

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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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

with local law enforcement. Aubrey's efforts have in turn led to Avalon providing full-time staff at the Washtenaw County jail to support returning citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognition of Aubrey Patiño's hard work and dedication to the homeless community. Though we will miss her presence at Avalon, she has set them on a great path of success. We wish her the best in her future endeavors, and thank her for her service. I thank Aubrey.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MRS. MARGUERITE LOUISE  
KOPPER CHALLY

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**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mrs. Marguerite Louise Kopper Chally. Mrs. Chally, who passed away at the age of 103, leaves behind an enduring legacy marked by service, love, and compassion.

Born in Aberdeen, Idaho in 1920, Mrs. Chally's life was dedicated to caring for those around her. After graduating from Aberdeen High School, Mrs. Chally attended nursing school at Bethel Deaconess Hospital in Newton, Kansas, earning her Registered Nurse qualification in 1941. She first began her decades-long nursing career at the Children's Hospital of the East Bay in Oakland, California.

Fueled by her passion for service and sincere belief in the importance of bringing comfort to those around her, Mrs. Chally worked at numerous hospitals and medical clinics throughout her career. In the last twenty years of her healthcare career, Mrs. Chally served at the University of California, Davis Student Health Center, providing critical care to countless students.

Beyond her essential role as a nurse, Mrs. Chally embodied altruism and compassion in all areas of her life. Volunteering for Yolo County Hospice for over two decades and serving at the International House in Davis and Sutter Davis Hospital, her selflessness and kindness touched all she encountered, undeniably improving the lives of those around her.

Mrs. Chally will be remembered not only for her decades of service to California patients and their families, but also for her genuine commitment to her family, faith, and community. She was a dearly loved family matriarch and devoted her life to caring for others.

Mrs. Chally's enduring spirit lives on in her four children, 10 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. My deepest sympathies go out to Mrs. Chally's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of Yolo County, join me in celebrating her life and legacy.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
STEPHEN COLE

**HON. PATRICK RYAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the impressive record of Mr. Stephen Cole for his service to our country. During the Vietnam War, Sergeant Cole was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division working directly with the intelligence section. He was a part of a small patrol reconnaissance and ambush team that operated in Vietnam's Central Highlands near the Cambodian border and the La Drang Valley. While in Vietnam during a recon patrol, Sergeant Cole suffered wounds during a firefight when he was impaled by a punji stick after stepping in a booby trap. He was subsequently evacuated to the Field Hospital in An Khe for medical treatment. Sergeant Cole was awarded the Bronze Star, which is awarded by the Department of the Army in recognition of heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone, in addition to the Purple Heart for wounds he received in action in the Republic of Vietnam on July 14, 1970. Sergeant Cole received numerous other awards for his service, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star Attachments, the Combat Infantry Badge, and a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. All of these awards are a true representation of Sergeant Cole's true grit while in combat. Upon returning home, Mr. Cole was the Regional Public Affairs and Communications manager for IBM where he served on the board of directors of several regional organizations for economic development. He worked at the IBM Kingston facility in my district as a corporate liaison before it closed in 1995. Mr. Cole's dedication to this country is truly inspiring and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

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RECOGNIZING JESSE MASCARENAS  
AND JASON BURNS

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**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jesse Mascarenas and Jason Burns of Salida, Colorado for being named Global Medical Response Stars of Life by the American Ambulance Association.

In May 2022, Mr. Mascarenas, a flight nurse, and Mr. Burns, a flight paramedic, responded to a call about a hiker who had fallen 200 feet down a mountain in poor weather. While the two treated the injured hiker, he went into cardiac arrest. Despite the patient's condition, Mr. Mascarenas and Mr. Burns were able to stabilize the patient until he could be treated at a nearby hospital. The hiker is alive today due to the heroic actions of Mr. Mascarenas and Mr. Burns.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Mascarenas and Mr. Burns and thank them for their bravery and dedication to service.

RECOGNIZING KADRI CAKRANI'S  
SERVICE TO THOSE FIGHTING  
FOR FREEDOM IN ALBANIA AND  
AROUND THE WORLD

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and life-saving actions of Kadri Cakrani, an Albanian national who served his country in resistance to the Nazis during the Second World War. His service to the Allied war effort and his efforts at democratization afterwards are worthy of commendation.

At the outbreak of WWII, General Cakrani served as the Commandant-General of the Berat region of Albania. During the German occupation of his nation, General Kadri protected the people of Berat, including over 600 Jewish refugees, from becoming victims of the Holocaust. His heroic acts include hiding and protecting sacred 6th century biblical texts from Nazi looting and, under the threat of death, repeatedly lying about the whereabouts of Jews in the area, many of whom sheltered within his own house. After a United States Army plane crash landed, General Cakrani hid the three surviving Army nurses for over five months before successfully and secretly returning them to the Allies.

When the communist dictator Enver Hoxha came to power in 1944, General Cakrani was now labeled an enemy of the state. With the assistance of British Intelligence, he escaped, spending time in Italy and Syria before President Truman granted him political asylum in the United States in 1951. He arrived on our shores with the clothes on his back and \$7 in his pocket, dedicating the rest of his life to bring democracy back to Albania. Until his death in 1972 he worked closely with U.S. Intelligence, but was unable to share his story publicly due to the danger it would undoubtedly put his family in who remained in Albania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating and honoring the life and service of Commandant-General Kadri Cakrani. Despite the constant threats to his life, he took on the responsibility of protecting Albanians, Americans, and anybody else who were fleeing the Nazi regime. Though not an American, he spent his entire life fighting for the same things we hold dear: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I thank him for his service, and thank his surviving family, including his grandson, Lee, who lives in my district, for sharing his amazing story with the world.

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MOURNING THE LOSS OF MICHAEL  
S. BERMAN

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**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2024*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, we lost a great Minnesotan and great American: Michael S. Berman. He passed away on January 12 at age 84. A skilled lawyer, shrewd political advisor, and principled public servant, Mike made indelible contributions to our nation.