

After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin in 1969, Judge Carruthers became a program representative for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, where he tended to Houston's neediest people. Shortly, after, he enrolled in law school at Texas Southern University and later attended St. Mary's University, where he supported himself as a bailiff for District Judge James E. Barlow of the 186th District.

After passing the bar exam, Judge Carruthers began his legal career, working first as an Assistant District Attorney in Bexar County and later for then-Texas Attorney General John Hill. He was then hired as a professor at Thurgood Marshall Law School, where he taught for eight years.

In 1982, Judge Carruthers returned to San Antonio and opened the Law Offices of Carruthers and Cunningham with his wife, Willie. Their son, Andrew C. Carruthers was born in 1983. Judge Cunningham is also blessed with two daughters, Aloyce Williams and Tammye Turner.

In 1989, Judge Carruthers was appointed Criminal Law Magistrate of Bexar County, a position that he would hold for the next 35 years. During his time as Criminal Law Magistrate, Judge Carruthers worked to advance the court's understanding of what it means to be competent to stand trial. This work is reflected in his presentations at legal conferences and the expansion of Bexar County's competency and sanity evaluation programs. Today, because of Judge Carruthers' leadership and innovation, the court now offers inpatient, outpatient and jail-based restoration programs for individuals with mental illnesses, and community based and residential care programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The dedication Judge Carruthers has demonstrated for the last 52 years has been instrumental for local judicial programs. His work has aided many and will continue to help individuals seeking assistance. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to express my gratitude for Judge Andrew Carruthers as he celebrates his retirement.

RECOGNIZING COMMISSIONER EVA
HENRY

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commissioner Eva Henry. Throughout her years in public service to Adams County, where she grew up and raised her family, she worked to improve the lives of all Coloradans.

Commissioner Henry championed several initiatives that elevated the state and made Colorado a better place to walk, live, and raise a family. As Commissioner, she led efforts to regulate the oil and gas industries, protect our environment, and preserve clean air and water. Under her leadership, Adams County became the first county in Colorado to regulate drilling in 2019, paving the way for other counties to follow.

Commissioner Henry partnered with Caraway to lower housing costs by repurposing the former Children and Family Services building for use as affordable housing.

To bolster the local economy, Commissioner Henry worked with aerospace companies and supported their moves to the state, further enhancing Colorado's aerospace ecosystem, the second-largest aerospace economy in the Nation.

Commissioner Henry's dedication to public service contributed to the betterment of Colorado and the well-being of thousands of our state's families. I thank Commissioner Eva Henry for her service and congratulate her on her retirement after 12 years as Commissioner of Adams County and five years as a member of the Thornton City Council.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HEROES BENNETT BRANDON
AND HENRY

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes, Fort Worth Code Compliance Officer Bennett Brandon and Henry. In 2011, Bennett met Henry after he was brought to the Chuck and Brenda Silcox Animal Shelter malnourished and in poor physical health. They sparked a bond that still exists to this day.

After raising money for Henry's hospital bills, Bennett took him everywhere he could to highlight the amazing care provided to homeless pets by the Fort Worth animal shelter. To share his rescue story, Henry accompanied former Mayor Betsy Price to elementary schools across the city blessing over 10,000 students with his wagging tail. Serving as the city's canine ambassador, Henry has raised awareness of the challenges faced by homeless pets. He helped raise almost \$5 million to expand the Chuck Silcox Animal Shelter, taking a huge step towards ensuring animals have proper care and adequate space. Thanks to the advocacy of Bennett and Henry, euthanasia rates in Fort Worth shelters dropped from 70 percent to three percent.

After 20 years of amazing service, Bennett has retired, and Henry, following his cancer diagnosis, has retired after 13 years.

HONORING AUDREY MEYERS

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, Audrey Meyers has dedicated her career to advancing health care excellence for over four decades at the helm of Valley Health System and Valley Hospital, culminating in twenty-five years as CEO of Valley Health System.

Audrey has spearheaded the development of a groundbreaking, cutting-edge hospital campus in Paramus, New Jersey, enhancing health care innovation throughout the region.

Audrey has provided leadership at Valley Hospital, ranked one of the Top Three hospitals in New Jersey by U.S. News & World Report, named one of the World's Best Hospitals by Newsweek, and placed in the top two percent of hospitals nationwide by Healthgrades.

Audrey Meyers received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Jersey Hospital Association in recognition of her forty-four years of service.

HONORING ROBIN PHILIPS'
RETIREMENT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Ms. Robin Philips, for her lifelong commitment to defending women and girls' rights at home and abroad, and to congratulate her on her retirement. In 1995, Ms. Philips joined the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing domestic violence and other human right issues. She went on to found the Women's Human Rights Program that has made The Advocates, as it is known, a global leader on women's rights.

In 2002, Ms. Philips became the Executive Director of The Advocates. Under her leadership, Ms. Philips recruited thousands of volunteers to contribute their time and talent to providing legal services, outreach efforts, fact-finding, and operational support, strengthening not only the organization but the whole human rights movement. By keeping The Advocates' work primarily volunteer-driven, the organization was able to leverage \$156,300,282 (approximately \$7 million/year) worth of in-kind legal services over the past 22 years. Through it all, The Advocates has provided pro bono legal counsel to more than 7,000 victims of persecution, torture, trafficking, prolonged detention, and family violence in the Upper Midwest Region.

One shining example of Ms. Philips' accomplishments includes a report issued by The Advocates in 2008. The report laid the foundation for Minnesota's Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Act, transforming the state's approach to addressing sex trafficking by prioritizing the protection and support of victims and those at risk.

Under Ms Philips' leadership, The Advocates led many high-profile transitional projects in Peru, Siena Leone, and Liberia, which highlighted the dire need for human rights advocacy in post-conflict healing and reconciliation processes. At the request of the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), The Advocates led the Liberian TRC Diaspora Project by documenting the human rights abuses experienced by the thousands of Liberians who were arrested, tortured, abused and forced to leave the country after prolonged civil war during the 1990's. Under her leadership, The Advocates recruited over 600 volunteers to provide more than \$10 million in pro bono services to the Liberian TRC. As a result, The Advocates documented statements, stories and testimonials from more than 1,600 Liberian individuals and witnesses in the US, UK and Ghana. Through the Liberian TRC Diaspora Project, The Advocates held the first public hearings of a national truth commission in St. Paul in June 2008. Today, Liberia is implementing several of the recommendations made in the report, most notably by establishing a War and Economic Crimes Court.

Ms. Philips' tireless efforts working with partners and advocates around the world to abolish the death penalty and to defend and protect the LGBTQI community is commendable. Finally, her commitment to building schools and providing education to young people in Nepal from Pre-K through 10th grade by serving more than 1,000 low-income Nepali students today exemplifies the spirit of American ingenuity and being a great Samaritan. Above all, Ms. Philips is a trailblazing leader and a human rights champion.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in this well-deserved tribute to Robin Philips on her retirement after nearly three decades of defending human rights at home and abroad.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO DANNY HUYNH

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero Danny Huynh, a senior at Harmony School of Innovation in Euless, for his dedicated volunteerism. As Vice President of the school chapter of Key Club International, Danny organized volunteer events for local nonprofits, raised funds for community projects, and assisted international causes. Additionally, he volunteers at the River Legacy Nature Center's Fall Festival and the Huong Tu Foundation, accumulating over 400 hours of service.

As a member of the Hoa Dao Lion Dance Association and as a leadership intern at Camp Invention, Danny has shown dedication to athletics, the arts, and helping his fellow students. His involvement in the National Honor Society led him to fundraise for National Child Abuse Prevention Month and facilitate food donations to charitable organizations. Committed to continuing his service, Danny plans to pursue a nursing degree at the University of Pennsylvania after receiving a full-ride scholarship.

Danny's involvement and selflessness as such a young age sets a great example for students looking to follow his lead and make a positive impact in our community. I wish him the best of luck in college and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
NICOLE BIBBINS SEDACA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Nicole Bibbins Sedaca, Executive Vice President and Acting President of Freedom House, for her exceptional leadership, dedication, and tireless efforts in the protection and growth of global democracy during these challenging times.

For over 15 years, the world has witnessed the troubling rise of autocracy—a reality that has threatened fundamental freedoms and the rule of law across the globe. Amid this daunting backdrop, Ms. Sedaca has led with profound vision and unwavering commitment,

steering Freedom House with extraordinary resolve to meet the ever-evolving challenges of our time.

Under her leadership, Freedom House has not only preserved but expanded its critical mission to defend and promote the values of democracy, human rights, and freedom of expression. Her efforts have significantly bolstered the organization's reach and impact, addressing the critical needs of communities striving for liberty and justice in the face of oppression.

Freedom House has long been a U.S. national treasure since its founding in 1948 by Eleanor Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie. As a beacon of hope and a defender of democratic ideals, Freedom House has stood resolute against tyranny for decades, embodying the principles that make our Nation a global leader in the fight for Democracy. Ms. Sedaca's leadership has ensured that this historic institution continues to thrive in its vital role on the international stage.

Her work has been nothing short of extraordinary, and her dedication to the cause of democracy exemplifies the highest standards of public service. Nicole Bibbins Sedaca's tireless advocacy inspires us all, and her achievements remind us of the enduring importance of safeguarding the freedoms we cherish.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Ms. Sedaca for her invaluable contributions to the cause of democracy and human dignity. Her unwavering resolve and steadfast leadership have ensured that Freedom House remains a force for good in an increasingly complex world.

I applaud Nicole Bibbins Sedaca's exceptional service and to the enduring legacy of Freedom House—a legacy that continues to shine as a beacon of hope for oppressed peoples everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY STATE
SENATOR ADRIENNE SOUTHWORTH

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kentucky State Senator Adrienne Southworth in recognition of her service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and unwavering dedication to the principles of transparency, accountability, and innovation in public service.

Since her election in 2020, as the state senator for Kentucky's 7th Senate District, Senator Southworth has been a steadfast advocate for the citizens of her community. Senator Southworth's extensive experience in public service reflects a career devoted to solving complex challenges and delivering results. Whether addressing pension accountability, reforming emergency powers, or creating opportunities for workforce development, her commitment to improving the lives of Kentuckians is commendable.

With her quick-recall expertise, grassroots approach, and ability to write legislation, she has represented her district with integrity and an understanding of the desires of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Adrienne Southworth's dedication to championing the voices of her constituents has set a high

standard for public service. I ask that the House of Representatives join me in recognizing her contributions to the constituency of Kentucky's 7th Senate District and wishing her well in her future endeavors.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO LUKE HEJL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Fort Worth resident Luke Hejl. In 2017, after attending a panel about remote care, Luke co-founded TimelyCare to address the shortage of mental health services on college campuses. He chose to focus the company's efforts on higher education after seeing how his alma mater, Abilene Christian University, was having trouble staffing its clinic well enough to serve students' mental health needs.

Complementing existing on-campus services, TimelyCare's care coordination teams help students connect to resources, like clinic and pharmacy locations. The company now serves over two million students, partnering with over 360 higher education institutions, including North Central Texas College, University of Texas at Arlington, and University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

I'd like to thank Luke for his work to ensure Texas students have access to timely, high-quality mental health care. His compassion and entrepreneurship are inspiring.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on Roll Call No. 7 of the 119th Congress, which was H.R. 23, Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, I would have voted NO. I strongly oppose the International Criminal Court's recent actions regarding Israel, including my belief that the ICC does not have jurisdiction in this matter and that its actions are unhelpful in peacefully resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yet, H.R. 23's overly broad scope and rushed sanctions and visa restrictions are counterproductive. Imposing such sanctions and restrictions on any foreign person—and their close family members—who is deemed to have aided, materially assisted, or provided financial support to the ICC in any way, undermines the Court's investigations into important matters on which it does have jurisdiction, would have a deleterious impact on American allies and partners around the world, and could create an opportunity for American adversaries to gain prominence in sensitive international fora. Domestically, H.R. 23 also raises serious First Amendment concerns and has the potential to undermine American rule of law. For all these reasons, I would have voted NO on H.R. 23.