

make New Jersey's 7th Congressional District a better place. I am honored to have such an amazing organization in the 7th District, and I look forward to seeing what they will continue to achieve in the future.

CELEBRATING NEON

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable achievement of the Northside Economic Opportunity Network as they break ground on their Food Entrepreneur Collective Kitchen.

NEON is an invaluable nonprofit in my district that fosters local entrepreneurship to help open and support small businesses in North Minneapolis.

North Minneapolis is a vibrant, diverse community full of drive and creativity—including aspiring small business owners striving to serve their neighborhoods. Due to historic disinvestment, it is also one of the Nation's most severe food deserts. NEON's transformative project will help to address both concerns.

Almost half of NEON's 1,000+ clients are food entrepreneurs, each of whom face the significant barrier of the Northside's lack of a commercial kitchen to grow their business. Thanks to NEON, this will no longer be the case. Their Food Business Incubator will be more than a commercial kitchen—it will provide an innovative, collaborative venue for these Northside entrepreneurs to start, thrive, and grow their business ventures. And, it will create an environment for a new generation of Northside entrepreneurs to give back to their community.

Team NEON, under Warren McLean's steadfast leadership, has worked tirelessly to make the dream of this Northside commercial kitchen a reality. I am immensely proud to have played a role in this amazing project by providing my first Community Project Funding award for \$1,000,000 for this project. Ever since, NEON has been a shining example of what these awards can accomplish and their immeasurable impact on our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating NEON on this momentous occasion. Congratulations to Team NEON.

RECOGNIZING JULIO ROLDÁN CONCEPCIÓN

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Julio Roldán Concepción, the Mayor of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. His leadership these last four years has helped to grow and improve Aguadilla for all members of the community. His and his Administration's hard work helped Aguadilla to earn the Beacon of Economic Growth Award, presented by the Friends of Puerto Rico Organization.

Prior to his mayorship, Mr. Roldán spent his time helping and protecting his community. After high school, the Mayor joined the na-

tional guard to serve his country and community. Shortly after this, Mr. Roldán worked as a corrections officer to uphold the law in society.

In addition to his work in the armed services and corrections, Mr. Roldán worked as an insurance broker assisting individuals understand and navigate the difficulties of the insurance industry. He eventually opened his own general agency where he even assisted individuals over the radio.

One of Mayor Roldán's crowning achievements prior to his mayoral position was his assistance in Aguadilla's 2017 recovery efforts. In September of 2017 he carried out the distribution of more than 45,000 pounds of essential supplies to families and communities. After talking to and touring communities, Mr. Roldán announced his run for mayor in 2020.

I want to thank Mayor Roldán for his lifetime of hard work, and for his work the past four years for the people of Aguadilla. Furthermore, I want to honor the city of Aguadilla's 250th year and look forward to seeing their continued growth.

HONORING GINA MALONEY

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Gina Maloney, Chairwoman of Republican Legislative District 5. District 5 includes the eastern most part of the 8th Congressional District and a population of over 239,000.

Gina has worked tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. Her efforts to work collaboratively with other leaders have been instrumental to the success of Republican elected officials and candidates in the state legislature and beyond.

I am thankful for her leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to the legislative district and to the state of Arizona.

RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT OF SOUTHERN OREGON

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Korean, Vietnam, and WWII War Veterans from Oregon's Second Congressional District who are visiting their memorials on the Capitol Plaza through the efforts of Honor Flight of Oregon. When I have the opportunity to meet these heroes, I am reminded of the enduring words of President Ronald Reagan, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." Our veterans embody this spirit, having fought valiantly in Korea, Vietnam, and WWII to preserve the freedoms we hold dear. Their courage and dedication remind us that the price of liberty is always worth paying. It is my privilege to include in the RECORD their names.

Veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are as follows: Kenneth Amburn, Jack Crockett, Jack Fitzgerald, Ronald Greene, Michael Grover, Roger Heegard, Ronald Hemphill, Gary Hoffman, Freddy Humble, Kevin Johnson, Wayne Kleckner, Richard Little Jr., Kenneth Marvin, Terry Moore, Gerald Newcomb, Terry Peariso, Ray Rose, David Schwab, Colben Keith Sime Jr., Jack war"Smith, Robert Stangier, Gregory Storey, Dale Vincent, Richard Vowell, William Wilde, Curtis Williams, David Young, Steven Eggert, Nathan Greene, Shasta Little, Kevin Pierson, Roy Starbeck, and Israel Wallace, Tyr Symank, Robert Symank. These heroes join over 260,000 Veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

Mr. Speaker, General Douglas MacArthur once said, "The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." As a Nation, we must never take for granted the liberties we enjoy today, recognizing that these freedoms have been hard-won by the honor, commitment, and sacrifice of our Veterans. Each Member in this chamber and every citizen in these United States should be humbled by the courage of the brave Veterans who voluntarily faced danger and adversity to preserve our country and way of life. Colleagues, please join me in thanking these Veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their remarkable service and devotion to our great country.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASADENA LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo, which is proudly held in Pasadena, Texas.

The Pasadena Rodeo began in 1949 to commemorate the city's farming and ranching roots as heavy industry began to replace farmland. Its founders' goal was to unite the growing city, offer opportunities for local youth, and illustrate how the business community, the cowboy, and rural lifestyles could come together in harmony. An important rodeo component was, and still is, promoting the values of being a cowgirl or cowboy: following through on one's commitments, setting goals, and achieving those goals both personally and professionally.

For 75 years, attending the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo has been a tradition for many families and businesses across the region. It continues to exhibit and pay tribute to the community's deep ties to its agricultural history and rich cowboy culture. Its livestock show now includes the Deer Park, La Porte, League City, and Pasadena school districts, with 12 high schools participating and hundreds of students packing the Ag Barn and exhibition spaces to showcase animals and projects. It has also grown to include an annual livestock auction, parades, carnivals, fairs, barbeque competitions, and several other events for thousands of visitors to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to sincerely congratulate everyone involved in the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo, both past and present, for 75 years of success. May God continue to bless the people of Pasadena and the Pasadena Rodeo for many decades to come.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
CINDY H. HAYGOOD

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commitment and service of Brigadier General Cindy H. Haygood and her 36 years of service to the Louisiana National Guard. Brigadier General Haygood first joined the National Guard in 1988 and was commissioned in 1994 through the State Officer Candidate School of the Louisiana Army National Guard. Throughout her involvement in the Louisiana National Guard, Brigadier General Haygood has never shied away from an opportunity to serve. Brigadier General Haygood not only assisted in mobilization efforts for four major military operations, but she also simultaneously served as the Deputy Director of the Louisiana Military Department and the Assistant Adjutant General.

BG Haygood was also a trusted member of our state and local community, and she was on speed dial during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, Brigadier General Haygood assisted many agencies in crisis management planning, and under her leadership the Louisiana National Guard was able to save lives and ensure public safety in Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, Louisiana and our Nation have benefitted from Brigadier General Haygood's contributions, and we, along with her family, Bill, Madeline, and Lauren, are grateful for everything she has done. I thank Brigadier General Haygood.

HONORING FRANK STEELE

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Frank Steele, Chairman of Republican Legislative District 24. This district is in the southeastern portion of the 8th Congressional District, encompassing areas of Peoria, Glendale, and Phoenix. The district has a population of over 234,000.

As Chairman, Frank is a leader willing to work tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. His role is critical to the success of Republican elected officials and candidates in the state legislature and beyond.

I am thankful for his leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate his service to the legislative district and to the state of Arizona.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF SUSAN
ROWE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the indomitable spirit and extraordinary life of Susan Rowe; a true icon whose legacy transcends the ordinary.

Born on February 20, 1956, to Jo Ann and John Warren Smith, Susan was not just a woman; she was a force of political activism and civic engagement, embodying the essence of California's Democratic traditions.

Raised in Anderson, Indiana, Susan lived through her passion for singing and dancing in plays and musicals. After graduation from Anderson High School in 1974, Susan attended Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana where she was a ballet major and a member of Alpha Phi sorority. Susan attended both high school and college with her eventual husband Michael Rowe. Susan and Mike were married on June 25, 1983, at St. Mary's Church in Anderson Indiana. Their love would endure for many years to come.

Although Susan spent a significant portion of her life in the Hoosier state, she managed to make a major impact as a Central Californian who changed a countless number of lives.

Susan honorably advocated for and served the people of the Central Valley for twenty years as a dedicated and relentless grassroots volunteer for the California Democratic Party. She was a tireless champion of democracy in which she contributed greatly by getting out the vote, promoting voter registration, and encouraging and recruiting candidates to run for public office.

For her efforts, Susan was rightfully recognized in 2004 and in 2015 when she was twice awarded the CDP Regional Volunteer of the Year Award. Her work and leadership skills were recognized as she served honorably in several leadership positions. She was elected to a two-year term in 2007-08 as Regional Director of Region 8 of the statewide party. Beginning in 2005 and until her passing she served as the chair of the Madera County Democratic Central Committee and also served multiple terms as the Vice-Chair of the Rural Caucus of the California Democratic Party. Additionally, Susan promoted political freedoms and activities as evident in her co-founding of the California Latina Democrats in Fresno.

In Susan's passing, we celebrate a life that embraced activism, supported the democratic process, and left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know her. Her legacy lives on in her family: her husband Michael Rowe and her brother Carlton B. Smith of Indianapolis. May we draw inspiration from Susan Rowe's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived. I extend my deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all who mourn the loss of this remarkable Californian. Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Susan Rowe, a true Californian and inspiration to the Central Valley.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE MARIE
CHOTVACS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anne Marie Chotvacs, who has selflessly served the United States, most prominently on the House Committee on Appropriations, for nearly 23 years. Her commitment to our country has benefited Congress tremendously, and her dedication to service has set an example for generations to come.

Anne Marie entered federal service through a highly competitive Presidential Management Intern program at the U.S. Department of Commerce. There, she reviewed budget and policy proposals, served as a liaison to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, and prepared briefings, testimony, and talking points for senior Department officials.

While at the Commerce Department, she was detailed to the Office of Management and Budget during the development of the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2002 and the House Committee on Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2004 appropriations process. What she didn't realize at the time was that the latter detail would pave the way for a successful career on the most powerful committee in Congress.

In March of 2004, Anne Marie officially joined the House Committee on Appropriations as a Professional Staff Member, working for a handful of subcommittees. Just a few years later, I was named the Lead Republican of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. Anne Marie's drive and hard work earned her the position of Minority Clerk for the Subcommittee, which is where I really got to know Anne Marie. In 2015, I had the honor of becoming the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. Given her foreign policy expertise, it was a natural transition for Anne Marie as she continued as the lead policy staffer for the Subcommittee, ultimately becoming the Staff Director and Majority Clerk.

Serving on such a wide-ranging, impactful subcommittee, she knew it was important to conduct strict oversight of foreign programs and initiatives and made it a point to travel to all continents and more than 50 countries, ensuring taxpayer resources were being utilized responsibly and as intended by Congress. During her time on the Subcommittee, she was named in the National Journal's "Five Staffers to Watch on Foreign Aid," a befitting accolade.

After more than 12 years with the House Committee on Appropriations, Anne Marie had the opportunity to leave the federal government and work as the Senior Director of International Operations and Policy for The Boeing Company, managing a team representing the company's international commercial and defense business interests.

When I was elected by my colleagues to be the Lead Republican of the House Committee on Appropriations for the 116th Congress, I knew immediately I wanted Anne Marie to be the Minority Staff Director, the top Republican staffer for the Committee. In this well-deserved