

Karl, Maby Thomas, Olivia Bakos, Madison Goellner, Madison White, Emily Fitznek, Bailey Showalter, Megan Kraft, Maddi Kriz, Delaynie Maple, Molly Phillips, Zoey Mitchell, Audrey Nourse, Ainsley Radell, Grace Seits, Klaire VanDeusen, Gabby Walker, Kaylee Young, and Nicole Nourse on their impressive triumph. Kudos for all their hard work.

I would also like to congratulate Coach Dain Blanton, Assistant Coaches Gustavo Rocha and Emily Hansen, and Director of Operations Claire Kieffer-Wright, who all played a vital role in leading these young women to victory. Their dedication to drawing out the best in their players and serving as encouraging voices has no doubt played a part in this victory.

Athletics are a celebration of the human spirit. Playing a sport at the Division I collegiate level is no small feat, that level of play requires hustle and determination. The Women of Troy have shown us the power of unity in achieving high-arching goals; their spirit of camaraderie has allowed them to overcome obstacles and emerge victorious. Their shared goal and commitment to one another helped them achieve an unprecedented fourth-straight championship for a USC women's team.

In June, we celebrated the 52nd anniversary of Title IX. Decades ago, women wouldn't have had the opportunity to be part of a collegiate level, championship-winning team. The USC Women's Beach Volleyball team has inspired countless young girls to pursue their dreams fearlessly and are a testament to the progress that has been made in athletics.

The Women of Troy secured their seventh beach volleyball national title while battling their crosstown rivals, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Bruins. Twin sisters Audrey and Nicole Nourse won the deciding match for a second year straight, leading their team to claim victory once again in the 2024 NCAA championship.

The Nourse sisters, along with other graduating student-athletes, deserve special recognition as they move on to new endeavors. Seniors Olivia Bakos, Megan Kraft, and Delaynie Maple and graduate students Ainsley Radell, Grace Seits, Maddi Kriz, Molly Phillips, Emily Fitzer, Audrey Nourse and Nicole Nourse should be proud of then leadership and example-setting. We will all miss watching them play, and we will never forget the mark they have made.

As a USC alumna, I was excited to meet the Women of Troy and congratulate them on their National Championship title. I could not be prouder to share an alma mater with these remarkable women. I stand here today to say Fight On, Trojans.

#### HONORING CONRAD SHIPYARD ON THE DELIVERY OF THE FIRST NEW CLASS YRBM VESSEL TO THE U.S. NAVY

##### HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Conrad Shipyard for its delivery of the first new class Yard, Repair, Berthing, and Messing (YRBM) vessel to the U.S. Navy.

Conrad Shipyard has a legacy of quality and safety in providing premier vessels to the U.S. government and commercial enterprise. The new class of YRBM vessels are needed to modernize the living and housing conditions for thousands of Navy personnel. These vessels will provide a temporary home for our service men and women whose other vessels are in port for repair and maintenance.

I have had the privilege of touring Conrad Shipyard in Morgan City, Louisiana and seeing firsthand the finished product of a dedicated, skilled workforce. The work being done at Conrad and shipyards in South Louisiana drives economic growth, brings jobs and prosperity to our community, and provides our Armed Forces with the necessary tools to secure America.

The new class of YRBM barge craft are essential to the modernization effort led by the U.S. Navy. We should all celebrate Conrad Shipyard's delivery of the first new class YRBM vessel to the U.S. Navy, on track and on schedule, and the work they continue to accomplish for the betterment of the U.S. military.

On behalf of Louisiana's 3rd District, I congratulate Conrad Shipyard on this momentous achievement. I am grateful to the skilled workforce at Conrad for making this possible and thank them for the vital part they play in bolstering our defense maritime industrial base.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF AIR FORCE 1ST LT. RAYMOND T. PLEVYAK

##### HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2024

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Air Force 1st Lt. Raymond T. Plevyak, who will be honored with a Memorial Headstone Marker Service at Arlington National Cemetery.

Air Force 1st Lt. Plevyak was a distinguished F-51D Mustang pilot who went missing in action during the Korean War in 1952.

Though he was declared Killed in Action (KIA) in December of 1953, his bravery and commitment to his country remain deeply honored.

Plevyak entered the U.S. Air Force from Pennsylvania and was assigned to the 67th Fighter-Bomber squadron, 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing.

On March 1, 1952, he departed Hoengsong Air Base in Korea, piloting an F-51D Mustang with the call sign "Topkick Fox Three."

After completing its primary mission of targeting rail lines, the "Topkick Fox" flight of four took fire on its secondary reconnaissance mission, resulting in damage to the lead aircraft.

It was during this mission that 1st Lt. Plevyak went missing.

Despite extensive searches by his fellow pilots, he was never found and remains unaccounted for.

Plevyak's name is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

Along with other medals and citations, he is a Purple Heart recipient. Today, we honor his

memory and the extraordinary sacrifice he made in service to our Nation.

We must always recognize and honor the service members that made the ultimate sacrifice, like 1st Lt. Plevyak. We thank him and his family for his service.

#### HONORING SHERMAN L. JENKINS' IMPACT ON THE CITY OF AURORA

##### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I use today to honor Sherman L. Jenkins for his exceptional contributions to our community, particularly through his work with the Quad County African American Chamber of Commerce and his extensive service to the City of Aurora. As a stalwart advocate for economic development, Sherman has dedicated over 20 years to enhancing the prosperity of the city. His leadership as the Assistant Director and later as the Executive Director of the Aurora Economic Development Commission was marked by key initiatives, such as the successful opening of the Hollywood Casino and the establishment of the Chicago Premium Outlet Mall. These milestones not only raised Aurora's profile, but also significantly contributed to the local economy.

In addition to his professional achievements, Sherman's commitment to community engagement is unparalleled. Even after his retirement in 2012, he remained an active force within the city, serving as an alderman at-large for six years, participating in community events, and driving initiatives that foster collaboration and growth.

Moreover, Sherman's passion for community service extends beyond his professional endeavors. As a founding member of the Quad County African American Chamber of Commerce, he has played a pivotal role in advocating for the African American business community and ensuring that their voices are heard.

His involvement with various organizations, including the Rotary Club of Aurora, the Aurora Public Library Foundation, the Ely Chapter of Lambda Alpha International, and the Northern Lights Development Corporation, exemplify his commitment to civic duty and community well-being.

As he embarks on the next chapter of his life, we celebrate his legacy and the indelible mark he has left on the city. We look forward to seeing his contributions continue to inspire future generations through his digital media company, SLJ Communications, Inc., through which he produces the "Tell Me Something Good" monthly publication that covers African American life outside the City of Chicago, and authored Ted Strong, Jr.: The Untold Story of an Original Harlem Globetrotter and Negro Leagues All-Star.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the legacy of Sherman L. Jenkins and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well in all his future pursuits as he enjoys time with his wife, Juliette, his 3 adult children, and his 3 grandchildren, Jai, Makayla, and Xavier.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WORLD WAR II VETERAN JOSEPH DEMARCO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 9, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional constituent from my district, Joseph DeMarco. Throughout his life, Joe has embodied a selfless and fearless spirit, resulting in a life rich in stories and memories. I commend Joe for his service to our country and thank him for his great sacrifices and honorable legacy. As he celebrates his 100th birthday, I would like to recognize Joe and wish happiness for him and his family.

A Pennsylvania native, Joe was born and raised in South Philadelphia and still considers it to be "The best place around". A born fighter, Joe picked up boxing at a young age, facing the world without fear. He embodied this spirit in every aspect of his life, and following the attack on Pearl Harbor, decided without hesitation to serve his country. Remarkably, Joe was still only 17, meaning he had to forge his parents' signatures to join the United States Marine Corps. Joe began Boot Camp at Camp Lejeune, but his training was cut short after his father found him and made him come home. Unfettered in his mission, Joe reenlisted 6 months later when he turned 18. He went back to Camp Lejeune and completed boot camp. Joe excelled in the Marines—his lifelong love of fighting served him well in the Marines. Growing up boxing taught him to never back down from a fight, a lesson he carried boldly throughout his time in active duty.

At the start of his service, Joe was sent aboard a ship originally headed for Guadalcanal. However, the ship was redirected to the Panama Canal out of fear of an Axis attack on the horizon. While in Panama, Joe was stationed on watch duty, where he had a remarkably close encounter during a Japanese ambush. This ambush killed a Marine who was on his previous post, a solemn reminder of the danger constantly lurking in the seas. After Panama, Joe was sent to Texas. Once a few years passed, he once again boarded a ship to go to Guadalcanal, but was suddenly redirected back to Panama, on the same track as his first ship years before. Joe stayed in Panama for about another year, serving his country honorably. Despite the discipline and service Joe embodied daily, he never lost his youthful spirit from his days in South Philly. Joe remembers how in Marine Corps, his Sergeant would catch him shooting dice and make him clean the entire barracks with a toothbrush.

Upon returning home to South Philadelphia, Joe worked as a presser in a tailor shop, relishing trips to Atlantic City and attending weekly dances with friends. It was at one of these dances that he met his wife, with whom he raised two daughters and a son. His family faced hardships, including the early passing of his son and daughter. Joe is currently survived by his daughter Paula.

He worked in the garment manufacturing industry for many years. He also worked selling beer at the Phillies games and worked as a waiter at night. He loves Phillies sports, espe-

cially baseball and football. He enjoys trips to Atlantic City to play craps, and he loves to gamble (for better or worse). He also loves the classic crooners, with the greats like Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Nat King Cole constantly on play.

I remain deeply appreciative to Joe DeMarco for his life of service and sacrifice for our community, district, and country. His commitment to his fellow neighbors, veterans, and service members alike is a testament to his character and spirit. I am more than honored to recognize him today and wish him nothing but the best for his 100th birthday and the future beyond.

**TRIBUTE TO REVEREND KATHY COOPER LEDESMA**

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 9, 2024*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Kathy Cooper Ledesma upon her retirement as the Co-Senior Pastor of the Hollywood United Methodist Church (HUMC), in Los Angeles, California.

Reverend Kathy Cooper Ledesma received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Occidental College in 1982 and a Master of Divinity from the Claremont School of Theology in 1988. Upon completion of her education, Kathy began her service for the California Council of Churches, specializing in education and public policy. Under her outstanding direction as Board Chair, she accomplished several statewide projects on welfare reform faith-based childcare, and interfaith relations. In 2005, Rev. Cooper Ledesma brought her tremendous leadership skills to the University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture where she worked as a project specialist on issues related to faith communities and preschool for all, earning the Boutillier Award for Distinguished Ecumenical Service.

Rev. Cooper Ledesma is an elder and leading force in the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church, as well as a dedicated member of Hollywood 4WRD, a coalition supporting our unhoused neighbors. As one of the founding leaders of the Homeless Task Force of the Hollywood area faith entities (LA VOICE), Kathy welcomes all with unfailing compassion and limitless kindness, providing hygiene packs and meals for the unhoused population, ensuring that everyone is served both physically and spiritually. Her extensive work with the LGBTQ+ community during her time as the Chair of the Community Advisory Panel of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention Unit has helped countless people, as has her service as the Co-Chair of the Bishop's Task Force on Children and Poverty and a member of the Los Angeles County's Safe Surrender Task Force.

Founded in 1909, the Hollywood United Methodist Church has provided unwavering support and spiritual guidance to its congregants for over a century. Serving the Los Angeles United Methodist Church congregation since 2006, Rev. Cooper Ledesma has worked tirelessly to build faith and spirituality in the heart of Hollywood. For over thirty

years, the HUMC has offered supportive services and pastoral counseling for persons and their family members living with HIV/AIDS. The church's installation of the enormous Red Ribbons of Love on both campuses, a universal symbol of awareness and support for those living with HIV/AIDS, shapes the sanctuary to be a place of "hope and love." Kathy's bright spirit cultivates a vibrant and inclusive congregation that celebrates diversity. Under her leadership as Co-Senior Pastor, the HUMC has excelled in outreach towards young urban professionals, progressives, and families with children.

Rev. Cooper Ledesma is a loving mother of two adult children with her late husband, Rev. Rene Ledesma, and a devoted member of the community.

After over four decades of service, it is an honor to pay homage to Rev. Kathy Cooper Ledesma for her contributions to aiding the unhoused population and promoting faith inclusivity. It has been a great privilege to work with Kathy over the years and see her tremendous impact on the community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable, well-respected reverend in California's 30th Congressional District, Rev. Kathy Cooper Ledesma.

**CONGRATULATING LUPITA MURILLO ON HER WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT**

**HON. JUAN CISCOMANI**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 9, 2024*

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lupita Murillo on her well-deserved retirement after nearly five decades of dedicated service with KVOA News 4 in Tucson.

During her time at KVOA, Lupita's specialized crime reporting made a significant impact on the Tucson community.

Her remarkable career began in Weslaco, Texas, where she broke barriers as south Texas' first Hispanic female broadcaster.

Beyond her journalistic accomplishments, Lupita has been a tireless advocate and volunteer for organizations such as Las Familias, the People With AIDS Coalition of Tucson, and the Children's Miracle Network Telethon.

Lupita will be missed, but her lasting impact on KVOA will continue to inspire future generations of journalists and community advocates throughout southern Arizona.

I am proud to represent trailblazers like Lupita in my district.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION DRAGOON AND THE SOUTHERN FRANCE CAMPAIGN—THE SECOND D-DAY IN FRANCE AND THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

**HON. MARK E. GREEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 9, 2024*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the upcoming 80th