

Code Council's elected leadership; and its more 60,000 Members and staff as they commemorate Building Safety Month 2024 and work to raise public awareness to the importance of building safety across our Nation.

THANKING SUSAN M. KOZUBSKI
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Ranking Member Morelle and myself, please join me in congratulating Susan M. Kozubski who is retiring after 21 years of service to the People's House and with more than 30 years of overall federal service. Susan currently serves as the Assistant Chief Administrative Director for Finance and Administration in the Office of Inspector General.

Ms. Kozubski began her service in 1984 working for the European Special Activities Area of the Department of the Air Force in Germany. During her time in Germany, Susan also worked in the 18th Military Intelligence Battalion of the Army, was the executive secretary to the Battalion Commander of the 6–40th Armor Battalion, Berlin Brigade, U.S. Army Berlin, and the executive secretary to the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Berlin.

Susan returned to the United States in 1993, started working in the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and then as the executive secretary for the Director of the Non-Developmental Airlift Aircraft System Program Office. For her work in the Program Office, she was awarded the Air Force Award of Excellence in Acquisition Management.

Ms. Kozubski joined the House Inspector General's Office in 2000 as the administrative assistant. She advanced into higher-level positions in the Office as the secretary, executive secretary, and administrative director. Susan worked on several special projects, including representing the Office on the House Officers' and IG's Human Resources Task Force.

In 2007, Ms. Kozubski returned to Europe and worked for the U.S. Embassies in Poland and Montenegro. In Warsaw, Susan worked in the Visa Fraud section as a consular associate. During that time, she exposed a visa fraud ring operating between New York and Belarus, earning her the State Department's Benjamin Franklin Award. In Montenegro, she was the Community Liaison Officer, helping acclimatize new embassy staff and their families with aspects of living in the host country.

Susan returned to the United States in 2010 and re-joined the House Inspector General's Office in 2010 as the Assistant Director for Finance and Administration. During this time, she worked on several projects and implemented programs and procedures to increase efficiencies in the administrative functions and operations. For example, she led the team to revise the Performance Management Program, led the team that developed the first Succession Planning Program, and chaired the House Officers' and IG's Human Resource Task Force several times. Notably, Susan is the first, and currently only person to be awarded the Employee Excellence Award twice, first in 2019 and again in 2023.

Congratulations and thanks to Ms. Susan M. Kozubski for her dedication and leadership serving our Nation for over 30 years.

RECOGNIZING DENTON'S INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Denton IOOF Cemetery and the Ribbon Cutting ceremony denoting a long-overdue correction to the property's deed, formally eliminating the prohibition for the burial of Black individuals in the cemetery. This is a significant and important day for the Denton community in formally acknowledging the rights and worth of all community members, regardless of race.

I would like to thank Mayor Gerard Hudspeth for raising the issue so the City of Denton could do the necessary research and legal work to eliminate the codified restrictions in the deed's provisions. Denton county has a rich African American history, which serves as an important cornerstone for the flourishing and prosperity community we recognize today.

The elimination of this restriction aligns the IOOF Cemetery's stated value of "elevating mankind's character" with Denton's shared commitment in honoring the innate human value of its citizens and ensures that all cemetery visitors and their loved ones are recognized as equal in both practice and in code. I am honored to recognize this ribbon cutting ceremony.

CONGRATULATING PARALYMPIAN CHRIS HAMMER

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Chris Hammer for winning a gold medal at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

At 38 years old, Chris Hammer dedicated over half his life to achieving his Paralympic dreams. He began his athletic journey at a young age, where he quickly discovered a passion for long-distance running. In 2004, Chris began his collegiate career at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in West Michigan. There, he earned five All-American honors—once in cross country and four times in steeplechase. In 2022, he was inducted into GVSU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Following his success at GVSU, Chris joined the 2012 U.S. Paralympic Team in London, competing in the 1500-meter, marathon, and 800-meter track events. He then competed in the PT4 paratriathlon at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and the PST5 paratriathlon at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games, finishing fourth in both events.

In Paris, Chris finished the men's PTS5 paratriathlon in just 58 minutes and 44 seconds, winning the gold medal for his outstanding performance. We are honored that Chris called the great state of Michigan home for so many years, and applaud his commitment, drive, and persistence throughout his athletic career.

Mr. Speaker, once more I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Chris

Hammer's first gold medal victory. I congratulate Chris on his well-earned success, and hope he finds some time to celebrate this incredible feat alongside his teammates, family, and community.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL LUIS JESUS LOPEZ, USMC, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USMC Corporal Luis Jesus Lopez, of Waco, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His dedication to his Country and fellow men serves as a template for American Exceptionalism.

Born and raised in Texas, Luis Lopez answered the call to serve by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in February 1969, during the escalating conflict of the Vietnam War. Throughout his four years of active duty, he was deployed to Vietnam, where he faced the perils of enemy fire on the battlefield with unwavering courage. In one particularly harrowing encounter, Corporal Lopez and his squad came under intense attack. Amid the chaos, he exhibited extraordinary bravery and selflessness. Alongside a corpsman and another Marine, he worked tirelessly to load two radiomen onto a helicopter, shielding them from lifethreatening enemy fire. One of the radiomen had already made the ultimate sacrifice, but Corporal Lopez upheld the sacred duty to never leave a fallen comrade behind. His actions that day not only saved lives but also exemplified the highest ideals of honor and brotherhood.

Corporal Lopez's distinguished service is reflected in the numerous awards and honors he has received, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Rifle Sharpshooter Badge. In his civilian life, Luis Lopez has remained a pillar of his community. He is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Marine Corps League, and the American Legion in Waco. Through these organizations and his personal efforts, he consistently strives to support and assist his fellow veterans. His unwavering commitment to service extends beyond official capacities, making him an invaluable member of the community who continues to enrich the lives of others. Even in retirement, Corporal Lopez has dedicated himself to serving others, just as he did during his military career. His ongoing contributions to his fellow veterans and his community stand as a testament to his character and the values he embodies. It is with profound honor and respect that I award retired USMC Corporal Luis Jesus Lopez with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING DR. LINDA SMITH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Linda Smith, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Dr. Linda Smith is the executive vice president for the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB). She previously served as president of the D. James Kennedy Center for Christian Statesmanship, executive vice president and chief operating officer for NRB, chief of the office of public affairs for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and chief of staff for the U.S. Parole Commission.

As chief of public affairs, Linda oversaw congressional, media, and public relations for the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons. At the U.S. Parole Commission, she served as chief analyst for the National Appellate Board and other positions before assuming the role as chief of staff, overseeing this multi-mission agency, responsible for the release and re-arrest of federal offenders.

She is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, including the Myrl E. Alexander Award from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons, which recognizes the development of new techniques in correctional programs and implementation of new and innovative procedures. She also received the Victims of Crime Award from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia for her work with crime victims.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF
SERGEANT ISAAGO FA'ATOESE
MALOTUMAU**

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Isaako Fa'atoese Malotumau, as we mark the 10th anniversary of his passing. Isaako Malotumau was born on October 18, 1950, in Aoa, American Samoa. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 9, 1970, and completed basic and infantry training at Fort Ord, California, by November 1970. His first assignment was as a rifleman in South Vietnam from December 1970 to April 1971, followed by service with the Rangers until he was captured on April 24, 1971. After 704 days as a POW, he was released on March 27, 1973. He served in various roles, including Test Supervisor at Fort Ord and Redeye Team Chief in West Germany, until his honorable discharge on June 26, 1978. Isaako died on September 10, 2014, and was buried in Tacoma, Washington.

His Bronze Star Medal citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Executive Order 11046, 24th August, 1962, takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal to Specialist Fourth Class Isaako Fa'atoese

Malotumau. United States Army, for meritorious achievement as a Prisoner of War while engaged in operations against an opposing armed force in North Vietnam during the period of February 1971 to May 1972. In an atmosphere of enemy harassment and brutal treatment, he continued to establish and maintain communications through unusual and ingenious methods, which resulted in American and Allied prisoners presenting a posture of increased resistance to the enemy's wishes and at the same time improving prisoner morale. His loyalty, diligence and devotion to duty were in keeping with highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

SSG Malotumau was a Pastor of the New Life Samoan Assembly of God, Tacoma, WA with over 2 decades of ministry. He is survived by his lovely wife of 40 years, Pr. Talatalaga Finau Mikaele—Malotumau, whom he married on April 27, 1974. They had 6 children and 9 grandchildren at the time of his passing. We honor his legacy and thank him and his family for their public service that continues to benefit the Pacific Islander community to this day.

**HONORING NEW JERSEY'S SEVENTH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S
HOMETOWN HEROES**

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hometown heroes, first responders and law enforcement, who keep us safe every day. In recognition of National Police Week in May, my office put out a call for nominations for the first NJ-07 Law Enforcement Hometown Heroes initiative. Twenty-two law enforcement professionals from across New Jersey's 7th Congressional District were nominated by their chiefs and supervisors for the outstanding work they do every day. It is my honor to play a small role in recognizing their efforts as a token of appreciation for the difficult and often thankless task of keeping our communities safe. I will always support these men and women in blue, and I look forward to welcoming each of these hometown heroes to a ceremony in October to formally recognize them in-person. In recognition of their bravery and commitment, I would like to include in the RECORD the names of these twenty-two Hometown Heroes:

Officer Alyse Brown, Sparta Township Police Department, Staff Sergeant Brent Hawkswell, New Jersey State Police, Officer Connor Strohm, Readington Township Police Department, Sergeant Daniel Kern, Hopatcong Police Department, Lieutenant Donald Sretenovic, New Providence Police Department, Lieutenant Douglas Baylor, Phillipsburg Police Department, Detective Elizabeth Savnik, Westfield Police Department, Corporal Gretchen Malone, Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office, Officer Jarren Mann, Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office, Officer Jessica Gutsick, High Bridge Police Department, Officer John M. Simonetti Jr., Mount Olive Police Department, Captain Jonathan Rachel, Springfield Police Department, Captain Michael Jackson, Mountaintop Police Department, Captain Miguel Acabou, Clark Police Department, Officer Nicholas J. Villa, Raritan Township Police Department,

Patrolman Peter Zabita, Hopatcong Police Department, Corporal Ryan Kamieniencki, Far Hills Police Department, Captain Scott Rayack, Rahway Police Department, Lieutenant Thomas Polito, Bedminster Township Police Department, Sergeant Timothy Richard, Bernardsville Police Department, Sergeant Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department, and Officer Vincent Conti, Scotch Plains Police Department.

We are grateful for the commitment and sacrifice they make every single day.

**HONORING THE LEGACY OF DONN
FURMAN**

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life and incomparable spirit of Donn Furman; a passionate environmental advocate Whose legacy lives on in the natural world around us and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Born in 1950 in Dinuba, California to Duane and Patricia Furman, Donn went on to become a force and advocate of nature. Raised amidst the stunning backdrop of the Fresno/Madera area, Donn's love of learning led him to earn his bachelor's degree in philosophy and minor in economics at California State University, Fresno before doing graduate work in philosophy at the University of Washington, Seattle. His knowledge and deep love of nature laid the foundation for his remarkable life dedicated to preserving the diverse landscape of California.

Donn's passion for the preservation of nature was fostered by his love of rivers, fly fishing with his buddies around the world, hiking, all things water, and simply being outdoors. Donn embodied the essence of California's landscape as he dedicated himself to environmental advocacy. In 1985, he became the Executive Director of the Committee to Save the Kings River which worked to protect the river from a proposal to build a dam. The community of supporters including fly fishermen, campers, and legislators united in support. Two years after Donn's appointment, federal wild and scenic designation and protection for 92 miles of the river was established.

After his success in protecting the Kings River, Donn went on to spearhead the San Joaquin River Committee where he promoted recreational and educational use of the river, lobbied governmental agencies and legislators, and expanded membership. His work coalesced into the formation of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, a nonprofit public benefit corporation and treasured piece of the Central Valley that has spread joy and appreciation of the land to all who have had the pleasure to visit. As Executive Director, he established a Board of Directors and coordinated the development of a conceptual plan, educational programs, fundraising, and membership.

Wherever Donn went, his love of learning and advocacy followed. He earned his JD from San Joaquin College of Law where he then specialized in environmental, water, and land use law. As a Deputy City Attorney in San Francisco, he represented the SF Public