

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

Kriner's Diner in Anchorage, which he founded in 2010. The diner became well-known for its great food and its warm, welcoming environment, rooted in the values of family, friendship, and community. It is an honor to stand before you today and pay tribute to the legacy he left behind.

Mr. Kriner embodied true American values and integrity through his commitment to advocating for small businesses in the face of adversity and standing firm in the face of government overreach. Andy was a man who deeply understood the importance of giving back. Every year, he distributed more than 400 Thanksgiving dinners to anyone who came by his diner, with no questions asked. This annual tradition demonstrated his dedication to service and his commitment to standing up for what was right, making him a pillar of our Alaskan community.

Mr. Kriner is survived by his wife, Norann, of 45 years, as well as his three children and six grandchildren. His legacy will live on through the business he built, the family he cherished, and the community he enriched.

**HONORING COLONEL ROBERT  
BARTRAN**

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2025*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Colonel Robert Bartran's service, career, and accomplishments. For over 36 years, he served selflessly in the Mississippi Army National Guard.

After earning his commission in 1995 from the Officer's Candidate Course, he began a long and distinguished career. He holds an associate's degree from Hinds Community College, a bachelors degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a masters degree from Liberty University. His military education includes Basic Training, the Engineer Officers Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff Officer Course, and many other military and civilian law enforcement schools, as well as courses in transportation, human resources, maintenance, and leadership.

He served at the platoon, company, battalion, major subordinate command, and state levels. Throughout his distinguished service, Colonel Bartran exhibited extraordinary vision, unwavering professionalism, dynamic leadership, and deep compassion. He served across the United States and around the world, including in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Afghanistan. His years of experience and training in law enforcement, border security, and criminal justice made him an invaluable asset to counterterrorism, counter-narcotics initiatives, and counterinsurgency operations. His exceptional management skills and profound concern for the well-being of all soldiers culminated in his role as the Director of the Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug Program.

Colonel Bartran's distinguished career is marked by his numerous awards and decorations, a testament to his exceptional service. Among his accolades are the Bronze Star Medal, seven Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, the Iraq Campaign and Afghanistan Campaign Medals,

the Humanitarian Medal, and the Air Assault Badge, along with numerous other federal and state awards. These honors reflect his dedication and commitment to his duty, inspiring pride and honor in all who have served alongside him, including myself.

His commitment to his family, his service to our country, and his contributions to Mississippi are testaments to his character. Colonel Bartran is a true American hero, a proud Mississippian Guardsman, and a man for whom we are immensely grateful.

**RECOGNIZING CHAFFEE COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER GREG FELT**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greg Felt of Chaffee County, Colorado for his service to the people of Salida, Buena Vista, and Poncha Springs, on the Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Felt is a dedicated public servant who has served the people of Chaffee County for much of his life. He led the county's response to the Decker Fire and guided public health efforts as Board of Health Chair during the pandemic. He has spent his entire life on or around the Arkansas River and has gained a unique perspective on our natural resources. With his expertise, he served as the Director for both the Upper Arkansas and Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy Districts to help protect Colorado's Water and was appointed by Gov. Jared Polis to represent the Arkansas River Basin on the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Commissioner Felt created a lasting impact on the Arkansas River, and for Chaffee County, and his presence will be missed.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Commissioner Felt for his time on the Chaffee 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.

**WISHING RANDY HAGEDORN A  
HAPPY RETIREMENT**

**HON. MIKE FLOOD**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2025*

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the remarkable career of one of Norfolk's most beloved community leaders, Randy Hagedorn, following four decades with the Norfolk Family YMCA.

Under Randy's leadership, the Norfolk Family YMCA experienced transformative growth. From leading an annual fundraiser that generates hundreds of thousands of dollars to support local scholarships and programs, to spearheading a successful \$13 million campaign for a major expansion in 2019, Randy's dedication has left a lasting impact on our community. These achievements have cemented the YMCA as a cornerstone of Nor-

folk's community life and serves as a model for excellence across Nebraska.

Randy's community engagement extends beyond the YMCA. For over 30 years, he has officiated football and basketball games, including NCAA events and NAIA national championships. His exemplary service earned him the prestigious 2024 NAIA Larry Lady Officiating Award.

As Randy steps into retirement, he leaves behind a thriving Norfolk Family YMCA with nearly 12,000 active members—a reflection of his vision, leadership, and dedication. His legacy will continue to shape our community for years to come.

On behalf of the people of the First District, I thank him for his service throughout his extraordinary career. It will have a big impact on our community for years to come. We wish him the best in his retirement as he begins this next chapter.

**HONORING THE CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. VERNATIUS  
FRANK THOMSEN**

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN  
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2025*

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of Mr. Vernatius Frank Thomsen. In June of 1986, Mr. Thomsen began his military career and enlisted in the U.S. Navy serving two tours on board the U.S. Sub-tender USS *Proteus* AS-19, and one tour on board the guided missile destroyer USS *Lynde McCormick* DDG-8 within the supply department and Master at Arms Division. He remained in the US Navy Reserve until August 1994. In May of 1998 he became the first USCG Reservist for American Samoa and served on active duty at the USCG Marine Safety Detachment (MSD), American Samoa until September of 2006. He continued his uniformed duties as a Reserve Maritime Enforcement, Senior Chief Petty Officer in the United States Coast Guard until his retirement in September 2018. In April 2007 Mr. Thomsen was hired as the Assistant Supervisor for the USCG Marine Safety Detachment. In November of 2011 he was designated as the Command Intelligence Officer for American Samoa, representing the Captain of the Port Sector Honolulu. From May 1998 to January 2025, Mr. Thomsen dedicated over 30 years of exceptional service to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), culminating in his role as Deputy Supervisor of the Marine Safety Unit (MSU) in American Samoa.

Throughout his tenure, he served as the backbone of continuity in a unit subject to annual personnel turnover, ensuring seamless operations and unwavering support to USCG missions. His steadfast leadership, technical expertise, and unyielding commitment to mission readiness have left an indelible impact on the maritime community of American Samoa. Mr. Thomsen's multifaceted duties encompassed training of incoming personnel, acting as a liaison with federal and state agencies, and serving as the operational leader in the absence of the Commanding Officer. His roles included conducting safety workshops with Federal and State agencies for the maritime