

RECOGNIZING COL. ANDREW L. LIPUT'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AND NEW JERSEY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week in New Jersey at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Colonel Andrew L. Liput, Commander of the New Jersey Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, will receive a Presidential Lifetime Achievement and Volunteer Service Award, recognizing his outstanding commitment to volunteerism and his remarkable 10 years of service to our country in the Civil Air Patrol.

Sworn in as the 24th Commander of the New Jersey Wing of the Civil Air Patrol on July 10, 2021, Col. Liput is a three-generation Civil Air Patrol family member. National service and volunteerism runs in their blood.

Col. Liput's father, Andrew Liput Sr. served in the Pennsylvania Wing during World War II as a submarine spotter on the East Coast and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his contributions to the American war effort in defense of the homeland. Col. Liput's daughter, Sloane Liput, was a member of the Picatinny Composite Squadron from 2015–2018 and achieved the rank of C/MSGT before beginning her studies at Rutgers University on an ROTC scholarship. The Liput family's commitment to service to our nation in the Civil Air Patrol represents the best attributes of volunteerism and civic engagement.

Col. Liput previously served at the squadron, wing, region, and national staff levels where, among other achievements of distinction—including the Civil Air Patrol Meritorious Service Award—he was named National Government Relations Officer of the Year for 2020 by CAP Commanding Officer Maj Gen Mark Smith. Col. Liput's tenure as Commander of the New Jersey Wing, has brought the NJWG to the forefront of the Civil Air Patrol's mission and has led to new initiatives to modernize the Wing and connect them to the community, including key strategic partnerships with the NFL Alumni Association and the National Law Enforcement Against Drugs organizations to offer new opportunities through the national cadet program.

With its roots in World War II, the Civil Air Patrol is a Total Force partner and serves as the United States Air Force Auxiliary, prepared to answer the call to search for and find the lost, provide comfort in times of disaster, and work to keep the homeland safe. It provides a proving ground for the next generation of American pilots through its Cadet program—many of whom continue their service to our Nation in the Armed Forces—while promoting aviation and the fields of aerospace and STEM. Through his distinguished term of service in the Civil Air Patrol, Col. Liput has enriched the national cadet program and ensured continued engagement of America's future leaders in the fields of aviation and aerospace technology.

The Volunteer Service Award that Col. Liput receives is a presidential citation that honors Americans who have served more than 5000 hours in support of their community and nation and is a well-deserved recognition of Col. Liput's leadership, commitment to civic en-

gagement, to the State of New Jersey, and the United States of America.

A graduate of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey and Fordham Law School, Col. Liput enjoyed a distinguished career as a corporate and banking attorney for more than 25 years and is a successful entrepreneur, currently employed as the Founder, President, and CEO of Secure Insight, a financial services and technology company. While establishing a successful career in law, Col. Liput continued his family's tradition of service to our nation by joining the Civil Air Patrol, serving throughout the Northeast before his appointment as Commander of the NJWG.

During his time of service and as Commander of the NJWG, Col. Liput has embodied the Civil Air Patrol's values of Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect, rightfully earning this recognition which is a testament to his character and contributions to our community. I am honored to join his family, friends, and the greater New Jersey community in thanking him for his service to our Nation, his dedication to our state, and his selfless work to instill the values of patriotism and service in the next generation of New Jersey—and America's—leaders.

**SUPPORTING RACE-CONSCIOUS ADMISSIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we end the 2024 session of the Supreme Court and prepare for students to return to school, I wish to reaffirm the need for race-conscious decisions in higher education to ensure that students of color receive fair consideration in admissions.

Affirmative action is an important equity tool to counteract the effects of discrimination and structural barriers to education facing students of color, a tool that emerged from the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. President John F. Kennedy first established affirmative action to promote racial equality and prevent unfair labor practices through an executive order in 1961 that created the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity. The landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 went further to prohibit discrimination and promote equal opportunity based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. Subsequent executive orders, laws, and holdings by the Supreme Court supported race- and gender-conscious actions to address discrimination and enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The consideration of race in college admissions promotes equal treatment without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin. The resulting campus diversity is a crucial element of quality higher education. Diversity curates higher learning opportunities and fosters a sense of belonging for traditionally-marginalized communities. Research shows that a strong sense of belonging has many positive outcomes for students, including improved persistence, retention, grades, and health. Diversity in higher education expands perspectives, promotes innovation, and prepares students to interact with our diverse citizenry.

One year ago, the Supreme Court gutted 50 years of race-conscious admissions in higher education with its decision in *Students for Fair Admissions Inc. v. President and the Fellows of Harvard*. In a 6–3 decision, the extremist-dominated court ruled that affirmative action violated equal protection under the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment manifested new freedom and rights at the federal level by establishing “equal protection under the laws” for all American citizens regardless of race. Shockingly and offensively, the conservative-dominated court manipulated an amendment intended to cultivate racial equality to stifle programs that correct systemic racial discrimination. I firmly agree with Justices Jackson and Sotomayor who opposed the ruling. Justice Sotomayor warned that “. . . racial inequality will persist in educational institutions so long as it is ignored.” Justice Jackson noted the contradictory nature of the absence of race in admissions decisions but not in military academies, prioritizing racial inclusion for military benefit rather than educational enrichment.

The 7th District of Illinois, Chicago, and Illinois are home to millions of families whose children deserve the same access to higher education opportunities that privileged individuals enjoy. Extremists' attacks on race-conscious admissions jeopardizes the future educational opportunities of Black and Brown children. A colorblind approach to the college admissions process does not acknowledge the entrenched racial struggles that minorities face in America. When institutions fail to acknowledge race, they fail to recognize the barriers to education associated with race that can perpetuate racial inequality in higher education. The Supreme Court's promotion of a colorblind society serves to protect the wealthy and well-connected.

I vow to fight for equal opportunity and justice. We must protect the tools that are key to securing our civil rights—like race-conscious admissions, free and fair elections, and voter protections—to ensure that our nation's progress in civil rights does not reverse. Advancement toward racial equality cannot be made without consideration of race.

**RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT JO-ANNE SOULES**

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. JoAnne Soules of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. JoAnne has dedicated herself to faithfully serving and uplifting her community.

JoAnne was born in Pittsfield and attended Pittsfield High School. In 1969, she graduated from Elms College with a bachelor's degree in history. JoAnne also obtained her master's degree in educational administration and leadership from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. She later taught social studies at South Junior High, now known as Herberg Middle School. In 1994, JoAnne transferred to Pittsfield High, where she taught history before being appointed to serve as the Dean of Students and Vice Principal. After retiring in 2006,

JoAnne was asked to serve as interim principal for the 2009–2010 school year, which she happily accepted. Throughout her career, she dedicated herself to serving her students and staff, and this did not go unnoticed. JoAnne has run into former students many years later who fondly remember her class and the positive impact she made on them as an educator.

In addition to her professional career, JoAnne has given back to her community in many ways. She volunteered at local soup kitchens and provided patient outreach at Berkshire Medical Center through her church to help those in need. She is married to her husband Harry, and together, they raised two wonderful children and have many more grandchildren. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with them and rescuing senior dogs so that they can spend the rest of their years in a warm and loving home. I'm proud to recognize JoAnne today a lifetime of public service and contributions to our community. She has inspired countless students to be successful and live fulfilling lives.

It is an honor to bestow JoAnne with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of Pittsfield.

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HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WACKER CHEMICAL

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Wacker Chemical of Eddyville, Iowa. Wacker Chemical established its Eddyville plant in 1999 and recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Wacker Chemical has been at the forefront of cyclodextrin production since it was first built. The Eddyville plant plays a central role within our global network of Biotech and Biopharma sites.

From Iowa alone, Wacker produces all the cyclodextrin it sells. Eddyville is an important pillar of the BioSolutions portfolio and Wacker's growth strategy.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to Wacker Chemical on a tremendous 25 years of business in Iowa and honor its dedication to manufacturing for Iowans.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Wacker Chemical of Eddyville, Iowa for its 25th anniversary. I wish nothing but the best as they continue their great work in Iowa.

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HONORING THE MEMORY OF JONATHAN DELAGRAVE

**HON. BRYAN STEIL**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Jonathan Delagrave. Jonathan served as the County Executive of Racine County from April 2015 until his sudden passing on June 28th.

Jonathan, a lifelong resident of Racine County, was a beloved figure in his commu-

nity. He served Racine County both as an elected official and a civil servant. He began as the Town Chairman and later Village President of Caledonia. Jonathan then worked in the Racine County Human Services Department, becoming Director in 2010. He was first elected as Racine County Executive in 2015. His popularity was reflected in his reelections as County Executive in 2019 and 2023, a testament to his leadership and the community's trust in him.

Jonathan constantly worked to make Racine County the best it could be. He focused on spurring economic growth and workforce development by forging partnerships between local, state, and private entities to benefit all residents. He championed mental health and fought to expand access to these critical services in Racine County. Jonathan's dedication to improving the lives of people in Racine County was evident. I was honored to work together with Jonathan on efforts to preserve our Great Lakes community harbors.

As many of us in Racine County know, Jonathan was a true Wisconsinite at heart. He was an avid fan of Wisconsin Badgers football and encouraged those who attended his funeral to wear their favorite Badgers attire. He also established a scholarship in his memory to provide student-athletes with mental health care.

Most importantly, Jonathan was deeply devoted to his family, and a great friend to me and many others. Jonathan is survived by his son Maguire and daughter Makenzy. I offer my condolences to his family during this difficult time. Jonathan will be missed.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I had to miss votes on July 9, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 338; NAY on Roll Call No. 339; YEA on Roll Call No. 340; NAY on Roll Call No. 341; YEA on Roll Call No. 342; and NAY on Roll Call No. 343.

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RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT HEATHER BOWERS

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Heather Bowers of Frisco, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Heather has faithfully dedicated herself to serving our community.

Heather was born in Waco, Texas in 1977 and moved to Carrollton in 1980 where she resided until she married her husband, Jason. She graduated from the University of North Texas in 2002 with a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree and then moved to Frisco in 2005 where she raised her two children, Macy and Caleb. Heather has been President of Lone Star Benefits since 2000, buying the

agency 4 years ago and building a thriving employee benefits agency with her husband.

Since her move to Frisco, she has been actively involved with numerous community and political organizations in North Texas. Heather's strength is not only due to her love of lifting weights, but also evidenced by her service to the city through roles on the boards of Frisco Community Development Corporation, Frisco Chamber of Commerce and Frisco Family Services. She is invested in our youth and schools as a District Improvement Committee and Mindbender Academy Committee member. Heather's philanthropic passion is notable, as her family and business support organizations such as National Breast Cancer Foundation, Community Council of Greater Dallas and Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic.

I am proud to recognize Heather today for her outstanding efforts to support those in need and uplift those she works with. I'm confident she will continue to make a positive impact in our community for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Heather with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. DENNIS DEER PH.D., COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, to the immediate and extended family, staff, friends, supporters, constituents, colleagues, and well-wishers of my dear friend, colleague, comrade, political ally, and our senior representative on the Cook County Board, I rise to honor Dr. Dennis Deer.

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ and I am sure that he has already said to Dennis, welcome home my good and faithful servant. I have known the Deer Family for more than fifty years when I met and worked with his parents; father Herman, Mother Shirley and their neighbors who founded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Health Center in North Lawndale on West Greenshaw Street, they lived on Greenshaw Street, it was one of the first of ten centers of its kind in the United States, now there are fourteen hundred and they are servicing more than 30 million low and moderate income individuals. Of course, that portion of Greenshaw Street is now Honorary Shirley Deer Way. I lived on West Greenshaw Street. Dennis grew up around community activism and politics. He took to it like a duck takes to water, attended George W. Collins High School where my wife taught, my friends were principals, teachers and administrators. He went off to college, returned home, earned additional college degrees, married his high school sweetheart, wonderful wife Barbara, settled in the community, they have three children and he became a leader, worked with President Bobbie Steele, Commissioner Bob Steele, the Turner Family, the Scott Family, Lawndale Christian and the Faith Community to help bring the North Lawndale Community back to a state of optimistic redevelopment and it is on a roll.