Fought Muhammad Ali" tells the story of Memphis native Henry Hooper, a Booker T. Washington High school graduate who enlisted in the Marines and later joined the U.S. Army's Special Forces Green Berets. As a Green Beret, he was invited to the U.S. Olympic Boxing Trials in 1960 held at San Francisco's Cow Palace, where he sparred with Cassius Clay, later known as Muhammad Ali, who won the Gold Medal in the light heavyweight division in the Rome Olympics later that year. Hooper describes the fight in the film, explaining that for a split second, he took his eyes off Ali, and got knocked down. Ali won the match on a technical knock out. Hooper spent 11 years on active duty, some of it in Vietnam, while Ali resisted the draft and was charged with draft evasion in a case later overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court. Hooper later became a Secret Service agent and was assigned White House duty during the Carter Administration. At a state dinner to which Muhammad Ali had been invited, Ali approached Hooper saying he was sure they'd met before. Hooper said they'd met at the Cow Palace and they embraced. Hooper's colleagues asked about the encounter because they had never heard the story of the boxing match. As Hooper explains it, he didn't talk about it: "I lost. I got beat . . . but he (Ali) remembered." Hooper, now a retired insurance agent in Memphis, is finally getting the adulation as a veteran that he deserves, and it is thanks to Mr. Lucchesi's talented filmmaking. The six-minute documentary can be viewed on the Medical Center's Facebook page. Romeo Lucchesi's talent is apparent, and I am pleased that he is working at the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr. VA Medical Center, helping to tell the stories and honor those who have sacrificed to protect our freedoms. I congratulate him on his successes and look forward to seeing what else he has in store for us.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BRIGADIER  
GENERAL DEREK M.  
SALMI

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Air Force Brigadier General Derek M. Salmi for his critical service and outstanding leadership as Commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base.

Brigadier General Salmi commissioned from the Air Force Academy in 1998 after earning his Bachelor of Science in political science. Throughout his 25-year-long career, he has