

## CELEBRATING JIM ERVIN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my most heartfelt wishes to my good friend Jim Ervin as he celebrates his 80th birthday.

A proud veteran, businessman, and inspiration to many, Jim's background has allowed him to excel in everything he has done. At 80, Jim continues to apply his wealth of experience to our Nation's defense industry. As a result, Jim is widely renowned for his ability to forge meaningful relationships between policymakers, business leaders, and innovators throughout the country. His tireless work ethic is one that should inspire us all.

Throughout his incredible 20-year service in the U.S. Air Force, Jim was able to see—and experience—almost every aspect of our military, foreign and domestic. As a logistician, he ensured that our troops in the Middle East and South America had everything they needed. As a legislative liaison, he advocated on behalf of the Air Force to make sure that our airmen were always ready to serve. Jim is someone who will always put others first, especially in service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Jim a happy 80th birthday. I am proud to be able to call him my friend, and I sincerely look forward to what the future has in store for him.

## HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST CARE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today, we gather to commemorate a remarkable milestone in the field of healthcare and community service—the 50th Anniversary of West Care. This historic occasion is a testament to the enduring legacy and unwavering commitment of West Care to improving various physical, mental, and behavioral health issues in the community.

Comprehensive Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program of Central California (CDAAPCC) was founded in the spring of 1973 under the visionary leadership of four master's graduates from California State University of Fresno in aspirations of finding a solution of the rising issue of substance abuse in Fresno, CA. Of the four initial founders, only one, Robert "Bob" Klise, MSW, continued the original mission. What began as a thesis, would grow exponentially over the next 50 years to provide behavioral health and human services in the Golden State and beyond.

The legacy that has transcended from 1973 until 2024 has left an undeniable impact on many. In 1973 the Comprehensive Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program of Central California (CDAAPCC) was founded to facilitate the creation of a treatment program. In 1974, The Third Floor of the program received funding and was able to admit its first client in 1975.

The project at hand continued to prosper and in search of new ways to assist the community, residential services expanded to include women's treatments in 1985.

Further expansion allowed for a new recovery residence to promote aftercare in 1988. In 1992, The Third Floor entered a management contract with West Care following the passing of founder, Bob Klise. In efforts to continue his legacy after his passing, The Third Floor began offering outpatient treatments. 1999 was a pivotal year for The Third Floor as it merged with West Care to become West Care California, Veteran services were introduced with the Homefront Grant-Per-Diem Transitional Housing Program. Education, and prevention services were also introduced with the Women 2 Women program for mothers, who were affected by or at risk of HIV/AIDS. Treatment services broadened into perinatal services to tie young children into their parent's treatments. Last, but most certainly not least, California's longest running program, MLK residential, was founded with the management provided by West Care. Within the following years, many programs, such as: The Living Room, San Joaquin Valley Veterans, Youth Services in Kings, and Options Program were introduced and merged with West Care.

In 2014, the Criminal Justice Services expanded with the introduction of the Custody to Community Transition Reentry Program (CCTRP) in San Diego. That same year, extension into Housing Opportunities for non-Veteran individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the project LiftOFF program was also introduced. Within 2021–2023 more programs such as Housing Support, New Model of Care, and Wings Advocacy Fresno also collaborated with West Care to provide additional support.

West Cares mission is both clear and commendable. The community outreach efforts have left an indelible mark on the Central Valley. Their commitment to uplifting the human spirit is unwavering, with numerous organizations and program support. Their advocacy efforts are rooted in the promotion of working, growing, and learning together. As we stand on the cusp of West Cares 50th Anniversary, it is incumbent upon us to recognize and celebrate this momentous occasion. It represents five decades of unwavering dedication, advocacy, and service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring West Care. Let us celebrate their legacy and their ongoing commitment to changing lives and improving communities in which it operates.

## HONORING DR. SHANESSA FENNER, OF W.T. BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON WINNING CUMBERLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS 2025 PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2024*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Fenner on being named Cumberland County Schools Principal of the Year.

Dr. Fenner is truly a dedicated public servant and educator. Since 2002, she has worked

tirelessly to ensure that the students of Cumberland County receive a top-notch education and develop the skills necessary to be prepared for the future. After graduating from Fayetteville State University, she kept her talent in our community and dedicated her time and energy into our own students.

As the son of a retired Cabarrus County teacher, I understand the sacrifices our teachers and educators make every single day on behalf of our students, and I want to personally thank Dr. Fenner for all of her hard work. I feel so lucky and blessed that we have such selfless and devoted educators, like Dr. Fenner, in our community.

Again, congratulations to Dr. Fenner on winning this prestigious award. She should feel immensely proud of all she has done to improve the lives of our students.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Dr. Fenner on being named Cumberland County's Principal of the Year.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF ALBERT JOSEPH BORO

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2024*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albert Boro (Mayor Boro) who passed away at the age of 89 on September 1, 2024. Mayor Boro was an iconic public figure in the City of San Rafael and Marin County and a beloved family member.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Mayor Boro earned a degree in Business Administration from the University of San Francisco. He went on to work for Pacific Bell as an executive for 35 years before retiring in 1990. Mayor Boro married Patricia Boro in 1959, and they moved to Marin County after they had their first son, Albert. The family grew with the birth of Maureen, followed by Michael, and then the family moved to San Rafael in 1966, where they had their fourth child, Gena.

While working full time, Mayor Boro quickly became involved in the Marin community, serving as a member of the Marin County Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Cultural Commission from 1968 to 2005, during which he helped to secure 9,700 acres of open space. He also served as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister for Saint Raphael's Catholic Church for many years. In 1971, he joined the San Rafael Planning Commission and was subsequently elected to the San Rafael City Council in 1987. After leaving his corporate role, Mayor Boro stepped into his "second career," as elected Mayor of San Rafael in 1991. After an initial four-year term, he was re-elected in 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007, serving a total of 20 years as Mayor.

Revered for his ability to build consensus and for his many contributions to project and policy development, Mayor Boro's positive impacts on the community are far-reaching. He oversaw the expansion of city services to the historically underserved Canal neighborhood by renovating the community center. He also guided the preservation of the historic Rafael Theatre, and construction of the new Public Works building and Parkside Children's Center. During his tenure, Mayor Boro played an instrumental role in regional and county initiatives, simultaneously serving as Director of the

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District and as Chair of numerous agencies including Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit, the Marin County Parks Commission, the Central Marin Sanitation Agency, the Marin County Fair Board of Directors, and the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers, to name just a few.

Mayor Boro was known for his firm, fair, and caring leadership and faith in local governance. He embraced challenges with common sense, humor, and an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of his neighbors. Over the years, he received numerous accolades, including 2012 San Rafael Citizen of the Year and lifetime emeritus member of Mann County Cultural Commission, and he was named one of the top ten mayors in California—a regard that many held for him throughout his civic life.

Mayor Boro is survived by his wife Patricia Boro; their children and children-in-law, Al and Arlene Boro, Maureen Boro and Mike Winter, Mike Boro and John Fontana, and Gena and Keith Granucci; and their granddaughters Jessica and Madeline Granucci; his sister Barbara and her husband Bill Miles; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

It was my privilege and honor to work with Mayor Boro, and I will miss his friendship. His depth of character is surpassed only by his legacy of his good deeds in San Rafael and beyond. Mr. Speaker, Al Boro was a tireless advocate for the San Rafael community whose legacy cannot be overstated. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing my sincere appreciation for his many decades of good work and expressing my deep condolences to his friends and family.

HONORING ANNIE NICKERSON, THE  
FIRST GOLD STAR MOTHER OF  
WORLD WAR I

**HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2024*

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable legacy of Annie Nickerson, a figure of profound significance in American history and a poignant symbol of sacrifice during World War I. Annie Nickerson holds the distinguished title of being the first Gold Star Mother of World War I, an honor that reflects both her personal loss and her role in a broader national story.

Annie's son, Alfred Nickerson, served valiantly in the U.S. Army and, tragically, lost his life in France during the Great War in 1918. His sacrifice, and that of many others like him, is memorialized through the Gold Star Mothers organization—a testament to the courage and resilience of families who have given their children in defense of our country. The Gold Star Mothers pin awarded to Annie Nickerson serves as a powerful symbol of her enduring strength and the ultimate sacrifice made by her family.

Established in 1928, the Gold Star Mothers organization has been dedicated to honoring and supporting those who have lost loved ones in military service. This organization stands as a beacon of remembrance and respect, celebrating the valor of these families and ensuring that their sacrifices are never for-

gotten. Annie Nickerson's role as the first Gold Star Mother of World War I is a critical part of this legacy, representing the profound impact of these families on our nation's history.

On September 28th, Niagara County will host a significant ceremony to honor and commemorate the contributions and sacrifices of Gold Star Mothers and their families. This event will serve as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by individuals like Annie Nickerson and her son, Alfred. It is a moment to reflect on the extraordinary courage of Gold Star Mothers throughout history and to celebrate their enduring legacy.

As we approach this ceremony, it is important to remember the sacrifices of those who have given so much for our freedom. Annie Nickerson's story is a testament to the strength and bravery of Gold Star Mothers, and her legacy continues to inspire and remind us of the true cost of freedom. Her memory serves as a powerful symbol of the countless families who have experienced similar loss and continue to honor their loved ones with dignity and grace.

I am honored to share this important reflection on Annie Nickerson's enduring legacy and the broader significance of the Gold Star Mothers. May we continue to honor and remember the sacrifices made by all Gold Star Families with the respect and gratitude they so deeply deserve.

HONORING THE 2024 INDUCTEES TO  
THE FLORIDA INVENTORS HALL  
OF FAME

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2024*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nine inventors who have been selected as the 2024 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. To be named as an Inductee, these inventors were nominated by their peers nationwide and have undergone a review process by the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee. As a result, their innovations have been identified as significantly impacting the quality of life, economic development, and welfare of their communities, the residents of Florida, and the United States.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 at the University of South Florida. It was recognized by the Florida Senate with Senate Resolution 1756, adopted on April 30, 2014. The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame catalyzes the cycle of discovery and innovation across the state of Florida by recognizing pioneering inventors, empowering future problem-solvers and change-makers, and propelling the American legacy of innovation through transformative experiences and meaningful storytelling.

Nomination to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame is open to all Florida inventors (living or deceased) who are or have been residents of Florida. The nominee must be a named inventor on a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The impact of the inventor and his or her invention should be significant to society, and the invention should have been commercialized, utilized or led to important innovations.

The 2024 Inductees are the tenth class to be inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. Their achievements underscore the critical role that innovation plays in driving progress and improving the quality of life for people in our state, our nation and around the world. Their groundbreaking work not only advances scientific discovery but also strengthens the economy and enhances our global competitiveness. The 2024 Inductees collectively hold more than 350 U.S. patents and come from across industry and academia. Since its founding, the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame has inducted 77 inventors, who collectively hold over 5,200 U.S. patents.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor the 2024 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame for this outstanding achievement. Innovation and invention are the building blocks of our Nation. I applaud these highly accomplished individuals and the organizations that support them in their quest to change the world in ways that truly benefit humanity. It is because of the perseverance of these inventors that future generations are encouraged to reach beyond their limits and push the boundaries of innovation.

The 2024 Inductees are:

Barry J. Byrne: Professor and Associate Chair of the University of Florida Department of Pediatrics and the Director of the Powell Gene Therapy Center at UF, who is recognized for groundbreaking advances in delivering DNA to muscle cells, initiating the new field of muscle gene therapy, and for developing innovative AAV-mediated gene therapy to restore cardiac and skeletal muscle function for patients with inherited neuromuscular diseases.

Patricia Davis-Lemesy: Engineering Fellow at Cordis Corporation, who is recognized for the revolutionary development of novel polymers that address the characteristics required to conduct coronary angioplasty on blocked coronary arteries, and for advances in polymer chemistry leading to the design of artificial tendons for human trauma surgery.

Peter J. Delyett, Jr.: Pegasus Professor and Distinguished Professor of Optics & Photonics, Electrical & Computer Engineering and Physics and Director of the Townes Laser Institute at the University of Central Florida, who is recognized for significant contributions to development and commercialization of low-noise, high-power, ultrafast semiconductor lasers for applications in industrial manufacturing, metrology, communications, and signal processing.

Hariklia "Lili" Deligianni: Founder of Sense4Me and retired Researcher and Principal Investigator with IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center, who is recognized for the invention and development of breakthrough electrochemical technologies that revolutionized the capability of electronic devices and the semiconductor industry and led to the widespread adoption of electrodeposition as a key processing technology for the fabrication of computer chips.

Greg Mesaros: Chief Executive Officer and Chair of Triadex Services, who is recognized for industry-disrupting innovations integrating technology, market strategy and collective impact into digital tools enabling businesses to cost-effectively scale operations, and providing small businesses the ability to access supply chain prices and efficiencies similar to large corporations.