

Naomi also worked on my first congressional campaign. She dedicated almost 10 years to help me serve my constituents.

When I was elected to Congress, she packed her bags and moved to Washington, D.C., excited to help me shape my work and represent our beloved Chicago.

Over the years, she rose from legislative correspondent to legislative assistant to legislative director. She leaves my office as an LD who is appreciated by her team, admired by her peers, and respected by members, staff, and advocates alike.

There is no task she doesn't do well, and Congresswoman SUMMER LEE is very lucky to have Naomi as her new legislative director.

Naomi is a brilliant young woman, passionate about social and economic justice, and deeply interested in the impact that U.S. policies have on our relationship with other countries, particularly throughout the Americas.

Her strategic policy mind has helped make my role as a Member of Congress and whip of the Progressive Caucus more impactful, as she always puts her interests of working people first.

She is an exceptional thinker, a gifted writer, and a thorough editor who helped my team be more effective in expressing my policy positions and serving the residents of Illinois' Fourth District. She is a dedicated and intelligent advocate who cares deeply about our community, my team, and the progressive movement.

Naomi has many talents beyond her role on the Hill. She is an experienced ballet dancer. She wakes up at the crack of dawn to row in the Potomac and is captain of her team. She has recently completed a half-marathon, while still managing a heavy legislative portfolio and leading our policy team.

In addition, Naomi is the type of person that I always want on my team—generous, thoughtful, funny, and humble.

Every congressional office would be lucky to have someone as talented and kind as Naomi. Whether discussing IMF surcharges, sanctions, or appropriations, I have always admired her sharp intellect and her quick and calm strategic sense in high-stake situations.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply grateful for Naomi's work for the constituents of the Fourth Congressional District, for her exceptional leadership in my office, and for consistently advocating for the needs of my constituents, working families across the country, and for humanity itself. I will miss her.

HONORING THE AZTEC EAGLES

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I rise to honor the Aztec Eagles, known in Spanish as "Escuadron 201," a legendary fighter squadron of the Mexican Air Force, whose members volunteered to fight alongside the United States during World War II.

These brave fighters—36 pilots and 264 ground personnel, including electricians, mechanics, and radiomen—answered the call to defend freedom and served in the Pacific theater. Seven of those pilots made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Aztec Eagles were part of the Mexican Expeditionary Air Force, which assisted the Allied war effort, and were attached to the 58th Fighter Group of the U.S. Air Force. They flew more than 90 combat missions and played a critical role in the liberation of Luzon in the Philippines in 1945.

For their heroism, they were awarded the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, the Philippine Legion of Honor, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Today, I remember the Aztec Eagles with gratitude and pride. Their courage, determination, and sacrifice and commitment to freedom will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD

(Mr. VAN EPPS of Tennessee was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the Tennessee National Guard, not just for their strength and readiness, but for their extraordinary volunteer spirit. I know the sacrifices they make to keep our country safe, and our Nation is grateful.

I recently had the honor of attending President Trump's roundtable on the Memphis Safe Task Force. I am beyond impressed with the work of this task force and am grateful for the Tennessee National Guard's role in making Memphis safe again.

In 2024, Memphis had the highest rate of violent crime per capita, including elevated rates for murder, robbery, aggravated assault, and property crime.

As of March 20, 2026, the Memphis Safe Task Force has made 7,342 arrests, including 44 for homicide, 812 for controlled substances, 6,402 for firearm violations, and 94 for sex offenses. The task force has also returned 142 missing children and recovered 1,023 illegal firearms.

Because of President Trump's involvement, the crime rate in Memphis dropped drastically in 2025 compared to 2024, with a 26 percent decrease in murders, a 22 percent decrease in aggravated assaults, a 31 percent decrease in robberies, and a 48 percent decrease in carjackings.

Federal, State, and local partners have demonstrated what is possible through strong coordination, with Memphis serving as a model of successful partnership. The results would not have been possible without the guardsmen who have stepped up to help patrol our communities and keep Americans safe. I thank them for creating a place for families to thrive, businesses to succeed, and workers to make a good living.

I also recognize the Tennessee National Guard for its actions during Winter Storm Fern. As an active member of the National Guard, I am proud of how these men and women stepped up when Tennesseans needed them most.

Across 15 States, more than 5,300 National Guard members assisted in the aftermath of these storms. In Tennessee alone, 170 soldiers and airmen assisted stranded motorists, transported first responders, delivered critical supplies, and cleared debris.

Their assistance was invaluable. Tennessee National Guard members logged more than 10,000 man hours across multiple mission types, demonstrating both scale and commitment.

They conducted 44 cut-and-toss missions, clearing nearly 960 miles of critical routes and infrastructure to keep roads accessible and communities connected. They completed 757 civilian assistance missions, 601 medical and personal transport missions, and 497 health and welfare checks, ensuring that vulnerable residents were safe and that first responders could continue their lifesaving work.

This response reflects the National Guard's unwavering commitment to serving communities, even at great risk to themselves.

The Tennessee National Guard's volunteer spirit reflects the very best of Tennessee: courage, resilience, and selflessness. They remind us that service means a willingness to answer the call at any time, and that is exactly what these brave men and women do every single day.

Lastly, I recognize the National Guard Association of Tennessee for its continued commitment to supporting National Guard members. For over 100 years, they have supported military preparedness and the well-being of National Guardsmen. I thank them for serving those who serve.

HONORING THE TEACHERS OF CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

(Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the educators of Chicago High School for the Arts, known across our city as ChiArts, located in Illinois' Third.

As Chicago's first and only public arts high school, ChiArts develops the next generation of diverse artists, while preparing our students with the comprehensive education for the next steps in their life.

The teachers of ChiArts believe that the arts belong to everyone, regardless of background, ZIP Code, or status. Thanks to their leadership and thanks to their organizing, ChiArts remains open today.

Like many public schools around the country, ChiArts faced the threat of closure last year, but it was the teachers who organized the Save ChiArts

campaign, alongside parents and community leaders, to protect this gem in our community.

Today, as ChiArts faces new threats to its unique existence, teachers and parents are organizing to protect their school: a center where our young artists can grow, our young artists can learn, guided by teachers and artists who believe in the power of art to bring our communities together.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my sincere honor to commend the "teachers," "maestras" of ChiArts for their unwavering commitment to Chicago's young people and to public, quality education for all. "We continue in the struggle"; "Seguimos en la lucha."

HONORING MARCOS CENICEROS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marcos Cenicerros for his unwavering commitment to labor rights, racial and economic justice, and workers' solidarity.

Born and raised in Chicago by immigrant parents from Mexico, Marcos witnessed firsthand the struggles and resilience of working-class families fighting for a better life. It was these early experiences that motivated his 15 years of organizing for social and economic justice.

As a campaign organizer of the Grassroots Collaborative and a community organizer with the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, Marcos organized with young people and community members to defend their immigrant communities, expand access to education, deliver government budgets that center working people, and build community power.

Today, Marcos serves as the executive director of Warehouse Workers For Justice, where he organizes with warehouse workers across Illinois to win safer workplaces, fair wages, and dignity on the job. Marcos' leadership reminds us of the power of solidarity.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my privilege to commend Marcos Cenicerros for his dedication to building working people's power across our intersections. "Long live the working families and our immigrant communities"; "Que vivan los trabajadores siempre, que vivan los inmigrantes."

Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate Marcos.

RECOGNIZING SONIA CORTEZ

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sonia Cortez, whose career and leadership have reshaped our school communities in Illinois' Third Logan Square community.

As a young girl in Puerto Rico, Sonia learned at an early age the transformational power of education. After moving to Logan Square, she saw firsthand how systemic and persistent inequities in schools left so many students without the resources and support that they need to be able to thrive.

Rather than accepting those circumstances, Sonia changed them. You

see, for over 20 years, Sonia served as the parent mentor coordinator with Palenque LSNA, training parents to become partners in their schools, advocates in their communities, and leaders in education.

Today, more than 30 parent mentors have earned their teacher assistant licenses, with 20 currently serving at Avondale-Logandale School, supporting the growth and the development of our community students.

Last week, Sonia graduated her last class of parent mentors, marking a significant milestone in a long and impactful career that has changed lives, reshaped educational opportunities, and demonstrated the power of community in Logan Square and beyond.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize the remarkable legacy of Sonia Cortez for decades of mentorship, leadership, and community building that have reshaped Logan Square and the city of Chicago.

"Thank you and congratulations"; "gracias y felicitaciones," Sonia.

□ 1030

HONORING JACK HOLSCRAW

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Memorial Day, I rise to recognize a true gentleman who lived a life of honor and service to the Nation and the community of Spokane, Mr. Jack Daniels Holsclaw.

Mr. Holsclaw was born in Spokane and, from a young age, demonstrated excellence. As a 15-year-old, he was the first African American to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout in Spokane. Attending North Central High School, he excelled academically in sports and later attended both Whitworth College and Washington State University, where he played baseball for famed coach Arthur "Buck" Bailey.

On October 5, 1942, Jack enlisted in the Army as a private and later entered flight school. He trained at the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama and received his wings and commission in the Army Air Corps in 1943.

In December 1943, his squadron was shipped overseas to Italy, where he became part of the famed 332nd Fighter Group. The aircraft of the 332nd had distinctive red tails to differentiate them from other P-51 outfits, leading to the nickname "Red Tails."

Lieutenant Holsclaw fought his most memorable aerial battle on July 18, 1944. That day, all four squadrons of the 332nd Fighter Group, each composed of 16 P-51s, were providing protection for B-17 bombing runs on German targets. The group leader was forced to return to base due to engine problems. Lieutenant Holsclaw, without being ordered, took over command.

A German fighter force of nearly 300 ME-109s attacked the bomber forma-

tion. Three squadrons stayed with the bombers while Lieutenant Holsclaw, as flight leader of the day, took part in a mission. They were able to pursue in certain circumstances in the battle. Eleven German planes were shot down. Lieutenant Holsclaw shot down two ME-109s. The effective 332nd Fighter Group reaction allowed the bombers to hit their targets with no losses.

For his actions of taking the lead on July 18, 1944, and downing two enemy aircraft, Jack Holsclaw was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. By December 1944, he had completed 68 combat missions.

Captain Holsclaw returned to the United States in June 1945 and continued on with service in what became the United States Air Force. He would rise to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

On December 31, 1964, Lieutenant Holsclaw retired and received the Distinguished Service Medal for his accomplishments. Jack and his wife, Bernice, ultimately returned to Spokane, where he completed a second career in banking in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, it is exemplary men like Lieutenant Colonel Jack Holsclaw who built the Air Force of today. Our Nation owes him and men like him a debt of gratitude. I would say, as a father of children who attend North Central High School, I hope that they one day grow up to be citizens like Lieutenant Holsclaw.

HONORING PHIL KOWZAN

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the remarkable service of Phil Kowzan, an 88-year-old Spokane resident who spent 25 years honoring our veterans with the solemn sound of taps.

For 3,335 funerals at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery, Mr. Kowzan stood in all weather to ensure every servicemember received a live, personal tribute. He began this mission in 2001 when he refused to let a friend's funeral rely on a recording, choosing instead to play taps himself.

In March, Mr. Kowzan performed the melody for the final time, closing a quarter century of quiet, steadfast service. Though his bugle will now fall silent, the dignity he brought to each farewell will endure.

Mr. Speaker, join me in honoring Phil Kowzan for his devotion, humility, and unwavering respect for those who served our Nation.

RECOGNIZING SPOKANE POOL HEROES

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary heroism displayed by a group of individuals from Spokane, including four remarkable teenagers whose quick thinking and selfless action saved a man's life on April 18.

While swimming at the Mirabeau Park Hotel pool in Spokane Valley, Ben Wagele, Weston Collins, and siblings Rae and Ethan Overby noticed a man unconscious in the water and immediately sprang into action. Together, they pulled him to safety. Rae Overby began prompt administration of chest compressions.