

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

on a long and successful law practice in Ypsilanti.

Along the way to being elected Superior Township Supervisor, Ken also was elected and appointed to many offices including the Washtenaw County Road Commission, Washtenaw County Commissioner, and is currently serving as a Superior Township Trustee. In keeping with his concern for the health and welfare of our veterans, Ken was a founding member of the Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs Commission and was elected as its Chairman in 2012.

In his position as Superior Township Supervisor, Ken set a framework by encouraging and managing selected land for development and growth, keeping the local debt reasonable, and preserving the financial assets of Superior Township. His leadership saw an improvement to township services like safer drinking water, good quality roads, and more responsive fire and police services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Ken Schwartz. Though he will be stepping down as Supervisor, he will remain on the Board of Trustees and will continue serving his residents. I thank him for his service and wish him the best as he enters this next chapter of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 6.

HONORING ELIZABETH FINN

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Judge Elizabeth "Ellie" Finn, who passed away on December 27, 2024, following a long battle with ovarian cancer. For over four decades, Ellie served with distinction on Arizona's municipal benches, dedicating her career to building a more equitable and compassionate justice system, particularly for survivors of domestic violence and those impacted by mental illness.

Born in 1947 in New Haven, Connecticut, Ellie moved to Arizona as a young girl. Her parents, Herbert B. Finn and Ruth G. Finn, instilled a deep commitment to public service and justice in Ellie and her sister, Alice Finn, from a young age. She shared 56 years of love and partnership with her husband, Edward Turner. Together, they raised two children, Jesse and Sarah, nurturing the same sense of social responsibility that guided Ellie's own life.

Ellie earned her law degree from Arizona State University in 1972, before joining her parents and forming Arizona's first majority-female law firm, Finn, Finn, & Finn. In 1979, Ellie was appointed to the Phoenix Municipal Court, making her one of the youngest judges in Arizona. After retiring from Phoenix in 2002,

she became the presiding judge of the Glendale City Court—a position held for nearly two decades.

Throughout Ellie's tenure in law, she brought a renewed focus to issues previously overlooked in the judicial system. She championed specialized courts, including those addressing domestic violence, mental health, and homelessness, ensuring that Arizona's municipalities take a holistic approach to justice. She never lost sight of the human dimension of her work, molding a style of jurisprudence that takes into account people's lived experiences and reflects her passion for building a justice system that better serves all Arizonans. Her principles, composure, and leadership garnered local and national recognition, including honors from the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Arizona, and the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Ellie's life embodied the principle of using one's gifts and passions to uplift the community. Her trailblazing spirit, advocacy for domestic violence survivors, and enduring impact on Arizona's courts will continue to guide our pursuit of justice in the years to come. We honor her memory, extend our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones, and remember her unwavering commitment to serving those most in need.

I thank Ellie and Godspeed.

HONORING THE INAUGURATION OF SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR DANIEL LURIE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rose to congratulate Daniel Lurie, the 46th Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco. Daniel Lurie is an innovative, empathic leader elected with a call to service, change and accountability.

Although he is San Francisco's first mayor since 1911 to win office without previously serving in government, Daniel Lurie is well known for his innovative approach to solving entrenched issues and delivering results for San Francisco. As the founder of Tipping Point Community, Mayor Lurie launched the Bay Area's largest anti-poverty organization, directing over \$500 million toward solutions for housing, job creation, and essential services. Under Mayor Lurie's leadership, Tipping Point spearheaded construction of a first-of-its-kind affordable housing building at 833 Bryant Street, a project that came in on time and under budget with good-paying union labor. Mayor Lurie also led the bid to bring Super Bowl 50 to the Bay Area in 2016, making it the most philanthropic Super Bowl in NFL history, and founded The Civic Joy Fund in 2023, bringing more art, music, and enthusiasm to our city streets.

Throughout his career, Mayor Lurie has set new standards for impact and partnership, including innovative public-private collaborations that uplift communities. Mayor Lurie's priorities include ensuring safety and vibrancy in all neighborhoods, as well as economic growth. He is entering City Hall effective from the start having just negotiated a hotel strike settlement

with higher wages for our union workers and stability for our vibrant hospitality industry.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Mayor Lurie lives in the City with his wife, Becca Prowda, and their two young children.

I congratulate Daniel Lurie, his mother Mimi Haas, his father Rabbi Brian Lurie, and their entire family, and look forward to working with Mayor Lurie toward a thriving San Francisco for all.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE POLICE CHIEF PAUL DEAN

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor University of New Hampshire Police Chief Paul Dean and to wish him well as he retires from an impressive career in law enforcement.

As a law enforcement officer for nearly 40 years, including the last 35 as a member of the University of New Hampshire Police Department, Chief Dean has worked tirelessly to make UNH and the State of New Hampshire safer and stronger. A testament to his commitment to the UNH community, Chief Dean was named the department's chief in 2011, continuing his excellent and important work. As Police Chief and Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Risk Management, Chief Dean guided UNH through the COVID-19 pandemic as the campus remained open for students, faculty, and staff and ensured UNH returned to normal activities as safely and as quickly as possible.

A nationally recognized leader in campus law enforcement and public safety, Chief Dean is the Immediate Past President of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. Throughout his tenure at UNH, Chief Dean has been a champion of mental health training and accessibility for his officers and staff. Under his leadership, the UNH Police Department has remained fully accredited by CALEA and IACLEA during Chief Dean's tenure. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I extend my gratitude to Chief Paul Dean for his exceptional service as the University of New Hampshire's Chief of Police. I join all Granite Staters in thanking Chief Dean for his leadership, professionalism, and contributions to making the community safer. I wish him and his family all the best as he embarks on the next chapter in his career.

I congratulate Chief Dean on a job very well done.

HONORING ANDY KRINER

HON. NICHOLAS J. BEGICH III

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great reverence that I rise today to honor the life and memory of Andy Kriner, a longtime resident of Alaska, and a beloved member of the community. Mr. Kriner was the owner of