

I thank our original cosponsors for their support, as well as U.S. Senator CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO (D-NV) for sponsoring the companion bill. This updated legislation would significantly increase federal funding available for affordable housing across the country to tackle the housing crisis in states like California.

With historically high housing costs, a minimum wage worker in California must work an 88-hour week on average to afford a modest one-bedroom rental at a fair market rate. No American working full-time should live in poverty or be forced into homelessness. Congress and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) must support collaborative solutions to incentivize affordable housing production and rental assistance to address the drastic shortage of housing options in California and across the country.

The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) is the largest federal affordable housing block grant and is HUD's flagship program to support private developers and nonprofits building new affordable housing. Since established by Congress in 1990, the HOME program has helped state and local housing agencies support a wide variety of housing needs, from financing new construction and home repairs to funding down payment and rental assistance. HOME funding is the primary federal tool available for state and local governments to build affordable rental and owner-occupied housing for low-income to extremely low-income families with private developers. Moreover, HOME is a great federal investment, leveraging \$4.76 in non-federal public and private funds for every dollar in HOME funding.

Since 1992, the HOME program has supported more than 1.36 million units of affordable housing for renters, home buyers, and homeowners. In California, the HOME program has invested \$5.27 billion into affordable housing across the state; built or preserved 121,727 homes; given rental assistance to 43,810 families; supported 277,318 jobs; and generated \$19.2 billion in local economic development.

Despite these incredible investments, this essential program was last reauthorized in 1994 and needs critical updates to better address today's housing crisis. Our legislation would not only reauthorize the HOME program for the first time in three decades, but also make several much-needed improvements.

Specifically, our bicameral "HOME Investment Partnerships Reauthorization and Improvement Act" would authorize \$5 billion in HOME funding for fiscal year 2024 and boost the funding for the program by five percent annually through fiscal year 2028. This critical investment would reverse the chronic underfunding of the affordable housing investment program, which Congress appropriated only \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 2023.

In addition, our bill would allow HUD to make loan guarantees under the HOME program, leveraging limited federal resources to allow state and local participating jurisdictions to tap more generous private financing to build new affordable housing. It would also improve HUD's ability to provide downpayment assistance to homebuyers and home repair assistance to homeowners under the HOME program. Moreover our bill would unlock HOME funds for nonprofits, community land trusts, and other shared equity homeownership partnerships to make more and better affordable

housing available to those Americans most in need.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of Congress to cosponsor the "HOME Investment Partnerships Reauthorization and Improvement Act" to bring this critical HUD program into the 21st century and provide state and local partners with the financing needed to construct and rehabilitate affordable rental housing and provide homeownership opportunities for working families. Lastly, I want to thank my former Legislative Assistant, Mr. Tigran Agdaian, for his critically important role in developing this legislation during the 116th Congress while on my staff.

#### RECOGNIZING JACOB FLANNIGAN AND TRAVIS CANON

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Ms. Pettersen. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jacob Flannigan and Travis Canon for earning an Honorable Mention Award in the 2023 Congressional App Challenge.

Jacob and Travis built an interactive app entitled Study Buddy which allows users to dress up a virtual animal avatar after completing tasks such as homework.

Jacob and Travis, students from Golden High School, spent countless hours and used numerous tools to learn about coding and app development while developing new skills and further advancing their STEM education. Their perseverance and dedication to this challenge exemplifies the character and determination the faculty instills in the students at Golden High.

Congratulations to Jacob Flannigan and Travis Canon for their hard work on this project. I am certain they will exhibit the same dedication and character in their future accomplishments, and I wish them the best of luck going forward.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NATURALIZATION OF MARITZA COROMOTO BIGGS

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Maritza Coromoto Biggs, who will officially become a citizen of the United States of America on January 27, 2024, having recently completed her naturalization interview and test.

Ms. Coromoto Biggs, born in Punto Fijo, Venezuela in 1958, was the fourth of ten children. She grew up in a modest but hard-working family. Her father worked for a petroleum company and her mother was a young homemaker. At an early age, she made history as one of the first women in the Venezuelan Air Force and came to this country in November of 1982 as a diplomatic delegate to learn how to fly and operate F-16s from the distinguished professionals of the U.S. Air Force.

Ms. Coromoto Biggs had a long and distinguished career advancing peace, stability, economic development and the improvement of human conditions throughout the Western Hemisphere through her work at the Inter-American Development Bank. She and her husband, Tyler Sanford Biggs, an economist at the World Bank, built a family and community of close friends here in the United States. She has two daughters who live and work in Virginia and Washington, D.C. today and is a proud *abuelita* to her two grandsons.

As Ms. Coromoto Biggs takes her oath of loyalty to the United States, a place that feels more like home than her home country, we celebrate the American dream and the opportunity that this country continues to provide, and we congratulate Ms. Coromoto Biggs on her naturalization.

#### HONORING DON GUNDEN'S CAREER AND CONTRIBUTION TO INDIANA'S SECOND DISTRICT

#### HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my friend and fellow Hoosier Don Gunden as he prepares to retire from Forest River Inc. early next month.

Currently serving as General Manager of Forest River's Rockwood, Flagstaff and Palomino brands. Don "Gunny" Gunden has long been a leader in the recreational vehicle industry. Don started out in the RV business working at Starcraft straight out of college, and for the next half century he has devoted his professional life to the industry that is so important economically to northern Indiana and a source of so many happy memories for families all across America.

Don's 2022 induction into the RV/MH Hall of Fame only underscores his entrepreneurial spirit, commitment to excellence, and the tireless work he has done to maintain Elkhart's proud status as the RV Capital of the World.

As he prepares to retire, spend more time with his wife Theresa, and write the next chapter of his life, I am proud to congratulate Don Gunden on a distinguished career and a job well done. The Elkhart community and RV industry as a whole are unquestionably better off thanks to this good man.

I join Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second District in expressing our gratitude and thanks to Don for his many contributions to our area and in wishing him a very happy, well-deserved retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 15.

RECOGNIZING USMC 1STLT  
CECILIA ANN EADO ON EARNING  
HER WINGS OF GOLD

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary constituent from my district, United States Marine Corps First Lieutenant Cecilia Ann Eado. 1stLt Eado is graduating from Advanced Jet Training at Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas on February 2, 2024, earning the coveted "Wings of Gold".

Cecilia was born to Chris and Mariann Davies in Doylestown, PA and graduated from Central Bucks High School West. Since her childhood, Cecilia had been driven towards the goal of becoming a pilot, following in the footsteps of her brother, father, and grandfather. Her family has a distinguished legacy of service as aviators with her Grandfather Joe and older brother Christopher both serving in the United States Navy. Her father Chris was also a huge inspiration as a highly successful Boeing 777 pilot for United Airlines.

1stLt Eado attended college at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, where she participated as an NCAA Division 1 Collegiate Athlete in Cross-Country and Track. It was during college that Cecilia was selected into the United States Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Course, completing Officer Candidate School during her summers. She earned a spot in the Marine Corps Aviation and was commissioned as a 2ndLt upon graduation at a ceremony held at the Liberty Bell Pavilion in Philadelphia on January 2, 2020.

After completing Marine Corps Officer Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, Cecilia reported to her primary flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. She completed Aviation Preflight Indoctrination and went on to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas to finish her primary flight training on the T-6B Texan II. Her performance was exemplary, and she was selected to Advanced Jet Training on the T-45A Goshawk. Upon her graduation, 1stLt Eado will be assigned to a fleet replacement squadron for either the F-35 Lightning II or the F-18 Super Hornet.

Cecilia met her husband, 1stLt Urgy Eado, while serving in the Marine Corps.

I am beyond proud of and exceptionally grateful for 1stLt Eado's service to our great Nation. Her dedication to this country as a Marine Corps Fighter Pilot demonstrates the highest commitment to the values that make America the beacon of liberty to the world. I am truly impressed by her determination to achieve greatness and employ all her mental and physical capacities to become the Woman, Officer, Marine, and Pilot that she is today. I wish her nothing but the best in her continued service to the United States.

RECOGNIZING NOLAN KEATING  
AND MILO HUMMON

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 25, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nolan Keating and

Milo Hummon for earning the Best in Show Award in the 2023 Congressional App Challenge.

Nolan and Milo built an app entitled Carbon Chronicle, which features a technically sophisticated interactive platforming game of an animal escaping rising ocean levels as well as informational slides to teach users about climate change.

Nolan and Milo, students from Golden High School, spent countless hours and used numerous tools to learn about coding and app development while developing new skills and further advancing their STEM education. Their perseverance and dedication to this challenge exemplifies the character and determination the faculty instills in the students at Golden High.

Congratulations to Nolan Keating and Milo Hummon for their hard work on this project. I am certain they will exhibit the same dedication and character in their future accomplishments, and I wish them the best of luck going forward.

HONORING MR. EDWARD R.  
DESMOND

**HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 25, 2024*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding citizen of Waltham, Massachusetts—a devoted husband, father, grandfather, a dedicated serviceman; and distinguished World War II Navy Veteran, Mr. Edward R. Desmond. Mr. Desmond was honored by the History Department at Marshfield High School on January 25, 2023.

Edward Desmond, known to most as Eddie, served as a Petty Officer 2nd Class on USS LCS (L) (3) 128 and served at the Battle of Okinawa. In his service he was regarded highly by peers as a good cook and earned the Navy's Combat Action Ribbon for his time under fire in the Battle of Okinawa.

Edward also received the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal and was involved in the Liberation of the Philippines. During his time in the Navy he spent time away from family in service to his country in some of the longest and hardest battles in the history of naval warfare. Perhaps even more notable than the long list of accolades and awards is Edward's 40-year career devoted as a Central Office Technician for the New England Bell Telephone Company.

Mr. Desmond has accomplished so much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the support of family. Mr. and Mrs. Desmond raised five children. They are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren.

It is a great honor to represent Edward Desmond and his lifetime commitment to advancing our Nation's understanding of World War II, what happened, and what can be done to avoid another war.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF CAPTAIN PHILLIP MIKE  
BRODERICK

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 25, 2024*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Captain Phillip Mike Broderick, a firefighter from Des Moines who lost his brave battle with liver cancer on January 14, 2024.

Prior to spending nearly 16 years with the Des Moines Fire Department, Mike spent over two decades serving our nation in the United States Army. He was a man who put service over himself for his entire life, and his commitment to ensuring safety for his community and his nation was unwavering. Those who knew him personally shared he was an incredible friend, a devout husband, a loving father, and someone who served his country and community with purpose and care. Mike Broderick leaves behind his wife Emily and daughters Grace, Ireland, Piper, and Cambell.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Captain Mike Broderick's commitment to our Nation and the entire Des Moines community. I join his family and those closest to him in mourning his loss. May his memory not be forgotten.

COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE  
OF MAJOR GENERAL DOUGLAS  
FARNHAM

**HON. JARED F. GOLDEN**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 25, 2024*

Mr. GOLDEN of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my sincerest congratulations to Major General Douglas Farnham on his retirement following 40 years of service in the United States Air Force. On behalf of the people of Maine and our Nation, I thank him for his dedicated service, and extend congratulations on his retirement.

Major General Farnham graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1984 and began his first assignment as a student in undergraduate pilot training at Vance Air Force Base. He then served as an instructor and flight examiner in the C-21A Learjet and as the primary pilot for the Commander of the United States Space Command.

Major General Farnham joined the Maine Air National Guard in 1991 and served in various command and operations positions in the 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor through 2012. In 2013, he briefly left Bangor to deploy to Qatar as United States Central Command Deputy Director of Mobility Forces. After his deployment, he returned to Bangor as Commander of the 101st Air Refueling Wing from 2012 to 2016.

In 2016, Major General Farnham was appointed as Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard. In this position, he served as Commissioner for the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, managing the Maine Army and Air National Guard, Maine Veterans' Services, and Maine Emergency Management Agency.