

of their life together. Please join me in celebrating the marriage of Christie Houlihan and Rahul Dev Chatterjee who are so beloved by their community and whose partnership brings joy to so many. I was honored to pay witness to their nuptials and ask Congress to join me in celebrating them as their one-year anniversary approaches.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAST

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Community Actors' Studio Theatre (CAST) organization.

CAST was incorporated as a 501(c)3 in October of 1999. Since that time, CAST has remained committed to its mission to give everyone in the community an opportunity to be engaged, educated and entertained in the theatrical arts.

In its 25 years, CAST has produced over 130 shows, engaged over 600 individuals from the community in the production of those shows and has provided school-day performances to over 10,000 school children.

CAST is unique in the community because it offers the opportunity for those who want to participate in theatre and provides families a chance to act together. Besides two schools, CAST offers the only instructional program in the theatrical arts in the area, CAST Kidz, teaching weekly classes in dance, voice and acting to over 100 students aged 5–18. These students perform in local productions of their own and compete in and win regional and national theatrical competitions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking CAST for all they do for the community and the children in the area and wishing the organization a happy 25th anniversary.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF KAREN ELAINE THOMPSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary spirit and life of Karen Elaine Thompson; a beloved daughter, sister, wife, and mother.

On May 11, 1960, Karen was born to Allan and Elaine Johnson in Moscow, Idaho. Just two weeks after her birth, Karen, her mother, and her brother reunited with Allan in Watsonville, California where he had recently taken his first position with Bank of America. Karen began her schooling in Modesto, but as Allan rose through the ranks at the bank, she continued her education wherever work took him including Novato, Shafter, Lindsay, and finally Madera where she graduated high school in 1978.

Karen then chose to further her education at Fresno City College and Heald Four C's Business College with a special focus on secretarial courses. Utilizing her education, she

landed her first secretary position at Fresno Federal Land Bank where she met her first love, Mark Thompson. Later, Karen shifted her focus to marketing as the administrative assistant for the CEO of Fresno-Madera Farm Credit before taking her expertise to Citizens Business Bank in Madera. The zenith of Karen's career would come in the years she spent working as an executive assistant at Fresno Heart Hospital, EyeQ, and Community Cancer Institute, places where her importance cannot be understated. One of her greatest achievements was her work alongside executives in building the Cancer Institute in Clovis.

During these years, Karen also raised her two sons, Kyle and Alex, in Madera. Then, when the opportunity presented itself, Karen and Mark took a chance and purchased a home and acreage in Madera Ranchos and eventually married in 2014.

Wherever she lived, Karen always sought to improve her community. She engaged in a variety of volunteer activities for the Big Fresno Fair Livestock Auction, The Kids Breakfast, and the Toolbox Program. Additionally, Karen was always willing to lend a helping hand in events related to agriculture such as those put on by the Cattlemen's Association. Fresno County Farm Bureau, and Reedley College Ag Backers. Equally important, Karen served in a variety of different capacities through her memberships in PEO and Chapter VO where she provided excellent leadership and communication skills. She also was a member of the Clovis Rodeo Association where she served as secretary of the board since 2022.

Her love for life was reflected in her many hobbies, Karen loved photography, camping, sporting clays, gardening, fishing, camping, hand crafts, traveling, and of course, her grandson Liam.

In Karen's passing, we celebrate a life that left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know her. Her legacy lives on in her family; husband Mark and sons Kyle and Alex. May we draw inspiration from Karen's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Karen Elaine Thompson.

RECOGNIZING THE USS NEW JERSEY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Commissioning of the Naval Vessel, the USS *New Jersey* on September 14, 2024.

The third naval vessel named after the great State of New Jersey, this *Virginia* class submarine is a nuclear-powered cruise missile fast-attack vessel that will prove invaluable to the efficacy of our great Navy. After rigorous tests and trials at sea, this ship has proved its capability to perform her designed mission and join America's strong Naval fleet.

Upon being commissioned, the USS *New Jersey* will welcome our brave sailors from the Commanding Officer to the crew who are entrusted with maintaining and operating the submarine during peacetime and time of war.

Not just a phrase but a guiding light through high seas and troubled times, the submarine's motto—Firepower for Freedom—inspires all of its crew members to preserve our Nation's values in fighting for valor and freedom across the globe.

With many Americans coming together in Monmouth County to celebrate the commissioning of the USS *New Jersey*, we also celebrate the long legacy of tenacity and bravery that the Navy has proved time and time again. The brave sailors on all three USS *New Jersey* vessels, and vessels across the globe, exemplify the honor, courage, and commitment stated in the Navy's core values.

As the crew begins their service aboard this exceptional naval vessel, I am grateful for the devotion each and every one of them has to serving their country. I look forward to continuing to support the USS *New Jersey* and its servicemembers in achieving their many missions to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTH- DAY OF THELMA HOLTZCLAW MATHEWS

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mrs. Thelma Holtzclaw Mathews on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Mathews was born on September 26, 1924, and grew up with her parents and seven siblings in Titus, Alabama. She moved to Buffalo fifty-four years ago where she has lived since.

After graduating high school, Mrs. Mathews's top priority was her family. Together with the love of her life, Luther, they raised six incredible children, three daughters and three sons. Mrs. Mathews' family continues to grow, with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is most proud to be a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

When Mrs. Mathews is not with her family, she is with her friends and neighbors. They know they can always rely on her for a warm smile and a laugh. Deeply devoted to her faith, Mrs. Mathews is an active member of the Greater Refuge Temple of Christ on Jefferson Avenue.

Further, Mrs. Mathews deeply values civic engagement, having voted in every presidential election she has been able to. She was very excited to vote for the first Black President, President Barack Obama, and is looking forward to casting her ballot for Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black woman nominated by a major party for President.

Today, Mrs. Thelma Holtzclaw Mathews continues to inspire all who know her, sharing her compassion and dedication to her family, friends, country, and faith. Please join me in celebrating Mrs. Thelma Holtzclaw Mathews on her 100th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes No. 356, 357, and 358 on July 22, 2024. Had I been present, my votes would have been: Yea on Roll Call No. 356; Nay on Roll Call No. 357; and Yea on Roll Call No. 358.

RECOGNIZING MY CHIEF OF STAFF, TIM BERTOCCI, FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my former Chief of Staff, Tim Bertocci, for his work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. In May, Tim departed my office for a new opportunity serving as the Director of External Affairs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, and I could not be more proud or grateful for his service.

Tim has an impressive and extensive background in public service and leadership. He began his career after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned as an Armor officer. During his nine years of military service, Tim served in various leadership positions, to include serving in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Tim also earned a Master of Arts degree from the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University in 2008. He has worked in various roles including the Senior Operations Advisor for the Joint IED Defeat Organization and as a Foreign Service Officer in Havana, Cuba.

Tim's experience and relationships on the Hill from his time working in former Congressman Tim Walz' Office were invaluable as we stood up an office and built a team of bright, motivated, and radically hospitable public servants. He helped lead us all through a series of unexpected and unprecedented events. On top of his duties as Chief, he also served as an instructor at the United States Naval Academy where he taught a class on irregular warfare in the Political Science Department.

Staff members of our office past and present all proclaim that Tim is the true embodiment of a servant leader. A trusted advisor and confidant, Tim always put the needs of the team before himself. He even used a tiny, converted bathroom as an office instead of the large office normally dedicated to the Chief, to allow staff to have a dedicated space they could hold meetings in. For Tim, success is never about individual accomplishments or prestige, but instead about those around him reaching their highest potential individually and collectively.

Tim set a culture of camaraderie and support across the team, always prepared with a shout out or well timed, supportive gif in the Teams chat. He had an unparalleled ability to

create compromise and identify a novel path forward after taking into careful consideration all the options. Though he rarely mentioned it, his record of military service brought a much-needed perspective and calm confidence to our team. Even in the most difficult congressional moments—it was clear Tim had lived through much worse. Tim's humility and expertise were unmatched during those difficult times.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have Tim's dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment, and he will be dearly missed. However, I'm extraordinarily happy that he will continue to serve the nation at the U.S. Department of Defense. I wish Tim all the best in his future endeavors and thank him dearly for his 23 years of public service to this Nation—and many more to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I was present for the vote on Roll Call No. 224 and thought I had voted "AYE" using my member card. However, my vote was not counted. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 224.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN
ANNA ESHOO**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the incredible service of my dear friend and 16-term Congresswoman from California, Representative ANNA ESHOO. ANNA has served the people of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties with great distinction for over three decades. She's hardworking, meticulous, and demanding of herself. In sum, ANNA ESHOO is the kind of person every Member of Congress should be like. She has built a legacy of fighting for her constituents, and her leadership in Congress will be greatly missed upon her retirement.

First elected to Congress in 1992—dubbed "the Year of the Woman"—ANNA was the first Democrat and first woman in the history of the then-14th Congressional District to win the Silicon Valley seat. In Congress, ANNA has been a health care pioneer, a champion for innovation, a human rights and consumer advocate, a staunch proponent of clean energy, and a defender of women's reproductive rights. A prolific legislator, over 60 of Anna's bills have been signed into law by five presidents.

ANNA has served on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee since 1995. In 2019, she became the first woman to serve as Chair of the Health Subcommittee. ANNA helped draft portions of the groundbreaking Affordable Care Act, oversaw the largest overhaul of Medicare since its inception, and wrote landmark bipartisan legislation to promote the development of new lifesaving cures. ANNA

also broke the glass ceiling as the first female Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, where she has championed a free and open internet, removed barriers to entry in the telecommunications market, and helped deploy broadband to underserved communities.

I know ANNA is grateful to her dedicated staff in both California and Washington, D.C. for the countless achievements they have secured for constituents over the years, and for the support of her children and granddaughter. I thank them for their years of service and sacrifice. I congratulate my good friend and colleague on a well-deserved retirement and wish her the very best in her next chapter in life.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP AND
LEGACY OF SENIOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER ERIC DONAHUE**HON. LORI TRAHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Chief Petty Officer Eric Donahue for his tremendous contributions and 20-year legacy in the United States Navy, including his service in the Joint Special Operations Command. Senior Chief Donahue has dedicated his life to our country for the past two decades, all while building a family with his wife, Katie, and raising their three children: Meredith, Ivy, and Tyler.

Eric Donahue was born and raised in Andover, Massachusetts, and is a proud graduate of Austin Preparatory School in Reading, Massachusetts. A dedicated student, he furthered his education at the University of New Hampshire, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management, and Operations. It was at the University of New Hampshire that Eric met Katie, who has been a pillar of strength for him throughout his Navy career.

Moved by the September 11th terrorist attacks, Eric embarked on a mission to become a Navy SEAL to protect the United States, its freedoms, and its ideals. After graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 2004, he had the opportunity to join the Navy as an officer. Instead of waiting to become an officer, he immediately enlisted to begin training without officer status.

In March 2005, Eric commenced Underwater Demolition/SEAL training and successfully completed the program by August 2006, displaying exceptional dedication. He was subsequently assigned to SEAL Team 8 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Throughout eight overseas deployments, including to Afghanistan and Iraq, his dedication, leadership, and outstanding service led to his appointment to the prestigious SEAL Team Six, the Naval Special Warfare Development Group. Within SEAL Team Six, Senior Chief Donahue has continued to lead in various capacities, overseeing numerous training events worldwide and being entrusted with dignitary protection.

Senior Chief Donahue has received numerous accolades and awards throughout his career in recognition of his service. These include five Sea Service Deployment ribbons, three Presidential Unit Citations, two Navy and