

through, these homes are now firmly in mythological territory, as is Mr. Coburn. I first became aware of Mr. Coburn and his world in July of 2012 when the care home I was living in was put into receivership by the Superior Court due to various problems. I was living in the care home because after I was declared disabled in 2004, I could not find housing assistance in Mansfield.

On the evening of July 18, 2012, after Mr. Coburn had just been appointed receiver of the home in which I lived, a quick but violent thunderstorm knocked out the power, and the generator failed. I called and reported the situation to Barbara Cass of the Department of Public Health, and within an hour a truck arrived hauling a new generator which was hooked up to restore power. Mr. Coburn had rented the generator. This is only one example of Mr. Coburn's constant generosity. If a home that he was in charge of needed something, he would go out right away and buy it with his own money, then later get reimbursed by the court. If anyone living in one of his homes had exceptional needs or circumstances, he accommodated them. He was always available to lend a helping hand, a listening ear, or a ride to dialysis.

Skilled-nursing facilities have been his specialty. A nursing home receivership usually lasts about two years, but Mr. Coburn's last one ran through the pandemic and is approaching four under another receiver. Miraculously, he remained healthy through most of the pandemic. Few of us can imagine what he and all those responsible for running the homes went through during the pandemic. But if you visit the homes now, and even more so if you live in the homes, you can see and feel the pandemic's mark, almost as if you were visiting a country where a terrible war was fought: the bodies of the casualties are gone, but you can feel their presence everywhere. It is quiet and peaceful, yet with echoes of an unspeakable past, and the words "God willing" are appended to every plan.

This is the world that Mr. Coburn left, having served the frailest citizens of our state during both peace and metaphoric wartime. It was in these homes that the most helpless of the pandemic's victims died, and that many of the most courageous of the healthcare workers fought to save as many as they could, and to save themselves. Many people shun the world of these homes even if they have family members living in them. This is a tragedy in many ways, because there are lessons to be learned in the homes that cannot be learned from books, lessons for the heart as well as the mind, lessons in compassion and even keys to the mysteries of war and peace. Eventually, most of us will occupy a bed in one of these homes. Why wait until then to visit?

If more people embraced the homes with the love, compassion and enthusiasm of Mr. Coburn, it would be a better world for all of us, both inside and outside the homes. If there is one sure lesson that can be learned from the pandemic and the homes, this is it.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL GOTHOLD, SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPER- INTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

HON. SARA JACOBS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual whose unwavering dedication to education has transformed

countless lives and communities: Dr. Paul Gothold. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Gothold has epitomized the values of equity, inclusivity, and excellence in education, ensuring that every child has access to the opportunities they need to thrive.

Dr. Gothold's journey in education began over three decades ago as a teacher, where he worked tirelessly with adjudicated, probation, and expelled youth in Los Angeles. From these early experiences, he developed a deep understanding of the challenges facing underserved communities and a steadfast commitment to addressing them.

As he advanced in his career, Dr. Gothold continued to demonstrate exceptional leadership and innovation. As Superintendent of Lynwood Unified in Los Angeles, he led the district to remarkable achievements, including increasing graduation rates from 58 percent to 90 percent at all comprehensive high schools. Under his stewardship, Lynwood Unified was honored as the College Board District of the Year, a testament to its success in expanding AP participation and passage rates for underserved populations.

Beyond his role as district leader, Dr. Gothold has also made a significant contribution to educator preparation and professional development. As an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California, he has mentored and coached numerous aspiring and sitting superintendents, shaping the next generation of education leaders.

In 2017, Dr. Gothold assumed the role of San Diego County Superintendent, where his impact has been nothing short of transformative. His visionary leadership has led to the creation of groundbreaking initiatives and partnerships that have enriched the educational experiences of students across the county.

One of Dr. Gothold's key accomplishments has been his commitment to ensuring school safety and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. Through partnerships with the San Diego District Attorney's office, he developed county-wide school safety protocols and training to prevent human trafficking. Additionally, he spearheaded initiatives to support foster, homeless, and adjudicated youth, including the creation of innovative programs and pathways to success.

Under Dr. Gothold's leadership, San Diego County has become a beacon of educational innovation and excellence. From pioneering programs in drug prevention and awareness to establishing the first HBCU satellite program in California, his initiatives have set new standards for educational equity and access.

Furthermore, Dr. Gothold's dedication to equity and inclusion has been recognized through numerous awards and accolades, including the ASCD California Instructional Leadership Award and the California County Superintendents Superintendent of the Year award. His tireless advocacy for marginalized communities has earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues and stakeholders across the state and Nation.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Paul Gothold for his extraordinary contributions to education and his unwavering commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed. His legacy will continue to inspire generations of educators and serve as a guiding light for the pursuit of educational equity and excellence.

HONORING JOHN DAVID LOGAN
FOR EXCELLENCE AND EX-
TRAORDINARY SERVICE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John David "JD" Logan for his eminent service and dedication to the people of Tennessee's Seventh District.

Four and a half years ago, as Capitol Hill was wrestling with how to serve our constituents during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, JD joined our team in his last semester of college. He was instrumental in helping us respond to the unprecedented increase in correspondence and casework requests. Amidst these challenges, JD distinguished himself as a highly capable staffer with uncommon character.

Since then, JD has been instrumental in countless projects and held numerous positions. He rose quickly in our office, from Legislative Correspondent to Legislative Assistant, and most recently, to Senior Legislative Assistant. Because of his skill set and reliability, he has taken on many projects outside his portfolio, including building our very successful internship program. As a testament to his leadership, we have hired multiple former interns to join our staff full-time.

JD has served Tennessee's Seventh District with commitment and distinction in every way. He has covered a wide swath of legislation, committee work, constituent services, correspondence, operations, and communications over his years on our team, and we are beyond grateful for his hard work and devoted service. In all that he does, he excels with diligence, and humility.

Most recently, he has been invaluable to my work on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a host of policy areas. His dedication to applying the principles of our founding to complex issues facing the Nation today has served our district—and our Nation—well.

During his time on my team, our country has gone through much. All along, we have been grateful for his steadfast discipline and hard work. He tirelessly pursues truth and is a constant source of encouragement to all he encounters. As a staffer and as a leader, he carries himself with integrity and courage. It is difficult to fully express our deep appreciation for his faithful service to our office and our Nation. As a staffer, as a man, and as an American, he is of the highest quality.

We are profoundly grateful for JD's service to our office and the constituents of Tennessee's Seventh District. JD's zeal for our great Nation and its values, combined with his dogged dedication to the highest degree of excellence in all he does, marks him as a great American and invaluable servant to this country. Although it is with sadness to see JD's time here in our office come to a close, we are confident he will continue to distinguish himself in public service across the Capitol. We wish him and his wife, Addison the very best. On behalf of Tennessee's Seventh District, I commend JD for his excellent service and wish him well.

RECOGNIZING MUSHROOM HOUSE
AUTOMOTIVE OF COLORA, MARY-
LAND ON ITS 30TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mushroom House Automotive, a veteran and family-owned business out of Colora, Cecil County, Maryland, as it approaches its 30th anniversary on October 1, 2024.

Originally a mushroom farm operated by the Webb family for over 40 years, the business transitioned into an automotive repair and sales center after being pushed out of the industry. In 2006, Mushroom House survived a devastating fire that destroyed the shop and several classic cars. It was rebuilt and reopened only with the support and dedication of the local community.

Today, Mushroom House Automotive continues to serve Cecil County and provide top-notch, honest automotive services under the leadership of Victor "Butch" Webb Sr., his son Steven Webb and with the expertise of Archie Singleton II. Together, they have raised over \$300,000 through their vehicle donation program for various non-profit organizations and consistently support the community, including participating in Career Day at Rising Sun Middle School and the CCPS Summer Work Program, where they pair students with local businesses. Mushroom House Automotive also partners with the Cecil County School of Technology's Automotive program to teach and support the next generation of mechanics and car enthusiasts.

In the last three years, Mushroom House Automotive has placed in the top three of Cecil Whig's Community Choice in Automotive Salesperson—Used Cars, Auto Repair, Oil Change, Pre-Owned Vehicle Sales and Tires. In addition, Steven Webb and Archie Singleton II were honored as business leaders and inducted into the National Technical Honor Society, a recognition spearheaded by Scott Couto, the Automotive Technology instructor at the Cecil County School of Technology.

I am proud and grateful to Mushroom House Automotive for its continued service of over 30 years to the community. Small, family-owned businesses like these constitute the backbone of American economy and provide essential services to local communities.

RECOGNIZING THE MERCED COUN-
TY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
(MCCAA) ON THEIR 60TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Merced County Community Action Agency (MCCAA) in celebrating sixty years of service. MCCAA began serving Dos Palos in 1964 and opened its first Head Start center in 1965. MCCAA is part of a nationwide movement that began with the signing of the

Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. MCCAA's mission is to serve, advocate, and collaborate for those in need by developing innovative strategies for self-empowerment.

MCCAA gainfully employs nearly 200 people and serves over 17,000 unduplicated customers every month with a total of sixteen federal and state programs. The work MCCAA provides for the community would be impossible without our local community, who last year volunteered over 14,000 hours. Last year, MCCAA housed over 112 formerly unhoused community members with safe, affordable homes. Over 400 children utilize their free preschool programs for early learning and education. MCCAA provides 1,500 families with utility assistance, keeping families safe during scorching Valley summers.

The MCCAA maintains over sixteen other locations in Merced County, and partners with over 200 local service providers, government agencies, and families to help with outreach, referrals and access to needed services. The D Street Navigation Center is open year-round, twenty-four hours per day to meet the needs of Merced County's most vulnerable living on the streets. Last year, over 514 unhoused individuals stayed at this Center.

MCAA continues to expand. MCAA recently added a diaper bank, a summer food program, and expanded support for at risk pregnant and new mothers.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the MCCAA for 60 years of service to our Valley.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DANNY
KATZ, THE WORKERS' CHAMPION

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a constituent who devoted his extraordinary life to the fight for worker justice. From the restaurant workers of Washington, D.C. to the staffers who keep Capitol Hill running, all of Daniel Katz's clients found in him a champion for dignity, fair wages and working conditions. On July 25, 2024, Danny's loved ones lost a treasured husband, father, and friend and the world lost a principled, persistent and brilliant public servant.

Danny was driven by his conviction that worker justice is the foundation of a just society. He believed in the fundamental principle that a dignified workplace for even the lowest paid workers raises the standards all for all workers. After working for a private practice specializing in employment law, Danny founded the District of Columbia Employment Justice Center, becoming its first director. It also didn't matter which court heard one of his client's cases; over the course of his career, Danny represented clients before every one of the federal, state and local courts in Maryland and D.C.

For Danny, his duties to his clients extended beyond the courtroom. He advocated for legislation at the D.C. City Council on worker pay issues and testified before the U.S. Congress on the rampant menace of wage theft. He lent his considerable talents pro bono to clients

seeking assistance from the Public Justice Center in Baltimore, the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, the Woman's Law Center of Maryland and the Sexual Assault Legal Institute. He was dedicated to sharing his wealth of knowledge with his fellow attorneys, frequently teaching continuing education courses for lawyers on litigating claims under wage-and-hour laws and how his colleagues could most effectively represent immigrants and low-wage workers.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Danny maintained his focus on the most vulnerable workers in our communities. After establishing accessible legal clinics for workers across the DMV, he ensured that the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs could keep these clinics open virtually and continue providing services. The clinic didn't miss a single week as Danny and a team of like-minded lawyers served workers seeking legal aid when they needed it most. Danny used his membership in the National Employment Lawyers Association to build both solidarity and expertise among members of the labor bar.

By the time he reached the House of Representatives as Senior Counsel at the Office of Employee Advocacy (OEA), Danny had 25 years of experience advocating for workers. He had earned numerous accolades, including the Maryland Employment Lawyers Association "Excellence in Advocacy" award and the "Visionary Award" in 2018 for his work with the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Just as he had done in every job prior to the House OEA, Danny acted as a dedicated mentor to his colleagues and aspiring attorneys and a fierce advocate for his clients.

His loss is profound and sharply felt in our community. I join the people of Maryland's beautiful Eighth District in honoring the life of Danny Katz, a titan in the fight for workers' rights, and in sending my condolences to his wife Lael, his son and his daughter Lucia. May Danny's memory be a blessing.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE CITY OF
PEKIN

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the City of Pekin, Illinois, which I'm proud to represent in Congress, as it celebrates its 200th anniversary.

Pekin's history began with Pioneer Jonathan Tharp building a small log cabin in 1824 on the high east bank of the Illinois River in what would become Pekin, Illinois. The families of Gideon Hawley, William Haines, Nathan Cromwell, Dr. John Warner, William Brown, Thomas Snell, Isaac Perkins, William Carpenter—among others—joined the Tharps in settling and establishing the new community.

Pekin, fondly referred to by its early inhabitants as the "Celestial City", embraces the inspiration its founders received by Chinese culture and geography in its namesake (Peking, current Beijing), with Pekin and modern-day Beijing existing on or about the same latitude.

Since its earliest days, Pekin's proximity to railroads and the Illinois River has made it