

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DIABETES MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCY McBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise during National Diabetes Month to recognize the monumental impact my plan to cap the cost of insulin at \$35 per month for seniors has had on the lives of millions.

There is no time off when you live with diabetes. It is a constant, ever-present disease that influences every aspect of your life.

Those born with diabetes live their entire lives checking their blood sugar every other hour, and they must constantly be wary of what they eat, what they drink, and what they must monitor to survive.

Almost 40 million Americans live with diabetes. Over a million of them are in Georgia alone.

Black Americans are 60 percent more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes and twice as likely to die from it.

Many of those who live with this chronic disease must take insulin every day to survive, and even still, it remains the seventh leading cause of death in our country.

In 1920, before insulin was discovered, it would have been exceptional for diabetic patients to live longer than a year or two.

But for over 100 years, the discovery of insulin has saved lives, and has remained the most effective treatment for all those living with this chronic disease.

We have seen this life-saving medication get further and further out of reach for those families who need it.

Why is it that in the richest country in the history of the world, children must watch their grandmothers and grandfathers ration the very drug that helps to keep them alive, just to get by?

My bill, which took effect at the start of this year, caps this life-saving drug at just \$35 a month for our seniors, a step that lowers their overall prescription drug costs and saves lives.

I thank my colleagues for convening this Special Order Hour to bring awareness to the gravity of the legislation we have passed for the American people and the need to continue this vital work.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO AND TREASURED TEAM MEMBER RYAN McDERMOTT

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Ryan McDermott. Ryan was an advocate for all North Texans. He had a talent for reaching

out to new people and organizations while truly valuing each person he met. One of his new projects was to establish constituent services expos at senior centers across DFW so he could meet people where they were and offer them help with Social Security, Medicare, or other services.

Always offering support and assistance to everyone he met, his enthusiasm showed what a truly noble soul he possessed. As an incredible advocate for our North Texas Job Fair, Ryan recruited the most new businesses of anyone on staff. His work to make the North Texas Job Fair a tremendous success connected people who needed new job opportunities with employers who were thrilled to have new workers. Ryan's efforts changed people's lives for the better.

As a member of Team Van Duyné, Ryan was always there to help others with all projects and shoulder responsibilities that made each of our days a little easier. Ryan tragically passed away on October 24, 2023, and will be sorely missed by so many.

I am forever grateful to Ryan for his incredible service to North Texas and all those whose lives he touched. We ask for prayers for his family and to remember him as the incredible man he was.

CELEBRATING BAPS SWAMINARAYAN SANSTHA DIWALI

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to celebrate the joyous occasion of Diwali on November 12, 2023 and share our heartfelt appreciation for BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha Diwali. The Festival of Lights stands as a beacon of hope, faith, and the triumph of good over evil, sharing its enlightening messages of positivity and communal unity.

The significance of Diwali extends far beyond its luminous festivities; it represents a time for communities to come together, reflect on the values of compassion and righteousness, and spread the light of joy and goodwill. The Mandir's steadfast commitment to upholding the traditions and values of Diwali serves as an exemplary beacon of spiritual enlightenment and community service.

As we embrace the festivities of this occasion, let us cherish the timeless wisdom embedded in Diwali's celebration, and let its radiant light guide us toward a path of unity, compassion, and prosperity.

We are eager to join hands with the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in welcoming our community to celebrate Diwali, to revel in its rich cultural heritage, and to partake in the collective spirit of joy and harmony that this festival embodies.

May the divine blessings of Diwali illuminate our hearts and homes, and may the ensuing year be filled with prosperity, peace, and spiritual fulfillment for all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HOBBS HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Hobbs High School Boys Soccer team.

On Saturday November 11, the Hobbs High School Eagles won the New Mexico AAAAA State Soccer championship. The championship was their first in 26 years. This capped off an amazing unbeaten season with 23 wins and a national ranking. The state final against Atrisco Heritage Academy was a thrilling game. It couldn't have been closer. The game was tied after both regular gameplay and overtime—but our Eagles prevailed 3–2 in penalty kicks. Congratulations to first-year coach Reyes Marquez and the entire Eagles team for a stellar season.

I include in the RECORD the names of every member of the Hobbs High School Boys Soccer team:

Fabian Astorga, Jordan Barron, Juan Caamano, Juan Camacho, Diego Castanon, Zander Castillo, Joshua Chavez, Josue Davila, Azael De La Cruz, Franklin Ferrufino Lagos, Eliud Hernandez, Humberto Hernandez, Jorge Martinez, Andrik Morales, Raul Morales, Omari Patton, Brandon Rodriguez, Dominique Salas, Adrian Sanchez, Alexis Sanchez, and Nathan Villalobos.

Let's also not forget the incredible work of Coach Reyes Marquez, Assistant Coach Esteban Sotelo, Assistant Coach Chris Middleton, Assistant Coach Melvon Anders, Assistant Coach Louie Vega, Manager Haskel Nguyen, and Athletic Programs Director Brenda Wilson for their mentorship and the program they have created.

The Eagles should be proud of their accomplishments. This is the first state championship for any school in Southern New Mexico in the AAAAA classification since 2013. Their hard work and perseverance should be commended and applauded.

I often say, small places can do big things. And the Eagles have proven how much our beloved rural communities can achieve once again.

Go Eagles.

HONORING TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY WALL OF HONOR, MILITARY & VETERANS TRIBUTE WALK AT PFLUGER FOUNDATION

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense pride and gratitude that I join in honoring the November 17, 2023 dedication of the new Texas Tech University Wall of Honor,

• 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.

Military & Veterans Tribute Walk at Pfluger Fountain. The names of Texas Tech alumni who fought in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Iraqi and Afghanistan Wars, and others, can now be found at the memorial.

This powerful tribute encapsulates the unwavering commitment and sacrifices of our military service members and veterans. It stands as a testament to Texas Tech's commitment to honor and remember the generations of Texas Tech military service members and veterans who have served to protect and defend our freedom.

As Texas Tech reaches its centennial milestone, I commend Texas Tech leadership, the Texas Tech Alumni Association, and the Texas Tech Military & Veterans Alumni Network for this heartfelt recognition of the veterans who have played an integral role in the 100-year history of the university.

May this memorial serve as a perpetual reminder of the courage and selflessness embodied by our Texas Tech military and veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE LOWER FOX
DEMONSTRATION FARMS 10TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth anniversary of the Lower Fox Demonstration Farms (Fox Demo Farms) Network and to celebrate its success in expanding the adoption and implementation of conservation farming practices throughout the Lower Fox River Basin.

Fox Demo Farms was the first of its kind in the Great Lakes region. It was created through a collaborative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Brown County, and four producers in the Lower Fox River Watershed of Northeast Wisconsin and funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Fox Demo Farms set out to demonstrate the effectiveness and adaptability of conservation practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation, control phosphorus runoff, and address other nonpoint source pollution issues.

To appreciate the significance of the Fox Demo Farms' success, it is helpful to understand the challenges of the region. Surrounded by a rural landscape of forests and farms, the Lower Fox River basin, like many in the Great Lakes region, encompasses varied weather, geology, topography, and soil types that pose challenges in preventing eroded sediment and nutrients from entering the Lower Fox River, the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

The Lower Green Bay and Fox River region was designated an Area of Concern (AOC) under the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. High phosphorus levels fuel hypoxia in the bay, resulting in dead zones and fish kills. Reducing the amount of phosphorus and sediment leaving agricultural lands plays an important role in efforts to delist the Lower Fox as an AOC. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was the catalyst for NRCS and Brown County leaders to partner with farmers

to adopt, maintain, and expand leading-edge conservation strategies that improve soil health and reduce erosion.

Since its founding in 2013, Fox Demo Farms has stayed true to its mission, ensuring growers have the opportunity and resources for peer-to-peer education about experimental and innovative conservation farming practices.

Even more notable is Fox Demo Farms's success in fulfilling its vision to create a culture that encourages collaborative efforts to restore soil health, reduce runoff pollution, improve water quality, and support a strong regional economy.

During the past ten years, through its field days, roundtables, promotions, and social media platforms, Fox Demo Farms generated enthusiasm for new conservation farming practices. The Fox Demo Farms partnership with NRCS grew from four producers and Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department to eight producers, their crop consultants, land and water conservation departments at both Brown and Outagamie counties, Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District (NEW Water), and the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Moreover, the collaborative work and success of Fox Demo Farms inspired the expansion of demo farms networks across Wisconsin to seven networks with more than 30 farms spanning 17 counties. Demonstration farms networks are also active in New York and Ohio, with one gearing up to launch in Indiana next year.

The Fox Demo Farms has created opportunities for farmers to meet and build relationships with other farmers, which helped transfer knowledge throughout the watershed. The work by Fox Demo Farms has been pivotal in transitioning farmers from being on the cutting edge of innovative practices and working in silos, to community conservation where farmers and organizations work together toward solutions.

Mr. Speaker, join me in thanking the farmers and partners of Fox Demo Farms for their leadership and perseverance in elevating the value of conservation farming practices and congratulating them on their remarkable achievements. I am enthusiastic about their continued leadership and success in engaging more farmers across the Great Lakes Region to adopt conservation farming practices.

RECOGNIZING THE HOBBS HIGH
SCHOOL CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION CENTER

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Hobbs High School Career and Technical Education Center (CTECF) located at Hobbs High School.

The Hobbs High School CTECH program is one of the premier technical education high school programs in the entire nation. In 2023 alone, CTECH received numerous awards, including being named one of the top 10 high schools in the entire Nation for NC3 certification.

The program prepares the next generation of highly-skilled workers in an array of indus-

tries and fields, including transportation, manufacturing, construction and architecture, energy, information technology, culinary, and hospitality.

Educators and community members alike should be proud of their school and the CTECH program, not only for these accomplishments but also for the lasting impact that the program will have on their community and New Mexico as a whole.

Serving students since 2022, this program will create opportunities for countless New Mexicans to secure good-paying and high-demand jobs far into the future. These students will build our economy, they will build vibrant communities, they will build families that I hope stay in our beloved New Mexico. Thank you to the wonderful staff, administrators, and teachers who have made this program such a gem in our beloved state.

Yet another example of how small places can do big things and a nod to the innovation and drive of our beloved New Mexico communities.

REMEMBERING CLAY MATHILE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor and pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Clay Mathile, a philanthropist, community leader, and businessman from my Congressional district, who passed away on August 26, 2023.

Clay Mathile was a pillar of the Dayton community. He moved to Dayton in 1970 to begin work with lams Food Company, a producer of premier pet food products. Clay played an influential role in growing the lams brand and company, became part-owner in 1975, and fully took over ownership when Paul lams retired in 1982.

Throughout the next 17 years, Clay led lams to be a world leader in dog and cat nutrition. Equally important as enriching the lives of pets was his intention to enrich the lives of the individuals who worked at lams. Clay deeply believed that when people were fulfilled at work, it sparked a ripple effect that uplifted not just those individuals, but their families and communities. He was a man who empowered people to do their best work, created opportunities for their learning and growth, and ultimately helped people experience personal fulfillment.

Clay shepherded lams to become a leader in the pet food industry, and eventually sold the company to Proctor & Gamble. When the sale was finalized, Clay distributed \$100 million to the company's employees, giving back to those who made lams' success possible. He also committed \$100 million to fund community projects in the Dayton area, investing in Dayton's future generations.

Clay Mathile's philanthropic efforts were widespread across the Miami Valley and his generous legacy echoes still today, carried on by his family. The Mathile Family Foundation has invested more than \$500 million in grants to local organizations that focus on children, families, and education. Clay also founded Aileron, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing small business leaders across the county, which hosts more than 15,000 business leaders every year on their campus just north of Dayton in Tipp City, Ohio.

The life and service of Clay Mathile have not gone unnoticed by his fellow Daytonians. Clay was a prominent businessman and philanthropist, recognized as the Citizen Legion of Honor award winner by the Presidents Club of Dayton in 2014, and the Maureen Patterson Regional Leader Award in 2019 by the Dayton Development Coalition. However, these titles meant little in comparison to Clay's role within his family as a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

I join the entire Miami Valley in mourning the loss of a remarkable man who uplifted countless others through his career and philanthropy. Dayton, the state of Ohio, and our country has lost an icon, and I have lost a friend. My heartfelt condolences are with Clay's wife Mary Ann, his children Cate and Don Laden, Tim and Lynn Mathile, Mike and Michelle Mathile, Tina Mathile, Jennifer and Pat Prikkel, his 15 grandchildren and their families; and his one great-grandchild.

HONORING MS. LORRAINE EGAN

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a Crystal Lake, Illinois native, Lorraine Egan, for her service in the United States Navy.

Following the unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Lorraine proclaimed that she would be "joining the Navy," following in the footsteps of her father who had served in WWI. On December 8, just the day after the attack, her father took her to the Navy's recruitment center. Lorraine entered the Navy as part of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) program, and in her words "learned to be tough in a gentle way," which she said was necessary to push back against some of the men who were less supportive of women being in the military. She was among the first 200 women to join the Navy.

The Navy sent Lorraine to Hunter College in New York where she attended nursing school before being sent to complete basic training at Naval Station Great Lakes in Lake County, Illinois. Lorraine was then deployed to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and was involved in surgeries and delivering babies, parts of the job she loved the most. Her daughter notes that Lorraine enjoyed almost every aspect of the job, recalling that "she just loved all the work."

Former service members call her an inspiration. as not only did she have to pave the path for women to join the military, but "she had to figure out the path . . . and bring the stones." At 101 years old, Lorraine encourages young women she meets to join the military as it pays for their education, instills a strong work ethic, and teaches people to be thoughtful and care about others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Lorraine Egan for her service to this country, and her bravery to trailblaze a path for women to serve our Nation. I offer her good health and the hope that she continues to spread the lessons she has learned over her life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOSTERING FAMILY COHESION NATIONWIDE ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fostering Family Cohesion Nationwide Act. The legislation makes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), child support enforcement, and foster care programs available everywhere else in our Nation also available in the Northern Mariana Islands.

My district is the only jurisdiction ineligible for such programs under Title IV of the Social Security Act. In every other part of the United States, these programs help low-income families with children achieve economic self-sufficiency, promote joint parental responsibility, and provide safe foster care placements for children who cannot remain in their homes.

The continued exclusion of our islands is not only inequitable, but also violates the agreement negotiated in the covenant that established the current political relationship between the Marianas and the United States. Section 703 of P.L. 94-241 provides that the United States will make available to the Marianas the full range of federal programs and services available to the other territories. And by failing to remedy the Marianas' exclusion from programs under Title IV, Congress is renegeing on its promise and perpetuating the unequal treatment of Americans residing in U.S. territories.

My bill, the Fostering Family Cohesion Nationwide Act, makes this long overdue correction, and upholds our nation's statutory obligation to the people of the Marianas. Each child's right to a safe, nurturing, and permanent family must be safeguarded no matter where they grow up in the United States.

I thank my colleagues who joined me in introducing this bipartisan legislation—Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. RADEWAGEN, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. CASE.

CONGRATULATING WEST POINT IMPLEMENT ON CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate West Point implement on a half-century of doing business.

Fifty years ago, Buddy Ternus, Francis Sand, and Erv Eisenmenger started this business that has grown significantly and evolved to meet the needs of the community through the years.

Today, Erv and his sons Scott and Chad run West Point Implement as a family business.

Over the past five decades, the business has expanded to include West Point Design and EIS, Mfg.

One of the keys to their success has been their commitment "to stay alert to change, and to lead the way for our employees and our

customers toward being the best in the business of production agriculture."

Cuming County, which is home to West Point Implement, has over 360,000 acres of farmland and is one of the top counties for cattle in Nebraska.

Consequently, West Point Implement has played a pivotal part in helping the ag economy grow in Cuming County in its years of business.

Congratulations to West Point Implement and the Eisenmenger family on reaching this milestone—here's to the next fifty years.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETTER FAMILY LIFE

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise with great honor to recognize Better Family Life on the occasion of their 40th anniversary. Endurance, faith, and unwavering commitment to service have been the cornerstones of their remarkable journey, shaping the lives of countless individuals and families across the St. Louis region.

Better Family Life's workforce development programs have provided community members with vital job skills while fostering economic empowerment and stability. Their unwavering commitment to youth, family, and clinical services has created a nurturing environment for the growth and well-being of young people.

While Better Family Life's journey began in the basement of their founders' home, it has since grown into a formidable organization, marked by significant milestones and achievements. The Better Family Life Cultural Education Center enriches our understanding of the African Diaspora through Afrikan Dance, artistic traditions classes, and the largest area Kwanzaa expo. The Business Center and Melanated Marketplace stands as a testament to the organization's dedication and impact, serving as a hub for Black education, small business empowerment, and community engagement.

As Congresswoman for Missouri's First District, I am proud of the various ways my office has been able to support Better Family Life's mission, including by securing \$3 million in congressionally directed federal funding for the Lifehouse Phase 1 initiative to help revitalize North City and support residents in securing homes. This funding is vital to sustaining the economic vibrancy of North City, and it was an honor to partner with Better Family Life to deliver meaningful federal resources for initiatives that will benefit residents across the district for years to come.

As Better Family Life celebrates this momentous milestone, I extend my deepest appreciation for their unwavering dedication and congratulate them on the tremendous impact they have had on our St. Louis community over the past four decades.

RECOGNIZING THE 39TH
ANNIVERSARY OF NOVEMBER 1984

HON. MARY GAY SCANLON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my Sikh friends in Pennsylvania and around the world to recognize the 39th anniversary of November 1984 anti-Sikh violence in India. November 1984 marks one of the darkest chapters in modern Sikh history. Sikhism traces its nearly 600 years of history to the Punjab region of India. The Sikh community has a rich history in our country, with emigration dating back 100 years. With nearly 30 million followers globally and a thriving community here in the United States, Sikhism is one of the world's major religions.

Today we are here to remember the violence which occurred in November 1984, after the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the capital territory of Delhi and most major cities of India. These killings lasted for days, and it is estimated that thousands of Sikh men, women, and children were brutally murdered in their homes and on the streets. Mr. Speaker, as a proud co-chair of the Congressional Sikh Caucus, remembering this heartbreaking violence that targeted Sikhs across India in 1984 is an important and historic step towards justice, accountability, and reconciliation and to prevent future such occurrences.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WY'EAST
TRIBAL RESOURCES RESTORA-
TION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Wy'East Tribal Resources Restoration Act, which establishes a first-in-the-nation tribal co-management structure on the Mount Hood National Forest.

This bill directs the Forest Service to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs to protect and enhance Treaty resources within "Indian Treaty Resources Emphasis Zones," through a co-management structure. The establishment of such Zones will help meet the trust responsibilities of the United States in protecting the exercise of Tribal Treaty rights and integrate indigenous ecological knowledge as an important part of the best available scientific information used to manage land within the Zones. The co-management plan will be developed with public input, subject to all existing environmental laws and regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act. The bill also requires implementation of the Cultural Foods Obligations, which were included in the Public Lands Management Act of 2009 but have never been implemented.

The federal government forced Native Americans off of their homelands and onto reservations, and we haven't honored our promises for their treaty resources. I believe this tribal co-stewardship is an incredibly im-

portant step forward. It represents 21st century public lands management and I'm proud to lead the effort. It also helps the federal government fulfill its treaty obligations to Native American communities—a moral obligation that the federal government has never truly fulfilled.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which will return some land management authority to Native Americans who have lived on, and managed, this land since time immemorial.

CELEBRATING THE FIRST RE-
SPONDERS HONOREES AT THE
4TH ANNUAL BLUE MASS AT AS-
SUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Florida's first responders as they are celebrated at the fourth annual Blue Mass at Assumption Catholic Church taking place in Florida's 23rd Congressional District on November 15, 2023.

Today and every day, America's first responders remain on alert and on call whenever we need them. Putting themselves at great personal risk. They are our police officers and sheriff's deputies protecting our communities. They are our firefighters running into burning buildings or emergency medical technicians, paramedics, 911 dispatchers and other public health workers providing emergency cases. There are not enough words to explain how grateful we are to all our extraordinary brave men and women who put themselves in harm's way each day, to keep our Nation safe.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring our first responders for their service and sacrifice to our communities. We owe them a great debt of gratitude.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO THE LADY DRAGONS
WATER POLO TEAM

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Southlake Carroll's Water Polo Team, the Lady Dragons.

In only their second year as a UIL program, the Southlake Carroll Lady Dragons Water Polo team has already achieved back-to-back appearances at the UIL 6A state tournament. This year, they took 2nd place at the State Championships.

The Lady Dragons finished their 2023 season as District Champions, Regional Champions, and State Runner-Up, achieving a 23-2 overall record for the season.

Congratulations to the Southlake Carroll Lady Dragons Water Polo team on an amazing season and all of their accomplishments. I look forward to cheering them on next season

and wish all graduating seniors the best of luck.

DAMON NELSON, STAFF
DIRECTOR, HPSCI

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, November 10, marked the 5-year anniversary of the passing of a beloved friend and colleague, former House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Staff Director, Damon Nelson.

Damon Nelson served his country nearly his entire life. Before working for Rep. Devin Nunes and the people of California's 22nd Congressional District, Damon was proud to have served in the United States Air Force, where he met the love of his life and future wife, Brigadier General Dana Nelson. He was a decorated veteran of the Persian gulf war, earning an Air Medal and three Air Achievement Medals.

Damon was known to be an immensely loyal colleague. He worked in the office of former Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes for over 10 years. Five years after his passing, Members and staff alike remember Damon for his hard work, boundless sense of humor, selfless commitment to mentoring others and service to the intelligence community and his country.

HONORING LINDA KAY MITROVICH

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Linda Kay Mitrovich, a beloved friend, leader and mentor.

Linda was born on May 18, 1947, in Whittier, California. She was a dedicated public servant. She served on the Poway City Council and was Deputy Mayor from 1986 through 1990.

She committed her life to the betterment of others and took on many important causes, including environmental protection and Native American sovereignty.

She played a significant role in creating the first Wildlife Corridor in California, the Coal Canyon Wildlife Reserve, which supported the ecological well-being of over twenty-two million people in Southern California. Linda also created the first national conference on Native American Sovereignty in 2000.

The California State Legislature also recognized her accomplishments by naming her Woman of the Year in 1988 and 1991.

Linda's legacy is remembered through her husband and five children, and her memory is cherished by those fortunate enough to have met her.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MAYOR
GREGORY ZILKA UPON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. Latta. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a dedicated educator and public servant, Mayor Gregory J. Zilka, who will be retiring after twelve years as Mayor of the City of Avon Lake. Over the course of his career, Mayor Zilka's commitment and leadership to Avon Lake has shaped it into the city it is today.

Prior to serving as Mayor of Avon Lake, Mayor Zilka worked as a social studies teacher at Avon Lake High School for thirty-five years. In 1985, he was appointed to the Avon Lake City Council where he served for twenty-six years, fourteen of which he served as President.

Mayor Zilka was first elected mayor in 2012. Since then, he has performed over 200 weddings, applied for and received \$4,000,000 in grants on behalf of the city, oversaw the construction of 600 new single-family dwellings, and saw the population of Avon Lake grow by over 3,000 people. Mayor Zilka also saw Avon Lake through many complicated issues, including the potential closing of the Ford Ohio Assembly Plant. In the end, the company remained open and announced a \$1.5 billion expansion. To help Avon Lake gain more access to Lake Erie, the Mayor oversaw the closing of Avon Lake Power Plant which had dominated the shoreline and skyline for 100 years. Mayor Zilka has also helped organize and participated in Avon Lake's year-long Bicentennial celebrations which brought about the first beer festival as well as other events for Avon Lake's citizens.

Mayor Zilka has also been an active volunteer throughout his entire life. In his early 20's, he served in the Peace Corps, where he met his wife of forty-five years. For the past fourteen years, he has been active within the Lorain County Office on Aging's Home Delivered Meals program. Additionally, he volunteers weekly for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Lorain County and has served on the board of trustees for organizations including the Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ADAS), Cleveland State Leadership Academy, and the Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital Advisory Council, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mayor Gregory J. Zilka of Avon Lake, Ohio. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of

Ohio, I recognize the dedication and leadership that Mayor Zilka has shown through his service to his community. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING CRIS EDWARDS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. Bost. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cris Edwards of Olney, Illinois, for being named a National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Cris is the principal for Richland County Elementary School, which serves nearly 1,000 rural students. The elementary school's mission is to "develop respectful, responsible learners and leaders." Under Cris Edwards' watch, that mission is being fulfilled.

Her devotion is recognized by students, parents, and teachers alike.

The school was given the high honor of "Legacy School" by the Leader in Me program. They host "High Five Fridays" to build connections in the community. And they launched a mobile library in an old school bus to deliver books in the summer.

Cris has earned her status as a National Distinguished Principal, just as she has earned her new position as the incoming president of the Illinois Principals Association.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Cris Edwards for all she has done to provide a positive learning environment for Richland County schoolchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BENZIE AREA CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. Bergman. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN) for 40 years of dedicated service and charity. BACN serves as an inspiration to the community, standing by their mission of improving the quality of life for others and lending a hand to those in need.

Founded in 1983, BACN has since performed an integral role in the Benzie Area. The group provides direct, needs-based assistance to those in the area who desperately

require it. If BACN can't provide the support necessary themselves, they always assist with a referral to those who can. Over the years as BACN grew, it began to transform from a growing charity to a vibrant organization of faithful people working to better our society.

For 40 years, the list of services that BACN offers has expanded substantially. Today, BACN is proud to provide a stocked food pantry, a large clothing center, adult education opportunities, financial assistance and so much more. BACN also partners with larger philanthropic entities in order to extend the best possible services to the Northern Michigan community. Through their collaborative efforts, no one who seeks help is turned away empty handed.

The spirit of selflessness and compassion which characterizes BACN is what makes it special. Dedicated volunteers fill many crucial roles within the BACN network, serving as coordinators, organizers, and staff in all of the different locales of service. Their commitment and support have kept BACN running efficiently these past 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Benzie Area Christian Neighbors for 40 outstanding years of service to the Benzie community. I'd like to thank BACN for their continued outreach and charitable programs, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.