

and his master's degree in electrical and computer engineering in 2015.

These 10 outstanding astronauts were selected from a group of approximately 8,000 other candidates. Yuri Kubo and the other nine individuals face 2 years of training before they are eligible for future planned missions to the International Space Station and the Moon. NASA is even looking at a mission to Mars.

I congratulate Yuri and the full 2025 astronaut class. They will make Purdue University, Indiana, and the country proud.

□ 1015

CONGRATULATING MEGAN JOHNSON ON 2026
INDIANA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Megan Johnson, a fourth grade teacher at Central Elementary School in Plainfield, Indiana, who was named the 2026 Indiana Teacher of the Year by the Indiana Department of Education.

Megan Johnson has over 18 years of experience in upper elementary classrooms and is passionate about her students having the foundational literacy skills needed to thrive through project-based learning.

According to the Indiana Secretary of Education, Megan Johnson has made it her mission to improve outcomes for her students, and she prepares her students to succeed far beyond the four walls of her classroom.

Mrs. Johnson has also completed 80 hours of professional development in the science of reading, earning the State's early literacy endorsement.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Megan Johnson on this wonderful achievement, and I thank her for all she does to educate and empower the children in Plainfield.

HONORING HOWARD KOCH

(Mr. CORREA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a World War II veteran, Korean war veteran, and my neighbor, Howard Koch.

This year, Howard turned 100 years old. I wish a happy birthday to Howard.

Howard grew up in Oakland, California, and spent his childhood traveling in the Sierra Nevada mountains to ski and to learn survival skills. They were skills that he would later use in World War II. He joined the Army's 10th Mountain Division and climbed Riva Ridge, where he attacked German troops hidden deep within Italy's mountains.

He was promoted to first lieutenant at just 20 years old.

After World War II, he returned home to California and earned his degree at UC Berkeley.

Howard Koch is a member of the Greatest Generation.

HONORING MARIA ESPERANZA CASTRO

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 25 years of dedicated service by Maria Esperanza Castro.

Maria studied medicine in Mexico before finding her true passion and calling at the Regional Center of Orange County, where she changed the lives of many families.

She was the voice that families met as they sought support for a loved one with developmental disabilities. For 25 years, she was a guiding advocate and a trusted source of information for these families.

I congratulate Maria on her retirement.

RECOGNIZING EFRAIN SOLIS

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Santa Ana's finest, Efrain Solis, who is currently performing with the New York Metropolitan Opera.

The son of Mexican immigrants, Efrain grew up learning to sing at Saddleback High School. He attended Chapman University and was the first in his family to obtain a college degree.

Efrain has performed all over the country, and Santa Ana is proud to have one of our own performing on the New York stage.

I congratulate Efrain.

HONORING WILLIAM CHAN

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my neighbor and World War II veteran, Bill Chan.

Bill was born in China and came to the United States as a young student. At 19, he enlisted in the Navy, where he served on the USS *Mississippi* during World War II. According to Bill, he was the only Chinese American on that ship, the USS *Mississippi*.

Bill then retired to Orange County, where he still lives today. Bill, I would say, is a true example of our Greatest Generation: an immigrant willing to put his life on the line for his new country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RUDY CORDOVA

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rudy Cordova, a beloved member of our Santa Ana community and my good friend.

Born and raised in Santa Ana, Rudy was a proud graduate of Saddleback High School, and he was a soccer dad. He was my daughter's soccer coach.

Rudy dedicated his life to celebrating Chicano culture through art, food, and more. Under his guidance, the Santa Ana Dia de los Muertos became one of the biggest events in Orange County.

I thank Rudy for all he has done for the city of Santa Ana and for our community. We are going to miss him. Our prayers are with his family.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF ROB MCCARTNEY

(Mr. BACON of Nebraska was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a journalist and a beloved anchorman who has made a significant impact in our district and the region, always striving to remain

professional, balanced, unbiased, and compassionate.

KETV's Rob McCartney is retiring from Nebraska's and Iowa's airwaves after 41 years.

Rob and I have many things in common in our backgrounds. He grew up as an Air Force brat, and I was in the Air Force.

Rob has a strong relationship with Offutt Air Force Base and the 55th Wing, having covered several stories there. I served at Offutt Air Force Base three times and served as the wing commander in the Fightin' 55th.

Finally, both Rob and I married the local girl and have enjoyed many years of marriage.

Before graduating with his B.A. in journalism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Rob spent his time spinning records at KXSS-FM. After graduation, he served as the farm director and assistant sports director for NTV, followed by nearly 7 years at KOLN and KGIN TV, where he worked as an anchor and reporter.

In 1992, Rob joined KETV, working in the Lincoln bureau before relocating to Omaha in 1995. He then joined the anchor desk in the evenings and led Omaha Crime Stoppers, where he helped to bring some of the area's most wanted fugitives to justice.

In his 33 years at KETV, he has reported on the Nebraska National Guard from Bosnia, interviewed multiple U.S. Presidents and other elected and public officials, and covered two of Nebraska's national championships in football.

Over the years, Rob was dedicated to election coverage, educating voters on issues and candidates to help them make informed decisions. As host of KETV's public affairs show "Chronicle," he would dig deep into the issues that mattered most to voters.

Rob was always on board for breaking news, helping viewers navigate difficult times. He covered the role that Offutt Air Force Base played on 9/11 and, 10 years later, provided an in-depth, behind-the-scenes look at President Bush's visit to STRATCOM on that fateful day.

In December 2007, Rob would once again provide a stable presence to the community when a lone gunman shot and killed eight people and injured five others at Von Maur. From the first day during the afternoon, straight through until 5 a.m. the next morning, and for several days to follow, Rob helped guide the community through that tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, 6 months later, Rob was on the air once again for more than 12 hours because a line of supercell thunderstorms that had formed in southeast Nebraska turned into dozens of tornadoes. One of those turned deadly, hitting a Boy Scout camp near Little Sioux, Iowa, where 4 boys were killed and 48 people were injured.

He also maintained that presence for the community during the 2019 floods, reporting on their impact on Offutt Air Force Base and across the region.

One of his most memorable, award-winning stories was Omaha Police Officer Keith Thompson's yearslong effort

to walk again after being paralyzed on the job.

Rob has been recognized for his community work and professional achievements, being one of the only actively working journalists to be inducted into the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame.

Rob's most significant award was being named a wingman in 2023 by the 55th Wing at Offutt Air Force Base, in recognition for his passion for sharing Offutt's story.

Rob's professionalism and commitment to fair and balanced journalism will be missed. He is the Walter Cronkite of Omaha.

We wish him a happy retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JACK FECIO

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, Jack Fecio, who passed away on November 2 at the age of 79.

He was a man whose faith, generosity, and deep love for our community and his Irish heritage left an indelible mark on Buffalo and beyond.

Jack was more than a friend. He was family to so many of us in Buffalo's Irish community. He embodied the best of what it means to be Irish, not just in ancestry but in spirit. He was warm, humble, and fiercely devoted to our community. Jack carried himself with the quiet strength and wry humor that is as much a part of Ireland's heart as its green hills and rocky coasts.

Buffalo's Irish community has always been built on the simple but powerful values of faith, family, and service. No one lived those values more fully than Jack. Whether he was greeting friends at the Buffalo Irish Center or lending a hand to those in need, Jack showed up with open arms and a full heart.

For decades, Jack dedicated himself to the Irish Center in the heart of south Buffalo. He believed deeply in the center's importance to the Irish and Irish Americans who call western New York home. He knew that our heritage is something we share and something that binds generations together in our community. Through his leadership, that spirit of togetherness grew stronger year after year.

Jack and his beloved wife, Maureen, extended that generosity far beyond Buffalo. As codirectors of the Belfast Summer Relief Program for over two decades, they opened their hearts and their home to children from the north of Ireland. Through their work, they welcomed over 1,800 kids to our community in western New York, giving them a chance to experience peace, friendship, and hope at a time marked by terrible conflict.

Jack and Maureen helped bridge divides with love and hospitality. That is who they were. That is what their faith taught them.

Jack's love for his family was deep and unwavering. His cherished children, John and Jennifer, and his precious granddaughters, Madeline and Maeve, should know that their father and grandfather's legacy lives on in them and the countless lives he impacted across the globe.

I thank his wife, Maureen, for so graciously sharing Jack's light with all of us.

Jack Fecio's life was one filled with service to others, including one of his greatest joys: serving as a volunteer firefighter. Countless Buffalonians, Irish Americans, and Irish citizens are better off today for having known Jack.

Today, we honor Jack for the heritage he preserved, the families he embraced, and the bridges he built. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Jack Fecio and in holding the Fecio family in our prayers and in our hearts as they grieve a man who gave so much to us all. May we all strive to carry forward his generosity, his humility, and his unwavering commitment to others.

"May his soul be at the right hand of God"; "Ar dheis De go raibh a anam."

On behalf of a grateful community and nation, may Jack Fecio rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE KATERGARIS FAMILY

(Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding South Carolina family and small business whose story reflects the true American values of hard work, service, and community. George and Joanna Katergaris along with their children, Mina and Mike, are the longtime owners of the Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Fort Lawn, South Carolina.

For nearly five decades, the Wagon Wheel has been a cornerstone of the community and a gathering place for generations of families all across Chester County.

George and Joanna came to the United States from Greece in the 1970s in search of an opportunity and a better life for their family. They arrived in America with no connections, no government handouts, no safety net to rely on, and worked their way forward step by step. With them, they brought a deep respect for the values of faith, family, and hard work.

When the Katergaris family took ownership of the Wagon Wheel in 1978, the road ahead was challenging. Their restaurant was located in a location with dirt roads and one paved road. With dedication and a clear commitment to quality, they built the restaurant into a beloved local institution.

Known for its traditional southern cooking and welcoming atmosphere, the Wagon Wheel quickly became a

place where neighbors, friends, and families gathered year after year. Over time, southern dishes like fried squash, fresh seasonal vegetables, and homemade dinner rolls became favorites on the menu, but it is the welcoming atmosphere and care in every detail that kept people coming back.

The Katergaris family has created an environment defined by quality, by consistency, and by genuine hospitality.

The connection between the restaurant and its community has always been strong. Over the years, customers have shown their appreciation in countless ways, just as the owners have consistently given back through service and care. This mutual respect reflects the close relationships that they have grown over generations and made the restaurant a cornerstone in this area.

□ 1030

Today, the Wagon Wheel continues to thrive under their daughter, Mina, and her husband, Bill Nixon, who carry on the same traditions and standards that have guided the restaurant for nearly 50 years. Their son, Mike, also remains actively involved, especially during the busiest times of the year. Together, with their dedicated staff, they have upheld a strong reputation that continues to define the Wagon Wheel Restaurant.

The story of the Wagon Wheel Restaurant is a testament of their hard work, their integrity, and their devotion to the community. It reminds us that real, lasting success is about the people that you treat well along the way.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the family of South Carolina, I thank George and Joanna and their family for their many years of service in Fort Lawn and Chester County. I pray their work continues to inspire people to lead by their strong values. They epitomize the American spirit of faith, family, and freedom.

AGGRESSIVE IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT TACTICS IN OREGON

(Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound opposition to the aggressive, cruel, and dangerous immigration enforcement actions that are taking place in Oregon and across the country.

During the past few months, we have seen a dramatic increase in agents from ICE, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Oregon, fueled by hatred and Donald Trump's inhumane, out-of-touch mass deportation agenda.

I am infuriated by story after story of extreme overreach, excessive force, and brutal tactics being used by masked ICE agents to arrest and detain Oregonians.

In Portland, ICE wrongfully separated a young, loving mom from her four little children for 4 months.