

Cancer Advisory Board from 2002 to 2008, received the 2019 Appreciation Award from the Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska, and authored over 240 scientific papers. His work advanced the field of cancer treatment and improved lives Nationwide.

Drawing from his personal experiences with cancer, both as a physician and family member, Dr. Cowan brought empathy and compassion to patient care. Known for his warmth and approachability, his legacy endures in the lives he touched and the advancements he championed.

Nebraska's thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Ken Cowan's wife, Dr. Alison Freifeld, their two daughters, and extended family. His dedication to service and compassion will be dearly missed.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOHN
"GIDDYUP" BUNCH FOR HIS
WORK SERVING AMERICA'S VET-
ERANS

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Captain John "GiddyUp" Bunch for his extensive work serving America's military veterans.

A Marine veteran himself, Captain Bunch provided his first free fishing charter to an Army combat veteran in 2005, an outing that led to Bunch founding the non-profit organization Operation Open Arms.

Over several years, Capt. Bunch and Operation Open Arms facilitated unique recreational experiences for almost 4,000 service members, paid for more than 100 weddings for veterans, and provided a broad array of other services to our nation's heroes.

Bunch's devoted, tireless, and effective work through Operation Open Arms provided a vital service to his brothers and sisters in arms by welcoming them home, showing them the gratitude of their communities, and frequently by directly meeting their needs.

On behalf of the People of the Maryland's First Congressional District, I would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to Captain Bunch for his tireless efforts and work.

RECOGNIZING PARK COUNTY
COMMISSIONER DICK ELSNER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard "Dick" Elsner of Park County, Colorado for his service to the people of Fairplay, Alma, Bailey, and other rural communities, on the Park County Board of County Commissioners.

During his time in office, Commissioner Elsner, worked across regions and party lines to help the people of Park County. He has been dedicated to ensuring that rural communities have a voice at the state and federal levels. As Vice Chair of the Central Front Range Transportation Region, he secured

funding for a \$3.5 million transportation hub in Fairplay. He also played a key role in seeking to re-establish healthcare access to Park County, a community that has been underserved for decades. His dedication to public service has left a mark on Colorado, and his presence will be missed.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Commissioner Elsner for his time with the Park County Board of County Commissioners and sincerely thank him for his contributions to the Colorado community. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
SLEEPY EYE MAYOR WAYNE
PELZEL

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Wayne Pelzel, a friend, public servant, and fellow southern Minnesotan who is retiring from eight years of service as the Mayor of Sleepy Eye.

Since his election in 2016, Wayne has faithfully served the people of Sleepy Eye and the greater Brown County community, working alongside the city council and city staff to understand the needs of its residents and improve the lives of those who call Sleepy Eye home.

In his two terms as mayor, Wayne oversaw a period of growth and revitalization for Sleepy Eye, bringing new life to Main Street, welcoming new businesses to town, expanding housing, and growing the city's recreational opportunities.

While Wayne leaves behind big shoes to fill, his tenure of dedicated service to the City of Sleepy Eye will be remembered by all of us for years to come.

I congratulate Wayne on his well-deserved retirement. I thank him for his leadership and his service to our southern Minnesota community. I wish Wayne and Pattie all the best in this next chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote on January 7, 2025. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted: No on Roll Call No. 6, H.R. 29—The Laken Riley Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH BRECHEEN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained because of family obliga-

tions and was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 29 and H.R. 23. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 6, and YEA on Roll Call No. 7.

HONORING JUDGE ROBERT L.
DOYEL FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE
CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMUNITY

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Robert L. Doyel served his country with the U.S. Navy at Vietnam, where he oversaw meals for 10,000 soldiers, and as a Circuit Court Judge in Central Florida from 1995 through 2010.

Judge Doyel's passion for the underdog was a result of his humble upbringing in Shawnee, Oklahoma, as the youngest of Ruby Doyel's 10 children—and the only one to graduate college. After one winter living with his family in an old chicken coop, Judge Doyel worked through high school and college, graduating from the University of Oklahoma with degrees in Accounting and Law. He was an attorney in Oklahoma before becoming a law professor at Ole Miss, where colleagues included former Washington NFL star and future Ole Miss Chancellor Robert Khayat, and students included future novelist John Grisham.

When he registered his son Gregg for youth baseball in 1978 in Oxford, Mississippi, Judge Doyel learned the city Civic League was still segregated. Having already committed to coaching, Judge Doyel stayed that summer but made it his mission to destroy the league. He recruited other white families in 1979 to the Oxford Parks Commission, and the segregated league soon folded.

Judge Doyel earned his Masters of Law and Doctorate of Juridical Science degrees from the University of Wisconsin in 1984, and taught at Mercer's School of Law before moving to Winter Haven, Florida. He was a defense attorney, then a Circuit Judge specializing in family law. The title of his book on the subject brims with his fearless personality: "The Baby Mama Syndrome".

In retirement with Chelle, his wife of 37 years, Judge Doyel advised local Democratic Party leaders, served on the board for the Rainbow Ridge LGTBA Democratic Caucus of Polk County, and advocated fiercely for rape-kit testing and victims of domestic violence.

Judge Doyel died November 1, 2024, at age 79.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for Roll Call Vote No. 3, Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 5, I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote No. 4, Motion to Commit H. Res. 5, I would have voted Yea.

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote No. 5, Agreeing to H. Res. 5, I would have voted Nay.

HONORING ROSA FIGUEROA

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

RECOGNIZING CATERPILLAR INC.

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosa Figueroa as she retires after 18 remarkable years as the Director of the LaGuardia Community College Small Business Development Center (SBDC). In this vital position, Rosa oversaw the Center's small business services and spearheaded economic development initiatives that has left a lasting legacy. Her tireless dedication and leadership have been instrumental in ensuring the success and growth of small businesses, particularly those in the Sunnyside, Woodside, and neighboring Queens communities.

Rosa's commitment to fostering small business development has had a profound impact on Queens and New York City as a whole. Notably, she has been a staunch advocate for minority and women-owned entrepreneurs, providing them with the resources and support needed to thrive in a competitive market.

The LaGuardia SBDC assists approximately 3,000 small businesses across Queens, New York each year through its comprehensive advising and education programs. Recognizing the crucial role these small businesses play in New York City's economy, Rosa ensured that the SBDC was an accessible and valuable resource for all small business owners. Her years of dedicated service have positioned the LaGuardia SBDC to continue its mission of supporting small businesses well into the future.

In addition to her outstanding role at the SBDC, Rosa has served on numerous boards and as a member of various business, trade, and civic organizations. Through these roles, she has tirelessly promoted small business and community partnerships, fostering local economic vitality. Rosa has received numerous accolades for her exceptional service and unwavering commitment to our state and community.

On behalf of the small business community in Queens, I extend my deepest gratitude to Rosa Figueroa for her unwavering dedication and significant contributions. Her efforts have made our city a better place to live, work, and launch a business. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Rosa on her well-deserved retirement and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 6 and NAY on Roll Call No. 7.

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to the devastating wildfire affecting my district and Southern California I missed the vote on final passage for the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, H.R. 23. Had I been present I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 7.

While I do believe we would have produced a much better bill had it gone through regular order and received a markup in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, recent events have made it vital to pass a strong legislative response to the ICC.

The ICC's recent illegitimate, politically motivated, and legally spurious decision to issue arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant (despite having no jurisdictional or factual basis to do so) led me to now support this legislation despite my procedural concerns. Had I been able to, I would have voted to pass this bill.

However, by January 8th, thousands of homes, businesses and other structures had been destroyed and, devastatingly, several Los Angelinos were killed and many more injured as a result of devastating fires in and around the 32nd Congressional District. Given these developments, I felt it was necessary to return to my district that day which made me unavailable to vote YEA on H.R. 23 the following day when this measure came to a vote.

RECOGNIZING A. MICHAEL HICKOX

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of A. Michael Hickox and his retirement as the Property Appraiser in Nassau County, Florida.

For 12 years, Mike has been an amazing public servant, committed to fairness and customer service.

Let's be honest: being a property appraiser is one of the toughest jobs around. But Mike has done it well and leaves the office in a much better place.

While he was leading, Mike was also President and on the boards of the Florida Association of Property Appraisers, Nassau Education Foundation, and Nassau County Economic Development Board.

To put it simply, Mike has spent his career serving others.

Mike may not be our property appraiser anymore, but I know he's not done. I can't wait to see what he does next.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike on a job well done.

HON. JAKE ELLZEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American success story—a company I'm proud to say calls the Sixth Congressional District of Texas home—Caterpillar Inc.

This week kicks off a celebration of 100 years of hard work, innovation, and industry leadership by this iconic company. In 1925, the Holt Manufacturing Company and the C.L. Best Tractor Co. came together to form what is now known as Caterpillar. Since then, they have been at the forefront of building the machines that build the world.

From their first track-type tractors pulling harvesters in California's fields to the cutting-edge autonomous equipment and engines they produce today, Caterpillar has shaped how we live, work, and connect.

In Texas, where we pride ourselves on dreaming big and building even bigger, Caterpillar's role is front and center. Their equipment helps pave the roads, build the bridges, and support the energy projects that power not just our state but the entire country. They're not just part of the Texas story—they're helping write it.

A company that has helped build our entire nation could be located anywhere, but they're not just anywhere; they're in Texas. And as our State and my District continue to grow, I am proud to have them as part of our community.

As Caterpillar celebrates 100 years, I want to extend my appreciation to their team for all they have accomplished—and for all they will continue to do—to help our communities and our country thrive.

RECOGNIZING KENNETH SCHWARTZ' DEDICATION TO HIS NATION AND HIS COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ken Schwartz of Superior Township, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement from the position of Township Supervisor.

Ken was born in Michigan in 1952. Raised and educated in suburban Detroit, he graduated from Cherry Hill High School in Inkster, Michigan in 1970. In 1971, Ken joined the United States Air Force and was stationed with the 56th Tactical Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. He served as a member of the hospital squadron for over three years until being honorably discharged in 1975.

After his service, Ken attended Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn before transferring to the University of Michigan in 1976 where he studied philosophy, history, and political science. After graduating, he began a new mission in life as a law student at the Cooley Law School in Lansing. Once he passed the bar exam in 1985, Ken embarked