

strong, gritty, accomplished, intelligent women. Women whom my grandmother knew better than they knew themselves and saw different parts of herself in each of them. The keenest of maternal instincts.

The farm they called home for decades was a place for family, friends, food, laughter, and memories made. She was a surrogate mother for the phalanx of people who always walked through her front door. Speaking for my cousin Nina and I, we so wish we could have been flies on the wall at one of those legendary gatherings.

It is said that there's a special place in heaven for the father of three girls. I remember seeing that written on a piece of art hung in the home of dear family friends, Ray and Peg Ramsey's home for years. I do not dispute that claim at all. Ray Ramsey is certainly there. As is my grandfather Carman, a man whom Nina and I never had the honor of meeting but have heard glorious stories about for our entire lives.

I would like to say that I firmly believe that such a special place also exists for the mother of three girls. My grandmother raised three extraordinary women. Simply amazing. While my grandfather's light was extinguished far too early, it lived on in his wife and daughters. The strength and vibrancy of these three women are in no small part due to the fierce determination, iron-clad will, and overwhelming dignity of my grandmother. What an example. That is simply special.

What brings a smile to my face is that this legacy lives on dynamically as ever with her granddaughter, Nina. Nina and her husband Orion are raising three incredible young women: Annie, Adalin, and Noelle. Three brilliant, kind, and loving sisters who look after one another and lift each other up. The symmetry is undeniable. It is a blessing beyond measure that our grandmother got to be a great-grandmother three times over and had the opportunity to get to know these three dynamos and watch the torch passed to another generation of impressively wonderful Christian women. She was a matriarch in the truest sense of the word.

Her home was always open. Food was always on the table. All were always welcome. And a card game was never far away. She was the fiercest of competitors at the card table. A skill and focus that she passed to her daughter Karen, who is probably the best card player and partner anyone could ever have. Was often reminded by my grandmother that "there are no friends in cards." But moments later, she would tell us, "Oh no, it's just for fun. It's just a game." Mhm . . . whether it was 9-5, set back, poker, Yahtzee, Uno, duckpin, or Wii bowling. No-body was going to stand in her way.

My grandmother was a prolific cook but was truly an iconic baker. Pies: apple, blueberry, chocolate cream, banana cream, lemon meringue, pineapple squares, Irish soda bread, cinnamon tarts, red sauce (pretty good for an Irish woman), French fries, clam dip, brownies with the best frosting you will ever have, and so much more.

She loved to host backyard picnics, Christmas Eve and morning celebrations, weekly card games with her group of best friends, going to Shady Glen for a strawberry milkshake, and sitting in her chair and reading the latest Janet Evanovich book. My grandmother's talent for hosting and making her home so warm for others lives on in her daughter Patty. People are always comfortable under her threshold. A tradition she proudly carries on every single day.

Dee Dee was a die-hard fan of UConn basketball, the Boston Red Sox, the Green Bay Packers, and horse racing. She loved Elvis, Barry White, Lou Rawls, the Price is Right and murder mysteries (whether in print or

on TV). It was often a cause of great consternation when the holiday movies bogarted the regularly scheduled programming of Hallmark's murder mystery roster. She had so many interests and talents and loved to share them with all of us.

In the past few days, I have been seeking some comfort and wisdom in processing the loss of a woman that all of us loved so much and loved you all in return.

Two such examples have resonated with me, and I hope they can do the same for you.

In *Les Miserables*, a musical adored by her daughter Linda and rooted in sacrifice, selflessness, and dignity (all traits that my grandmother embodied to a "T"), the closing lines of the show encapsulate the simple, but pure divinity of living a life full of love. As the show comes to a close, the hero, Jean Valjean, is welcomed to heaven after a life of reformed selflessness and love. The bishop, who inspired the story's hero to live a new life devoted to others, shared a simple truth with Jean Valjean as he could finally rest: "And remember the truth that was once spoken . . . to love another person is to see the face of God." This sentiment, based on the divinity of humanity and the power of love, is something I have felt loving my grandmother and something I hope she felt loving all of us here.

Finally, in the *Wizard of Oz*, a film my grandmother loved (which may have something to do with the name of the leading lady), a love she also passed on to our entire family, the titular wizard also shares some wisdom about love and affection.

As the Tin Man asks him for a heart, the Wizard says, "Hearts can never be made practical until they can be made unbreakable." The Tin Man responds, "But I still want one." After finally giving the Tin Man a garland-adorned, ticking, heart-shaped timepiece, the Wizard concludes by saying, "And remember, my sentimental friend, that a heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others."

If the Wizard is correct, then no one had a bigger heart than Dorothy Christiana. She was just so loved. Loved unconditionally by so many. The compassion she showed, often in her unique way, was the privilege of a lifetime.

In closing, it's hard to fathom how much I'll miss my grandmother. The chats about basketball, politics, cooking, the family. All of it. It's equally difficult to put into words how much she loved all of the people here. But there is a silver lining. One week ago, a bus arrived. Except this one was not faulty this time. It was right on time. It took my grandmother on. It took her to a table where Lil, Clara, and Fawn were. Where Ernie & Beatty were already dealt on the table. A blueberry pie was in the oven. Elvis was playing on the radio. Ten duckpin bowling pins were reset. Her parents were waiting for their little girl with arms wide open. And her beloved Carman, smiling. Finally reunited. Showered with love. What a life well lived.

I love you so much.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF PEARL HUNT

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest admiration, respect, and heartfelt gratitude that I write to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Pearl Hunt, who reached the remarkable milestone of her 100th birthday on March 1, 2025.

Pearl Hunt is a beloved figure whose legacy of kindness, wisdom, and generosity has deeply impacted the lives of many. Over the course of her century of life, she has been a source of inspiration and guidance for her family, friends, and community. Through her unwavering commitment to supporting those around her, she has become a pillar of strength and compassion.

Throughout her life, Pearl has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to bring people together. Her warm heart and giving spirit have touched the lives of countless individuals, shaping the community and enriching the lives of all who have had the privilege of knowing her.

Pearl's legacy extends beyond her remarkable longevity. She has lived a life filled with purpose, making significant contributions to the lives of those fortunate enough to cross her path. As we celebrate this incredible milestone, we reflect on the profound impact she has had and continue to draw inspiration from her example of living a life of service, kindness, and love.

Today, as we honor Pearl Hunt on her 100th birthday, we also extend our deepest congratulations and warmest wishes. Her accomplishments and her lasting impact on those around her will never be forgotten.

On behalf of the people of Fort Worth and the U.S. House of Representatives, I express my sincere congratulations to Pearl Hunt on this monumental achievement. May she continue to experience good health, happiness, and the love of those around her for many years to come.

I thank Pearl for her enduring legacy and the many ways in which she has touched all of our lives. We are incredibly fortunate to have her as a member of our community, and we look forward to celebrating many more milestones with her.

HONORING WILDA SHOCK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Wilda Shock. I have named Ms. Shock as the California 4th District's Woman of the Year for Lake County because of her excellent work in our community. This honor recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

A fifth-generation Lake County resident, Ms. Shock was born in Gainesville, Texas, to her parents Royal and Jane Keeling Dorsett. Her family soon returned to Lake County, where she attended Upper Lake Union Elementary and High Schools, graduating as student body president and class valedictorian. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and Business Administration from Sacramento State College. Furthering her education, she pursued postgraduate studies at UC Berkeley and CSU Sacramento, specializing in Nonprofit Management and Local Government.

Ms. Shock has been a steadfast advocate for our community through her leadership in

numerous organizations. She has served as President of the Mendocino College Foundation, spearheading initiatives such as the Measure W Campaign and the Adopt A Fifth Grader Program, while securing funding for a nursing instructor. Ms. Shock founded and chaired the Lake County Friends of Mendocino College, ensuring the success of the local campus and its students. Additionally, she has been a driving force behind economic development as President of the Lake County Economic Development Corporation and as the chair of the Economic Development Advisory Committee for the city of Lakeport.

Beyond her contributions to education and economic growth, Ms. Shock has played a vital role in supporting Lake County's cultural and nonprofit sectors. She has held leadership positions in countless community foundations including the Lake County Wine Alliance, the Lake County Land Trust, and the Soper Reese Theatre. Her leadership within organizations such as the California Women for Agriculture and the Blue-Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake has significantly benefited the region's agricultural and environmental stewardship.

Colleagues and peers describe Ms. Shock as hardworking, highly respected, and a visionary leader who fosters collaboration to maximize community resources. Her ability to unite people has ensured the successful implementation of numerous initiatives. Known for her professionalism, generosity, and strong work ethic, Ms. Shock's leadership has strengthened institutions, empowered students, and preserved the cultural and environmental heritage of Lake County.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest gratitude to Ms. Wilda Shock for her dedicated service and lasting contributions to our community. It is fitting and proper that I recognize and honor her extraordinary achievements here today.

CELEBRATING THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOCA RATON'S 39TH ANNUAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONOREES

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge all the hardworking teachers being honored at the Rotary Club of Boca Raton's 39th Annual Teacher of the Year Awards Celebration for the Palm Beach County School District on March 20, 2025. As a father of two growing boys eager to learn, I know educators' lifelong impact on their students and families. Education is the foundation of our country's future, and as a community, we depend on our teachers daily to prepare the next generation of Americans.

We are thankful to be gifted with extraordinary teachers in Florida's 23rd Congressional District. As Teachers of the Year, they serve as an inspiration not only to their colleagues but also to educators across the region. These teachers serve as a shining example of the positive difference that teachers make in the lives of their students. Their passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to shaping the future leaders of tomorrow are truly com-

mendable, and there is no doubt that they will continue to inspire and empower countless students in years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating all the teachers being recognized at the Rotary Club of Boca Raton's 39th Annual Teacher of the Year Awards Celebration: Lindsey Wuest, Lesley Healy, Maureen Tonti, Jane Nealy, Maureen Carter, Maria Mansoor, Mary Bockskocsky, Emily Hedengren, Whitney Pinzon, Miriam Bravo, Jacqueline Cuomo, Francesca Sheridan, Ashley Kluthe, Edileusa Goller, Wendy Zeitz, Mandy Berrocal, Budget Briggs, Frank Torres, Dina Marschke, Ashley Carraro, Dori Lebowitz, Charles Fine, and Lyndsay Tolerton.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL VICTOR ROESKE AS THE MARCH 2025 VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional service and lifelong dedication of Lieutenant Colonel Victor Roeske, USA (Ret.), a distinguished U.S. Army veteran and our March 2025 Veteran of the Month from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. Throughout his decades of military and civilian service, LTC Roeske has exemplified duty, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to his country and community.

A Michigan native, LTC Roeske graduated from Rogers City High School in 1970 and earned an appointment to the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point. Upon graduating in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He then completed both Airborne and Ranger training, setting the foundation for a distinguished military career.

Over the next 21 years, LTC Roeske held key leadership positions in the U.S. Army, serving with distinction across the globe. His service included assignments with the 82nd Airborne Division, the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, and various leadership roles at Fort Bragg, Fort Sill, and Maxwell Air Force Base. He commanded troops, directed artillery operations, and contributed to national security through roles in the Defense Nuclear Agency's Cooperative Threat Reduction Program.

A dedicated scholar and educator, LTC Roeske earned two master's degrees in Operations Research and Statistics and Applied Mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He later served as an Instructor and Assistant Professor at West Point and as a faculty member at the Naval Postgraduate School, shaping the next generation of military leaders through his expertise in mathematics and operational research.

After retiring in 1995, LTC Roeske's commitment to service remained, continuing to support military institutions and his community. He played a vital role in shaping future military leaders as a West Point Admissions Congressional District Coordinator and a member of multiple Service Academy Nomination Boards.

Today, LTC Roeske channels his leadership and experience into mentorship, faith-based outreach, and community support. He volunteers at the Spero Pregnancy Center in Port

Huron, the Blue Water Area Rescue Mission, and serves as a Prison Fellowship Volunteer at both the Macomb and Thumb Correctional Facilities, offering guidance and hope to those in need. His unwavering dedication to uplifting others embodies the same values of duty, honor, and service that defined his distinguished military career.

Mr. Speaker, LTC Victor Roeske's life is a testament to the enduring spirit of service—both in uniform and in civilian life. His leadership on the battlefield, in the classroom, and within his community has left a lasting impact on those he has served and mentored. Today, we honor LTC Roeske for his exemplary military career and his continued dedication to uplifting others. His service to our Nation and his community stands as an inspiration to us all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND JOBS PARITY ACT

HON. KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation that would amend the Wagner-Peyser Act to finally include the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.

The Wagner-Peyser Act established the Employment Service, a network of public employment offices that connects job seekers with employers. Yet, despite participating in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs, the Marianas and American Samoa are not eligible for the employment services formula grant that is currently provided to all other states and territories.

In the 2017 902 report submitted to Congress, both the special representatives of the CNMI and President Trump recommended the Departments of Interior and Labor work to extend the Wagner-Peyser Act to the Marianas. I agree, but it is up to Congress to advance this legislation.

The Wagner-Peyser grant would provide support to the CNMI and American Samoan workforce through skills assessment, career guidance, and training for prospective employees. Inclusion in Wagner-Peyser would also finally allow these insular areas to have employment data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A stronger workforce builds a stronger economy. Let's make things right and ensure parity for all American workers. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

CONGRATULATING COURTNEY BILLINGTON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Courtney Billington for his many years of service to our community. Courtney is retiring after thirty-three years with Johnson & Johnson where he's worked tirelessly to improve public health policy and support the thousands of innovators and medical professionals who are driving medical progress.