

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of Camp Cosby.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ADVOCACY OF STEPHANIE BARBER-GETER

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize a community activist and dependable leader on Buffalo's East Side, Stephanie Barber-Getter. As the longtime chairwoman of Restore Our Community Coalition (ROCC), she was a shining light and inspiration to anyone with a vision of a better future for the City of Buffalo.

A Hamlin Park resident, Stephanie Barber-Getter was the steady hand behind numerous community development projects. She directed the Head Start Partnership at SUNY Buffalo State College, served as the senior vice president of United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, served as board chair of Elim Community Corp, and president of the Hamlin Park Community & Taxpayers Association. Most notably, her efforts were the driving force behind the decision to restore the Humboldt Parkway community. In 2022 and 2023, after tireless years of advocacy and hard work, New York State and the federal government announced plans to re-imagine the Kensington Expressway. Stephanie recognized that urban landscape has the power to hurt or to heal; she saw the Kensington Expressway for what it was—a destruction of a thriving community in Buffalo. Just last March, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg visited Buffalo to affirm that she had it right all along. The United States government has unequivocally backed Stephanie's vision in both words and resources.

Stephanie Barber-Getter embodied everything that is good about our city and its people. She dedicated her time and expertise to countless organizations in the pursuit of a better Buffalo. I trust that the Kensington project, along with many others that Stephanie played a critical role, will continue to transform Western New York in her absence. To her husband, Edwin, and all her loved ones, she will be sorely missed. But for the people of Buffalo's East Side, Stephanie will be remembered as not only a fixture of the community, but as their champion who delivered tangible results.

HONORING SARAH GLAD

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Sarah Glad in recognition of her life and her service and contributions to the State of North Carolina. North Carolina has lost a friend, an inspiration, and an exemplary public servant.

I had the honor of having Sarah serve as my Legislative Assistant while I served in the North Carolina State Senate. Sarah was

among the best that North Carolina has to offer. She was the hardest working Legislative Assistant in the General Assembly, oftentimes spending late nights helping constituents, conducting research, and helping to draft legislation.

Everybody knew who Sarah was for the way she prioritized the people of North Carolina in everything she did, and for the bright light she brought to every room she walked in. This light was often created by the bright colors she wore, usually pink, but also in her spirit, grace, charm, and mesmerizing smile.

Prior to coming to my office, Sarah gallantly served the State of North Carolina from the offices of Governor Pat McCrory and State Treasurer Dale Folwell.

After serving alongside me in the State Senate, Sarah joined the Pope Foundation in Raleigh, North Carolina, as a program officer. She helped launch North Carolina's first and only statewide newspaper, the North State Journal, as communications director for the foundation and served the organization as an expert on public interest law and legal studies, higher education, and human services.

Sarah lived in Raleigh with her husband, Robbie, her son, Hayes, and their dog, Shep.

Sarah was diagnosed with breast cancer a few years ago and succumbed to her illness on January 19, 2024. Sarah fought breast cancer with the same charisma and fortitude as she served the people of North Carolina. Despite her battle with cancer, Sarah's optimism never wavered. She continued to be a positive light in the lives of those around her and an admirable servant to the betterment of her North Carolina neighbors. Sarah Glad was a warrior for the people of North Carolina, and a warrior in her fight against breast cancer.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an outstanding community member, and to lift her family and friends up in prayers as we mourn her loss.

I thank Sarah for her service to North Carolina, and for embodying the true spirit of public service.

Her commitment to North Carolina and my time working alongside her will forever be honored and remembered. May she rest in peace.

HONORING RIGOBERTO A.  
RAMIREZ

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rigoberto A. Ramirez for his devotion and dedication to his community as a leader, volunteer, and outstanding citizen.

For his years of service to the City of Stanton, Rigoberto A. Ramirez will be honored as Stanton's 2024 Citizen of the Year by the Cypress College Foundation at the 49th Annual Americana Awards on March 16.

A former Stanton City Council member and Planning Commissioner, Mr. Ramirez first made Stanton home in 1995 with his new bride, Jhovana. They still live in their first home, where they raised their son, Nicholas.

From the day they joined the Stanton community, Rigoberto and Jhovana felt a strong connection to both the residents and the community of Stanton.

Along with serving 10 years on the City Council, from 2012 to 2022, Rigoberto is an active member of the Blessed Sacrament School Consultative Board, the Orange County Youth Motivation Task Force, and the Servite High School Board of Directors.

In his professional life, Ramirez earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in 1990 from Loyola Marymount University. A California native, he currently holds the title of Director for a retirement services firm that he has been with since 1991. He is responsible for twelve representatives that provide retirement services to clients across eight states.

In his spare time, he enjoys volunteering for non-profit events and managing Pony Baseball.

Please join me in thanking Rigoberto Ramirez for his years of service to the City of Stanton and the Orange County community.

RECOGNIZING ARVIN HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arvin High School on their 75th anniversary and thank them for their significant contributions to the Arvin community. Arvin High School began serving students in the rural communities of Arvin, Lamont, and Weedpatch in 1949 as part of the Kern High School District. Since their founding, Arvin High School has been committed to serving their students through a diverse array of educational programs, extracurricular activities, and college-level courses. Today, the school's student body is made up of nearly 3,000 students. The mission of Arvin High School is to encourage P.R.I.D.E—participation, responsibility, integrity, determination, and empathy, and to provide students with the skills they need to succeed in their futures. Under the leadership of Principal Ed Watts, Arvin High School has received full accreditation through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, recognizing their dedication to high-quality education and school improvement. Through their Career Technical Education program, students at Arvin High School have the unique opportunity to gain experience in the career path of their choice. In these twelve pathways offerings, students learn how to succeed in numerous fields including health sciences, building and construction, agriculture, and engineering. The CTE program also includes a ROTC pathway, providing students who are interested in serving in the armed forces with the experience they need to thrive after they leave Arvin High School. The staff and faculty at Arvin High School are committed to the educational outcomes of every student. In 2023, 89 students were recipients of a California Scholarship Federation membership, which is awarded to students who demonstrate a high-level of academic achievement. The class of 2023 also received nearly 200 Bilingual Seals and Golden State Seal of Merit awards, and 16 National Honor Society recognitions. This school year, in partnership with Bakersfield College, Arvin High School is offering almost 70 sections of Dual Enrollment course offerings—giving students a chance to earn college credits before they even graduate

high school. In just the past three years alone, Arvin High School has helped 25 students receive their Associate of Arts for Transfer degree in Communication Studies through this initiative. In honor of their work to provide students with dual enrollment opportunities, Arvin High School was one of nine schools recognized as an Exemplary Dual Enrollment School by the California Department of Education in 2023. Arvin High School has been nationally recognized for their academic extracurriculars, including Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial, and the "We the People" Constitution Team, which was started by former teacher Larry Hallum in 1987. Mr. Hallum was one of the many teachers at Arvin High School who has received accolades for his dedication to his students. To celebrate the legacy of Mr. Hallum, the Kern High School District created the "Spirit of Arvin High School" Memorial Scholarship to support future college students in the district. It is because of the commitment of teachers at Arvin High School like Mr. Hallum that students in the Central Valley community flourish, and I want to thank all the faculty and staff at Arvin High School for creating a learning environment that helps our youth become the best they can be.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Arvin High School on their 75th anniversary. Their work to enrich the lives of students in the community of Arvin will be felt for generations to come.

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HOMETOWN HERO—NETWORK OF  
COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, in 1985, when a group of churches and community organizations saw that children across North Texas were in need, they rose to the occasion, creating the Network of Community Ministries. Today this incredible organization has expanded to serve fourteen zip codes, providing programming such as basic needs assistance, mobile food pantries, stabilization programs, and mental health services.

During the school year, the mobile food pantry stops at seven Title 1 schools, where almost half of the school's students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Over Christmas break when students aren't in school, many of these students go hungry without provided lunch. So, the Network of Community Ministries stepped up, giving students nonperishable food items to eat over the break.

The Network of Community Ministries' impact on the greater-Dallas community is far-reaching and hundreds of families have been blessed by their consistent, dedicated work. I want to thank the Network of Community Ministries for their work to provide food for North Texas children and families over the Christmas Break.

HONORING LUCIEL BOLES-WILSON

**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Luciel Boles-Wilson (Ponder) was born in the Boogie Down Bronx to Nelson and Estelle Ponder on August 28, 1947. Growing up she loved math and upon graduating from Theodore Roosevelt High School in 1965 she went to work her first job as an assistant at MetLife Insurance New York. After a year of working there, she spent the next thirty years working as a project manager for Blue Cross Blue Shield. During that time, she experienced so many rich moments.

She met her first husband, Russell M. Boles, Sr. and had two children, Bonita Ponder and Russell M. Boles, Jr. She would then get divorced, become a Grandmother and raise her first Grandchild, Walter J. Redden with the help of her second husband Austin Wilson. She would have many grandchildren, Russell Boles, Randolph Davis, Donovan Hines, Nia Boles, Russia Boles but because of special circumstances she raised her first grandchild as her own.

She stopped working in 1996 due to complications with breast cancer. But she still has so much more love to share and give. So, she started a business from her Co-Op City apartment named Walter's Grandmother Daycare and After School Program where she would nurture the kids in her community. She even became the PTA president of middle school 181 while her grandson was studying there.

Once her grandson was secure enough on his own, she moved to Nereid Ave and quickly became a frequent visitor of the R.A.I.N. Nereid Center. Then soon she would frequent all the R.A.I.N. Centers in the Bronx. She became an active member of United Christian Baptist Church and went to every event there ever was in the Bronx.

So many people had so many kind words for Miss Luciel. Senator Bailey called her a mother figure and a light in the community. District Attorney Clark said that Luciel personified the Bronx with her community service. Speaker Heastie called her the heart and soul of the Bronx.

I want to close by echoing the words of Borough President Vanessa Gibson, "Luciel Boles-Wilson, the life of the party, a great friend, a wonderful Mother and Grandmother, someone you can always count on to cheer you up, make you smile and light up the room with her presence."

Let us keep the family in our hearts, and may she rest easy.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA SUPERIOR COURT  
JURY DUTY FOR SENIORS OPT  
OUT ACT OF 2024

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Superior Court Jury Duty for Seniors Opt Out Act of 2024,

which would allow individuals 70 years of age or older to opt out of jury service in D.C.'s local trial court, the Superior Court.

Most federal courts allow individuals 70 years of age or older to opt out of jury service, including the federal district court for D.C. A majority of states have similar provisions for their courts.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, the D.C. Council does not have authority to amend title 11 of the D.C. Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the local D.C. courts). This bill would amend title 11.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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RECOGNIZING AUBREY PATIÑO'S  
DEDICATION TO THE NEEDIEST  
IN HER COMMUNITY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aubrey Patiño, the Executive Director of Avalon Housing in Ann Arbor, MI. After eighteen years with Avalon, including seven as ED, she is moving on. Her work in service to the homeless population of Washtenaw County is worthy of commendation.

Aubrey graduated from Western Michigan University in 2004 before achieving her Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan in 2005. During this time, she was an assistant at the Michigan Neighborhood Partnership in Detroit as well as an intern with Avalon. Before coming onto Avalon's team full time, she was the Intensive Case Manager at the Downtown Emergency Service Center in Seattle, WA, where she dealt with Homeless Outreach and Transition.

Aubrey joined the Avalon team in 2007 where she started as a Senior Property Manager. She quickly rose through the ranks, becoming the Housing Support Services Leader in 2010 and the Associate Director of Avalon Housing in 2012. In 2014, as one of five homeless services providers across the country, she was invited by the National Alliance to End Homelessness to complete the Transatlantic Practice Exchange, where she went to the United Kingdom and studied best practices in the field of housing and homelessness. Her experience in the UK still guides her work in Washtenaw County to this day.

In 2017, Aubrey was selected as the new Executive Director of Avalon Housing. Her tenure at the helm has been a world of change and has been a boon to the homeless in her community. Aubrey's work on supportive housing funding has resulted in growing and innovative efforts. As a key member of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance, Aubrey helped develop the City of Ann Arbor's affordable housing millage ballot initiative, which citizens overwhelmingly supported. This millage provides a significant, ongoing source of financing for affordable housing development. Aubrey has also consistently advocated for harm reduction across the agency and the community, using a compassionate, evidence-based model for engaging people who struggle with substance use disorders. She continues to advocate for unarmed crisis responses at Avalon properties and throughout the community. Aubrey has also built productive relationships