

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 DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. 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 DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. 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.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF MARGIE MAJOR

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable woman, someone whose contributions to our community and to the lives of so many are truly unparalleled. On November 19, 2024, Ms. Margie Major celebrated a milestone 100th birthday, and it is my honor to recognize her incredible life.

Born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, Margie's roots run deep in this city. She grew up in the historic Southside before her family moved to the Como neighborhood, which became an iconic African American Community. There, her parents founded Holloway Grocery Store, where Margie worked alongside her mother and sister, learning the values of hard work and service early on.

Margie's educational journey began at the historic I.M. Terrell High School, where she graduated at just 15 years old. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Hampton Institute—now Hampton University—at 19 and later completed a Master of Arts in Dance at Columbia University. After returning home to Fort Worth, she spent decades as an educator, first teaching at her alma mater, I.M. Terrell, and later at Southwest High School, shaping the lives of countless young people.

Margie didn't stop there. She went on to become a guidance counselor at Paschal High School, serving the community for an astounding 46 years. Her commitment to education didn't end with her retirement. She has been deeply involved in organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., serving as President of the Fort Worth Alumnae Chapter, and the Jubilee Theatre, where she held leadership positions.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Margie has been a tireless community advocate, a founding member of St. Simon Episcopal Church, and a charter member of both Ft. Worth Chapter Charms, Inc. and the Perennial Cultural Club. Her impact is felt across Fort Worth, and her legacy will undoubtedly endure for generations to come.

Today, we honor Margie Major for her 100 years of grace, leadership, and service. Happy birthday to Margie. Her life is an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO BROOKE DONELSON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Brooke Donelson. As a passionate advocate and board member for Dallas CASA, Brooke is dedicated to restoring the innocence of children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Dallas Court Appointed Special Advocates are trained to advocate for children living in the Dallas County welfare system, providing reports for court hearings that help de-

cide the best possible outcomes for children in foster care.

Since becoming a volunteer in 2018, Brooke has worked tirelessly on her cases, serving as a powerful voice for children who are unable to speak for themselves. She has also been a Young Professionals Council Board Member since 2019, where she does outreach, fundraising, and advocate recruitment for the non-profit.

I am grateful for Brooke's dedication to protecting North Texas children.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
BOBBY THOMAS

HON. RICHARD MCCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true leader in the Forsyth County Community, Mr. Bobby Thomas.

Mr. Thomas was born on November 3, 1946, and spent his youth in Coal Mountain, Georgia. Signs of future success were evident early on, as Mr. Thomas won "Most Likely to Succeed" during his senior year at Forsyth County High School. Upon graduation in 1964, Mr. Thomas went on to Georgia Institute of Technology, where he excelled, and earned his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering in 1969.

During his time at Georgia Tech, Mr. Thomas met the love of his life, Brenda. They married three years later and enjoyed 57 years of wedded bliss together. Upon graduation, Mr. Thomas enlisted in the United States Navy and was commissioned as a supply officer, serving on a destroyer warship stationed out of Jacksonville, Florida and Glassboro, New Jersey. After returning home, he bought into the family lumber business, and by the mid-1980's he had turned the Thomas Lumber Company into the leading manufacturer of Western Red Cedar Products throughout the Southeast.

The Thomas Lumber Company, founded in 1927, is the oldest family-owned business in Forsyth County. As an active member in his community, Mr. Thomas was a founding member of the Forsyth County Rotary and later President, a 30-year member and leader of the Development Authority of Forsyth County, and maybe most importantly, an active member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, serving as a clerk and Sunday School teacher. Sadly, on January 6, 2025, Mr. Thomas passed away. He is survived by his wife, Brenda, two children, and 7 grandchildren. My prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time. His impact on the lives of the people and community of Forsyth County will not soon be forgotten, and the entire community is mourning the loss of this great man.

REMEMBERING MAYOR PETE
SNYDER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Pete Snyder, the

first mayor of my hometown of Dublin, California, on the occasion of his celebration of life after his passing on Sunday, October 13, 2024 at the age 89.

Pete moved to Dublin with his wife and the love of his life, Priscilla, in 1961 after he served three years in the United States Army. They put down roots quickly and raised their family while becoming more and more involved in the community.

Shortly after arriving, in 1962, Pete became a charter member of the Dublin Host Lions Club and he later became a member and president of, what was known at the time as, the Murray School District. His commitment and acumen were noticed, and he was asked to join a committee that was looking into the feasibility of the incorporation of Dublin.

Of course, with Pete at the helm, the incorporation efforts were successful and he was chosen as the new City of Dublin's first-ever mayor in 1982. He served on Dublin's city council for twelve years, including two terms as mayor between 1982 and 1994.

When the community decided that they wanted to continue seeing Pete in a leadership role, they elected him to the board of Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). He served our community there for another eight years, expanding access to work and fun for residents of the city he helped found, as well as our neighbors.

While his service as mayor, member of city council, and the BART board may be his most notable roles, his service in other aspects of local governance is almost too voluminous to count. Included on his resume would be service to the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, the Alameda County Economic Development Advisory Board, and United Way of the Bay Area. He also founded the Dublin Fine Arts Foundation and the Dublin Sister City Association.

Pete made a profound impact on not only my hometown, but the entire Tri-Valley region. He gave his life to public service, first to the military, and then to his community. We would be well-served to model our leadership and political dexterity after someone like Pete.

My thoughts and gratitude remain with his wife of 68 years, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I hope they know that Pete's legacy lives on in the entirety of the thriving community he helped create.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO KORBAN BEST

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Korban Best, a 21-year-old sprinter and Paralympic medalist from Southlake, Texas. While representing Team USA in the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games, Korban set a personal best time of 10.75 seconds in the men's 100-meter T47 event, earning him a silver medal—America's first medal in the event.

Born with ulnar dysplasia in his right arm, Korban, who is known to family and friends as "Cheetah Fast," developed a love for sports at a young age. While attending Southlake Carroll High School, he played football and excelled on the track team. It was clear Korban