

demonstrated a strong commitment to the responsibilities of citizenship, being politically active and involved in various Democratic campaigns in Georgia. Outside of his work organizing, Mitchell and his wife Charmaine raised three children: Lacie, Tyler, and Emily. They are the proud grandparents of Hampton, Tobi, and Scout. A man of faith, Mitchell also serves as a lay pastor for Grace Community Fellowship Church.

Through it all, Mitchell truly kept his focus on the membership. After a long and highly successful career fighting to improve working conditions and protect and expand the rights of American workers on the job, it is my distinct honor and privilege to join those who are celebrating the service and leadership of Mitchell Smith—a true champion of working families. Congratulations to Mitchell and I hope he keeps enjoying retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DIYA BALAGOPAL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Diya Balagopal of Frisco, Texas, for her outstanding community service and advocacy for wildlife and environmental conservation.

Ms. Balagopal is currently a student at Reedy High School in Frisco, and she serves as the President of the Nature's Nurturers Club. As part of Project Green Schools, she created a project titled Preserve the Prairie, which seeks to increase community engagement and involvement in conservation efforts of the endangered Blackland Prairie ecosystem. Through Preserve the Prairie, Ms. Balagopal led the campaign to inform Texans about the importance of the Blackland Prairie and distributed thousands of seeds balls. This has resulted in over 5,000 native Blackland Prairie plants being restored to their natural habitat.

For her exceptional efforts, Ms. Balagopal has been recognized by Jeff Cheney, the Mayor of Frisco, and presented with the prestigious Green Difference Award at the Department of Energy. The Green Difference Award honors extraordinary students who have made significant contributions to environmental conservation initiatives. I am proud of the work Ms. Balagopal has accomplished, and I'm confident she will continue to make a positive impact on the world around us.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Ms. Balagopal's leadership and excellence. I wish her the best of luck and continued success in the new school year.

HONORING CHIEF BRAD RASMUSSEN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Brad Rasmussen,

an esteemed member of our community. Chief Rasmussen is being honored today for his outstanding service in his career in law enforcement.

Chief Rasmussen was born in 1969 in Yreka, California to his parents Dave and Connie Rasmussen. He is a graduate of the College of the Redwoods where he completed a two-year administration of justice program. Chief Rasmussen and his wife of 33 years, Karyn, have two daughters: Stephanie and Savannah. Stephanie is currently a doctor at Bellevue Hospital in New York City while Savannah is a board-certified behavior analyst in the Bay Area.

Chief Rasmussen's 35 years of service with the City of Lakeport Police Department are commendable. He started his career in 1989 as a Reserve Officer with the Department. In 1991, he was promoted to Patrol Officer in 1991, Sergeant in 2000, Lieutenant in 2006 and Chief in 2010, a position he has held for the last 14 years. Over the course of his extensive career with the Lakeport Police Department, Chief Rasmussen held various other assignments. From 1994 to 1997, he was a part of the Narcotics Task Force where he spent 3 years doing undercover work. Then, from 1999 to 2000, Chief Rasmussen was on detective assignment where he worked major cases on crimes against persons and property.

Since the beginning of his career, Chief Rasmussen has worked to support our community. He has been a leader in many organizations, some of which include the Lion's Club, where he is the current president, the Kiwanis Club, where he spent two years as president and Lakeport Police Association where he was a previous president. He also enhanced community-oriented policing in Lakeport by starting the Neighborhood Watch program and initiated National Night Out. Chief Rasmussen's service to our community will not end with his retirement as he has been elected by the people to serve on the Lake County Board of Supervisors starting in January 2025.

For the past 35 years, Chief Rasmussen has given countless hours to serving our community that have not gone unnoticed. He has dedicated his life to our Lake County community over the duration of his long and storied career. We are thankful for his service and wish Chief Rasmussen a wonderful retirement.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Chief Brad Rasmussen for his dedicated service in law enforcement and our broader Lake County community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CELEBRATING THE TOWN OF ROCKLAND'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Town of Rockland as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

Originally part of the neighboring Town of Abington, Rockland was first settled by the Europeans in 1673. Before the settlers came to Massachusetts, the region that would later be known as Old Abington was first named

Manamooskeagin by Native Americans local to Southeastern Massachusetts.

The Town of Rockland was incorporated on March 9, 1874, after separating from the Town of Abington. Rockland got its name from the area's rocky geography that would later be critical to the town's growing industry and economy. Rockland's topography made it less conducive for farming but ideal for mills and manufacturing. Early in the town's history, Rockland was a major lumber producer for local shipyards along the North River. Later, during the Civil War, Rockland saw an economic boom due to the town's growing shoe industry. Rockland's shoe production reached its peak in 1865, when 2,800 men and women were working to produce millions of dollars' worth of shoes. It is believed that Rockland's factories provided shoes for half of the Union Army during the Civil War.

Known for its strong manufacturing history as well as its extensive involvement in lumber and sawmills, Rockland continued to experience industrial development through the 1900s, but production declined during the Great Depression. However, Rockland saw significant growth following World War II, and the town's population nearly doubled throughout the 1950s.

Today, Rockland is home to nearly 18,000 residents as well as the Rockland Trust Company, one of the 100 largest banks in the U.S. Although the former mills and industrial buildings are no longer used for manufacturing, they have found a new purpose. The vacant buildings have been revitalized by a growing community of artists in Rockland and the buildings now serve as a meeting place and creative space for local artists to come together.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Town of Rockland, and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the important role that the Town of Rockland has played in our country's history and wishing the town and its residents the best of luck in the years to come.

COMMEMORATING BLACK WOMEN'S EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we approach National Black Women's Equal Pay Day on July 27th, I wish to take a moment to recognize the valuable work that Black and African American women in the United States have done to make this country what it is today and to reaffirm the importance of paying them—and everyone fairly regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or disability.

Black women are an essential part of our Nation's fabric and workforce—hard workers who spur our Nation's economic growth despite experiencing barriers to equity and discrimination, which are compounded by the color of their skin as well as their gender.

A primary goal of Black Women's Equal Pay Day is to raise awareness about the gender pay gap that limits the economic mobility of Black women. Goldman Sachs research as part of its Black Womenomics initiative makes clear the multiple ways Black women experience these economic gaps: the wage gap between Black and White women increased from

10 percent in 2010 to 15 percent in 2019; Black women are less likely to have a bank account or to work full-time, salaried jobs; and Black women report living paycheck to paycheck and being burdened by medical debt and student loans relative to their income. Further, these wealth disparities are associated with health and well-being disparities, with Black women being more likely to experience poorer health and live shorter lives.

The inequitable treatment of African American women in the workforce goes counter to the American values that make our country great. To continue pursuing equality for all, I joined my colleagues in cosponsoring the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that addresses sex discrimination, limits hiring bias, and equips people—especially marginalized groups—with the tools to successfully negotiate their wages. I also am an original co-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 97 that recognizes the importance of equal pay and sheds light on wage disparities between men and women.

All workers in the richest nation on Earth should be paid fairly, and Black women deserve to receive their fair share of economic growth. I will continue to fight to create equitable pay opportunities for Black women and all workers. We must reject policies that keep Black women and other workers in a state of economic subservience.

Together, we can commemorate Black Women's Equal Pay Day as evidence of our commitment to pursuing social justice that will one day lead to a more equal society.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS-24
HOMETOWN HERO LINDA BRADY

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Linda Brady from the American Red Cross. Linda has extended North Texas' helping hands far beyond our district. Currently deployed in Houston, TX to assist with disaster response efforts against Hurricane Beryl, she has exemplified an unwavering commitment to humanitarian work. Linda serves as the CEO of the American Red Cross North Texas Region.

Her selfless service to those who are most in need has proven to be crucial as she helps uplift communities across our state. As a frontline responder, Linda has worked tirelessly on the ground, taking it upon herself to alleviate suffering and minimize the effects of damage on residents. Her efforts have provided immediate relief, hope, and reassurance to countless individuals affected by the hurricane.

Through her philanthropic endeavors, Linda has epitomized the bravery and selflessness of humanitarians who prioritize the needs of others in times of emergencies, ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable victims and supporting their recovery.

I want to thank Linda for her extraordinary service. Her instrumental role in coordinating relief efforts is a beacon of hope and a testament to the strength and compassion of our community.

HONORING WOODLAND CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Woodland Christian High School's successful football season.

On December 9, 2023, the Woodland Christian Cardinals won the Division 5A CIF State Championship in a game against Banning High School of Wilmington, CA at El Camino College with a final score of 23-13.

During the game, Woodland Christian's top rusher gained 79 yards on eight carries, with other players contributing 52 and 47 yards. The quarterback passed for 53 yards and rushed for 26. The Cardinals ran 66 plays and secured 17 first downs, while Banning only managed 49 plays and 11 first downs. In total, the Cardinals rushed for an impressive 221 yards on 47 carries, possessed the ball for nearly 29 minutes, converted 8 of 15 third downs, and successfully scored on all 3 red zone opportunities.

They became one of only three teams in the Sacramento area to finish the CIF State Championship weekend undefeated since the championship format was introduced in 2006.

Ultimately, the Cardinals finished the season undefeated with 15 wins. Additionally, they won a SMAL League Championship as well as the D7A Sac Joaquin Section Title. They were the first team of any sport from the City of Woodland to win a State Championship.

Many of the team members have been playing together since Junior Football. Many of the coaches have also been with the youth feeder programs, working with the players since their childhood. The head coach has been with the team since the 2021 season and produced a 36-4 record. This excellent football season is a testimony of the team's years of hard work and dedication.

Woodland Christian High School has taught multiple generations of students and has provided the community with quality education since 1974. The school strives to serve the community by supporting Woodland Little League, participating in community events, such as the annual Woodland Christmas Parade, and partnering with local businesses and churches.

Mr. Speaker, we honor Woodland Christian High School's undefeated football season. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Woodland Christian High School here today.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT ERIC
FICK

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eric Thomas Fick of Stafford, Virginia, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Eric has dedicated himself to faithfully our community and country.

Eric was born at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington and grew up in an Air

Force family. From a young age, he had always felt a connection to our servicemembers and wanted to serve our country. Eric attended the University of Notre Dame as part of its Air Force ROTC program and graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. Upon graduation, he was commissioned into the United States Air Force. Eric served in a variety of roles, including as a mechanical systems engineer for the F-16 fighter, logistics officer, test pilot, weapons testing officer, global outreach director, and legislative liaison on Capitol Hill. From 2019 to 2022, he was the Program Executive Officer and Director for the F-35 Lightning II Program and oversaw the development of the most advanced fighter jet in the world. For his meritorious service, Eric received the Legion of Merit, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, and many more awards.

In 2022, Eric retired from the Air Force as a Lieutenant General after 31 years of service. He currently serves as the President of Lyten Federal, a super materials applications company that is developing next-generation batteries to power cars, planes, and spacecraft while reducing global emissions. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his two dogs and playing soccer, volleyball, and golf. Eric is an outstanding leader who has made a tremendous impact on the world around us. I am proud of the work he has accomplished, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Eric with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BERNICE
JOHNSON REAGON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bernice Johnson Reagon. Not only was Bernice a music and civil rights icon, but she was also my longtime friend. After being expelled from Albany State University because of an arrest related to her activism, Bernice helped form the "Freedom Singers," an a cappella group that was part of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). I was deeply involved in SNCC. The Freedom Singers helped document SNCC's activities through music. Even in the darkest times, civil rights activists would raise their voices in song.

In 1973, while teaching a vocal workshop in the District of Columbia, Bernice founded the a cappella group "Sweet Honey in the Rock," with which she performed until 2004. Since its inception, Sweet Honey in the Rock has expressed African American history through song, dance and sign language, earning three Grammy nominations.

In addition to performing, Bernice was also a music historian who held the title of Curator Emerita at the National Museum of American History. Bernice received a BA from Spelman College and a PhD in History from Howard University and was a professor at American University. In 1989, Bernice was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship. Bernice helped change the history of our country through song.