

CONGRATULATING GERTRUDE  
PAULINE WHITENER MILBURN  
ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2025*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gertrude Pauline Whitener Milburn on turning 100 years old later this week on March 14th.

Gertrude Pauline Whitener Milburn was born on March 14, 1925, and grew up in a small textile community known as Brookford, located in Hickory, North Carolina. She had two brothers and a sister.

Gertrude met Bill Milburn while he was serving in the Navy during World War II, and they married in December 1945 after his discharge. They had two children, Patricia Milburn Link and Randolph Lee Milburn, and lived in Lincolnton, North Carolina, until 1967, when they moved to Lake Norman.

Gertrude spent her entire career in the textile industry. She is the proud grandmother of four, with ten great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. She is not shy to be blunt and share her many years of wisdom with the younger generations.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, I congratulate Gertrude.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF CRAIG ROBERTS

### HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2025*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Craig Roberts of Alton, Illinois, who passed away on February 15, 2025, at the age of 62.

Born and raised in Illinois, Craig graduated from Western Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in communications, marketing, and political science in 1984. Craig's passion for politics and government along with his personal attachment to Illinois led him to begin his career in state government.

During this time, Craig worked as the Republican Staff Director on Issues Development for the Illinois House of Representatives, Assistant to the Illinois Lieutenant Governor, and the Executive Assistant for Programs and Policy Development for the Illinois Secretary of State. For over a decade, Craig served the state of Illinois and left a lasting impact on many through his commitment to our state government.

In 1997, Craig made the transition to the United States House of Representatives. Here he worked as long-tune Chief of Staff for Representative John Shimkus for 24 years while also serving as President of the House Chiefs of Staff Association from 2015 to 2020. Craig ended his career in the House as a Special Advisor to the House Administration Committee and afterward held the role of Senior Vice President at Milne, Wiener & Shofe Global Strategies.

Craig was a long-time mentor to up and coming Hill staff, supported numerous Members of the Illinois delegation as they

transitioned to Congress, and was a true example of what dedicating your life to public service really means.

Craig was undoubtedly a dedicated and impactful figure in both the state of Illinois and here in Washington and while his legacy will live on, he will be truly missed as a friend to so many. I want to offer my condolences to the Roberts family and their loved ones on the loss of a great man who will be fondly remembered by all those who knew him.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN CONSTRUCTION OWNERS AND EXECUTIVES

### HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2025*

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Women Construction Owners and Executives, or WCOE for short, on the organization's 40th anniversary. Forty years ago, a group of forward-thinking women construction entrepreneurs came together to help each other succeed in a competitive and male-dominated industry. Their goal was to promote business opportunities for each other and, as a result, formed WCOE. Today, WCOE is recognized as a leading national voice advocating for women business owners and executives in the construction industry.

From its humble beginnings as a small group of women entrepreneurs, WCOE has developed into a powerful and influential nationwide network of local chapters. True to its goal of supporting women in the construction industry, WCOE members continue to mentor each other, sharing their knowledge, experiences, and resources to help one another thrive. This culture of mentorship has been instrumental in fostering a strong sense of community and empowerment among women construction professionals.

Through various programs and initiatives, WCOE provides its members with the support they need to succeed, from business development and networking opportunities to educational resources and industry insights. WCOE has also been at the forefront of advocating for policies that recognize women in construction and promote equal opportunities within the industry. For example, WCOE was at the forefront of a hard-fought effort to mitigate fraud in the Women-Owned Small Business Program by eliminating self-certification. WCOE was also an early supporter of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum to recognize the women who helped build this Nation, literally and figuratively.

I applaud this strong group of women, who continue to be a resource and an inspiration to other women in the industry. Their dedication, resilience, and vision have paved the way for future generations of women in construction. As we celebrate WCOE's 40th anniversary, let us recognize and honor the remarkable achievements of this organization. Together, we can build a brighter and more inclusive future for women in the construction industry.

DECLARATION OF MOTHERS: A  
PROCLAMATION AND PLEDGE  
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
FREEDOM AND VIRTUE

### HON. MARY E. MILLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2025*

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the declaration below on behalf of Moms for America.

As the mothers, chief architects of the homes of America, and molders of the future of our nation, we declare that the liberty and freedom of all people begin in the home and that a nation is but a magnified home. The values and virtues taught within the family will determine the values and virtues of the Nation as a whole.

We uphold the laws of nature affirming the gender roles of male and female as essential elements for the perpetuation of life. As life is our most fundamental right, protected by the Constitution, so too is the truth that God created two distinct genders—male and female—each with purposeful design and irreplaceable roles. We honor both mothers and fathers working together to protect and nurture the fundamental unit of society which is the family.

We recognize the sacred role of mother as the heart of the home and home as the heart of society. The liberty of each individual begins in the home and parents are, first and foremost, the primary teachers and protectors of their children in a free society. Properly constructed social, religious, and governmental institutions are designed to support and strengthen the family unit, not restrict it, regulate, or replace it. No association or government organization can replace the family no matter how well-intentioned or well-designed it may be.

The privilege of living as a free people in a free society is dependent on being a people of faith, virtue and patriotism—the three pillars of liberty—and these attributes are best developed and nurtured in the home. Each generation has a responsibility to instill a love of liberty and virtue in the hearts of the next generation.

We affirm that “All men and women are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights and to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, [receiving] their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

To secure the blessings of liberty, the Founding Fathers of the United States of America created a written constitution under the inspiration of Almighty God. The preservation of this sacred document and trust is dependent upon each generation who bears the stewardship of safeguarding the constitution and teaching their children the rights and responsibilities associated with the noble cause of liberty and keeping the Republic.

Every individual is born with intrinsic dignity that is inherent to each member of the human race with life being our most fundamental inalienable divine right. All men and women have the right to liberty, self-determination and self-governance. The individual's responsibility of work, education, and industry are crucial elements of self-governance in society and the preservation of human dignity.

The rights of a free people are protected and preserved through honorable, virtuous, leadership which invokes the nobility inherent in all men and women. As the lessons of history clearly demonstrate, we recognize that freedom is fragile. It is a rare and prized

possession and requires constant care and vigilance for its preservation. Living as a free people does not come instinctively; principles of freedom must be studied and applied. Home and families with mothers who nurture and teach these principles produce leaders who honor and hold sacred the intrinsic dignity of the individual and inalienable rights endowed to all people.

To safeguard the liberty and enhance the future of our grandchildren, we affirm our commitment to “stand fast in that liberty wherewith God has made us free” that “government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.”

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF BILL  
WHITNEY

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2025*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Whitney as he retires from the Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL–CIO.

Throughout his life, Bill has demonstrated his dedication to his family and community. He was born in Erie, Pennsylvania and worked on his family’s farm alongside his three brothers. The family moved around Pennsylvania before eventually settling in Walnut Creek, California when Bill was twelve years old. Bill attended Ygnacio Valley High School and went on to earn his degree in Zoology from the University of California, Davis. While attending U.C. Davis, he was deeply involved in sports and other extracurricular activities, including football, baseball, basketball, tennis, and swimming. His commitment to service was evident though his participation in Boy Scouts, Key Club, and his fraternity, Theta Xi.

Bill moved to Benicia in 1977, where he was a devoted advocate for his community. Bill was a proud member of the Lions Club, Rotary Benicia historical Society, and the Chamber of Commerce. His dedication to public service was exemplified by his election to the Benicia City Council, where he served from 1999 to 2007.

Bill has been a powerful advocate for working people throughout his career, having been a member of three unions: the Retail Clerks Union, Inland Boatman Union, and United Association of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry. In each of these organizations, he played a pivotal role in advancing workers’ rights, improving workplace conditions, and ensuring fair wages for workers. His work has been critical in expanding economic opportunities for working families and in preparing our workforce for the jobs of the 21st century. Additionally, as an ERISA trust fund trustee, Bill worked diligently to protect workers’ pensions and retirement security. Bill has been a key figure in the labor movement in California and beyond and his leadership has benefitted countless workers.

As Bill steps into retirement, we recognize a lifetime of service, advocacy, and leadership. Please join me in thanking Bill for his remarkable service and wishing him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH  
KENNERLEY’S TIRELESS RARE  
DISEASE ADVOCACY

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary constituent from my district, Elizabeth Kennerley. As a rare disease patient, advocate, and unwavering supporter of inclusive healthcare, Liz has devoted her life to making a meaningful impact on her community and those affected by rare diseases. She continues to inspire those around her, with her astounding selflessness and resilience.

Liz’s journey is one that few can imagine. As someone who lives with the burden of a rare disease, Liz has not only used her personal journey to advocate for others but has also dedicated herself to advocating on Capitol Hill for those living with rare diseases. She is also a dedicated member of the Rare Disease Diversity Coalition (RDDC), where she works to ensure that the needs of rare disease patients are heard. Liz’s work with the RDDC has been instrumental in promoting inclusivity in healthcare policy.

The RDDC proudly awarded Liz this year’s RISE Award, as she consistently embodies the very essence of what RISE stands for: Resilience, Inspiration, Strength, and Empowerment.

As Liz would say, “being a patient with a rare disease is the hardest job in the world,” a sentiment that highlights the incredible challenges and resilience required to live with a rare disease. Through her unwavering dedication, Liz ensures that the voices of rare disease patients are heard. We thank her for her dedicated service to our community.

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RECOGNIZING MARY MILLER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2025*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mary Miller, who is retiring after more than four decades of distinguished service as a well-respected and remarkable advocate for the general aviation industry.

Mary’s forty-four-year career in general aviation has been spent mostly on the ground supporting those who do fly. Those contributions to her industry have been recognized by the high honors of the industry’s “Distinguished Service” award and its “Distinguished Stateswoman in Aviation” award.

Mary’s contributions are aptly described as “the wise, trusted relational bridge to many and varied aspects of the aviation community.” The bridges Mary has built have been used for decades by industry leaders, government officials, and organizations to refine policy aims, regulatory enforcement, and market conditions in which the general aviation industry and her specific company operate. On any given day, her functional activities could be as diverse as FAA Temporary Flight Restrictions, novel electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft (eVTOL) certifications, promoting new

sustainable fuels, right down to real-time advice to a pilot at a distant Signature Aviation base on how to unsnag a challenge clearing customs.

For so many years, we have seen Mary on the bustling ramps at Super Bowls, Oshkosh, Tarkio, presidential inaugurations, and other major general aviation events. However, from my conversations with Mary, her effort to restore activity to the barren general aviation ramp at Reagan Washington National after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 gave her the most satisfaction. Politely but stubbornly, she refused to accept the notion that 9/11 would permanently close the Nation’s capital airport to general aviation landings. Eventually, that seven-year effort of Mary and her many colleagues led to the airport’s successful reopening through the DCA Access Standard Security Program (DASSP).

Mary has been an unfailingly genuine, wise, and shrewd contributor to the interests of the general aviation community and a friend to all.

As Mary prepares to retire from Signature Aviation, I wish her well in all her endeavors and thank her for her service to the aviation community and the Nation. I am confident she will continue to be an influential advocate for General Aviation (GA).

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HONORING TRACEE SUTTON

**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2025*

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my Chief of Staff, Tracee Sutton, as she retires after 28 years of service to our Nation. Tracee is a once-in-a-generation legislative talent who served her home state of North Dakota for more than twenty years before agreeing to lead my legislative team upon my election to Congress in 2018.

Tracee Sutton was born in Stutsman County, North Dakota, to Gary and Linda Gross. Leaving North Dakota to attend university, Tracee received her Bachelor of Science degree in Philosophy and Prelaw from Utah State University in 1995. She began her decades-long career as a public servant while still in college, interning for Congresswoman Karen Shepherd in Utah.

After graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C., to intern for Congressman Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota. Working her way up from intern to Legislative Assistant under Congressman Pomeroy, Tracee managed a diverse legislative portfolio, encompassing water resources, economic development, housing and transportation. Tracee secured billions for infrastructure, water resource and flood control projects in North Dakota and passed legislation to streamline essential flood control projects with FEMA and the Army Corps.

In 2002, Tracee joined the office of Senator Kent Conrad of North Dakota as a Legislative Assistant. Her many accomplishments in this role—from securing millions for North Dakota in annual appropriations requests to contributing to constituent facing communications—were rightly recognized as she was promoted to the Senator’s Deputy Legislative Director in just two years. Notably, Tracee negotiated with Committee leadership and secured \$70 million to address a serious road safety issue,