

RECOGNIZING THE WOODLANDS,  
TEXAS, ON ITS 50TH ANNIVER-  
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## HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tremendous community in my district, The Woodlands, Texas, as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary on October 19th.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, George Mitchell began developing plans for a new hometown called The Woodlands. Mr. Mitchell's vision was for an all-encompassing, integrated community where residents could live, work, play, learn and pray among a natural forested and preserved environment.

Beginning with the modest purchase in 1964 of 2,800 acres from the Grogan Cochran Lumber Company, over the next decade Mr. Mitchell would invest in an additional 17,455 acres as a start to the master planned community. The first public school opened in 1971, and The Woodlands celebrated its grand opening with the opening of the Village of Grogan's Mill on October 19, 1974.

A master planned community far ahead of its time, Mr. Mitchell created in The Woodlands a thoughtful and diverse living experience that balanced the spirit of neighborhood life with business and innovation, all nestled within a grounded natural setting.

Over its five decades, The Woodlands has grown to include nine residential villages, The Woodlands Town Center, Hughes Landing and the Woodlands Waterway, the community's nexus of business and entertainment. The Woodlands boasts some of the highest ranked schools in the greater Houston region, award-winning medical and wellness centers, and places of worship of virtually every denomination. Today, approximately, 2,668 businesses, including the headquarters of major corporations, are based in The Woodlands.

The Woodlands has become an economic juggernaut in the Greater Southeast Texas area led by the development of The Woodlands Town Center. Spanning 1,000 acres, the urban core features premier office and retail space, a plethora of world class dining and entertainment options, hotels, healthcare and residences, all within a walkable environment. Economic development has been key to the success of The Woodlands generating commercial growth that has contributed to sustaining a low tax rate for residents while preserving the exceptional amenities that distinguish The Woodlands from many urban cores.

Likewise, the 151 parks, over 220 miles of hiking and bike trails, pools, public art, water sport destinations and signature golf courses highlight the community's natural surroundings. And yet, with all the community offers, the forest remains. Over the years, nearly one million seedlings have been given away at Arbor Day festivals and planted to enrich the community's forested beauty. Today, almost 8,000 of 28,500 total acres, remains open space.

This dedication to the natural environment was a priority in the development of The Woodlands. Parks have been planned and developed hand-in-hand with residential development. Families can enjoy a park within a 10-minute walk. In fact, The Woodlands was de-

signed to be park plentiful, boasting one park per 815 residents, placing the community 200 percent above the national average for parks per resident, according to the National Recreation and Parks Association.

George Mitchell strategically planned The Woodlands with a focus on residential development first, laying the groundwork and support for a robust commercial destination aimed to create a central hub that would enhance the overall community experience and attract businesses, residents and visitors. Since its founding, The Woodlands has emerged from a fledgling outpost of the Greater Houston area to a thriving community ranked the No. 1 Community to Live in America in 2021 and 2022. As The Woodlands celebrates five decades of diversity, innovation and community pride, we all look forward to its even more promising future.

In recognition of the 50th Anniversary, The Woodlands community will come together for a week of events culminating in a community wide celebration on October 19th. I congratulate The Woodlands on its 50th Anniversary and wish its residents a safe and joyous celebration on this momentous occasion.

## HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER STATE SENATOR PRISCILLA DUNN

## HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of a beloved educator and public servant, former Alabama State Senator Priscilla Ann Proffitt Dunn, who passed away on September 17, 2024, at the age of 80.

Senator Dunn was born on October 8, 1943, to Johnnie A. Proffitt and Mary Ella Walker in Margret, Alabama. She attended J.S. Abrams High School, where she made a name for herself as the captain of the Cheer Leader Squad and the first Ms. Abrams High.

Upon graduating from J.S. Abrams High School with Honors in the Class of 1961, Senator Dunn continued her educational journey at Alabama State University, where she received a bachelor's degree in education, and the University of Montevallo where she earned her master's degree in education.

With a lifelong passion for education, Senator Dunn worked in the Public School System of Alabama for 30 years where she poured into the children of her community. Known for her kindness and generosity, she often personally paid for school supplies that many of her underserved students could not afford.

In 1998, motivated by the pursuit of justice and an abiding love for the people of her community, Senator Dunn sought public office, bringing her immense talents to the Alabama State Legislature where she represented the Bessemer and Jefferson County area for nearly a quarter century. She began her political career in the Alabama House, where she represented the 56th District from 1998 to 2009. She later represented District 19 in the Alabama State Senate, serving from 2009 until her retirement in 2022. Her 24-year tenure was marked by compassionate and powerful

advocacy on the issues of education, women's and children's rights, and combating the epidemic of homelessness.

Senator Dunn spent her life giving back to her community. She served in a leadership capacity on numerous organizations, including President of the Concerned Citizens of Bessemer Cut-Off, Coordinator for the Jefferson County Democratic Conference, Board Member for the Bessemer Civic Center, President of the Humanistic Challengers Federated Club, Secretary of Girls, Inc. of Central Alabama, Board Member of the Jefferson/Shelby Counties American Cancer Society Advisory Board and Board Member for the State Democratic Executive Committee and many more.

Having accepted Christ into her life at a young age, Senator Dunn was a devoted servant of God who led by example and always practiced what she preached. She was an instructor for the Jefferson County Congress of Christian Education and a Trustee and Sunday school teacher for her home church, the Shady Grove Baptist Church.

Senator Dunn is survived by her beloved husband, the Honorable Grover Dunn; her daughter, the Honorable Karen Dunn Burks (Eric Burks—deceased), her brother, Herman L. Lumzy; two grandsons, Grover Blake Burks and Frederick Brock Burks; nephews, Herman Lumzy (Jasmine), Mario Lumzy (Rhonda); her niece, Tameeka Lumzy Todd (Jeremiah) and a host of relatives and friends.

On a personal note, I was blessed to have known Senator Dunn and her wonderful family. As Alabama's first Black Congresswoman, I stand on the shoulders of amazing leaders like Senator Dunn who opened the doors for me and many others. She was a grand dame whose footsteps we as Black women elected officials in Alabama are blessed to follow.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of State Senator Priscilla Dunn and her decades of exemplary service to the State of Alabama and our Nation.

## HONORING AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S DAY

## HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA), based in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and to celebrate American Business Women's Day.

ABWA's Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter held its first meeting on May 22, 2019. Since then, the organization has provided opportunities for local business leaders to network and learn from one another. Through their work to recognize the rich contributions of women in business, members have brought together businesswomen from various fields and highlighted their voices at the local and national level.

I thank the Fredericksburg Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter for their unwavering commitment to fostering growth and excellence, spotlighting the role of local businesswomen in growing Virginia's economy, and

empowering women in our communities. I am proud to join them and their sister chapters across our country in celebrating 75 years of the ABWA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fredericksburg Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter for their remarkable achievements and their commitment to empowering women in business. Their dedication exemplifies the spirit of progress and excellence we celebrate on American Business Women's Day.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRFAX COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), a nonprofit organization that has provided direct advocacy and support to abused and neglected children in Fairfax County's child welfare system. Since its establishment, Fairfax CASA has made an immeasurable impact on the lives of these children.

Fairfax CASA plays a crucial role by vetting, training, and supervising community volunteers who are appointed by the Fairfax County Juvenile Domestic Relations District Court to represent the best interests of children in open abuse and neglect cases. Over the last 35 years, the organization has trained nearly 1,900 volunteers, serving almost 9,000 children since its inception in 1989.

The vision to bring CASA to Fairfax County began with Judge Jane Delbridge, who recognized the need for neutral, dedicated advocates in her courtroom. After attending a 1985 conference for judges and district attorneys, Judge Delbridge worked alongside Fairfax attorney Carole Coile, as well as former Director of Court Services Vince Pichcano and other court professionals, to launch the program. Fairfax CASA officially opened its doors in 1989, and its first child abuse case was assigned to a Court Appointed Special Advocate on January 17 of that year.

Since then, Fairfax CASA has continued to grow, both in scope and in the number of children it serves. From its first year, when 37 community members volunteered and 80 children were served, to today, where the program assists an average of 350 children annually, Fairfax CASA has remained a vital resource for the community. In the most recent fiscal year, Fairfax CASA served 395 children from 230 families.

Over the course of its 35-year history, Fairfax CASA volunteers have submitted over 10,000 comprehensive reports to the Court, ensuring that judges are equipped with the information necessary to make decisions in the

best interests of the children. These reports are an essential component of the advocacy process, shining a light on the circumstances that might otherwise go unheard in the judicial system.

Fairfax CASA's success is not just measured in the number of cases handled but in the lasting difference it has made in the lives of thousands of children. The program's deep commitment to direct advocacy, as well as its push for systemic change, has earned it the respect and admiration of the entire child welfare community.

As Fairfax CASA celebrates 35 years of service, we are reminded of the immense value of its mission. Until the day comes when no child in Fairfax County needs the services of a Court Appointed Special Advocate, Fairfax CASA will continue to stand as a pillar of hope and protection for the children who need it most.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Fairfax CASA for 35 years of outstanding service and advocacy, and for its unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable members of our community.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER OF DALE INGRAM

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Dale Ingram of Van Alstyne, Texas. Detective Ingram has dedicated himself to faithfully serving and protecting our community.

Since 1978, Detective Ingram has served as a law enforcement officer in North Texas. Throughout his 45 years in uniform, he has worked as a patrol officer, warrant officer, detective, and as a member of the North Texas Child Abuse Task Force. Currently, Detective Ingram works for the Van Alstyne Police Department. In his career, he has diligently fought to protect our children from harm and ensure our communities are safe. In May, Detective Ingram was tragically diagnosed with a late stage brain tumor, which has affected his quality of life. Despite this diagnosis, he has tirelessly fought to spend as much time with his family as possible.

When Detective Ingram's children went through his old files and keepsakes, they found that he had received countless exemplary reviews from superiors and commendations for his selfless service as a law enforcement officer. Some weren't written down, as they involved his actions in protecting the lives of children who did not have a voice. For decades, he has served North Texas with great pride and honor, unafraid of those who wish to do harm. Outside of the uniform, Detective Ingram is a loving husband, father, and grandfather to thirteen grandchildren. I am confident

that he will fully triumph in the battle against cancer, and I wish him a complete recovery so that he may spend many more years with his family.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Detective Ingram's extensive public service and dedication to the people of North Texas. May God Bless him.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL STEINBARGER

**HON. GREG PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mark the passing of a dear friend. On May 14, Michael Steinbarger of Edinburgh, Indiana sadly left this world.

Michael was a native of my hometown of Columbus, Indiana and married his wife, Anggie, in 1982. From that point on, they shared their lives together on a farm in Edinburgh, where they raised two daughters, Hayley Clark and Michelle Tobias.

Michael was an active servant of his community, proudly serving with the Shelby County Farm Bureau Board, Shelby County 4-H, Flat Rock Volunteer Fire Department, and was a member of the St. George Lutheran Church.

I am especially thankful for Michael and Anggie's wise counsel and service as it relates to my Sixth District Agriculture Advisory Board.

My heart goes out to Anggie, their two children, and their families.

All who knew Michael were better for having known him, and he will be greatly missed.

HONORING DONNA RHODES

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I would like to recognize Donna Rhodes, president of the Sun City Grand Republican Club.

Donna has distinguished herself by providing exceptional service to the residents of Sun City Grand, Arizona. As president of the club, Donna has been an advocate for educating members on the civic engagement process and how to interact with elected officials. The efforts of Donna and the Sun City Grand Republican Club have been pivotal to the success of elected officials and candidates in the Phoenix West Valley.

I am thankful for Donna's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to the 8th Congressional District and the State of Arizona.