

Association of Realtors for volume sales in area four.

Over his career, Womack has closed in excess of \$900 million in residential and commercial sales and leasing throughout his career. He leaves a great team of 25 professionals who are committed to excellence and have high ethical standards.

As chairman of the Harris County Housing Authority Board, Mr. Womack has championed affordable housing initiatives to ensure that all Houstonians have access to a safe, dignified place to call home.

Beyond his professional achievements, he is a prolific volunteer, and his commitment to service is unmatched.

This December, the Houston Area Realtors will award the prestigious John E. Wolf Community Service Award to him. I congratulate him, as he exemplifies the spirit of Houston, resilient, innovative, and community-centered.

I am proud to recognize his enduring contributions to our city, and I want to let him know the best is yet to come.

CELEBRATING 2024 VETERAN OF THE YEAR U.S. ARMY COLONEL ORLANDO RODRIGUEZ

(Ms. LEE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate retired U.S. Army Colonel Orlando Rodriguez as the 2024 Veteran of the Year for Florida's 15th District.

Colonel Rodriguez is a distinguished figure within our local and military communities with nearly three decades of faithful and dedicated service to his Nation.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Colonel Rodriguez fled the island in 1959 but would soon return as part of the famed Brigade 2506, a CIA-sponsored group of Cuban exiles who carried out the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Colonel Rodriguez spent 2 years in a Cuban prison following the Bay of Pigs invasion. He was then released to the United States and commissioned into the U.S. Army in 1963, serving multiple combat tours in Vietnam and with the 1st Cavalry and 82nd Airborne Divisions.

As a Green Beret, Colonel Rodriguez served as a key adviser to Presidents George H. W. Bush and Ronald Reagan on Latin and Central American operations, and later served at Tampa Bay's very own MacDill Air Force Base as a senior military adviser at the U.S. Special Operations Command.

His lifelong service and leadership have left a lasting mark on our Nation and community, and his dedication continues to inspire us all.

It is an honor to recognize Colonel Rodriguez as Florida's 15th District Veteran of the Year. I thank him for his service and I congratulate him.

HONORING MAYOR CRAIG A. STOUGH ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose steadfast leadership has left an indelible mark on northwest Ohio, a family man, an architect, Mayor Craig A. Stough, of the thriving city of Sylvania, Ohio. He has used his exceptional talents to form and shape a lovely community for most of his adult life.

After nearly three decades of service as mayor, with over 40 years of dedicated public service overall, Mayor Stough is retiring, and there will be a wonderful party tonight in his honor.

He leaves behind a legacy of vision, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to his community. Mayor Stough's tenure has been a shining example of honest, good governance. His steady, concerted efforts to secure a regional water commission to improve water security for our region is a testament of his ability to build consensus and tackle vital pressing challenges head-on.

Beyond his achievements and accolades, Mayor Stough's career is defined by his deep connections to the people of Sylvania. He is Sylvania. His dedication to fostering a thriving community, supporting local projects, and mentoring future leaders exemplifies what it means to serve with heart and purpose.

As mayor Stough embarks on his well-earned retirement to explore new horizons, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his decades of service.

I congratulate Mayor Stough on a remarkable career. May his living legacy inspire us all to lead with integrity and a spirit of unending service.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ITASCA COUNTY COMMISSIONER MICHAEL "BURL" IVES

(Mr. STAUBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Itasca County Commissioner Michael "Burl" Ives who recently passed away after years of dedicated service to his community.

Burl was born to Mike and Mary Ives, both influential figures, who built multiple successful businesses in the Grand Rapids, Minnesota, area including the Timberlake Lodge.

In the early 1990s, Burl started a business of his own before joining his family in their many hospitality businesses. Eventually, Burl became a beloved Itasca County commissioner, using his compassion and experience to advocate for the betterment of the community that he loved.

Burl was running for his third term as county commissioner when he

passed away at the age of only 57. As a true testament to the incredible job he did in this role, Burl was still elected to the county commissioner seat, despite his death being well-publicized by our local media.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with the Ives family as they mourn this huge loss, and my heart especially goes out to Burl's wife, Kristine, and their two children, Samantha and Thomas.

May his legacy of hard work and service live on through all those who knew and loved him.

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HONORING KRISTEN MEYER

(Ms. HOULAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the hard work and invaluable contributions of Kristen Meyer to my office. Kristen has honorably served as an Air Force Congressional fellow on my legislative team for the past year.

While Kristen's time in my office is coming to an end, her contributions to my community and to our Nation will be durable and lasting. Notably, in just one year's time, she has helped us to reinvigorate the bipartisan Service-women and Women Veterans Caucus like never before. She has championed dozens of legislative proposals through the fiscal year 2025 NDAA, which passed last evening, and she spearheaded numerous Intelligence Authorization Act provisions that will make our country and our world safer. She has improved office processes, strategies, community outreach, and much more, and most importantly, she has made us laugh even when we felt like crying.

The HoulaTeam is incredibly grateful to the generosity, ferocity, kindness, and humor that Kristen has brought to our office every single day.

I thank Kristen for her service and for her vital contributions to the intelligence community. We wish her the best of luck on her next steps, and we will miss her.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PEADAR FITZPATRICK

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Peadar Fitzpatrick, a beloved member of the Fitzpatrick clan, whom we sadly lost earlier this year.

Born in County Leitrim, Ireland, in July of 1937, Peadar lived a life that was nothing short of extraordinary.

At the age of 20, Peadar left the green hills of Ireland for the United States. He wasted no time in answering the call to serve his new country,

proudly enlisting in the United States Air Force, where he served honorably from 1957 to 1962.

Mr. Speaker, after leaving the Air Force, Peadar continued his civil service by joining the ranks of the New York Police Department as an officer and as a detective.

In 1962, Peadar found the great love of his life, Margaret, and their marriage spanned an extraordinary 62 years. Together, they raised three remarkable daughters, Kathleen, Rose-Marie, and Colleen, and built a family that became the heart and soul of Peadar's life.

Mr. Speaker, Peadar's roots in Ireland remained a cornerstone of his identity. Though he left its shores, Ireland was forever etched in his heart.

Peadar Fitzpatrick was, above all, a man of immense character, devoted to his faith, his family, and his community.

Today, we honor his legacy. We remember a life well lived and a man who was deeply loved. Peadar Fitzpatrick exemplified what it means to live a life of purpose, integrity, and heart.

May his soul pass through old Ireland, and may his soul remain at God's right hand.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM ARROWOOD

(Mrs. SYKES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize William Arrowood from Akron as Ohio's 13th District Champion of the Week.

I am thrilled to announce that William is the 2024 Congressional App Challenge winner for our district. His app, titled: "How to Beat Bezos," is an innovative stock market simulator game that educates players on the nuances of buying and selling stocks for profit.

It is inspiring to see how William, a freshman at the National Inventors Hall of Fame STEM High School, combined his interest in the stock market with his passion and skill in computer science to create a fun and engaging tool that can benefit people of all ages.

As the winner of our district's Congressional App Challenge, William's app will be proudly displayed in the Capitol, where visitors from across the country and the world can appreciate his innovation and creativity.

I congratulate William again on being the winner of the Congressional App Challenge and this week's Champion of the Week for Ohio's 13th District.

I thank all the students who submitted apps this year. I look forward to seeing what William and our other talented students across the district create next year and for years to come.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY AND SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to help celebrate the passage finally this week of the National Defense Authorization Act, a key step in strengthening America's security and supporting our military. It was a strong, bipartisan vote showing there is unity on America's military.

The bill ensures our military has the tools, the resources, and the capabilities to promote readiness and deadliness. With its cutting-edge technology, critical infrastructure, and much-needed pay improvement for our soldiers and their housing, it is a broad approach that is really going to help with meeting the all-around needs of meeting those goals. It demonstrates a clear commitment to protecting our Nation and defending freedom for this country and our allies around the world.

Indeed, the best war to fight is the one you never have to fight. That is why, when we have a strong military that is ready, the deterrence factor is one of the best things we can have for avoiding conflict and avoiding unnecessary bloodshed.

We are sending a powerful message with this legislation. With the challenges we face as a country, the United States will always be ready to protect what matters most.

RECOGNIZING RONALD ROCHON

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize California State University at Fullerton's new president, Dr. Ronald Rochon.

Dr. Rochon was born on the south side of Chicago where he founded and nurtured his passion for education and community service. He stepped into the top role at Cal State University at Fullerton, my alma mater, this past July.

Dr. Rochon brings 14 years of experience to southern California, having led the University of Southern Indiana through COVID-19 and a new athletic division.

As the proud Titan that I am, I am very excited to see Dr. Ronald Rochon at the helm. We are happy to see Ron at Cal State, Fullerton, and we look forward to working with him. Let's get busy.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT MIGUEL

(Mr. CRANE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent 14 of Arizona's Tribes. One

of the leaders I have been able to work with is Chairman Robert Miguel of the Ak-Chin Indian Community in Maricopa, Arizona, who will complete his final term this month due to term limits.

Chairman Miguel first joined the Ak-Chin Tribal Council in 2014 and was elected chairman in 2016. During this time he has been a strong leader focused on serving his community with an entrepreneurial spirit, creating jobs and economic growth and promoting educational opportunities.

We have worked together on efforts with the Indian Health Services, ensuring healthcare coverage for the Tribe, along with prioritizing flood control improvements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The first time I met with Chairman Miguel, he shared with me the Ak-Chin slogan: "We all win with Ak-Chin."

I will remember his enthusiasm and hard work as we continue to work with the Tribe on important issues.

I thank Chairman Miguel for his leadership and service. I wish him the best in his future endeavors and know he will continue to make Ak-Chin proud.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCORMICK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been the greatest honor of my life to serve the people of West Virginia in the United States House of Representatives over the past 10 years.

I was elected on November 4, 2014. Believe it or not, back then West Virginia wasn't a safe Republican State. I only won by 3 percentage points in a tough election. The good people of West Virginia's Second District have trusted me with the privilege by electing me four more times, so five times in total, to represent them for these past 10 years.

I did not seek reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives. I ran for another office, which I did not win, so my time will come to a close at noon on January 3. I have actually enjoyed educating a lot of folks about how this works here, and the Constitution dictates specifically the time at which you are no longer a Congressman. It is exactly at noon on January 3. And at that time, my 10 years in office will come to an end.

During my first 8 years in Congress, I represented 17 beautiful counties from the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, where I live, all the way down to Charleston and Kanawha County. That is the part in the red here through the middle of the State.

After the 2020 Census was done, West Virginia lost one of our three seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, so for the past 2 years I have represented 27 counties across the northern half of