

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HAYDEN STONE

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Hayden Stone of Woodland Park, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Hayden traveled to Greece, Italy, Austria, and Germany to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Hayden for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Hayden's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: ERIN GARCIA-ROBLES

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Erin Garcia-Robles as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Erin is a registered nurse who serves as a staffing supervisor for the Behavior Health Unit at Woodland Hospital. She works with patients who are struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues. She is a compassionate caregiver for suicidal patients and people who have been sexually abused. Erin manages intake for some of the most vulnerable patients, ensuring that doctors and staff know what care they need. She ensures that her patients receive proper placements and are connected with family members. She is recognized by her family, friends, and colleagues for her caring nature and determined attitude which she brings to every interaction. Her dedication to her patients, family, and friends is an inspiration to everyone who knows her.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to

honor and recognize Erin Garcia-Robles for her positive contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING COMPEER INTERNATIONAL

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I am honored to recognize an organization with a noble cause, Compeer International. For numerous years, Compeer has helped individuals who suffer from mental health problems by utilizing the power of friendship and small group mentoring services.

On this World Mental Health Day, Compeer International is marking their fifth decade of service to their community. Founded in Rochester, NY as a means to treat formerly institutionalized patients, Compeer has grown to be a multinational organization, offering services in Canada, the U.K., and Australia. Upon receiving the Presidential Recognition Award in 1982, they have never looked back; Compeer's ongoing mission to expand their services has proven incredibly successful.

After tireless efforts from countless advocates across our country, mental health issues are finally getting the attention they deserve. Mental health and substance abuse challenges impact thousands of Western New York families. It is imperative that our community leaders understand their respective roles in addressing these concerns and ensuring that proper resources are readily available. Adults and children, alike, suffer from a wide variety of mental health challenges, and it is through groups like Compeer that individuals can find the appropriate assistance. All ages are encouraged to take advantage of one-to-one programs, and their fifty-year history is a testament to the dedication of their leadership, staff, and volunteers. The events that our community has endured in recent years underscore the need to prioritize mental healthcare in Western New York. It can be confidently stated that Compeer's comprehensive programs are working to find solutions by creating a support system for our neighbors in need. It is my sincere honor to recognize Compeer's everimportant work over the last fifty years and express my gratitude for all of their future efforts as we continue to battle mental health challenges.

HONORING NORTHWEST INDIANA INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT SISTER JANE MARIE KLEIN

**HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the Northwest Indiana Indian Medical Association, which will be hosting its 41st Annual Gala on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at the Halls of Saint George in Schererville, Indiana. This year, the organization will present the prestigious Community Service Award to Sister Jane Marie Klein.

The Northwest Indiana Indian Medical Association was founded in 1983 with the goal of bringing together physicians and healthcare providers of Indian descent to foster personal and professional development and relationships. The organization supports numerous charitable endeavors and outreach programs within the surrounding communities.

For her lifetime of spiritual service and her unwavering commitment to the healthcare industry, Sister Jane Marie Klein is the recipient of the Community Service Award. As Chair of the Franciscan Alliance Board of Trustees, Sister Jane Marie has been an outstanding leader and an extraordinary asset to the spiritual and medical community throughout the region. During her tenure, Sister Jane Marie has held numerous positions and leadership roles within the Franciscan Alliance organization, including Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Michigan City's Saint Anthony Health and CEO of Saint Margaret Mercy Health in Hammond for the past ten years. Those who have worked with Sister Jane Marie can attest to her dedication to the organization's standard of excellence and consider her to be among the most significant people in Northern Indiana's medical community.

In addition to serving as Chair of the Franciscan Alliance Board, Sister Jane Marie gives her time and efforts to additional boards at Franciscan Alliance, including the Central Indiana Division, Western Indiana Division, Northern Indiana Division, South Suburban Chicago Division, and the Franciscan Holding Company. She is also a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. For her remarkable contributions to the medical and spiritual fields throughout Indiana and the region, Sister Jane Marie is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the Northwest Indiana Indian Medical Association on its 41st anniversary. I would also like to commend Sister Jane Marie Klein, recipient of the Community Service Award, who has selflessly devoted so much of her time and efforts to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and beyond.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING IRIS BARKETT

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Iris Barkett of Cañon City, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Iris traveled to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Iris for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Iris' many accomplishments.

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HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: JUNE MEJIAS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to recognize the contributions of June Mejias as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

June is a dedicated public servant and active member of the Benicia community. June's advocacy began with her efforts to understand the Crude by Rail issue and educate others on its importance to their region. She went on to serve on the Benicia Campaign Finance Subcommittee and meet with the Benicia Open Government Commission. She has served for many years with the League of Women Voters and would often volunteer to visit high schools and help register eligible students to vote. She was also selected by the City Council to serve for 3 years on the Benicia Parks and Recreation Commission. June continues to engage with all levels of government, advocating for issues that impact not only her, but the community at large. She consistently ensures that her voice and those of her peers continue to be heard. June is a role model of civic engagement for anyone looking to have an impact on the policies that impact them.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize June Mejias for her positive contributions to our community.

SUPPORT OF BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION CONDEMNING HAMAS TERRORIST ATTACK

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise in support of condemning the outrageous Hamas terrorist attacks that have resulted in the senseless deaths of Israelis, Palestinians, and more than 20 American citizens. Hundreds are missing and many are feared to be held hostage—including women, children, and even infants.

Savagely attacking and killing innocent civilians is never justified. These crimes must be unequivocally condemned as they are clear violations of international human rights law.

Hamas has a singular goal: to destroy Israel. Their attacks were not targeting the military or government; they were perpetrated against Israeli communities for the goal of destruction. Hamas uses fear, terror, and intimidation against Israelis and it uses the same tactics against the Palestinian people, putting targets on the backs of innocent people in Gaza. Nearly half of the population of Gaza are children—most having lived their entire lives under a brutal, devastating blockade that deprives them of basic human necessities and no prospect for a better future.

I have a solemn responsibility as a Member of Congress to shape policy. I have spoken out against governments, extremist groups, those exerting power over marginalized populations—whether they are our enemies, our allies, or within our own nation—and I always speak up for those suffering and in defense of human rights. The October 7 attack by Hamas was a gross violation of human rights. It crossed a red line.

This was a strategic, coordinated, multi-modal attack by Hamas. It leaves deeply concerning questions about what happened in the lead-up to this massacre and what the future holds. Any response must consider the innocent lives at stake. The United States must not choose to escalate conflict with a knee-jerk reaction of providing more weapons for an offensive that will certainly take the lives of more innocent civilians and children. The reports of casualties in Israel and Palestine are stunning, and I fear these numbers will only grow in the coming days.

This attack is not a far-away matter; it is hitting close to home. Mothers, fathers, the young, and the elderly—those near and far—are now living in unimaginable fear while mourning those they have lost. I am hearing from many Jewish constituents and community leaders who are in pain and who have loved ones among the injured, killed, or missing. I stand with them, I mourn with them, and I share their fear of what is to come.

My hope and my dream for the future is for every Israeli child and every Palestinian child to be tucked into bed at night by their parents without fear of bombings and perpetual violence. All people deserve safety and security—and in the wake of this heinous attack, the international community is in agreement that Hamas must be stopped. The only sustainable path forward is one where international human rights and international law are at the forefront and democratic ideals are upheld.

HONORING COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I rise to honor an organization in Florida's 4th District that exemplifies the spirit of compassion and service—Community Health Outreach.

For 35 years, they have been the cornerstone of hope for low-income, uninsured families in our northeast Florida community. Their tireless efforts have not only provided critical healthcare but also empowered countless families, including our brave U.S. Military Veterans, to overcome adversity.

Community Health Outreach is not just a healthcare provider; it's a beacon of sustainable change. They've woven a tapestry of support, offering resources, guidance, and a lifeline to those who need it most as they work to build a healthier society.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in recognizing this milestone and celebrating the unsung heroes within Community Health Outreach and all those they have touched.

May their legacy inspire us to uplift the vulnerable, to strengthen our communities, and to forge a brighter, healthier future for all Americans.

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RECOGNIZING JAYLYNN ARMILJO

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Jaylynn Armijo of Lakewood, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Jaylynn traveled to South Korea to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Jaylynn for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Jaylynn's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR: KAREN FREEMAN

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Karen Freeman as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Karen has spent the last five years establishing herself as a key leader in our community, after completing her studies in Leeds, England. Apart from upholding her duties as a priest at Grace Episcopal Church, she has devoted her time to several causes in the community. Primarily, she hosts regular neighborhood clean ups, an event at the annual National Night Out, and a health fair for the sake of keeping her neighbors and fellow community members informed. Karen has been described as an objective, well-prepared, spirited leader; these attributes are especially exemplified by her work with other local organizations. She works with Epiphany Church in Vacaville to prepare lunch for the unhoused and has led efforts to partner with Fairview Elementary School to provide school supplies, snacks, teacher breakfasts, and more. Her leadership, extensive acts of service, and immense contributions to the community are just some examples of how Karen continues to make a lasting impact in our district.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Karen Freeman for her positive contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND  
CONTRIBUTIONS OF LUCY MORGAN

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in celebration of the life of Lucy Morgan, a relentless journalist and advocate for the truth who passed away on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at the age of 82. Lucy Morgan worked to ensure that Florida lived up to its moniker the "Sunshine State" in the halls of power through public records, public meetings and "government in the sunshine." She helped hold powerful leaders accountable through news coverage of courthouses and the state capitol and by shining a light on corruption.

Lucy was born in Memphis, Tennessee on October 11, 1940, and grew up in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. At the age of 25, she moved to Crystal River, Florida. She was an avid reader and found herself visiting the library often. A local librarian noticed her passionate approach and provided a recommendation that eventually landed her a job as a local correspondent, marking her first step towards a lifelong career of uncovering the truth.

Her striking questions and fearless approach to journalism gained Lucy the recognition as a trustworthy and authentic reporter. She provided in-depth writings and updates from all corners of Florida. For nearly five dec-

ades, Lucy pursued the truth, keeping Florida lawmakers, lobbyists and public officials in check.

She gained national recognition in 1973 while working for the then St. Petersburg Times. While investigating corruption in Dade City, Lucy was charged with contempt of court and sentenced to a total of eight months in jail for refusing to name her sources of information. Her appeal to the case reached the Florida Supreme Court, in a victory not just for her freedom, but the ethical standards of journalism and the First Amendment of the Constitution. Though she regretted the notoriety the case brought to her and the paper, she acknowledged that it did lead to more people to trust her with sensitive information.

A decade later, her veracity and righteous reporting on Pasco County Sheriff John Short revealed his department's corruption and led to his removal from office by voters. Lucy's efforts were recognized in 1985 with the Pulitzer Prize for a distinguished example of investigative reporting within a newspaper's area of circulation by an individual or team, along with her colleague Jack Reed. Furthermore, this investigation and recognition catapulted her to the bureau chief position in Tallahassee for the St. Petersburg Times, a role she held for 20 years.

During her time as an investigative journalist for the St. Petersburg Times, now known as the Tampa Bay Times, Lucy informed Florida residents about corrupt office holders, sexual assault cases, drug smuggling and many more topics that required the trust of the community for information. Her approach was admired by colleagues and her pioneering experience served as role model to many young journalists. She extended her mentorship to many in the newsroom, especially women navigating challenging stories and their own career paths.

Lucy's lasting legacy in journalism extends to the people she mentored. She was a trailblazer, and her work broke the gender barrier built in the male dominated field, paving the way for women in journalism. Lucy nurtured and encouraged younger colleagues, teaching them how to be fearless and encouraging them to be bold. Her mentorship extended far beyond the newsroom, she guided colleagues in matters such as career changes, motherhood and more.

"She was one of the most fearless humans I think I have ever known," said Katie Schardl, one of Lucy's former colleagues. Among those who she mentored are reporters, editors and writers who now work for national newspapers such as The New York Times, The Washington Post and POLITICO. Carrie O'Brien remembers her as "a role model, a surrogate mother and a fiercely loyal advocate," further adding that "She [Lucy] took incredible joy and satisfaction in her reporters' triumphs. As much as she delighted in a good scoop, she loved it even more when it was one of her protégés doing the digging.

Lucy married Richard Morgan, also of the St. Petersburg Times who is one of her biggest fans and a husband ahead of his time. His abiding love and steadfast support and admiration to Lucy made him an advocate of her work. Lucy is survived by her husband, Richard, their children and grandchildren to whom I give my deepest sympathies.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Lucy's family and friends. She will be remembered for

her commitment to exposing the truth, holding public officials accountable and embracing the highest ethical standards of journalism. Her service, sacrifice and legacy must never be forgotten. Florida is grateful for her contributions and the legacy she leaves.

RECOGNIZING CITLALLI CUMPLIDO

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Citlalli Cumplido of Denver, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Citlalli traveled to the Czech Republic to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Citlalli for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Citlalli's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MICHAEL "MICKEY" O'KEEFE

**HON. LORI TRAHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the tremendous contributions, service, and legacy of Sergeant Michael "Mickey" O'Keefe, a retired Lowell Police Sergeant, United States Army Veteran, boxer, and Lowell legend who left an immeasurable impact on those who knew and loved him. He passed away peacefully on September 14, 2023.

Mickey was born in the City of Lowell in 1948. He attended Lowell High School where he met the love of his life, Donna, and the pair were married for 54 years. Together, they proudly raised their four sons, Shaun, Timothy, Brian, and Keith.

After high school graduation, Mickey proudly served his country in the United States Army, embarked on a successful boxing career, and joined the Lowell Fire Department for a short period of time before landing at the Lowell Police Department where his decorated career spanned three decades. During his thirty-four years at the Department, Mickey climbed the ranks and ultimately earned the title of Sergeant. His fellow police officers respected him

because of his integrity, leadership, and steadfast dedication to his team and the community they protected. Over the span of his career, Mickey was honored with several medals that reflected his heroic actions while wearing the badge. But staying true to his character, he would always humbly give credit to the people who worked alongside him rather than take it for himself.

Throughout his life, Mickey had a passion for fitness, specifically boxing. During his boxing career, he won countless matches, notably, a Silver Mittens and a Golden Gloves championship. But Mickey's real passion would lie in mentoring young people in Lowell. He knew the impact boxing had on him when he was young and dedicated himself to training young boxers, most notably "Irish" Mickey Ward. The devotion he showed to the sport and to the young people he trained was recognized by the Golden Gloves of America, which awarded him with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mickey was a fixture in the boxing community. "Irish" Mickey Ward credited him as the person who reignited his love for boxing and wouldn't allow him to quit. Mickey helped him train and win the World Boxing Union's Intercontinental light welterweight title in 1996. Because of Ward's remarkable career, Mark Walberg approached Mickey to play himself in the 2010 movie, "The Fighter", and from then on amongst his family he was dubbed "Hollywood Gramps". Throughout it all, Mickey remained the same down-to-earth person he had always been.

Mickey's love for the City of Lowell was unmatched. He and Donna were always looking for ways to contribute to their community. They welcomed anyone who was in need to their house with open arms and in turn touched countless lives throughout the years. They passed these traits of kindness, respect, and sense of community to their children and grandchildren. The Lowell community was fortunate enough to have had Mickey in their corner for so many years and he will be deeply missed.

Mickey O'Keefe will be remembered for his love for his family and friends, his kindness to those around him, his distinguished professional career, and his immense impact on the City of Lowell. My heart goes out to his loving wife, Donna, his four sons, Shaun, Timothy, Brian, and Keith, and the entire O'Keefe family during this difficult time. Mickey's legacy will live on through his loving family and all who had the honor of knowing him.

HONORING JEFFERSON COLLEGE'S  
60TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Jefferson College located in Jefferson County in Missouri, as the community celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

The Community College District of Jefferson County was approved by voters on April 2, 1963. Senator Earl Blackwell of Hillsboro sponsored Senate Bill Number Seven, which made possible the formation and financing of

public junior colleges in Missouri. Jefferson became the second junior college district in Missouri to be approved.

Seventeen months later, the first courses were offered at Hillsboro High School with 14 faculty members and 303 students. Jefferson College moved into its first permanent building on the Hillsboro campus in September of 1965 and held its first commencement in June of 1966, where 31 graduates received associate degrees.

In 1967, Jefferson College became the first community college in Missouri to be designated as an area vocational school. Today, in addition to the Hillsboro campus, the college has sites in Arnold and Imperial. Over 3,500 full and part-time students span 25 different fields of study, including education, nursing, and the liberal arts.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, please join me in wishing the community of Jefferson College a well-deserved congratulations on their 60th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JUSTINE THOMAS

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Justine Thomas of Westminster, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Justine traveled to Cyprus to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Justine for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Justine's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR: KATRINKA RUK

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Katrinka Ruk as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Katrinka is a dedicated and passionate leader who has touched the lives of countless

members of her community. Katrinka is described as a Bay Area native who has made a career out of improving the lives of working people. Professionally, she spent years working in the field of human resources as an HR Director for Geysers Peak and a global pharmaceutical company, and Regional HR Director for TriNet where she supported the growth of startups into thriving organizations. Katrinka has also helped grow the economy of Contra Costa County by serving for 20 years as director for the West Contra Costa Council of Business and Industries. Katrinka has also extensively given her time as a board member for Canine Guardian Assistance Dogs, an organization connecting fully trained service dogs with veterans who suffer from PTSD. She also served on the East Bay Board of the YMCA where she supported social programs and reviewed potential grants for the organization. Katrinka's years of work and volunteerism will be felt throughout Contra Costa County for years to come.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Katrinka Ruk for her positive contributions to our community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
DEBORAH MONAHAN

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to commend and honor Deborah "Deb" Monahan, of Norwich, Connecticut, on her retirement as the Executive Director of Thames Valley Community Council for Community Action. At the helm of TVCCA, Deb has led a crusade of over half-century, a personal mission to uplift the lives of those most vulnerable in southeast Connecticut. The impact of her tenure is of titanic proportions. Whether you go neighborhood by neighborhood or town-by-town, it is impossible to traverse New London County without finding some person or organization that has not been touched by Deb's kind and giving spirit. Her stewardship as Executive Director and CEO will be sorely missed and impossible to replace.

In 1973, Deb graduated with a bachelor's degree in childhood and family relations, setting the stage for her future of community service. Deb's degree was quickly put to use when, upon graduating, she was approached by TVCCA to serve as a case aid for early childhood issues. Little did she know at the time, she would transform and personify TVCCA's mission from the start of her career to finish. Soon thereafter, Deb found herself working in the agency's grants office where she continued a bottom-up journey of understanding the organization's innerworkings, a rare perspective that caused Deb to become such an effective, respected and well-rounded leader.

By 1976, Deb found herself in a leadership position as TVCCA's Women, Infants, and Children Program Director, where she worked with various external partners to provide effective support for those in need. In 1977, she became the assistant to then-Executive Director Gunderman and was named associate director in 1986. Her competence and dedication to the mission were properly recognized

when she was subsequently named TVCCA's Executive Director and CEO in 1998, a promotion which has bettered the lives of untold thousands.

Deb's career, and by direct extension the growth of TVCCA, has been defined by her eye for establishing partnerships, only to form them but to nurture them into long-term relationships. She has worked in conjunction with community institutions like Backus Hospital, United Community & Family Services, and municipalities throughout the southeastern region. Through these active relationships, Deb has crafted a robust social services network to care for residents of all creeds. She has served as a key member of the Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments, the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance, and too many other boards to count.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, Deb's legacy of good works is broad and wide, touching people of all ages and walks of life. Although there is no question that Deb's advocacy for her clients is undying, the population she most passionately helped were infants, toddlers and preschool kids. It is a testament to her dedication to our state and nation's future generations that even in her last few months as Executive Director and CEO, Deb has worked tirelessly to increase access to quality and affordable childcare services in our region by expanding TVCCA's childcare center in Groton, Connecticut. TVCCA's childcare and school readiness centers have blossomed during her tenure—now serving around 900 children with Deb's eyes on increasing services still.

On her long watch, Deb oversaw an unprecedented expansion of services offered by TVCCA. Leading with empathy and love, Deb solidified TVCCA's reputation as a real one-stop-shop for social services. She kept individuals housed through the agency's homeless prevention programs, warmed families through the winter with the energy assistance program, fought against food insecurity with the operation of the food and nutrition program, assisted the unemployed and underemployed find gainful careers—and that is just the beginning.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I count myself incredibly fortunate to work with civic leaders like Deb, who has worked so hard to create and grow social assistance programs I have sought to fund through my seat in Congress. As someone who counts himself as a friend, I can say she walks through her life with a rare authenticity. Her pure, passionate, empathetic presence in public service will be sorely missed. Although we are saddened by her departure, we can take solace in the knowledge that her legacy will continue through the institution which she has poured her life into. Words cannot do justice to the permanency of her life purpose. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask that my colleagues in this chamber join me in rightfully adding a layer to her already permanent cast.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
MEGAN RAPINOE

**HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor my constituent, Megan

Rapinoe, who is retiring from professional soccer after an inspiring 17-year career.

Over her distinguished career, Megan's athletic prowess and activism for equity have inspired Washington's 7th Congressional District and the world. Megan helped lead the United States to victory in two FIFA World Cups, received Olympic gold and bronze medals, and was named The Best FIFA Women's Player 2019. In addition to being a superstar on the field, Megan has courageously utilized her platform to advocate for social justice. She is an outspoken champion for equal pay and gender equality, knelt in solidarity with Colin Kaepernick in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, and continuously stands up for LGBTQ+ rights and other critical social justice issues. Through her sacrifice and hard work, the U.S. Soccer Federation now guarantees equal pay to men's and women's soccer teams and the state of women's soccer in the United States is in a much better place than when her career began.

As she enters retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Megan's accomplishments and service to our country. Her achievements on the field, coupled with her fearless and unapologetic advocacy, have set an incredible example for young athletes everywhere. She changed the way that not only little girls could see themselves in soccer, but she also showed everyone what it looks like to be who you are and to fight for the things you believe in. Her legacy will continue to inspire those in Washington's 7th Congressional District and beyond.

RECOGNIZING KATHERINA MOOK

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Katherina Mook of Golden, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Katherina traveled to South Korea to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Katherina for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Katherina's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR: MAJOR KAYLEIGH  
MIGALEDDI

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Major Kayleigh Migaleddi as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Kayleigh serves as the interim Chief for the 60th Air Mobility Wing Commander's Action Group and a Flight Nurse Evaluator for the 60th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Travis Air Force Base. From her first assignment at Nellis Air Force Base as a clinical nurse in the inpatient setting, to her current position where she is responsible for local and regional partnerships for twenty-eight thousand personnel, Major Migaleddi has proven that her leadership and exceptional dedication is unmatched. During Operation Allies Refuge, she was the Aeromedical Evacuation Team Lead at Hamid Karzai International Airport, where she and her team responded to the deadly Abbey Gate bombing in Kabul. Following the experience of seeing her fellow medics through this tragedy, she resolved to change the trajectory of training and mission readiness to better prepare her peers for combat operations. Kayleigh has also amassed 720 flight hours and 104 combat flight hours in Operations Enduring Freedom and Inherent Resolve and contributed vital efforts in the execution of the largest and fastest aeromedical evacuation movement in modern history. Under Kayleigh's leadership, her team won Team of the Quarter twice. Group Airmen of the Year, Squadron Aeromedical Technician Instructor of the Year, and her troop was selected to commission into the Interservice Physician Assistant Program. Kayleigh has also played a crucial role in coordinating countless events at Travis Air Force Base including the Warrior Event, Gold Star Family Ruck, and POW/MIA Week. Kayleigh is a valuable part of the Travis team, as well as the larger Solano Community.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Major Kayleigh Migaleddi for her positive contributions to our community.

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOMTAR'S ROCK HILL  
CONVERTING PLANT

**HON. RALPH NORMAN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to celebrate the thirty-five-year journey of Domtar's Rock Hill Converting Plant, a cornerstone of South Carolina's industrial and community landscape. Established on October 3, 1988, the Rock Hill plant marked Domtar's commitment to the Southeast's expansion. They constructed a paper mill in Bennettsville, South Carolina, and concurrently set up a converting plant at Rock Hill's Tech Park, complete with a rail spur for convenience.

Recognizing the importance of education and workforce development, Domtar partnered with York Technical College. They generously donated a commercial printing press, in addition to fostering skills among students and offering employment opportunities to graduates.

Starting with thirty employees and three machines producing 102 tons per day, the plant has grown monumentally since then. Today, it employs fifty-three individuals, operates eight machines, and boasts an annual capacity of 65,000 tons.

Over the past thirty-five years, the plant has received numerous safety awards, highlighting its dedication to ensuring a secure and healthy workplace for its employees. In 2021, the plant achieved an extraordinary milestone by being awarded twenty-five years without a lost-time injury, a significant accomplishment in the manufacturing industry.

The Rock Hill Converting Plant is not just about business; it's about community. The plant and its employees regularly contribute to nonprofit organizations, both large and small, demonstrating their commitment to investing in the welfare of the area they call home. The employees have generously donated their time and energy to support education, sustainability, and humanitarian aid initiatives, further cementing the plant's role as a responsible corporate citizen.

Domtar's Rock Hill Converting Plant stands as a beacon of growth, safety, and community engagement. Over the past thirty-five years, this facility has not only played a vital role in the local economy, but has also become a source of inspiration and pride for the South Carolina community. It is with great honor that I recognize the accomplishments of the Rock Hill Converting Plant and look forward to witnessing their continued success in the years to come.

**RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK**

**HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse. New York.

Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse originated in 1923 as The Bishop's House of Charity to do "all the things in the field of charity which should be done but which parishes alone cannot perform." Since that time, the agency has expanded to become six Catholic Charities area offices serving the people of Central New York: Catholic Charities of Broome County, Catholic Charities of Chenango County, Catholic Charities of Cortland County, Catholic Charities of Oneida and Madison Counties, Catholic Charities of Onondaga County, and Catholic Charities of Oswego County. The six agencies, collectively known as Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, now serve as the operating agency of the Diocese's community services and human development programs providing services to people in need, regardless of their faith, ethnic origin, or social standing.

The six Catholic Charities agencies are dedicated to caring for those in need while promoting human development, collaboration, and the elimination of poverty and injustice by offering service components and delivery strategies tailored to best serve the people living in their service area. These services include emergency services, food pantries, permanent supportive housing, emergency shelter services, refugee resettlement services, parent education and support, Pre-Kindergarten, residential services, elderly services, and case management services. Each of the six Catholic Charities organizations has collaborated and continues to collaborate and coordinate with state and local government and other area nonprofit agencies to maximize available resources and the impact on the individuals they serve. Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse expect to continue their dedication to caring for those in need for the next 100 years.

I commend Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse on the occasion of their 100th anniversary and recognize their contributions to the well-being of the people of New York's 22nd congressional district and beyond.

**RECOGNIZING AARON CADAYONG**

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Aaron Cadayong of Littleton, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Aaron traveled to the Philippines to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Aaron for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Aaron's many accomplishments.

**HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: ELEANOR THOMPSON**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contribu-

tions of Eleanor Thompson as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Eleanor has been an active member of her community for over fifty years and continues her work volunteering with her church and youth throughout Richmond. She founded Social Progress Inc. and ran a Youth Resource Center that served 30 young people in the community. While serving as the CEO of Social Progress Inc, she ensured that young men living in the Iron Triangle were able to safely get to school by driving them herself. Over the years, Eleanor has distributed hundreds of backpacks, toys, and scholarships to youth in need. She also founded the yearly Fourth of July Parade and Festival in Richmond that serves to bring the community together. She is passionate about pushing for change regarding homelessness and public safety and has been awarded for her community leadership with the Richmond Police Commission, the Anti-Drug Task Force, Parks and Recreation Commission, the Crime Prevention Team, and the 7th Street Crime Watch Team, among others. Eleanor is a shining example of a compassionate and dedicated community leader.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Eleanor Thompson for her positive contributions to our community.

**HONORING COACH HAMPTON  
"HAMP" SMITH**

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize a loving husband, iconic coach, dedicated community servant and dear friend of longstanding, Coach Hampton "Hamp" Smith. Sadly, Coach Smith passed away on Monday, October 2, 2023. A homegoing service to celebrate his remarkable life was held on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at the Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

The genesis of the life of Coach Hampton Smith began on October 1, 1934, in Greenwood, Mississippi where he was born to the union of the late Richard Smith and Fannie Hampton Smith. A product of the Leflore County, Mississippi school system, he graduated from Threadgill High School and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from Mississippi Valley Vocational College (Now Mississippi Valley State University) in 1957. From 1957 to 1959, Coach served honorably in the United States Army.

Coach Smith began his legendary coaching career in 1959 as an assistant coach at Mississippi Valley Vocational College. He then coached at McComb High School and J.E. Johnson High School before serving as assistant football coach at Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial College during 1969 and 1970 while earning his Master's degree. Coach Smith then began the first of two legendary stints at Albany State College in 1971 through 1976, went back to Mississippi Valley for 1977 to 1978, only to return to Albany State as an assistant coach from 1980 to 1981. He then became head coach for the Albany State Golden Rams from 1982 to 1999. Multi-talented and multi-faceted, Coach Smith also

served as Albany State baseball coach from 1981 to 1983, compiling a record of 46–37–1.

Overall, during his career in coaching, he compiled an impressive record of 157–90–4; he made 5 NCAA D–II Playoff appearances and led Albany State to 9 SIAC Championships. He was inducted in the Albany State University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004 and the SIAC Hall of Fame in 2014.

Coach Smith's impact was felt well beyond the athletic field. He was more than just a coach. He helped shape the character of generations of young men and women at Albany State and helped shape the character of his community through his active civic engagement in local, state and national politics. He strongly encouraged people to exercise their duty to vote in every election.

Coach Smith accomplished much in his life but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and love and support of his late wife, Charlene Johnson Smith. This union lasted for 60 years until Charlene's passing in April of 2022.

On a personal note, Coach Smith was my friend and supporter for 30 years. For his loyalty, support and wise counsel, I will be forever grateful.

Coach Hamp Smith was a Hall of Fame Coach and a Hall of Fame human being. To God be the Glory for his extraordinary life and legacy.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in paying tribute to Coach Hampton Smith and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and all who mourn his loss. Moreover, we pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

RECOGNIZING TURKISH REPUBLIC DAY AND THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, the people of Türkiye and Turkish Americans celebrate Turkish Republic Day every year on October 29th. This important date commemorates when Türkiye in 1923 became a republic thanks to the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. This October 29th is a special celebration because it marks 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye.

While Anatolia, the home of the Republic of Türkiye, has been a cradle of civilizations for millennia, Türkiye has transformed from its ancient history to the modern skylines of Ankara. The progress the Turkish people have made over the past century is a testament to their resilience, determination, and spirit.

The Republic of Türkiye has historically been a strong and reliable ally of the United States thanks to its founding principles of democracy, secularism, and equality. Türkiye boasts the second largest military in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and is allied with the United States on key issues of counterterrorism, energy diversification, secur-

ing the global supply chains, and drug and human trafficking prevention.

I am proud to recognize the rich tapestry of Turkish-American contributions to the United States. Turkish-Americans have made important strides in several fields, including academia, business, medicine, arts, and culture. Turkish-Americans have enriched our society with their traditions, cuisine, and heritage. These contributions are especially ever present in New Jersey's Ninth Congressional district, with the largest Turkish immigrant community in the United States centered around the thriving Little Istanbul in South Paterson.

The Turkish-American community is an important bridge to strengthen the understanding and friendship between our two nations. As I reflect on Türkiye's 100th Republic Day, I hope everyone will celebrate the shared values and interests that bind our nations. I congratulate, Türkiye, on their centenary, and I thank them, Turkish-Americans, for their enduring contributions to the United States.

RECOGNIZING AISHA OZASLAN

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Aisha Ozaslan of Golden, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Aisha traveled to South Korea to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Aisha for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Aisha's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: COLONEL ELIZABETH APTEKAR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Colonel Elizabeth Aptekar as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Elizabeth serves as the Commander of the 60th Mission Support Group at the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base. She leads a 1,900-member group that provides support to three wings and more than fifty mission partners. Her team rapidly mobilized support for 104 nations, readied 3,000 missions, and executed 2,000 deployments and seven Presidential Support packages which empowered six Combatant Commands to enable diplomatic and economic ties globally. Locally, she oversaw 54 construction projects totaling \$137 million which facilitated the KC-46 aircraft activation at Travis Air Force Base. She also guided a \$208 million Defense Health Agency contracting transition strategy for the Air Force's largest hospital, saving \$48 million and harnessing \$15 million for other critical priorities. She also leveraged Defense and hybrid energy initiatives positioning \$20 million toward alternative energy, fuel resources, and electric vehicle infrastructure. Elizabeth has also worked to integrate Travis AFB with the surrounding community, organizing meetings between base and city leaders and fostering support for initiatives focused on infrastructure and quality of life improvements. Demonstrating her commitment to Airmen, her team's 90 percent execution rate of resiliency funds was No. 1 in the Air Force, ensuring Team Travis Airmen and Families across 77 units were immersed in surrounding community activities. Elizabeth's work has improved quality of life for all members of the Travis AFB community, and her engaged leadership, service to others, and commitment to excellence is noted and celebrated.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Elizabeth Aptekar for her positive contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING ALMOND ROCA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I would like to take a moment to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Brown & Haley's invention of their flagship candy, Almond Roca, on October 10, 2023.

My district is home to vibrant towns and thriving small businesses—but none so sweet as Brown & Haley, a confectionary company founded by two friends, Harry Brown and JC Haley, in 1912 in the City of Tacoma, Washington.

In 1923, they invented their signature candy: the Almond Roca, an iconic, log-shaped crunchy toffee covered in chocolate and crushed almonds. Almond Roca traveled with our troops in World War II, was carried by Sir Edmund Hillary during his Everest expeditions, and today is sold in over 60 countries.

One hundred years later, Brown & Haley produces Almond Roca using the same recipe, the same ingredients, and even in the same plant in Tacoma—a converted shoe factory purchased in 1919. Brown & Haley remains a family business with over 200 employees and today produces over three million pieces of Almond Roca.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I am thrilled to acknowledge Brown & Haley's enduring legacy in Tacoma and the 100 years of joy that

Almond Roca has brought not just to our neck of the woods, but across the world.

RECOGNIZING AUBREY MILLER

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Aubrey Miller of Arvada, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Aubrey traveled to South Korea to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Aubrey for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Aubrey's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: JAMEELAH HANIF

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Jameelah Hanif as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Jameelah is a community organizer, family advocate, and champion for children. She is the Founder, CEO, and Executive Director of Watch Me Grow, Inc, a non-profit organization that provides resources and training for parents. Jameelah facilitates the Parent Leadership Training Institute to help parents advocate for their children and families. She has been a small business owner for 10 years, providing quality childcare and family services to over 150 children. Jameelah has also been the Chair of the Solano County Local Child Care Planning Council and the Solano County Licensed Family Child Care Association. She has a degree in Child Development and Family Services, and completed the Solano County Parent Leadership Training Institute, Leadership Vallejo, and EmergeCA programs. Since the beginning of 2022, Ms. Hanif has organized monthly youth-led community clean-ups to expose our youth to community service and to develop community pride, attracting over 350 participants. Ms. Hanif is currently the

Vallejo leader of All Children Thrive California initiative, a community-led movement working towards creating protective community environments that allow all children to thrive. Jameelah has been a strong voice for children and families in Vallejo and with her passion for this work she will continue to expand her advocacy locally and regionally.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Jameelah Hanif for her positive contributions to our community.

PAYING REMEMBRANCE TO AIDEN ORTIZ ON THE OCCASION OF HIS PASSING

**HON. JAY OBERNOLTE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is with a heavy heart I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Aiden Ortiz, who was tragically struck and killed by a vehicle at age twelve on September 25, 2023. His family, friends, and community are devastated by this sudden loss. A sixth grader at Melva Davis Academy of Excellence. Aiden Ortiz was known as a selfless, caring son and friend to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

As a father of two myself, it is nearly impossible to imagine losing one's child. I treasure every moment with my sons, and losing a child so suddenly is every parent's greatest fear.

Aiden was caring and always put others ahead of himself. According to his baseball coach, Rodney McNealy, Aiden has been a part of the league since Tee-ball and made a name for himself in the Majors Division of the Adelanto Little League, where he played for the Rockies last spring. Aiden was a true sportsman whose passion for baseball and life was contagious.

While Aiden's life was tragically cut short, he made a tremendous impact on every life he touched. Aiden is survived by his mother Allyssa, his stepfather, Alex, and his two siblings. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with Aiden's family as they navigate this difficult loss.

I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning Aiden's passing and celebrating his life.

CELEBRATING THE ANNUAL SCARECROW FESTIVITIES OF THE CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in recognition of the Chester Historical Society's annual scarecrow celebration in Chester, New Hampshire. Each year, as the weather cools and the leaves fall, hundreds of new faces appear in the town of Chester as residents decorate scarecrows in support of the Chester Historical Society. These stylized scarecrows represent everything from pop cul-

ture icons to historical figures and local heroes, but together they tell the story of a small town celebrating community and a beloved tradition.

From scarecrows depicting Paul Revere on horseback to a Star Trek-inspired Taylor Swift, each scarecrow is a unique expression of the creativity of Chester residents. For 14 years, this celebration has served as an opportunity for residents to showcase their artistic skills with money raised from the sale of scarecrow kits supporting the efforts by the Historical Society to promote the history of the town and continuous education about local culture. Along Routes 102 and 121, hundreds of scarecrows line the street demonstrating that the Chester Historical Society succeeds in spreading history and happiness across town.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate the Chester Historical Society for preserving this cherished tradition and to commend them on the work they have done to educate town residents on local culture. I look forward to a continued partnership with the town of Chester, and I cannot wait to see the creativity displayed in this year's crop of scarecrows.

RECOGNIZING AUDREY BULLER

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Audrey Buller of Arvada, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Audrey traveled to Zambia to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Audrey for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Audrey's many accomplishments.



HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR: JANET SCOLL JOHN-  
SON

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Janet Scoll Johnson as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Janet is an active and determined community advocate for environmental justice. She has served in many roles as part of her advocacy and community service. She has served for nine years as the co-coordinator of the Sunflower Alliance, which works to protect the health and safety of all Bay Area communities affected by toxic pollution and climate change. Janet also served for four years as the co-chair of the Richmond Shoreline Alliance. She has advocated for a full cleanup of toxic sites, for the preservation of Point Molate, and for public awareness of the dangers of sea level rise. Janet was a member of the Richmond-San Pablo AB-617 Community Air Monitoring Steering Committee and a lead organizer for No Coal in Richmond, a grassroots organization that works to prevent coal and petroleum coke from being shipped through the Levin-Richmond Terminal in an effort to prevent toxic dust from contaminating local air, water, and soil in nearby neighborhoods. Thanks to Janet's successful advocacy, a land-use ordinance to phase out a coal and petroleum coke handling and storage at a private terminal in the Port of Richmond was passed.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Janet Scoll Johnson for her positive contributions to our community.

COMMEMORATING DAVID AND PAT  
HARTLINE DAY

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in commemoration of the David and Pat Hartline Day.

David is a retired LTC, U.S. Army, best-selling author and past State Commander of the American Legion. David has invested over 50 years of his life assisting veterans and their

families with the problems they face. He has been nominated for the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his service to this country, its veterans and youth programs. He been named veteran of the year by the Governor of Alabama and was proclaimed a super citizen by TBS television station.

Pat is a retired registered nurse with over 50 years of service. She is actively involved with the American Legion Auxiliary. Pat served with the American Heart Association for a number of years, where she taught principles of heart disease as well as CPR to professionals, students, and communities.

David and Pat have raised four children, ten grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. They currently reside on the farm that has been in the family since 1840.

The towns of Centre, Cedar Bluff, Leesburg, Gaylesville, and Sand Rock declared Saturday, October 7, 2023 as David and Pat Hartline Day.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, please join me in commemorating David and Pat Hartline Day. I thank them for their service to our Nation, our communities, and our veterans.

RECOGNIZING TIFFANY LYNN  
CAVER-PUGH

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Tiffany Lynn Caver-Pugh, a loving mother and grandmother who passed away in her home on August 25, 2023. Tiffany was a character of devotion to kindness and spirituality.

Born in Buffalo on March 11, 1978. Tiffany called herself a Buffalo native. As the youngest of four siblings. Tiffany's firm belief in doing what was right was exemplified in frequent spirited debates with her siblings. Her devotion to the Church placed morals at the forefront of her person. Baptized at a young age at the first Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Tiffany, along with her mother and siblings, later became founding members of Free Spirit Missionary Baptist Church under Reverend Boyd and Careathers. An active member of the Free Spirit Missionary Baptist Church until her passing, Tiffany exemplified a lifelong commitment to church service.

Tiffany, through her determined and wise personality, held herself and others to high moral standards. As her favorite saying was "What would Jesus do", she found herself

working for Aspire of Western New York and People Incorporated, two non-profit organizations dedicated to helping those with developmental disabilities lead lives integrated in the general community. Tiffany joined Aspire in 2006 during a time of expansion, with the organization seeking to represent her own life's goals: to care for those who need it. As a Buffalo native, she cared for her community through her work in the social work field. She passed shortly after her advance to management in 2021.

Tiffany is survived by a large family, including her new granddaughter whom she affectionately called "P," "CinnaBun," and "Honey Bun." I invite all present to join me in recognizing Tiffany, who was devoted as ever to family, morality, and care until the end.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR: ELIZABETH HOFFMAN

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Elizabeth Hoffman as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Elizabeth is the Executive Director of Rebuilding Together Solano County, an organization that provides home rehabilitation services and hosts community volunteer workdays. Her tireless work has improved the quality of life for low-income families, veterans, and disabled individuals in our district. She coordinates thousands of volunteers who help build low-income housing and community centers. This year, she has led home improvement efforts to help low-income communities and veterans' widows. She helped distribute over 2,000 Disaster Safe at Home Kits to low-income veterans, seniors, and disabled households. Elizabeth partnered with local government and community volunteers to install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, assemble raised garden beds, and distribute more than 950,000 pounds of food. Her dedication to helping low-income individuals, veterans, seniors, and disabled residents throughout Solano County is unparalleled.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Elizabeth Hoffman for her positive contributions to our community.