

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.

Courtney has lived a life dedicated to serving others. After graduating from West Point, he served as a Quartermaster Officer in the U.S. Army, ensuring that our soldiers get the equipment they need.

He has been a lifelong advocate for veterans, currently serving as a board member of the United Services Organization, the Cohen Veterans Network, and as Executive Sponsor of the Veterans Leadership Council.

For five years Courtney has been the president of Janssen Neuroscience, where he's worked on innovative treatments for patients with serious mental illness and neurodegenerative diseases.

He has strived towards bridging the racial disparities in healthcare; particularly increasing the mental health treatments available for Black men.

While at Johnson & Johnson, Courtney led the Community Health Equity Alliance, which works at the community level to provide mental health care across twelve states.

Through the Congressional Black Caucus, I have had the opportunity to work with Courtney, Johnson & Johnson, and partnering associations on those pressing issues, and I'd like to thank him for his thoughtful and fierce championing of the health of Black Americans.

While Courtney's years of service have taken him around the globe, New Jersey is all the better for being the state he calls home.

We are grateful to Courtney for his years of service and the work he has done to make our communities and our country healthier.

I hope that he and his wife Lisa will have many wonderful years ahead of them enjoying a well-earned and much-deserved retirement.

HONORING THEA HENSEL

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. Thea Hensel. I have named Ms. Hensel as the California 4th Congressional District's Woman of the Year for Sonoma 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.

Born in the Bronx, New York, Ms. Hensel pursued her education at Oneonta State University of New York, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master's in Education from New York University. Beyond her professional and advocacy work, she enjoys traveling with her daughter, Riana Hensel, hiking and celebrating the arts, food and wine with her friends.

In 2009, Ms. Hensel co-founded the Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway and spearheaded a 15-year grassroots effort to secure 49 acres of former Caltrans property and convert it into a vibrant public park. After 60 years of sitting empty, Ms. Hensel helped secure the transfer of the Caltrans property to the City of Santa Rosa in 2024. Her coalition of organizations, businesses, educators, families and public officials is now designing the Greenway which will serve the diverse needs of our community.

Santa Rosa will soon break ground on Ms. Hensel's vision, a sustainable urban green space with community gardens, neighborhood parks, restored natural habitats, and revitalized creeks. Thanks to her leadership, the Southeast Greenway will become the fourth-largest park in the City of Santa Rosa and provide invaluable recreational and ecological benefits to the region.

Ms. Hensel's contributions to Sonoma County extend far beyond her work with the Greenway. She serves as Co-Chair of the Education Committee for Impact 100 Redwood Circle and as Program Co-Chair of the Sonoma County Forum. Her dedication to community service also includes her tenure as a board member of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition and her participation as a 2011 fellow at the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy. Additionally, she has supported various projects benefiting local schools, the Sonoma County Symphony and numerous nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Thea Hensel exemplifies the spirit of civic leadership and environmental advocacy. Her vision and perseverance have ensured that future generations in our community will enjoy the benefits of a central urban open space. It is my privilege to recognize and honor her profound contributions to our community here today.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST—1ST PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNER, AUGUSTUS REZBA-PATEL

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following essay from Virginia's Fourth District Black History Month Essay Contest—1st Place middle school contest winner, Augustus Rezba-Patel.

Women are 17 percent of active-duty U.S. military members today. They serve in combat and leadership roles and are vital to the function of the U.S. military. But it wasn't always this way. When Charity Adams-Early joined the military in 1942, women were restricted to certain occupations and comprised just 1 percent of the military. Not only that, but people were discriminatory to Black Americans, restricting their education, housing, and neighborhoods. Even the military was segregated by race. Despite these barriers, Charity Adams-Early overcame both racism and misogyny to become the highest-ranking Black woman in the military during WWII.

Charity Adams-Early was born in Kittrell, North Carolina on December 5, 1918, two years before women's suffrage, where segregation and racial prejudice were social norms. She often faced challenges that tested her resilience, but with her mother's help, she excelled at learning, graduating high school two years early as the valedictorian. She attended Wilberforce University, triple-majoring in Latin, physics, and math. After graduating, she taught math and science (Eley).

When WWII started, the U.S. rapidly expanded the military. In 1942, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was formed, allowing skillful women to serve. Adams-

Early was highly recommended and was accepted. She arrived at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, in July, to start training. Segregation immediately took effect when she arrived at the fort, with White and Black women assigned to different barracks. Adams-Early prevailed over racism to become the first Black officer in the WAAC, and was promoted to Major in 1943, meaning she was high rank (Eley).

Adams-Early overcame systemic racism. Believe it or not, systemic racism is happening right under our noses at this exact moment. For example, my school's Honors English class is mostly White, while the non-honors classes are mostly Black. This isn't because our Black students have less potential, but because their Elementary schools didn't get as much financial support as other schools, giving them fewer opportunities for advanced academics and extracurriculars. Another example of systemic racism is the story of Richmond's Jackson Ward. Jackson Ward was a positive place, where black people and businesses thrived. Then, in 1958, the state put the highway right through their neighborhood, cutting them off from their businesses and jobs, leading to unemployment and poverty.

Adams-Early also faced sexism because in 1940 many people hated the idea of a woman achieving more than them (and still do). Women didn't even have the right to maintain a fixed status in the military. So Adams had the worst of it.

Charity Adams-Early overcame many social and systemic obstacles. She paved the way for generations of women and Black Americans in the military. Today women and Black people hold leadership roles, serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, advise the President, and serve as Cabinet leaders. We all owe her a lot, but we still have much to learn from her. Currently, women and people of color can learn from her and face systemic racism and sexism by always being determined and never giving up.

HONORING DJ GRIFFIN

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my sincere thanks to my Communications Director, DJ Griffin, who recently ended his tenure with my office.

A proud graduate of Colgate University, DJ began his Washington, DC career as a Senior Associate Director of Research for the Republican National Committee. The White Plains, New York native then began working on Capitol Hill as a Communications Director for Congressman Mike Collins prior to joining my office.

In 2023, I welcomed DJ to my office as the Communications Director and he has been devoted to achieving the goals of our office and has made a lasting impact on the communications to our district, keeping our constituents informed of what was going on in Washington, DC, DJ has proven to be an extremely valuable member of my team by clearly communicating what is happening in the halls of Congress with my constituents and helping me to secure the Chairmanship of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

I want to thank DJ Griffin for his work serving Kentucky's Second District as a dedicated public servant. While it is a loss for my staff,