

body president and future Secretary of State, U.S. Senator, and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Eldie's remarkable career was one of many firsts as she continuously broke down barriers. After graduating from George Washington University Law School, Eldie became the first female Associate, and later Partner, at the Boston-based law firm Ropes & Gray and served as the founding Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the nation's first LGBTQ civil rights advocacy organization. In 1993, President Clinton appointed Eldie as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Justice, where she helped expand the number of female federal judges by over 80 percent. For her work, Eldie was awarded the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award.

In 2007, Eldie began her tenure as General Counsel at Amtrak, where she sought to improve passenger experience, rail accessibility, and workplace inclusiveness. She played a key role in the creation of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008, which directed Amtrak and the Federal Railroad Administration to develop minimum standards for passenger train on-time performance. Eldie also championed a company-wide effort to ensure Amtrak stations complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Her work led to new training for front-line employees and clear guidelines for Amtrak's ADA Stations Program. Additionally, Eldie sat on Amtrak's Executive Diversity Council, setting the strategic direction for diversity, inclusion, and belonging initiatives, and served as an executive sponsor of Express Pride, Amtrak's Employee Resource Group for LGBTQ+ employees and allies.

On February 1, 2025, Eldie retired from Amtrak, leaving behind a legacy and career highlighted by her commitment to expanding opportunities for underrepresented groups, improving passenger rail, and continuing her family's legacy of public service. I wish Eldie many years of well-deserved happiness in retirement to spend hiking, playing tennis, and sailing on Cape Cod with her family and her wife, Emily.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Eldie Acherson, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Eldie's career and thanking her for her years of service.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HEROES LUKE AND JEN HUCH

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes, Luke and Jen Huch of Euless. They faced every parent's nightmare when their son, Lion, was diagnosed with leukemia at just seven months old. Lion was given a 47 percent chance of survival and began an intensive chemotherapy journey.

Determined to defy the odds, the Huch family lived in the hospital for the first six months of their fight. Music became a key part of Lion's survival, giving the family a boost in

faith and spirits. With instruments like drums, a keyboard, and a guitar, Luke and Jen would write songs and sing with Lion to keep his spirits high. This led to Lion's passion for music, and inspired the Huches to create Free Music, a local nonprofit that provides instruments to children who are battling or recovering from life-threatening illness.

Rooted in their belief that music can provide hope, inspire kids to keep fighting, and bring joy to families, through Free Music, the Huches are providing sick children with a creative outlet and something to focus on other than their medical journey. In their words, these children have incredible perspectives on life, their stories need to be told, and their voices need to be heard through the gift of music.

North Texas is lucky to have Luke and Jen who turned Lion's devastating diagnosis into an opportunity to offer hope and strength to other children and families. I'd like to thank the Huch family for their commitment to spreading joy and hope through music.

RECOGNIZING PI DAY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate March 14, 3.14, or Pi day. Pi is a Greek letter, and in mathematics it is a symbol for the number you always get when you divide a circle's circumference by its diameter. Many people approximate pi as 3.14 or 3.14159.

But the number is irrational and will continue infinitely without repeating. If you were to try to write down the exact number for pi, there would be infinite numbers to the right of the decimal point and there would be no pattern. This means we're down to a mere infinity digits yet to be found. To date, it has been calculated to over 202 trillion digits. But there is still new math to be discovered. And mathematics is critical to everything we do. It's the language of science, engineering, and technology. So, today, don't be rational. Be irrational and celebrate Pi Day.

This celebration is not only about the number itself, but also about what this day can represent for our country. One of the most important investments that we can make is getting students interested in STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering, and math. Since World War II, over half of U.S. economic growth has been driven by science and technology, and through the end of the decade, the growth rate of STEM employment is expected to be more than double the growth rate of non-STEM employment.

However, we do not have enough students graduating from high school and college with necessary skills in the STEM fields to fill these jobs. As times change and we move into a more STEM-based economy, it is important that our students get the education and training they will need to succeed.

This is why recognizing March 14 as Pi Day is important. It shows the fun and exciting side to math and other STEM subjects, and will hopefully lead to a crop of students developing an interest in becoming the next generation's mathematicians, engineers, and physicists.

I am planning to reintroduce a resolution to support designating March 14 as National Pi Day. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this day and supporting our future scientists for generations to come.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. DILLARD'S COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Mr. Jimmy and Mrs. Dottie Dillard for their remarkable dedication to serving their community and exceptional volunteer efforts at the Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Just recently, The Dillard's were nominated for the Winter 2025 Serve Virginia Honor Roll by the 2024 Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards. The Bi-annual Serve Virginia Honor Roll recognizes the valuable contributions of volunteers and organizations across the Commonwealth.

Twenty-seven years ago, after retiring from their successful careers—Mr. Jimmy from managing the Dillard Alarm Security company and Mrs. Dottie as the administrative representative of the company—the couple made the decision to give back by volunteering at their local hospital. Since then, they have accumulated over 13,000 hours of service to the hospital, where their contributions have touched nearly every staff member and patient.

From distributing newspapers, delivering flowers to patient rooms, and pushing patients in wheelchairs, to working in the Patient Access department. The Dillard's have consistently gone above and beyond in their roles. Their willingness to serve and their commitment to making a difference is a testament to their selflessness and devotion to others.

Their peers describe them as hardworking and reliable, never letting snow, extreme heat, or cold weather deter them from their volunteer shifts.

I am truly inspired by their passion for serving others and their commitment to their community. Mr. Speaker, I am honored in recognizing Mr. Jimmy and Mrs. Dottie for their unwavering service and impact at the Mary Washington Hospital.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATING TO "GROSS PROCEEDS REPORTING BY BROKERS THAT REGULARLY PROVIDE SERVICES EFFECTUATING DIGITAL ASSET SALES"

SPEECH OF

HON. LATEEFAH SIMON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. SIMON. Mr Speaker, I will vote for H.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title

5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers that Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales."

My constituents in the East Bay are among the many adopters of digital assets and cryptocurrencies. And while I have consistently opposed any Congressional Review Act (CRA) joint resolutions advanced by the House Majority—and am concerned about the loss in critical tax revenue as a result of this CRA—I believe the digital asset space offers new pathways for economic opportunity, especially for historically marginalized communities; and I strongly believe we must craft an inclusive regulatory framework that protects consumers, holds bad actors accountable, and supports financial inclusion for those who utilize these services.

I welcome the opportunity to work with my colleagues to thoughtfully legislate oversight of and implement necessary guardrails around digital assets so that we protect consumers—especially Black and Brown entrepreneurs, small investors, and working people—and promote innovation.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
SKOKIE MAYOR GEORGE VAN
DUSEN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and long career of my dear friend, George Van Dusen. George is retiring after serving as an excellent Mayor of Skokie for 25 years. I have had the privilege of representing the Village of Skokie for the entirety of my congressional career, and George Van Dusen has been a fierce and effective advocate for his community throughout my tenure. George was a partner who I knew I could rely upon, and my staff and I took every possible opportunity to work with him and his team.

Mayor Van Dusen has dedicated 52 years of his life to public service—41 of those years serving as an elected official with the Village of Skokie. Mayor Van Dusen has been a proud Skokie resident since 1974, and it comes as no surprise that his engagement in the community led him to serve as both a trustee and eventually mayor.

Mayor Van Dusen served as my predecessor, Congressman Sydney Yates' Director of Suburban Operations from 1973 until Representative Yates' retirement in 1999. This experience as a congressional staffer provided George with invaluable knowledge about how a legislative office works and how to best collaborate with me and my staff to improve the lives of Skokie residents.

While serving in his capacity as Director of Suburban Operations, Van Dusen was elected to the Skokie Village Board as a Trustee in 1984 and was appointed mayor in 1999. Thanks to Mayor Van Dusen's 26 years of leadership, the Village of Skokie is in very good shape. Skokie has seen significant growth and prosperity under his stewardship. Thanks to Mayor Van Dusen's steady hand, the Village has seen significant economic de-

velopment and Skokie's population has consistently grown. George has been a leader on everything from infrastructure investment to promoting affordable housing to ensuring that sustainability issues are front and center for the Village. Mayor Van Dusen was a key supporter of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, which opened in Skokie under his tenure. This institution is now a landmark that has received national acclaim as it combats hatred and bigotry.

Skokie is a wonderfully diverse community where more than 90 languages are spoken, and has long been a village that welcomes, respects and values all residents. Mayor Van Dusen has lifted up and celebrated the cultural richness of Skokie, through events like the Festival of Cultures and by ensuring respect and access to village services for everyone.

I am grateful to have had Mayor Van Dusen as a partner within the 9th Congressional District of Illinois these past 26 years, and I am even more grateful to be able to call him a friend.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I thank Mayor Van Dusen for his service and wish he and wife Susan all the best. He leaves shoes that will be very hard to fill. I hope Skokie's future leaders have the same skill and compassion that he showed throughout his career. I wish him nothing but the best in future endeavors.

MARIANAS AIR SERVICE
IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce critical legislation that would include my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, in the Department of Transportation's Essential Air Service (EAS) program. This would place the Northern Mariana Islands alongside Alaska and Hawaii as locations exempt from EAS requirements, ensuring that scheduled air service remains consistently available for residents and visitors of the Marianas.

Air service is vital and the only practical means of transportation between the islands of the Marianas. Unfortunately, commuter air service has often been unreliable. In recent years, fare prices have surged and remain at historically high levels. For nearly two decades, only one carrier has provided air service between the islands of Tinian, Rota, and Saipan, as well as to Guam.

The sole carrier has suspended air service multiple times for extended periods due to disputes with airport authorities. This instability and uncertainty are a constant worry for the local community knowing air service can cease at any moment for our remote, isolated islands. This uncertainty not only disrupts daily life but also hampers our ability to attract tourists, draw investments, and rebuild our economy. Restoring EAS eligibility would guarantee that the Northern Marianas always have a baseline level of daily air service across all three of our airports.

While the Northern Mariana Islands was originally eligible for EAS, none of our airports participated in the program in Fiscal Year

2011. As a result, we became ineligible following the enactment of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, which changed the definition of 'eligible place' for EAS assistance.

By amending this eligibility, we would ensure that EAS support is available to us if the need arises. This change would not automatically place Marianas airports in the program, but it would ensure that assistance is available whenever necessary to guarantee reliable air service.

I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING ASRA HUSSAIN RAZA

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Asra Hussain Raza, a remarkable individual whose dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to excellence left an enduring mark on all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Born to Indian immigrants, Asra was raised in Carmel, Indiana. She attended Orchard Park Elementary, Towne Meadow Elementary, and Creekside Middle School, graduating from Carmel High School in 2016. Her academic journey continued at Indiana University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in healthcare management and graduated with honors. Asra's pursuit of knowledge led her to Columbia University, where she completed her Master of Health Administration, further solidifying her commitment to improving healthcare systems.

Professionally, Asra was a dedicated healthcare compliance specialist. She relocated to Washington, D.C. to further her career. Her work involved traveling to Wichita, Kansas, to assist a hospital in need, exemplifying her dedication to patient care and health equity.

Beyond her professional achievements, Asra was known for her kindness, generosity, and vibrant spirit. She had a passion for hosting gatherings, delighting guests with her culinary skills, and ensuring everyone felt welcomed and valued. Her family and close friends described her as a "kind and caring soul" who had a gift for making others feel special.

Tragically, on January 29, 2025, Asra's life was cut short in a devastating midair collision between American Airlines Flight 5342 and a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter near Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, Asra's life was a testament to the power of kindness, dedication, and the pursuit of excellence. Her unwavering commitment to improving healthcare, her boundless generosity, and her vibrant spirit continue to inspire all who knew her. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of Asra Hussain Raza. Her memory will forever be cherished, and her impact will continue to resonate in our community and beyond.