

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize today a special group of dedicated and outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives and congratulate them for reaching the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The House's most important asset is its exceptional and steadfast employees, whose work is essential to keeping the operations and services of the House running efficiently and effectively, allowing legislators and their staff to focus on their primary mission. The employees we acknowledge today are commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork; support of House Members, their staffs, and their constituents, and for their day-in and day-out efforts and impacts to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is primarily performed behind the scenes, possess a wide range of responsibilities, skills, and knowledge that supports the legislative process, ensures the security of this great institution, maintains our technology and service infrastructure, and contributes to more efficient and productive House support operations. These devoted employees have accomplished noteworthy and essential work in a diverse range of activities, and the House of Representatives, its Members, staff, and the American public is better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the following individuals for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, the employees listed have provided 250 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Trena Gates, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Karen Granger, Office of the Clerk of the House; Gregory Holland, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Tanya Hughes-Goins, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Steven Johnson, Office of Inspector General; Kathleen Joyce, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Jimmy Lambert, Office of the Clerk of the House; Justin Supon, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Stanley Turek, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Kevin Wood, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I once again congratulate, acknowledge, and express our gratitude to these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officer or the Inspector General, and collaboratively across these organizations. Their long hours, hard work, diverse skills, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service and dedication to the House sets an impressive example for their colleagues and for the employees who will follow in their footsteps. I applaud all our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and our great Nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

COMMEMORATING THE SKY TOP TOWER AT MOHONK MOUNTAIN HOUSE

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sky Top tower on the Mohonk Preserve in Ulster County, New York. For over a century, Sky Top has been a testament to our region's natural beauty and a symbol of home for many in the New Paltz area.

In 1870, the twins Albert and Alfred Smiley constructed the original Sky Top tower on the grounds of the Mohonk Mountain House resort. Although severe weather and fires destroyed the original tower, it was rebuilt three times. The fourth and current iteration of Sky Top, built in 1923 as a memorial to Albert Smiley, celebrates its 100th birthday this year.

Located on a high point of land overlooking Lake Mohonk, Sky Top provides a view of nearby states New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Over the years, the tower has been a beacon for hikers and nature lovers from New York and all over the country. Today, Sky Top stands as a symbol of the collaboration and determination of our community.

Sky Top owes its continued existence to the commitment and hard work of countless individuals who have contributed to the project over the decades.

Among them are the Smiley brothers, stonemasons John and Frank Lawrence, architect Francis Allen, and Charles Miller, who led the committee to construct the current tower. Their efforts embody our shared history and our commitment to preserving our community's abundant natural wonders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this enduring landmark and the hard work of the community that sustains it.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF RIVERVIEW

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Riverview, Michigan on

the occasion of the 100th anniversary of their founding. The growth of the city over the last century and the contributions it has made to Southeastern Michigan is worthy of commendation.

Riverview began as limestone quarry and source of lumber for the nearby city of Trenton. As the quarry grew, so did the local population, but the area lacked city water. With that in mind, the people of the area decided to incorporate the Village of Riverview in 1923 with a population of 704 and an annual budget of \$20,000. The first thing they did after the vote was to start a city water system, allowing for the growth of their village well into the future. The Village of Riverview remained intact until the late 1950s, when some residents drew up petitions to become a city. At the same time, the city of Trenton was trying to annex Riverview to become part of their own city. The petitions arrived in Lansing in 1958 only an hour apart, but Riverview's were submitted first. On March 24, 1959, Riverview officially became the City of Riverview.

From 1956 to 1963, the city of Riverview was home to a Nike Missile site, one of many that dotted our homeland during the height of the Cold War. Crucial to our home defense, the site at Riverview was tasked with protecting the automobile and steel industries in the Detroit area from a Soviet missile strike. The current Riverview Community Center was once the barracks for the men serving at the Nike missile site.

Riverview has been called home by some of our most famous Michiganders. These names include Woody Widenhofer, defensive coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers, who won four Super Bowls with their famous "Steel Curtain" defense in the 1970s and Lloyd Carr, who served as Michigan's head football coach from 1995 to 2007, including leading our 1997 team to the national championship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the centennial of the city of Riverview. From their humble beginnings, they have developed into a modern, progressive city that is crucial to the cultural fabric of Southeastern Michigan. We are excited to see what the residents of this great city can accomplish over the next 100 years.

RECOGNIZING ACHARYA DR. LOKESH MUNI JI FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize His Holiness Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji for his lifetime dedication to promoting peace, religious tolerance, and universal values.

At a young age, Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji committed himself to the study and teaching of Jainism, Buddhism, and Vedic philosophy.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Dr. Lokesh eventually received the title of Acharya, the highest honor in the Jain faith. He founded an organization called Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, which supports Acharya's various initiatives related to interfaith cooperation, environmental, and physical and spiritual wellness. Acharya has also written dozens of books to spread his message of peace.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji has dedicated himself to the promotion of peace and tolerance among different faith groups. He has helped defuse communal violence on multiple occasions and recently opened the World Peace Center in Gurugram, India. With the support of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji leads interfaith dialogues with the goal of finding common ground among the participants.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji's work has positively impacted individuals throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji for his many accomplishments.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
MILITARY SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT
JOHN H. WHITE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lieutenant John H. White of Sullivan County for his heroic military service in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

Lieutenant White first received his Naval commission as an Ensign in 1966 following his completion of Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He then attended the Communications School at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and continued his education for Officer Electronics Communications at the Great Lakes Training Center in Waukegan, Illinois.

In March of 1967, Lieutenant White received his first deployment aboard the U.S.S. *Pocono* (AGC-16), serving in the Communications Department as an assistant communications officer. The U.S.S. *Pocono* was the command ship for all amphibious forces in the Atlantic Ocean. From September 1968 to September 1969, Lieutenant White served ashore in Chu Lai and Danang, Vietnam with the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS), overseeing the arrival of shipping supplies in support of the war effort.

Following his deployment to Vietnam, he joined the Kingsport Naval Reserve Unit, where he served an additional seven years and received the "Navy Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device," presented by Vice Admiral L.P. Ramage. Lieutenant White recalls his experiences aboard a naval destroyer in the Mediterranean Sea and conducting a Summary Court Martial in Philadelphia as memorable occasions while on active duty in the Reserves. Lt. White resigned in 1976, after having served his country proudly for more than a decade.

Please join me in recognizing Lieutenant White and his valiant military service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING SARAH GARD

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sarah (Meyer) Gard as she is inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Hall of Fame.

A graduate of Lena High School, Sarah started four years for the Lena Varsity Girls Basketball Team. During her career at Lena High School, she surpassed the 2,000-point milestone and ended her career with a total of 2,176 points. The team made appearances at the Wisconsin Girls State Tournament twice and Sarah was named First Team All-State. Sarah's career at Lena High School is one that will be remembered for generations.

After Sarah's very successful high school career, she continued her education and athletics at UW-Green Bay, where she joined the Women's Basketball Team. During her seasons at UW-Green Bay, Sarah excelled and was named to the Mid-Continent Conference Second Team in 1995. The UW-Green Bay record books reflect Sarah's hard work and commitment as she remains in the top 10 for Field Goals Attempted, Scoring Average, and Three-Point Field Goals Made. It is quite evident through these many records that Sarah's talent and dedication to the game never wavered.

Since graduating from UW-Green Bay, Sarah has remained in Northeast Wisconsin and has been teaching in the Peshtigo School District for 18 years, where she is currently a second-grade teacher. I extend my sincere congratulations to Sarah as she receives this outstanding honor and for her years of dedication and commitment to our community.

I once again congratulate Sarah Gard for being inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Hall of Fame and wish her, her husband Peter Gard and sons, Simon and Sam, nothing but the best for years to come.

HONORING TEPHRA INSTITUTE OF
CONTEMPORARY ART'S ALLOY
PROJECT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) on the occasion of its Alloy Project, a fundraising initiative that offers both art and art experiences for audiences of all ages. The event brings together artists, collectors, art enthusiasts, and professional leaders from not only the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area, but from many unique parts of the country.

This non-profit endeavor was founded in Reston, Virginia as the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) in 1974 to showcase the phenomenal talent of Northern Virginia. Tephra ICA works with artists, galleries, institutions, thought leaders, and collectors around the globe to promote creativity and the generation of ideas and growth that the arts can facilitate. They are committed to promoting in-

novative contemporary art and innovative thinking to accompany it. By building intimate connections between artists and audiences, including insights into the creative processes by which this art comes to be, Tephra ICA is able to extend their impact beyond the museum itself and instill these values into the Northern Virginia community at large.

The event will include many unique aspects for a diverse audience that includes works for purchase, an opportunity to listen to artist dialogues, live music, and more, promising attendees a jubilant and interactive night of fun.

Tephra's "Choosing to Portage" is an exemplary collection that emphasizes diversity. The raw authenticity of this project is palpable as it delves into topics such as the absurdities of white masculinity, the erasure of indigenous cultures, police killings of Black men, the visibility of Iraqi culture in the U.S., the ravages of war, and the loneliness of grieving. This dedication to creation around such vital and urgent topics that simultaneously are difficult for many demonstrates the necessity of contemporary art.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art on its Alloy Project and in recognizing the visionaries and leaders who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

RECOGNIZING IAN "SHIGE" AINOA

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a standout member of our South Sound community, Mr. Ian "Shige" Ainoa. An Air Force veteran, a steward of our South Sound waters as a scientific diver, and a Little League coach, Shige brings Aloha, goodwill, and good spirits to everyone he encounters.

Shige currently works for the Environmental Protection Agency as an IT specialist and a scientific diver, working to support the preservation of our Sound's ecosystem through his skilled fieldwork. A leader in advancing equity and fighting for justice, Shige also served as the manager of the Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Program for the EPA's Northwest region.

Outside of his day job, Shige goes above and beyond as an active board member of the University Place Veterans Plaza and volunteers his time to engrave and install new commemorative tiles. He has also coached Little League softball for the last three years.

I thank Shige for his commitment and service to our Nation, our waters, and our South Sound community.

RECOGNIZING RESPONSIBLE
GAMING EDUCATION MONTH

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize September as Responsible Gaming Education

Month. Twenty-five years ago, the American Gaming Association established Responsible Gaming Education Week to promote responsible gaming nationwide and to educate employees and customers on the subject. This effort was expanded to Responsible Gaming Education Month in 2022.

I am proud to represent Las Vegas which sets the gold standard when it comes to gaming and gaming regulation. Casino gaming is legal in 44 states and sports betting is legal and operational in 35 states, providing jobs to 1.8 million individuals around the country. Last year, consumers spent a record \$60 billion at commercial casinos. This translated to \$13.5 billion in direct gaming taxes to state and local governments, exclusive of the billions of dollars in income and sales tax that casinos contribute to communities. All this revenue supports a range of needed public services like hospitals, schools, transportation, and public safety.

Responsible gaming is a central tenant of the gaming industry which goes to great lengths to make sure employees are trained in best practices for recognizing and dealing with problem gaming and patrons are aware of options for help if they need it. Last year, states earmarked \$104 million for problem gaming research and the promotion of responsible gaming resources. Many operators go above and beyond the minimum, partnering with organizations to educate consumers and employees and adhering to voluntary responsible gaming and marketing codes. This includes deploying responsible gaming tools like limits on deposits, wagers, and play time.

This year, Responsible Gaming Education Month has four themes: Empowering Customers to Play Responsibly; Legal, Regulated Gaming Protects Players; Building a Responsible Gaming Culture Within; and Advancing Responsible Gaming Research.

I commend operators around the country for their work on these important issues and for ensuring that the customer is always put first. I thank the many employees of the gaming industry in my district and around the country for their efforts to educate patrons about responsible gaming.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DR.
JOSEPH CARTER CORBIN

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Professor Joseph Carter Corbin and his contributions to education in the state of Arkansas. Mr. Corbin was an educator, journalist, mathematician, and scholar. He became one of the most educated men of his day, earning an Artium Baccalaureus degree and two master's degrees from Ohio University.

In 1872, Professor Corbin made the Natural State home for him and his family. He was then elected as the Superintendent of Public Instruction and President of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees. Mr. Corbin recognized the need for teachers and laid the foundation for a teacher's college of the "poorer class." Branch Normal College of the Arkansas Industrial University is what we now

know as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Professor Corbin became the first African American superintendent of public education in Arkansas, and he had a profound impact on the school. He worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of Arkansas's black educators. His dedication to serving the people of Pine Bluff is most admirable, and his legacy shall not be forgotten.

I want to thank Professor Corbin for making such a deep and lasting impact on his community, the 4th District of Arkansas, and our country. I hope his record of service will be an inspiration to all who follow in his footsteps. I am proud to recognize September 27, 2023, as Professor Joseph Carter Corbin Day in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

HONORING FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the vital work of the Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) on the 30th anniversary of its founding. Founded in 1993 to be "a voice for the river," this nonprofit organization has grown to more than 2,500 members and countless volunteers. These dedicated guardians and the nearly two dozen staff are committed to protecting the health of America's greatest river as well as its creatures and the communities that live along its banks and rely upon its waters.

Founded in 1993 by Peter Gove, attorney George Dunn, former Mississippi National River & Recreation Area superintendent John Anfinson, and river boat dispatcher Hakan Miller, FMR started with a mission to engage the public to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities region. Whitney Clark joined the organization as Executive Director in 1997, quickly growing the organization and expanding its mission from community stewardship projects to include legislative advocacy concerning the entire length of the Mississippi river beyond Minnesota.

The Mississippi River is one of our nation's most important natural resources, cherished each year by millions of residents and visitors alike. As one of the world's longest rivers, the Mississippi is a defining geographic feature of North America with a watershed that drains all or parts of 31 states and provides drinking water for 20 million Americans. The river's ecosystem is a natural resource of global significance, with nearly half of North America's ducks, geese and swans relying on the Mississippi River for food, direction, and resting places during seasonal migrations.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of its staff, board and the hundreds of members and volunteers that support it, FMR is one of Minnesota's leading nonprofit citizen organizations for land conservation, watershed protection and river stewardship. As the ecological vitality of the Upper Mississippi River continues to be under threat, FMR faces the important task of protecting the river's ability to support native plant and animal species. FMR provides expertise and technical assistance critical to the protection of the Mississippi River and they

engage public and private landowners, local governments and concerned citizens as stewards of the river for current and future generations.

Now, FMR continues to lead efforts critical to the long-term wellbeing of the entire Mississippi River as a vital partner in supporting the Mississippi River Resilience and Restoration Initiative, which will create a comprehensive federal strategy to coordinate efforts on conservation and environmental restoration along the entire river corridor. FMR's years of advocacy have helped to make the Twin Cities a model for watershed planning and decision-making. Today, FMR's advocacy extends well beyond Minnesota to the entirety of the river, from the northernmost headwaters in Lake Itasca to the Mississippi Delta.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the many members, volunteers, and staff of Friends of the Mississippi River as they commemorate their 30th anniversary. May Friends of the Mississippi River continue its mission to restore and protect this river for future generations of Minnesotans and indeed all Americans.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT DONALD W. JACKSON OF GREENEVILLE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Master Sergeant Donald W. Jackson of Greeneville for his courageous military service during the Vietnam War. Master Sergeant Jackson risked his life to defend this Nation. From 1965 to 1996, Master Sergeant Jackson served in the United States Army, Navy, and National Guard.

Master Sergeant Jackson first began his career as an aircraft mechanic, stationed in Ft. Rucker, Alabama in 1965. The following year, Master Sergeant Jackson received his first tour of duty in the Mekong Delta. Assigned to the 1st Platoon of the 121st Assault Helicopter Company, also known as the Blue Tigers, he assisted the South Vietnamese 9th Infantry division and auxiliary American forces during combat.

In the battlefield, Master Sergeant Jackson's helicopter company made emergency helicopter medical evacuations from ongoing combat operations, and also transported supplies and personnel to remote outposts—often too dangerous to reach by road. Additionally, Master Sergeant Jackson's helicopter company frequently accompanied General Nguen Van Minh, commander of all South Vietnamese forces in the Mekong Delta, and his staff.

Despite suffering an injury in 1967, Jackson extended his tour for another 6 months and served during the Tet Offensive, one of the deadliest battles of the Vietnam War. Master Sergeant Jackson returned from Vietnam in 1968, achieving the rank of a Specialist 5. Committed to protect and defend our Nation, he continued his dedicated career of military service for more than 25 years as a servicemember in the U.S. National Guard, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Army Reserves.

Please join me in thanking Master Sergeant Donald W. Jackson for his bravery and distinguished military service to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 151ST ANNIVERSARY OF GREATER SAINT PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 151st Anniversary of Greater Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in West Columbia, South Carolina.

I am grateful for the strong leadership at Greater Saint Paul AME Church, including Reverend Dr. Tobie H. Pollock, Reverend Rosalyn G. Coleman, Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, and Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. I appreciate their dedication to spreading the word of God in our community, making an impact in the lives of so many people.

Established in 1816, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church holds the distinction of the inaugural African American denomination organized in the United States. The church played a significant role in the African American community, championing civil rights and evangelizing. Over 200 years later, the AME Church continues to serve many people throughout our communities.

Greater Saint Paul will be celebrating their anniversary on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

RECOGNIZING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE 2023 CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM ANNUAL DINNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centreville Immigration Forum on the occasion of its 6th Annual Dinner. The theme of this year's gala is "Celebrating a Community United for Justice" and will recognize the rich diversity of cultures in Northern Virginia. The Centreville Immigration Forum has done tremendous work in Northern Virginia to support our immigrant community by implementing sustainable programs that provide immigrants in need with the means to improve their lives and become more integrated into the community.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity. In Fairfax County, nearly 1 in 4 residents are foreign born. More than 200 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the Nation. Our variety of cultures and heritages do not divide us; they make us stronger.

Three exceptional individuals will be honored during this gala who have gone above and beyond in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their country of origin, has full access to the benefits and opportunities this commu-

nity and our nation provide. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the following 2023 Annual Dinner honorees.

MS. ANNABEL PARK

Annabel Park is a Korean American documentary filmmaker, political activist and community volunteer. She shined light on the struggles of immigrants in America through her documentary 9500 Liberty which was an interactive project, allowing viewers to comment and give direction to the production. It highlighted the struggles in Manassas and Prince William County in 2008 through 2009, when some leaders passed laws to make life difficult for immigrants. The story of building community in the face of bigotry inspired Centreville to organize in the years following. Ms. Park went on to co-produce the Story of America documentary series about voting rights across the country.

MR. HASSAN AHMAD

Hassan Ahmad is the principal and founder of HMA Law Firm. He is fluent or proficient in eight languages in addition to English, and this gives his clients comfort when telling their stories. His perspective on immigration as a means to prosperity is borne from his belief in unity in diversity, advising nationals of 117 countries around the world for nearly 20 years. He is a strong voice for justice and writes and speaks fearlessly against laws and policies that limit the lives of immigrants. He is an expert on the roots of anti-immigration organizations. About one-third of his practice is devoted to asylum cases.

MONICA SARMIENTO

Monica Sarmiento is the Executive Director for the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights (VACIR), an organization dedicated to the defense of dignity, power, and quality of life for all immigrant and refugee communities. She is from the DC metropolitan area and is Salvadoran-American. She was the founding Executive Director of VACIR and built it into a coalition of immigrant rights groups with a respected voice in the Virginia General Assembly. She organized lobby days, press conferences, and campaigns that led to Driver Privilege Cards, increased language access to public information, and in-state tuition for all high school graduates.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these individuals are noteworthy not only because they are rooted in an appreciation for our region's cultural and ethnic diversity, but also because they help to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

HONORING REYMUNDO ESPINOZA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Reymundo Espinoza upon his retirement. He has worked to provide healthcare for those in need for 48 years throughout California and Arizona.

Mr. Espinoza was raised in the small desert town of Coachella, California, where farming was the predominant industry. Upon gradua-

tion from Coachella Valley High School, he attended Stanford University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He received his Master of Public Health degree, specializing in Hospital Administration, from UC Berkeley in 1975.

Since 1987, he has served as CEO of the Gardner Family Health Centers. For 37 years, his vision for health equity and his commitment to access for the most vulnerable and underserved in our community have yielded impressive results:

Growing Gardner from a single clinic to thirteen sites (including two mobile units).

Increasing patients served from 8,000 to nearly 45,000 while providing high quality comprehensive medical and behavioral healthcare including prevention and education, early intervention, treatment, and advocacy services.

Participating in the Healthy Kids Initiative to ensure all children who are part of low-income households in our community could have access to a health coverage program.

Being a Founder, Chairperson and Board Member of Community Health Partnership health centers, a consortium of community clinics that advocate for and create healthcare access to low-income populations in Santa Clara County.

Co-Founding the California Primary Care Association to advocate for and create healthcare access to low-income populations in California.

During the Pandemic, Gardner Family Health Centers held the first community large-scale COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinic in Santa Clara County. From April 2020 to June 2021, approximately 12,000 individuals were tested, and 26,000 COVID-19 vaccinations were provided.

He has received many awards and recognition for his leadership in healthcare. For example, in 2023 he was awarded the Silver Medal Jefferson Award for expanding quality affordable healthcare so the South Bay's underserved can live healthier lives. In 2023 he received the Latinx Business Leadership Award from the Silicon Valley Business Journal.

His vision and legacy remain an inspiration and guiding light in these challenging but hopeful times. His expertise, good judgment, skillful leadership, and compassion have made him an outstanding member of our community. I consider him a valued colleague and friend and I join the community of Silicon Valley in honoring him and wishing him well in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate a milestone of profound significance—the 150th anniversary of the charitable endeavors of the Sisters of Providence.

For a century and a half, this venerable institution has been a bedrock of our community, demonstrating unwavering resilience and fostering a culture of compassion and service.

In Holyoke's industrial infancy, the Sisters began their mission, filling a void by providing essential care to the underprivileged, setting a firm foundation of charity that resonates deeply with the principles of the American Dream.

Their presence in our community has led to a myriad of invaluable initiatives; from establishing hospitals and nursing homes to spearheading programs that cater to the needs of the homeless, the Sisters have acted as an embodiment of selfless service and as a symbol of hope and healing in the Holyoke community since 1873.

As they celebrate this significant milestone with the symbol of the "Tree of Hope," I am reminded of the spirit of togetherness that has been a cornerstone in the journey of the Sisters of Providence. This celebration is not just a reflection of a rich history, but a beacon lighting the way for future generations, illustrating unity, healing, and boundless possibilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with heartfelt pride and admiration that I extend my congratulations to the Sisters of Providence as they mark 150 years of selfless service. As we honor their past, let us also embrace the future with a spirit of optimism and a commitment to nurturing a society grounded in their principles of love, empathy, and service.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINE HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing October as National Spine Health Awareness Month.

In the U.S. 100 million people suffer from neck or back conditions every year according to the CDC. Back pain is the number one cause of missed workdays, the leading cause of job-related disability and pain in the U.S., and the most common non-cancer related reason for an opioid prescription in the U.S. In addition, those with back and neck pain are four times more likely to become clinically depressed.

The National Spine Health Foundation located in my district in Reston, Virginia, is the only national patient-centered non-profit dedicated to helping patients overcome debilitating spinal conditions and take back their lives. During the past 5 years, the Foundation has renewed its commitment to and has developed award winning patient education, advocacy, and research work to give patients the tools they need to make informed decisions about their spine health and navigate their own treatment journeys with confidence.

I would like to congratulate the National Spine Health Foundation on its award-winning year in patient education and clinical research. NSHF received a 2023 Digital Health Award for its patient education videos, the E Healthcare Leadership Award for best healthcare podcast, and the Global Spine Congress award for best research paper for work on examining augmented reality for improving spine surgery. In addition, NSHF received the best paper award from the Inter-

national Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery for their work on the nation's only prospective, multi-center spine robotic surgery study.

The Foundation is strongly committed to spine health research. Patient reported outcomes have been part of the fabric of NSHF since its inception. As they are deeply invested in supporting evidence-based health care decision making, it is important to be part of the process of creating the evidence. Their cloud-based research tool called 'Spine-online' enables them to conduct multi-center studies and partner with research teams both in the U.S. and internationally. Active studies are currently occurring on robotic surgery, enhanced surgical recovery, augmented reality, genetic basis for personalized spine treatments, stem cell therapy, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the importance of good spinal health, supporting individuals who suffer from spinal issues, and thanking the NSHF and the health care providers who help not just in October, but all year long.

RECOGNIZING TAMMY VAN DYKE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the distinguished career of retiring Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners Principal, Mrs. Tammy Van Dyke.

Mrs. Van Dyke has held several leadership roles throughout the education system in Northeast Wisconsin. Prior to assuming the role of Principal at Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners, Mrs. Van Dyke was the Principal at Nicolet Elementary School in Green Bay. During her time at Nicolet, she played an instrumental role in improving leadership skills in students and developed the LIONS (Leaders in Our Neighborhood and School) Club, which provided opportunities for students to interact with guest speakers, learn, and organize events for the school.

Throughout her impressive career, Mrs. Van Dyke has been committed to bettering the lives of her students and their families. Her knowledge and leadership led to the growing enrollment rate at Green Bay Area Public Schools, which played a significant role in the recruitment and retention of both gifted teachers and students at Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners. Mrs. Van Dyke's expertise and knowledge will surely be missed by her students, peers, and the entire Green Bay community.

While Mrs. Van Dyke is leaving behind a notable legacy that will be admired by educators for years to come, I am confident that she will continue to be a valuable member of the Northeast Wisconsin community. Her dedication to Northeast Wisconsin has been truly remarkable, and I extend my sincere thanks to Mrs. Van Dyke for her years of service. Mrs. Van Dyke's distinguished career is deserving of the highest degree of recognition, and I wish her all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING RONALD E. MYERS

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Ronald E. Myers, upon the auspicious occasion of his retirement on October 1, 2023 after 32 years of service as Director of Maintenance for the Graham Capitol Corporation.

Mr. Myers enlisted in the Army on October 31, 1978, after graduating high school in Lower Dauphin. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and became qualified as a helicopter mechanic at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Then-Sergeant Myers specialized in the UH-1/Iroquois ("Huey") aircraft (his favorite), the critical aircraft for troop and logistics transport, and direct combat gun support capabilities. Sergeant Myers' performance and duty as a mechanic of these premier and complex aircraft was critical to the Army mission.

After his service in the active component Army, Sergeant Myers honorably served in the Pennsylvania National Guard, wherein he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6) and continued to serve our Nation for 22 years. In May 1991, after his military retirement, he transitioned to the civilian/private sector, wherein he became Director of Maintenance for the Graham Capital Corporation flight department, now culminating his duties after 32 years on October 1, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I'm privileged to commend former Staff Sergeant Ronald E. Myers for his tireless and selfless service to our communities, Commonwealth, and Nation. I wish him Godspeed, and great health, prosperity, and happiness in his future adventures.

HONORING OFFICER JAMES BROWN

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer James Brown for his devotion to Eastern North Carolina as a police officer. Officer Brown has served for more than 65 years within the Jacksonville Police Department and received the lifetime achievement award from NC Project. Recently, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Officer Brown at the Homeland Heroes Banquet, an event recognizing first responders and law enforcement.

Residents of Jacksonville witness Officer Brown's dedication to his community every day as he manages traffic and leads local students across the City's busiest neighborhood streets. He is undoubtedly a man to admire as he is the oldest serving officer in Jacksonville's police department. In fact, he is thought to be the most senior serving officer in the United States.

I would be remiss if I failed to honor Officer Brown's service to our Nation during WWII. Those who continue their service in law enforcement after military deployments, like Officer Brown, are special people and among our Nation's heroes.

Officer Brown has said that he has no plans of ending his career. He is an incredible example of service, duty, and honor that our Nation cherishes. I want to say thank you to Officer Brown for his faithfulness to our Country and community and wish him a Happy 96th Birthday this November.

RECOGNIZING GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's distinguished career as a global humanitarian and spiritual leader. For over 40 years, Gurudev has helped guide individuals in Illinois and throughout the world in their search for inner peace with his programs rooted in meditation and yoga. Through his charity work and educational efforts, Gurudev has spread his belief that if individuals find inner peace, it can lead to real world reductions in violence and conflict.

In 1981, Gurudev founded the Art of Living Foundation, a non-profit focused on the promotion of meditation and humanitarianism. To date, Gurudev and the Art of Living Foundation have engaged in humanitarian efforts in numerous conflict zones and currently operates in over 100 countries. He also founded the International Association for Human Values, which offers programs to reduce stress. Together, these organizations have thousands of volunteers who continue the important work of supporting individuals and communities in need.

Gurudev's knowledge and experience with conflict resolution have allowed him to play vital roles in peace negotiations globally. In particular, Gurudev has promoted multiple interfaith dialogues to establish mutual respect and understanding, including between religious groups that may have been in conflict previously. This unique approach to conflict resolution, which focuses on communication and universal values, has proven its merit repeatedly.

Furthermore, Gurudev has had a long-term focus on youth empowerment. He started over 1,000 schools that provide a free education within disadvantaged communities, benefiting over 82,000 students and equipping them with the skills and confidence necessary to succeed in life. Additionally, Gurudev has shown his commitment to a cleaner and healthier environment by leading an effort that restored approximately 70 rivers and thousands of bodies of water in India, as well as planting some 80 million trees throughout the world.

With his message of peace and commitment to education and humanitarianism, Gurudev has lived a life dedicated to the betterment of others. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my immense gratitude to Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for his invaluable contributions.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS SERVICE OF SERGEANT CHARLES TERRIAL WILLIAMS

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant Charles Terrial Williams from Bristol on Sullivan County, TN for his valiant military service in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. Sergeant Williams proudly served our country both abroad and domestically from 1969 to 1973.

As a Crew Chief on C-130Es, a military transport aircraft designed to operate from unpaved airstrips, Sergeant Williams was assigned to Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Vietnam, as well as Ching Chan Kang Air Base in Taiwan and Langley Air Base in Virginia. As Crew Chief, he was responsible for assisting supply delivery, relocating Vietnamese civilians out of danger, and retrieving the wounded and deceased.

Among his many acts of heroism, Sergeant Williams prevented a hand grenade from detonation during a relocation operation, and also volunteered his service during a helicopter evacuation under live fire. After 4 years of valiant service, Sergeant Williams was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force.

Please join me in thanking Sergeant Charles Terrial Williams for his bravery and heroic military service to our great Nation.

APPRECIATING THE DRUZE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have spoken with Sheikh al-Aql Hikmat Alhajiri, one of the three senior most Druze religious leaders in Syria, to discuss his impactful work at the forefront of the mass mobilization of Druze against the Assad regime.

The Druze is a religious sect that grew out of Islam a thousand years ago, with a population of 1.5 million, living mostly in Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan. Due to the courageous leadership of Sheikh Alhajiri, thousands of Druze residing in the southeast province of Swaida, adjacent to Jordan and Israel, have rallied together demanding the downfall of the current regime. Unfortunately, last week marked a tragic turn of events, following weeks of extensive protests, as the regime fired at Druze demonstrators, further adding to the grim toll of over half a million Syrians who have been killed by the criminal Assad regime.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, I am proud to have led H.R. 3202, the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act, which places responsibility on the Bashar al-Assad regime, supported by war criminal Putin and the terrorist Mullahs in Tehran, for its crimes against the Syrian people and highlights the significant consequences of governments considering normalization with the Assad regime. This bill successfully passed the committee, reinforcing

the bipartisan commitment to punish offenders, while enhancing protection for humanitarian organizations serving the Syrian people.

I am grateful for the great leadership and strength of Sheikh Alhajiri and the Druze, and look forward to continuing to work together in the fight for a free and democratic Syria.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA-LED NASA OSIRIS-REX FIRST-EVER ASTEROID SAMPLE RETURN MISSION

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of University of Arizona-led NASA mission of spacecraft *OSIRIS-REx* and the first ever return of an asteroid sample to Earth. Launched seven years ago, in 2016, the Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (*OSIRIS-REx*) successfully arrived at the asteroid Benu in 2018. Because Benu is older than Earth, studying a sample of Benu will provide understanding of what might have been delivered to early Earth during Precambrian time. The asteroid is 500 meters across, roughly the height of the Empire State Building. *OSIRIS-REx* used complex imagery to successfully map and determine the best place to obtain a sample. On October 20, 2020, *OSIRIS-REx* landed and collected a sample of Benu, four times more sample than originally expected.

On May 10, 2021, *OSIRIS-REx* began its return voyage to Earth. This past Sunday, September 24, *OSIRIS-REx* released a capsule containing the Benu sample before continuing on to rendezvous with the asteroid Apophis. Apophis will come very close to Earth's orbit in 2029.

The sample return capsule made a spectacular descent as it hit the Earth's atmosphere, traveling 27,000 miles per hour and reaching five thousand degrees Fahrenheit. The capsule safely reached the drop zone, traveling a mere 11 miles per hour. Crews determined the integrity of the capsule; it is now in a clean room preparing for analysis.

The sample will be analyzed by students at the University of Arizona to determine Benu's physical and chemical properties, windows into the most fundamental questions of our universe—namely how planets formed and how life began. Examining Benu will also aid scientists in planning for possible impact mitigation missions. Asteroids like Benu contain natural resources such as water, organics, and precious metals.

I am extremely proud that Tucson is once again a key player in a critical NASA mission, just as it has been with many others throughout our Nation's history. *OSIRIS-REx* is an \$800 million University of Arizona-led NASA mission that demonstrates the importance of vital scientific investments.

The *OSIRIS-REx* mission is funded by NASA and its science is led by the University of Arizona (UA). I would like to once again congratulate Dr. Dante Lauretta of the UA Lunar and Planetary Laboratory for his leadership as principal investigator and, along with his team, for bringing this exciting mission to the sample analysis phase. I greatly look forward to celebrating even more milestones with

his team as analysis reveals untold mysteries of our universe and as the now *OSIRIS-REX-APEX* continues towards the asteroid Apophis. This mission is the latest in a long list of achievements by scientists at the University of Arizona in my home district. In fact, UA scientists have collaborated in every single American mission to the Moon and Mars since 1964, including serving as the lead on the Phoenix Mars Mission.

The University of Arizona is involving undergraduate and graduate students and continuing to cultivate the next generation of STEM leaders—many of whom will be from my home state of Arizona. I wish the *OSIRIS-REX* team the best of luck in the analysis stage of their historic mission and congratulate them in their profound success in the first ever return of an asteroid sample to Earth.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF DR.
CLARENCE JONES

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Clarence Jones' work on the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington.

Sixty years ago, those words were spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King but written by Dr. Clarence Jones, who lived in the Bronx, and in Riverdale, in the fateful year of 1963. The members of the Bronx family have gathered here today to celebrate not only a great American, but one of the greatest. We're here to celebrate a man who labored and loitered behind the scenes and behind the dream for the greatest cause in American history. The cause of equal rights, equal justice, and equal protection under the law.

As a lawyer, Clarence Jones not only practiced law, he transformed it. As a civil rights leader, Clarence Jones not only had a dream, he realized it and by the grace of God, he has lived to see it.

We are in a room full of people of every color and every creed. Black and white, Latino and Asian, Jews, Christians, and Muslims. We are collectively the realization of Dr. Jones' dream. Our unity is the culmination of his life's work. The legacy of Dr. King and Dr. Jones achieved nothing less than the liberation of the people and the reconstruction of a Nation. America has lived through two reconstructions and its history. Whereas the first reconstruction largely failed in the hands of Jim Crow. The second reconstruction, I believe, has largely succeeded on the strength of the civil rights movement. In spite of all the challenges confronting America, despite the racism that persists even in our own time, there can be no denying how far we have come as a country. How much we have overcome as a people and how high Dr. Jones and Dr. King have lifted us all.

And if anyone has any doubts about the moral magnitude of what has been achieved in these past 60 years, look no further than our own city. For the first time in history, the Speaker of the New York City Council, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, and the future Speaker of the United States House of Representatives are all African American.

For the first time in history, the mayors of America's four largest cities, including New York, are all African American. There are 1000s of elected officials, like myself, of all races and religions who stand firmly on the shoulders of moral giants like Dr. King and Dr. Jones. We owe these giants a debt that we can never repay, but it is a debt that we must never forget. Dr. Clarence Jones was a counsel and close confidant of Dr. Martin Luther King. When Dr. King was jailed in Birmingham, Alabama for protesting segregation, it was Clarence Jones who visited Dr. King in jail twice a day. And it was Clarence Jones who smuggled out Dr. King's famous Letter from a Birmingham Jail. As a Riverdale resident, Dr. Jones played a pivotal role in co-organizing America's greatest March and in co-writing America's greatest speech. Not only did he reside in Riverdale in 1963, he arranged for Dr. King to move into his Riverdale home in the lead up to the March on Washington and the I Have a Dream speech. The Riverdale home of Dr. Jones came to be known as Dr. King's quote, "Command Post North." Dr. Martin Luther King and Dr. Clarence Jones were both American revolutionaries in 1963. The most powerful revolutions in history are not only those that change the nature of an economy or the nature of technology. The revolutions that ultimately matter most are those that changed the hearts and minds of a people.

Dr. King and Dr. Jones inspired a revolution where it mattered most in the very soul of America. That revolution of the American soul remains with us 60 years later. Clarence Jones remains with us 60 years later. And as one of the few living members of Dr. King's innermost circle, Clarence Jones has been described as the last of the lions. At age 92, Dr. Jones shows no signs of retiring from his life-long struggle for social justice. He presently serves as the chair of a non-for-profit, known as Spill the Honey, which is dedicated to building bridges between the black community and the Jewish community. Dr. Jones is the product of the civil rights movement that inspired powerful moments of black Jewish solidarity. The image of Dr. Martin Luther King, and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, marching for voting rights all the way from Selma to Montgomery. These two men of faith in the words of Rabbi Heschel "were praying with their feet." There were Jewish Americans and African Americans who not only fought together, but also died together for the cause of civil rights. Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, James Cheney, all were murdered in the Mississippi Burning. The least we can do is honor their memory with unity in our own time. The moral lesson of history is that we are all in this together. What matters more than the particulars of our race and religion. What matters more than the details of our color and creed is something universal, our common humanity. Upholding that common humanity has been the life work of Clarence Jones.

Dr. King famously said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". Bearing those words in mind, a decade ago, I went to Yad Vashem the Holocaust memorial in Israel. I came across an unforgettable quote that has remained with me ever since. Quote, "First the Nazis came from the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came to the trade unions, and I did not

speak out because I was not a trade unionist. And then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. And then they came from me, and there was no one left to speak for me." Let us never forget that we are all in this together. That we are all bound together by shared humanity. That we are all equal creations in the image of God. There is no one in America who knows the self-evident truth more deeply in his mind, feels it more deeply in the soul, and who has lived it more faithfully in his life for nearly a century than Clarence Jones. So on behalf of the people of the Bronx, I have the district pleasure of honoring Dr. Jones' roots in Riverdale, his role in America's greatest March, America's greatest speech, and America's greatest moral revolution and reconstruction.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" ROOT
ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a local hero on his 100th birthday. William "Bill" Root of East Lansing, Michigan, began serving his country in World War II and has never stopped, taking on various high level governmental and advisory positions over the course of his long and fruitful career, and devoting his life to working for global peace.

Born on September 20, 1923 in Boston, Massachusetts, it's not likely that a young Bill Root aspired to one day be named the "Grandfather of Export Controls," but he did know he wanted to use his life to make his Nation a stronger, better place. After graduating from Colorado College, Bill was spurred into action after the attack on Pearl Harbor and joined the United States Navy. There, he served as a radar maintenance officer in the Pacific Theater, and upon his honorable discharge from the Navy, Bill was in the first graduating class from what is now the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University where he received his Master's Degree along with a certificate from the Russian Institute. Around the same time, he married the love of his life, Constance Young. Over the course of their incredible 72 year marriage, the Roots would go on to raise four children, and those "roots" have spread with seven surviving grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Bill's first civilian job was with the Bureau of the Budget, where he worked from 1948 to 1950, before joining the State Department later that year. There he stayed for 33 years, serving as an economics officer in various United States embassies including Germany, Denmark, and Vietnam. Root learned years later that he was the only State Department employee stationed in Vietnam who filed a message protesting the U.S. invasion of Cambodia using the dissent channel that was formally established to communicate outside the normal chain of command. In 1976, he became director of the Office of East-West Trade at the State Department. He resigned from that position in 1983 in protest over inter-departmental deliberations about export control policy.

For the last 30 years, Bill has consulted on export controls, first from his home near Washington, D.C., and then, virtually, from East Lansing, Michigan, where he moved in 2015. In 1989 he co-authored the book, "United States Export Controls," which he updated regularly through 2013 and is still today considered the definitive volume on the issue. In recent years he has continued to provide expert commentary on export controls with respect to China, Russia, and global issues like the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. At 100, Bill is still widely regarded as a leading national expert on the topic.

Since leaving the federal government, Bill has pursued his passion for working for world peace by participating in the Friends Committee on National Legislation and other organizations with a global focus. For a full century, he has lived an extraordinary life of principled service, and continues to give back to the Nation and global community he so intricately understands and loves. As he now celebrates his 100th birthday, I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on this milestone and thanking him for his myriad contributions.

HONORING REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS LIEUTENANT SAMUEL WALDRON AND DRUMMER ARCHIBALD ARMSTRONG AS THEY RECEIVE PLAQUES IN SALINE'S OAKWOOD CEMETERY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Revolutionary War Veterans Lieutenant Samuel Waldron and Drummer Archibald Armstrong on the occasion of the laying of a plaque in their honor at Oakwood Cemetery located in Saline, Michigan by the Huron Valley Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Freedom is not free, and today we pause to remember two men who served their country during the Revolutionary War. Their service to our Nation at the time of its birth is worthy of commendation.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Lieutenant Waldron first enlisted in the Continental Army as a private in 1776. He was later promoted to First Lieutenant in the New Jersey Militia and served in this position for the remainder of the war. He died in Washtenaw County, Michigan in 1837 at the age of 75.

Archibald Armstrong was a native of New York City, New York. As a 10-year-old boy, he was taught by his father to be the drummer for his father's militia company. Although the minimum enlistment age was 16, exceptions were made for quality drummers. Archibald moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan where he passed away at the age of 82.

Both Lieutenant Waldron and Drummer Armstrong are remembered for their honorable military service and dedication to our Nation. They are just a few of the native and adopted Michiganders who fought for our country during the revolution. It is important for us to

honor the veterans of our community who fought for the freedom of our Nation, a value we continue to hold dear today. We are thankful for the path these soldiers laid out for past, present, and future Americans over two centuries ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the honorable men Lieutenant Samuel Waldron and Drummer Archibald Armstrong as they are memorialized in Saline, Michigan. We join with Americans everywhere in extending our thanks to the Huron Valley Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Ypsilanti Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Sarah Caswell Angell DAR for their work remembering these important men. Today and every day, we honor the brave patriots we lost in the fight for our independence. We are grateful for their military service and their willingness to fight for the freedom and liberty that we enjoy today.

CELEBRATING RAYMOND LOPEZ OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL NO. 444

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Raymond Lopez on being named "Knight of the Year" by the Knights of Columbus Council No. 444.

Raymond was born in New York City on September 18, 1941. After graduating from Harren High School, he worked in the city's Garment District. In 1960, Ray enlisted in the Army and served his country honorably for four years, one of which he served in Vietnam.

Upon returning home, Ray married the love of his life, Gloria, on June 27, 1964. He went on to work as a parking lot supervisor for the Museum of Natural History and LaGuardia Airport. Ray then began the position of railroad clerk for the New York City Transit Authority, before receiving a promotion to collecting agent on the money train.

Ray retired from the Transit Authority after 22 years of service in 1990. Ray then began working in the Hudson Valley at New York Stewart International Airport in New Windsor, New York.

Ray joined the Monsignor Henry O'Carroll Council No. 444 of the Knights of Columbus in Newburgh, N.Y. Council No. 444 was established on September 5, 1899, and currently has over 150 members.

Ray quickly moved up the ranks and became a third-degree knight and served Council No. 444 as Grand Knight from 2020 to 2022. This year, Council No. 444 is honoring Ray for his service to the Knights of Columbus by recognizing him as "Knight of the Year."

The Knights of Columbus Council No. 444 have worked tirelessly to support food pantries, disaster relief, assistance to the homeless in the community, vocations development, the Special Olympics, and many more worthy nonprofits. I am honored to recognize Raymond Lopez's many contributions he has made to the Council and our community.

In addition to his work at the Knight of Columbus, Ray is a dedicated husband to his wife, Gloria, and loving father to his 2 children, Annette and Raymond Jr. He is also the proud grandfather of 6 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Raymond Lopez. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his service to our country and our community.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW AUTHORITY OF THE TENNESSEE OLD-TIME MUSIC AND DANCE ASSOCIATION TO BESTOW THE TITLE OF THE NATIONAL BUCKDANCING CHAMPION

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a cultural staple in Middle Tennessee that has left an indelible mark on the history of the Volunteer State for over a century. Each year, communities across Tennessee unite in celebration of the rich tradition of rhythmic flatfoot buckdancing through the National Buckdancing Championship.

The annual National Buckdancing Championship has recently experienced a change of venue, with the Tennessee Old-Time Music and Dance Association now shouldering the responsibility of commemorating this time-honored tradition. Through their production of the Thomas Maupin Festival, affectionately known as MaupinFest, in Unionville, Tennessee, the Tennessee Old-Time Music and Dance Association has played a pivotal role in preserving this significant piece of American cultural heritage. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Uncle Dave Macon Days Association, who diligently oversaw the National Buckdancing Championship annually since 1986 when Congress entrusted them with this duty, up until 2019. Since its inception in 2019, the Tennessee Old-Time Dance Association has organized MaupinFest and has continued to bestow the title of National Buckdancing Champion on behalf of Uncle Dave Macon Days. In light of this transition in production, the Uncle Dave Macon Days Association has expressed their desire to transfer the responsibility for the National Buckdancing Championship permanently to the Tennessee Old-Time Music and Dance Association.

MaupinFest aims to pay tribute to Mr. Maupin's dance style, which stands as the quintessential representation of traditional Tennessee rhythmic flatfoot buckdancing, distinct from the more common clogging. Mr. Maupin's old-time buckdancing style merits preservation as a cherished Tennessee treasure. Therefore, I proudly announce that henceforth, the title of National Old-Time Buckdancing Champion will be conferred by the Tennessee Old-Time Music and Dance Association. This ensures that this historical American art form receives the recognition it so rightfully deserves.

HONORING VERA PUNKE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my constituent, Ms. Vera Punke, for turning 108 years old last month.

Vera was born on August 29, 1915. She celebrated her birthday with friends and family around, along with an abundance of Arlington dignitaries. Vera has been a highly successful businesswoman, community organizer, co-founder of the Woman's Youth League of Rhode Island, Den Mother, Brownie and Girl Scout Leader, Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother. She has been an exemplary volunteer at The Jefferson community and remains as active, engaged, energetic, and decisive as ever.

Vera always remains available to anyone needing a helping hand, a shoulder to cry on, a sympathetic listener to anyone just wanting to talk, and an inspiration to anyone who knows her life's story. She lives by her personal motto: "If I have helped ease one ache or pain, I have not lived in vain." Arlington is honored to celebrate her accomplished life and this milestone birthday.

HONORING KANKO ZONOU

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of

Kanko Zonou, my congressional staffer who has consistently served my office and the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District. Kanko has proven to be a very articulate young woman and shows great promise for her future endeavors. Kanko has assisted my office in various areas, such as legislative research, constituent outreach, and team management. She had demonstrated an excellent drive and a continuous willingness to learn.

Kanko Zonou was born in Lomé, Togo and raised in the state of Georgia. She is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Georgia State University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Science. At Georgia State University, she served as Women's Rights chair for the NAACP, and she received the Nell Hamilton Trotter Student Leadership Award for her service. During her junior year, she presented two research projects centered around economic issues at the Southern Political Science Association's 2022 annual conference. Kanko is currently a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Her experiences have empowered her to advocate for human rights, as well as social justice.

Upon transitioning from my office, Kanko will continue to work in legislation as she fights for justice.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kanko Zonou for her exemplary character, dedication to teamwork, and willingness to learn.

SALUTING THE CLEMENCEAU
HERITAGE MUSEUM**HON. ELIJAH CRANE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Clemenceau Heritage Museum for their unwavering dedication to preserving the rich history of Arizona's Verde Valley. Originally opened in November 1991 through the efforts of the Verde Historical Society, the museum showcases artifacts and pieces of historical significance that are indicative of the rich heritage of both our district and state.

Since 1991, the members of the Verde Historical Society have been committed to ensuring that our community's history is honored and maintained through the museum's educational services to the public. The Verde Historical Society's vision made the museum a reality and their continued faithfulness enables the history of Verde Valley to be appreciated by all residents of the valley today. The countless hours they devote to the upkeep of the museum is commendable, and through their work, the history of the region is kept alive.

The Museum's exhibits and displays have blessed our community with a steady reminder of where we came from and the factors, including mining, ranching, and farming, that empowered our society and economy to prosper.

I applaud the Verde Historical Society for their commitment to presenting the history of the region and for carrying the torch necessary for current and future generations to enjoy and benefit from our heritage.