

RECOGNIZING THE  
CONTRIBUTIONS OF JACK RIDDLE

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a visionary leader who has dedicated his career to advocacy for the arts in Maine. Throughout his career, Jack Riddle has worked tirelessly to elevate opera in Maine, ensuring the artform is accessible and inclusive to all. He has made certain that Mainers, and visitors alike, have the opportunity to connect with this historic tradition of storytelling through music and song.

In 1994, Jack co-founded Opera Maine, the state's only professional opera company, with a dream of providing high-quality opera productions to the people of Maine. Though our state did not yet have an established opera community at that time, Jack believed in his vision of establishing a local company that would showcase nationally recognized singers and composers. As the former president of the Portland Symphony Orchestra, Jack possessed a strong background in arts leadership and marketing in New England. His skills and experience were essential to Opera Maine's founding.

As the company grew, Jack served as a trusted board member and the principal fundraiser, securing major gifts and guiding the board through a recession and a pandemic. Jack's unwavering passion and energy have been essential to the growth and success of the organization. And the calculated risks he has taken over the years for the advancement of the artform, remaining steadfast in his eternal optimism about the importance of opera, have been critical to growing the audiences.

For more than 35 years, Jack has worked to expand the opera community in Maine, ensuring that it is affordable and accessible to all. From including contemporary works in English, to providing no- to low-cost tickets for all Opera Maine productions and programs for anyone under age 25, active-duty and retired military and first responders, and their families, the company has brought new audiences and appreciators to opera. Opera Maine has also led free in-school programming across the state, teaching thousands of students about the fundamentals of opera.

Additionally, Jack has worked to strengthen Opera Maine's Studio Artist Program, which provides annual trainings and performance opportunities for emerging and professional artists seeking opera careers.

Jack Riddle's enthusiasm, vision, and commitment to Maine's vibrant arts community make me very proud to represent him and the State of Maine in Congress. I wish him continued success, and I thank him for his many years of influential work.

HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who

traveled to Washington, D.C. on July 24, 2024, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on July 24 answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Anthony C. Adams, Preston C. Allen, Jimmy H. Ashbaugh, Dale W. Banot, James H. Black, Richard N. Boots, George E. Bryar, Thomas W. Burgholzer, Lloyd L. Busse, Julio Caez, Patrick T. Camden, Carlos D. Compian, William A. Cooper, Don E. Costello, Alex Czajka, Billy F. Davis, Anthony J. DeBella, Robert A. DeFalkenberg, James P. DeNardo, Andrew C. Elbert, Jr., Oscar L. Farlow, Patrick L. Flannigan, James E. Forbes, Dennis F. Fuhr, Raymond Garivay, William J. Geegan, William G. Geist, David G. Gilles, Thomas E. Goetz, Robert L. Grajek, Nicholas E. Grevan, William C. Haizlip, Fred P. Hall, William A. Hamm, Raymond J. Healy, Lennart H. Henriksson, Thomas W. Huggins, Anthony Iacuzzi, Robert A. Janecek, Rita M. Jaworski, William A. Jaworski, Walter Johnson, Jr., John A. Kay, Thomas J. Kelly, William C. Koc, Gerald E. Kowalewski, Charles W. Krezwick, Michael J. Lasowski, Thomas J. Licar, John E. Luczak, William P. Lyman, Gary L. Martincic, Robert L. Maus, Donald W. McCollough, Ronald R. McFalls, Kenneth J. McGuire, Raymond W. Meyer, Arthur R. Miller, Charles V. Miller, Thomas S. Miller, Curt L. Miller, Robin A. Miller, Robert S. Minetz, John R. Miniutti, Joseph Miraglia, Jr., Thomas Mitchell, Edgar G. Morrison, Lee L. Moses, Angel M. Nieves, Eugene E. Pace, Henry W. Peddle, Norman F. Peterson, Mark F. Pope, James O. Portis, Jean-Pierre Radovanovitch, Donald W. Ramsbottom, Tighe A. Reardon, Frank P. Reichenberger, William J. Renje, Sr., Victor A. Reynolds, William D. Ritze, Sr., George H. Robinson, Marvin E. Roehlke, Joseph W. Rose, Douglas A. Rudisuhle, David E. Salvino, Ralph J. Salvino III, Joseph A. Schrafel, Louis Schubrych, Dennis J. Shea, David R. Shebish, Norbert P. Shebish, Edward F. Skerrett, Stanley A. Silva, Jim Solsberry, William M. Stach, Arthur Stoudemire, Jr., Gregory R. Szafranski, Richard Thurman, Thomas A. Tinkler, James J. Treacy, James C. Truby, Gary W. Verseput, Michael Vold, Edward E. Walls, Karl F. Walter, John Wander, Cyril J. Watson, Richard L. Waxman, Louis J. Weathers, Gregory Will, Charles G. Williams, John H. Williams, Ronald L. Williams, and Jerome M. Zdancewicz.

HONORING THOMAS KELLER AND THE FRENCH LAUNDRY

**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 Thomas Keller, chef and proprietor of The French Laundry, a three-star Michelin restaurant, celebrating its 30th anniversary. The French Laundry has epitomized fine dining in our community, and we thank Chef Keller for his commitment to culinary excellence, his leadership in the culinary community, and his extensive philanthropic work.

Chef Keller began his career as a dishwasher in his mother's restaurant in Palm Beach, California. After spending time in France as an apprentice chef and stints in New York and Los Angeles, in 1994, Chef Keller opened The French Laundry in Yountville, California.

The French Laundry serves world renowned French cuisine with an American twist, and food connoisseurs travel from across the world to eat at the beautifully constructed stone cottage that hosts the restaurant. Chef Keller's dedication to culinary excellence and innovation has earned The French Laundry numerous accolades, including three Michelin stars and a place on the coveted World's 50 Best Restaurants list Renowned for its service and crafted tasting menus, dining at The French Laundry is a once in a lifetime experience.

Chef Keller holds the honor of being the sole American chef to operate two 3-star Michelin star restaurants. Chef Keller has also led the United States to a gold and a silver medal at the Bocuse d'Or, the culinary world's Olympics. Outside California, Chef Keller owns or manages over 20 restaurants globally and has been named America's best chef by Time Magazine.

Chef Keller has authored six cookbooks, of which more than 1.6 million copies are in circulation. He founded a magazine and retail outpost called Finesse. He has taught three immensely successful MasterClass series, offering in-depth coverage of classic cooking techniques and essential culinary fundamentals tailored for home cooks.

For all his professional accomplishments, Chef Keller's philanthropic work is just as impressive. Raised by a Marine Corp Captain, Chef Keller has lent his generous support to the Yountville Veterans Home, providing meals and fundraising support to our community's veterans. He was recognized with The Connection Award by the Veterans Home Association. Through the Mentor Foundation, which he co-founded, Chef Keller has distributed \$2 million in grants for over 150 young chefs in 23 countries worldwide to pursue their culinary dreams. During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chef Keller established the non-profit Keller Restaurant Relief Fund, extending aid to both current employees and alumni facing financial difficulties. To date, the fund has distributed over \$1.5 million in grants.

Perhaps the perfect dish can never be created, but Chef Keller will continue to give it his best shot. Mr. Speaker, we again thank Chef Keller for his devotion to culinary brilliance and celebrate the 30th anniversary of The French Laundry.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to vote on the previous question and the Brecheen Amendment No. 24.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 359, and YEA on Roll Call No. 387.

## RECOGNIZING THE SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Smithfield High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 4 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement. Located in Smithfield, Virginia, the Smithfield High School Packers were able to bring the Class 4 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Smithfield Boys' Soccer team won the game two to zero and advanced to the state tournament.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young men to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Smithfield High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 4 Region A Championship.

## CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHAKERS IN AMERICA

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone for a treasured group in my state. August 6, 2024, marks the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the Shakers in the United States. Since 1774, the Shakers have been consistently dedicated to the pursuit of faith and community, enriching Maine and national culture in countless ways.

The Shakers embody the essential American values of inclusivity and equal treatment and have remained committed advocates of pacifism and nonviolence. They have been steadfast champions of racial and gender equality since their early existence, as evidenced by their community's leadership structure and their welcoming of members and neighbors regardless of their race or national origin. Their message is one of universal humanity—a message that is more relevant and necessary than ever.

Throughout their long history, the Shakers' ingenuity and craftsmanship have contributed immeasurably to the development of American

arts, agriculture, and manufacturing. Collectively, we continue to benefit from Shaker inventions such as the circular saw blade, the flat broom, and the paper seed envelope. Their sustainable agricultural practices, incorporating water power and regenerative farming, put them on the forefront of environmental stewardship. And their renowned furniture, architecture, and crafts continue to inspire makers, scholars, and artists around the world.

Today, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester, Maine, is the last remaining settlement in the world where Shakers continue to live, work, worship, and steward their legacy. They are an important community hub—hosting events and workshops, involving local young people, and preserving and sharing knowledge of rural Maine life.

I'm honored to have experienced their warm hospitality and kindness, and I'm proud to represent them in Congress. I wholeheartedly congratulate them on 250 years of community, peace, and progress in America, and I know their message will continue to resonate for generations to come.

## RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF AURELIA GONZALEZ LOPEZ

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Aurelia Gonzalez Lopez.

Aurelia was born July 25, 1924, in Buenavista, Mexico. She migrated to the United States in 1990, establishing a new life in the City of Pomona for the last 34 years. Raising her family is one of her proudest accomplishments. She had 12 children with her husband, and now her family has expanded to 43 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

On behalf of the 35th Congressional District, I congratulate Aurelia on this incredible milestone. It is my honor to represent people like her who bring so much to family and neighbors. I am grateful for her 34 years of residency in my district I hope that she enjoys much happiness in the coming year.

## HONORING THE SERRES FAMILY CENTENNIAL

**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 the Serres Family as they celebrate 100 years of the Serres Ranch. The longevity of this great dynasty is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to the Serres family's creativity, tenacity, dedication, and commitment to our vibrant agricultural community.

Serres Ranch was originally owned by Fighting Joe Hooker after the Mexican American War and the Bear Flag Revolt. Mr. Hooker sold the property to George Watriss from New York. Mr. Watriss moved his family onto the land after the purchase in 1857 and partnered with the Serres Family. The property

was known as the Watriss-Serres Ranch. The property was fully acquired by the Serres Family in 1924 establishing Serres Ranch.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Serres Ranch cultivated row crops, grapevines, and operated a thriving dairy farm. Generations of the Serres Family, including John Pierre and John Pierre "Toots" Serres, dedicated their lives to nurturing the land and preserving its legacy.

The entrepreneurial spirit of the Serres family manifested in Serres Construction, founded in 1929 by Franklin Watriss Serres and his father John Pierre "Toots" Serres. This venture evolved into Serres Corporation under the leadership of John Pierre Serres, reflecting the family's commitment to innovation and economic growth.

Today, Serres Ranch stands as a model of sustainable agriculture and family stewardship. It is managed by John Pierre Serres and Judy Serres, alongside their children John, Buck, and Taylor Serres.

The legacy continues with the fifth generation overseeing the farming of their estate's vineyards and creating delicious wines that honor their rich family history. Today, the ranch encompasses 200 acres, with 130 acres dedicated to grapevines, all sustainably grown and climate adaptation certified. The diverse enterprises under the Serres Family umbrella, including Serres Ranch, Serres Corporation, and Serres Ranch Wine, exemplify their dedication to preserving the land and fostering community.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Serres Family for their dedicated service to our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor them as they celebrate their centennial year.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, due to travel disruptions, I regrettably missed votes on July 22. Had I been present, I would have voted: Nay on Roll Call Vote 357, the Pro Codes Act, and Yea on Roll Call Vote 358, the Water Resources Development Act.

## RECOGNIZING STACEY LEAVANDOSKY

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2024*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the most dedicated public servants I have had the pleasure of working with—Stacey Leavandosky. Stacey, who is retiring from public service in August, has served on Capitol Hill for 27 years, including 18 years as Chief of Staff in my Washington, D.C. office. Her service to my California district, to the Congress, and to the American people has been steadfast and invaluable.

For decades, Stacey Leavandosky has offered her expertise on a wide variety of policy issues and the legislative process, while simultaneously leading staff as a capable, respected manager. Stacey first interned for her