

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.

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RECOGNIZING TEXAS-24  
HOMETOWN HERO LINDA BRADY

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. 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.

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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.

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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.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life and legacy of Bernice Johnson Reagon.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISLAND INSTITUTE FELLOWS PROGRAM

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of a critical and innovative program in my state. For the past 25 years, the Island Institute Fellows Program has functioned to enrich the lives of both its participants, as well as the coastal and island communities of Maine by engaging volunteers, providing a hub of tools and resources, and fostering community leadership along the Maine coast.

As a proud resident of North Haven, an island off the coast of Maine, I know firsthand that our coastal and island communities share a distinct and treasured way of life. I've also seen that way of life face unique challenges, from a rapidly changing climate and rising seas to shrinking populations and a shifting global economy. The Island Institute Fellows Program seeks to meet these challenges by pairing recent college graduates with local governments and nonprofits in coastal communities where the fellows live and work for two years to help address community-identified needs. This partnership brings together the energy, resources, talent, and capacity that the fellows can provide with the spirit, resiliency and creativity of Maine's coastal communities, strengthening and enriching the lives of everyone involved.

To date, 148 Island Institute Fellows have brought new perspectives and ideas to support local needs such as broadband access, affordable housing, clean energy transitions, education initiatives, and community resiliency projects. When 75 percent of Maine's coastal communities have fewer than 3,500 residents, and 25 percent have fewer than 800 residents, the addition of one full-time fellow's work and dedication can make the difference in a community's ability to write a grant, facilitate community planning, preserve historical documents, launch a new initiative, or train volunteers and future leaders.

Over their two-year placements, the fellows truly become a part of the community, helping to plan potlucks, coach sports teams, volunteer with the town's Emergency Medical Services, and more. This program provides these recent graduates firsthand experience in a range of projects, providing them unique professional development and valuable skills for their future careers. A true testament to the program, at the end of their fellowships, half of alumni stay in Maine long-term, continuing their commitment to the community long after their placement ends and contributing to our state with their knowledge, experience, and relationships.

The Island Institute Fellows Program's 25 years of service, dedication, innovation, and community-building makes me very proud to represent the Institute, their fellows and alumni, and the state of Maine in Congress. I wish the program many more years of success and

wholeheartedly thank them for their impactful work on behalf of Maine's coastal and island communities.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO ALEXIS GONZALEZ

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Alexis Gonzalez from the American Red Cross. Alexis 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. Alexis is a Red Cross volunteer who serves as the North Texas Regional Communications Manager.

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 front-line responder, Alexis 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, Alexis 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 Alexis for her incredible 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 THE SOLANO COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Solano County Fair and thank the Solano County Fair Association for the extraordinary work it does for our community.

For the past 75 years, the Solano County Fair has allowed visitors to learn about the accomplishments of California industry and agriculture in our community. Plans to develop the Solano County Fair started in 1938, but the outbreak of World War II halted the planning. After the war, the Solano County Fair Association (SCFA) was established to organize an annual fair. In 1950, the Solano County Fair opened, with then Governor Earl Warren snipping the ribbon.

The Solano County Fair Association is a nonprofit organization established to hold and conduct the annual fair. The SCFA has a 15-member board of directors that are appointed by the Solano County Board of Supervisors, with each supervisor appointing three members to serve a four-year term as Director at the fair, ensuring that the diverse views of Solano County residents are heard.

The SCFA has been providing educational, cultural, artistic, commercial, and recreational programs to our Solano County for more than 75 years. The SCFA also shelters evacuees during natural disasters and other emergencies. Additionally, during the pandemic, SCFA set up pop-up booths at the Solano County Fair serving as free inoculation sites, providing vital access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

The SCFA plays a vital role in our community, bringing residents together during good times and acting as a pillar of support during tough times. The Solano County Fair also presents an important opportunity for non-profit and charity-based organizations to raise money for their respective causes. The SCFA has developed several innovative and entertaining education programs for the public, including the Fair Farm, the Livestock Walk and the Judging Commentator program.

Thanks to the leadership of the Solano County Fair Association, our community can continue to look forward to the annual Solano County Fair. Mr. Speaker, we again thank the SCFA for their diligent and inspiring work in our community and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Solano County Fair.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONMOUTH CIVIC CHORUS

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Monmouth Civic Chorus on its 75th anniversary. The Monmouth Civic Chorus is a valuable and influential institution of the local arts community and an outstanding recreational resource for the greater Monmouth County area. Its work and this milestone are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Since its founding in 1949, the Monmouth Civic Chorus has upheld its mission to promote and support choral music and artists in Monmouth County. As a preeminent community chorus, it continues to offer exceptional and diverse performances locally and beyond, performing at Carnegie Hall, St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, and St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, among others. It is critically acclaimed and has been recognized for its excellence, receiving several awards including the Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce 2010 Spinnaker Award for Arts and Culture and the 2008 Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award. It was also a third-place winner of the 2018-19 American Prize Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for its performance of Fern Hill at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Long Branch, New Jersey.

The Monmouth Civic Chorus remains dedicated to fostering musical excellence and imparting the importance of musical appreciation to future generations. Its work enriches the lives of Monmouth County's residents and visitors and contributes to the thriving cultural landscape of the community.

Once again, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me recognizing the contributions and achievements of the Monmouth Civic Chorus and honoring its 75th anniversary.