

fishing, hunting, and travel, as well as community activities. Steve was a founding member of the Rotary Club of Bakersfield. He was also a member of several community organizations, including the Human Relations Commission, the Children's Network, nine chambers of commerce, and numerous other organizations, demonstrating his commitment to serving by staying informed about the needs of the valley's many vulnerable populations.

In Steve's passing, we celebrate a life that left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on in his family; wife Deidre, children Christina, Mari, Sheridan, John, and grandchildren Sofia and Vivienne. May we draw inspiration from Steve's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Stephen W. Schilling.

OCTOBER 7

### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poem submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and is a reflection of his views:

OCTOBER 7

October 7

First anniversary for an old-new pogrom  
With Holocaust dimensions  
In a land deserving Shalom's program  
While pursued by ghastly ghosts  
It seeks to overcome  
Under the blazing sun that rarely forgives  
But dares not forget,  
Watching over challenged tender  
Saplings of renewed faith restored  
To a promising ancient home,  
Fledglings of hope sans the  
Threatening clouds raining  
Death for too long,  
To remove fences obstructing  
The view of hands touching hands,  
Hearts joining hearts,  
Buried dreams in the  
Sands of time and trouble,  
To yet resurface to quench  
The thirst of the conflicted  
Children of Yitzchak and Yishmael  
Who will learn to drink from  
The same to-be-recovered well  
That once brought life to  
Now a deserted tent.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. Kazakhstan's only born rabbi, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors and spent his early childhood in transit and DP Camps in Austria and Germany. He grew up in Haifa, Israel.

HONORING TOM RAFFIO FOR RECEIVING THE WALTER R. PETERSON AWARD

### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Tom Raffio on receiving the Walter R.

Peterson Award for Education and Public Service. The Walter R. Peterson Award for Education and Public Service is presented to an individual whose contributions best exemplify the late governor's values of public service and dedication to higher education.

As a passionate civic leader, Tom's community leadership spans across numerous New Hampshire organizations that support local education initiatives, youth programs, health causes, and the arts. Tom believes in the importance of access and affordability to quality post-secondary education for all New Hampshire residents.

Under Tom's leadership, the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation is committed to improving oral health care accessibility and education. This Foundation supports oral health programs each year throughout New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. It also addresses the shortage of dentists in under-served communities by raising funding for medicine scholarships and dental education loan repayment programs. In New Hampshire, one of the dental health education programs serves adult clients with disabilities, many of whom encounter oral health challenges. Further expanding its community impact under Tom's leadership, it has grown to include numerous local community partners to join this philanthropic mission.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to extend my gratitude to Tom Raffio for his exceptional commitment to serving New Hampshire. We thank Tom for his leadership and contributions to advance health equity and the overall wellness of our local communities. His work has enriched so many lives and is an inspiration for us all to join together and improve the lives of our community members.

RECOGNIZING DAVID MARSHALL

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Battalion Chief David Marshall of Cañon City for reaching his well-earned retirement after a 46-year career with the Cañon City Area Fire Protection District.

Chief Marshall began his career as a volunteer firefighter with the Cañon City Volunteer Fire Department in 1978. Since the 1980s, he has served as leader of the District's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division. David led EMS trainings for over 30 years at Pueblo Community College, where he taught and mentored the majority of EMS professionals serving in Fremont County today. Many of them have since gone on to lead their own EMS programs across the state. In his time leading the EMS division of the Cañon City Fire Protection District, David enhanced the EMT training to more advanced certifications, including Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Paramedic level providers. His work and effort elevated the level of care provided to his community.

Chief Marshall's legacy of bringing access to emergency services and trainings to rural communities will live on across Colorado through the generations of EMS providers he mentored. His strong, dependable leadership sets an example for all Coloradans, and his

teachings will forever have an impact on Fremont County.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Battalion Chief Marshall on his retirement and to thank him for his contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAROLD EUGENE RAFUSE, USAF, 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 USAF Lieutenant Colonel Harold Eugene Rafuse, of Crawford, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His persistent efforts in fostering beliefs of sacrifice and respect reflect his value as a leader during service and in retirement.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse devoted nearly 20 years to active duty in the United States Air Force serving with distinction in a variety of critical roles. As an airborne Forward Air Controller and close air support combat fighter pilot, he flew the North American T-28D Trojan aircraft in Southeast Asia as a Raven Pilot, providing vital support to ground forces. He also piloted the RC-135 aircraft, conducting high-altitude photographic and electronic reconnaissance missions in Eastern and Southeast Asia, significantly contributing to our national security efforts.

Later in his career, he was selected for the newly established United States Air Force Space Operations Command, where he served as a space operations and surveillance commander. His leadership in this emerging field showcased his adaptability and commitment to advancing our Nation's capabilities in space.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse's 20 years of active service are complemented by his extensive experience in aviation, aerospace, scientific research, engineering, technology, education, senior program management, information resource management, and administration. He held influential positions across the Department of Defense, multiple federal intelligence agencies, and various civilian educational and business institutions. Notably, he served as a science and technology advisor to the Office of President Ronald Reagan, a testament to his expertise and the trust placed in him at the highest levels of government.

By the time of his retirement, his exceptional achievements had earned him numerous titles and certifications, including Senior Pilot in the Air Force, Senior Space Operations Commander, Space Surveillance and Mission Assessment Expert, Command Missileer, Master Acquisition Manager (Department of Defense Level III certified), and Master Instructor.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force

Longevity Service Ribbon with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Small Arms Expert Marksman Ribbon (Pistol), and the Air Force Training Ribbon. These honors reflect his dedication, skill, and the high esteem in which he is held by his peers and superiors.

Following his distinguished military career, Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse has been deeply involved in community service and education. He co-founded the Baylor University School of Engineering and Computer Science and has served on its Board of Advocates for over 25 years, influencing the education of countless students. He has also been a member of the Baylor University Air Institute's Board of Advisors for over five years, contributing his expertise to the advancement of aviation education.

Currently, he chairs the Board of Texas State Technical College, where he has served for over 25 years, demonstrating his long-term commitment to technical education and workforce development. Additionally, he is a member and former president of the Heart of Texas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, where he has served on the educational scholarship selection committee for over 25 years, supporting the next generation of leaders. These are just a few examples of the many organizations where Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse has made significant contributions as a member and leader.

It is with great honor and respect that I present retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Harold Eugene Rafuse with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas. His exemplary service to our Nation and continued contributions to his community stand as an inspiration to us all.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE SAN PABLO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANSION ACT

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act." I thank U.S. Senator ALEX PADILLA (D-CA) for sponsoring the companion legislation and my colleagues, Congressmen JARED HUFFMAN (D-CA) and MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) for cosponsoring my bill.

The San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge is one of California's treasured places, protecting more than 24,390 acres of tidal marshes and wetlands in the north San Francisco Bay Area. As part of the Pacific Flyway, the National Wildlife Refuge provides critical habitat for endangered species and migratory birds.

The "San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act" would add approximately 5,658 acres of adjacent baylands owned by the State of California and the nonprofit Sonoma Land Trust to the National Wildlife Refuge's boundary. This expansion would increase the National Wildlife Refuge's acreage by more than 23 percent, supporting President Biden's "America the Beautiful" National Conservation Goal to protect and conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030 and Governor Newsom's similar conservation goal for the State of California.

Conserving California's special places has been a lifelong passion throughout my tenure in the State Legislature, as Deputy Secretary of the Interior to President Clinton, and now as a Member of Congress representing Solano County. San Pablo Bay is one of those special places. This bill will help to restore the saltmarshes in San Pablo Bay for future generations and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for Bay Area residents and visitors alike.

Importantly, this bill does not infringe upon state interests or individual property owners and prevents the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from using eminent domain to acquire properties within the expanded boundaries. Instead, the bill directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to only acquire land within the newly extended boundary from willing sale or donation. Furthermore, the bill encourages the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to engage in cooperative management with state agencies to better manage the National Wildlife Refuge and nearby state conservation lands within the San Pablo Bay watershed.

This bill is inspired by the tireless efforts of the late U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and the late Congressman Don Edwards (D-CA) to restore and conserve the Bay Area's saltmarshes and wetlands. Thanks to their leadership and steadfast work, the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in the South Bay now encompasses over 30,000 acres of habitat for millions of migratory birds and endangered species. It is an honor to continue Senator Feinstein and Congressman Edwards' legacy of protecting and restoring resilient bayland ecosystems that benefit both wildlife, people, and our planet.

The "San Pablo National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act" takes a critical step toward preserving the Bay Area's ecological diversity and ensuring the resilience of our communities as we continue fighting the climate crisis. I thank the hundreds of Bay Area residents and Californians who participated in the public comment period on my draft bill announced in September 2023. Their thoughtful comments and overwhelming support made this a stronger bill.

My colleagues and I are honored to introduce this bill to help restore vital ecosystems and improve the north Bay's climate resiliency by preserving one of California's special places for future generations. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join us in cosponsoring this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING CHANDRA CHEESEBOROUGH

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

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

Chandra Cheeseborough is an example of a world record breaking Olympic Champion with a successful coaching career after receiving one of the first ever Title IX scholarships given to deserving female athletes.

Chandra broke onto the international track scene at age 16, winning two gold medals at

the 1975 Pan American Games, taking the 200 meters in an American record time of 22.77 seconds. In 1976, she set the World junior record at 11.13 seconds, placing second at the U.S. Olympic trials, then placing sixth in that event at the Montreal Olympic games.

Chandra graduated from Jean Ribault High School in Jacksonville, Florida in 1977, where she set the still standing NFHS national high school records in both the 100-yard and 220-yard dashes. She attended Tennessee State, where she was a member of national championship teams that set world indoor records. She qualified for the 1980 U.S. Olympic team but was unable to compete due to the Summer Olympics boycott. She won the national indoor 200-yard dash in 1979, 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Chandra's breakthrough year in the 400-meter race came in 1984, when she set two American records in the event, then placing second in the Los Angeles Olympics in a career best of 49.05, the No. 10 performer of all time. She made history at the 1984 games when she became the first woman to win gold medals in both relays, which were held less than an hour apart.

In 1999 she was named head coach of both men and women's track and cross-country teams leading her Tigerbells to 6 Ohio Valley Conference Championships. She also served as assistant coach for the 2008 Beijing Olympics hurdles and sprints.

Her faith in Christ has been a beacon of hope and strength to her student athletes.

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

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND LEGACY OF JUDGE SARA J. SMOLENSKI

**HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of my constituent, the Honorable Sara J. Smolenski, who is retiring from the Kent County 63rd District Court after 34 years of outstanding public service. As a trailblazer in our West Michigan community, Judge Smolenski has dedicated her professional life to serving the people of Kent County.

Judge Smolenski served as a private attorney and an assistant city attorney in Grand Rapids prior to her judgeship. She was first elected to the court in 1990 and served as Chief Justice for over a quarter century, from 1996 to 2023. Throughout her life, she has supported local organizations such as the Hospice of Michigan, Kent County Literacy Council, RAVE (Resources Against Violent Encounters) to Women of West Michigan, and the Young Women's Christian Association. Her incredible service to our community has not gone unnoticed, receiving awards from organizations such as the American Red Cross and Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

In 2016, Judge Smolenski became the first elected official to enter a same-sex marriage in Kent County when she married her partner of 27 years. She remains a role model for women and LGBTQ+ people in Michigan's