

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AUDREY BULLER

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, 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, it is a privilege to recognize Audrey's many accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING ALISON FOREMAN'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF YPSILANTI

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alison Foreman, President and CEO of the Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels (YMOW) program, as she closes out 10 years in Ypsilanti, MI and prepares to take her expertise to Mobile Wheels of Toledo. Her lifelong dedication to serving those in need is worthy of commendation.

Alison began non-profit work shortly after graduating from Eastern Michigan University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Juvenile Justice coupled with a Masters's in Public Administration. She joined YMOW in 2013 as the program's first full-time Executive Director, getting involved at a time when the organization was struggling to make ends meet. As one of her initial tasks, Alison was challenged to raise \$25,000 during her first year. She delivered above and beyond what was asked of her, and the program flourished as a result. In recognition for her steadfast efforts, Alison was named President and CEO in 2021. As she celebrates her 10th anniversary

with YMOW, the group now operates on a \$1.8 million annual budget and has expanded to offer a full suite of services that benefit over 400 local seniors and homebound adults each year. Her team credits her with reviving an organization struggling to make ends meet, adding that she has worked tirelessly to realize YMOW's vision of "a community where every senior feels nourished, valued, and supported." In caring for some of Ypsilanti's most vulnerable citizens, Alison has done a tremendous job at strengthening and nourishing her community.

In addition to her laudable efforts at YMOW, Alison has made many other significant contributions to our Ypsilanti home. Over the years, she has dedicated herself to various local non-profits as both a volunteer and an employee, most notably the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and the Book Industry Charitable Foundation. Alison has been an active member in a plethora of local organizations, serving on the boards of the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund, the Washtenaw Leaders Advisory, SOS Community Services, and her alma mater's MPA Advisory Group, among others. She is also a founding member of the Say Yes to Seniors Initiative, part of the Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club, and a Washtenaw County grant reviewer. Alison's devotion to alleviating Ypsilanti's great diversity of needs is inspirational, and I am proud to have such a selfless individual leading our local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Alison Foreman for her decade of dedication to serving the Ypsilanti area as she wraps up her tenure at the helm of the Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels program. Alison has worked tirelessly to benefit her local community and has made significant contributions to improving the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors. We thank her for her tremendous work and wish her all the best as she embarks upon her next endeavor.

RECOGNIZING KERRIE HURD, DIRECTOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kerrie Hurd for her many years of public service and congratulate her on her retirement as the Director of the Small Business Administration (SBA) in Seattle District Office. Kerrie's strong leadership, relentless work ethic, and steadfast commitment to the SBA's mission embodies the highest ideals of public service.

During the pandemic when SBA COVID Relief programs disbursed funding to small businesses across the country, Kerrie worked to ensure no business was left behind. She advocated for Paycheck Protection Program

(PPP) policy changes so Washington's Tribal Fishers and other tribal-owned businesses could also benefit from the program. In addition, she drove efforts to identify and find local small businesses that were eligible for the SBA 8(a) program, helping small businesses grow with federal contracts. This included the strenuous process of reviewing industry association memberships and partnering with the state government. Her capabilities and dedication are also evident in her unprecedented accomplishment of organizing over \$1.2 billion in SBA lending and willingness to work overtime to help small businesses be successful.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank and commend Kerrie Hurd for her service to the community. She is a great example of a public servant for us all.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MARJORIE "MARGE" STANTON RYAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's Spirit of Mercy Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Marjorie "Marge" Stanton Ryan. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend all of those who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

Marge Ryan is one of South Buffalo's most dedicated activists, and her passion for bettering this neighborhood is nothing short of commendable. After graduating from South Park High School in 1959, Marge worked as a stenographer with RJ Walsh/Equitable Insurance before marrying Tom Ryan in 1959 and raising six children. Marge took on an active role in the parents' guilds at Mount Mercy Academy and Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School while her children were in school. Marge was a founding member of South Buffalo Alive, a nonprofit organization that dedicates its time and energy to improving the quality of life in South Buffalo and beautifying the neighborhood. She has worked with the Olmsted Conservancy Board and has a long history of working with elected leaders in the community to get things done including, the Mayors in the City of Buffalo, Buffalo City Council Members, the Parks Department, and the Department of Public Works, as well as working closely with county, state and federal representatives on important projects in our community. Marge is consistent and attentive, and you can tell almost immediately which gardens Marge makes her own by their beauty, simplicity, and by the way they are kept—tidy. Marge still actively helps to maintain:

• 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.

Mount Mercy Academy, Trocaire College, the Firemen's Memorial, Morgan/Heacock Park, the traffic circle gardens on McKinley Parkway, and the brick paths in Cazenovia Park and pocket park gardens around Abbott and South Park. Of course, her passion of gardening has been a constant through all her years, and it has led to the beautification of countless areas and parks in South Buffalo. Her friendship with Sister Marie Bernard was the foundation of her involvement and gardening at the Mt. Mercy Convent and Trocaire College. As a friend of Marge, I can say with confidence that our community is a better, more attractive place to live because of her unrelenting efforts.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Marjorie Stanton Ryan continues to live these values in all she does. Marge shares this legacy with her husband, Tom, as well as her children, Mary Lynn ('79), Karen ('80), Maggie ('83), Kevin, David, Tom, Jr., and their grandchildren.

CITLALLI CUMPLIDO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, 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, it is a privilege to recognize Citlalli's many accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JESSICA TURNER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's

Athletic Excellence Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Jessica Turner. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend the alumni who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

As a leader on and off the court, Jessica has been exemplary in her commitment to service. While playing Division I basketball at Niagara University, she served as Vice President of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee and was selected as an Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sports Scholar. The skills Jessica gained as a student-athlete were directly transferable to her role in the business world. She has consistently advanced as an employee at New Era Cap Company and was a critical force in the creation of New Era's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council (DEI). Jessica was the first person to hold the title of Director of DEI. Outside of work, she spends her time as a mentor with the Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholars and volunteers with the Festival of Trees, FeedMore WNY, the Special Olympics, Willie Hutch Jones Education and Sports programs, and the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation. Jessica's love of basketball was formed by her father, and it has shaped the person that is deserving of this award. Though athletics can be seen as an all-encompassing time commitment, Jessica has used her passion of sports as fuel to better the lives of others.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Jessica Turner continues to live these values in her career, relationships, and most importantly, as a mother to Maya and Kellan.

HONORING THE ST. PAUL AME CHURCH'S 126TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in Delray Beach, Florida, on its 126th anniversary. This significant milestone is a testament to the enduring spirit of faith and community that has thrived within its walls since its inception.

St. Paul AME Church, originally named Mt. Tabor, held its first service on November 19, 1897, in what was then called Linton. St. Paul was the second church established in the area that would become Delray Beach in 1964. Prior to relocating in 1902, St. Paul shared a building with the first church in Delray, Mt. Olive Baptist. The fact that it has weathered the test of time, evolving and adapting over the years, speaks to the resilience and commitment of its congregation.

Reverend James C. Watson, Jr. and First Lady Viola Watson are committed community leaders and their dedication to St. Paul AME Church is a steadfast commitment to fostering spiritual growth and community engagement.

As we celebrate the 126th anniversary, we must recognize that St. Paul AME Church is

part of a broader legacy. The African Methodist Episcopal church founded in America in 1787, has a rich history of promoting both spiritual enrichment and social justice. St. Paul AME Church stands as a local embodiment of this legacy, contributing to the cultural and spiritual tapestry of Delray Beach.

Pastor James and First Lady Viola Watson's commitment to St. Paul AME Church and their service to our community is remarkable. I congratulate them on 126 years of service and wish them continued success.

HONORING DR. DAVID TAYLOE

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible pediatrician, Dr. David Tayloe of Goldsboro, North Carolina, who has spent his lifetime advocating for children's health and well-being.

At the beginning of his career, Dr. Tayloe already had an aptitude for recognizing the needs of his community. In 1977, when Dr. Tayloe was a solo pediatrician, he helped establish a level II Neonatal Unit at Wayne Memorial Hospital to help bring care to sick newborns. He has spearheaded systemic changes in our school systems to help low-income and at-risk children receive healthcare resources and special literacy tutoring.

Due to Dr. Tayloe's father being held legally responsible in a child vaccine injury lawsuit involving a developmentally disabled child who received a state-mandated vaccine, he was determined to find a solution to the vaccine liability crisis. His legislative advocacy proved successful. In 1986, the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation to provide liability protection for physicians when giving state-required vaccines to minors. As all can see, Dr. Tayloe is most talented at wearing two hats as an advocate and a pediatrician.

Dr. Tayloe's good deeds extend far beyond Wayne County and the State of North Carolina. While serving in multiple leadership roles at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), including President, Dr. Tayloe made trips to the Middle East to help translate AAP materials into Arabic and to ensure more pediatricians around the globe could have access to AAP documents through low-cost international membership.

Dr. Tayloe has received numerous awards for his achievements. While this is only a sliver of Dr. Tayloe's long list of accomplishments and sacrifices to his community, I am grateful for the opportunity to extend Congress's sincerest appreciation and recognition to him. Dr. Tayloe is undoubtedly the epitome of servant leadership and has greatly contributed to fostering a healthier society in his community, State, and around the world. Please join me in honoring this outstanding American.

RECOGNIZING MINNESOTA FARM
BUREAU PRESIDENT DAN
GLESSING

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dan Glessing, who was recently re-elected as President of the Minnesota Farm Bureau.

Dan is a leader in the agriculture community. Since he was first elected in November 2021, Dan has been a steadfast advocate for Minnesota farmers and ranchers and has a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities they face. Dan also serves as a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors, where he has brought national attention to Minnesota agriculture.

Under Dan's leadership, the Minnesota Farm Bureau has grown in both strength and influence. He has built key partnerships between Minnesota's farmers, the Farm Bureau, and others including leaders in our nation's capital, to ensure that our state's producers have the resources they need to succeed. His input is invaluable, especially as we craft this year's farm bill.

As a dairy and crop farmer in Wright County and a lifelong member of the Minnesota Farm Bureau, Dan and the Glessing family have been strong voices in support of our local producers and the future of agriculture in Minnesota. While Dan leads the farmers of today, his wife, Seena, is working to educate the next generation of agriculture producers as a teacher in the Howard Lake, Waverly, Winstead school district. After having the opportunity to visit the Glessing farm and meet Dan and Seena, I can confidently say that the Minnesota agriculture community is in excellent hands under their leadership.

We are grateful for Dan's service to the Minnesota Farm Bureau and to agriculture producers across the state. I am confident that he will continue to be a strong voice for our farmers and ranchers for years to come.

COURTNEY DAUWALTER

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Courtney Dauwalter, a remarkable ultrarunner and Leadville resident who continues to redefine the boundaries of endurance in the world of ultradistance racing.

In July 2023, Ms. Dauwalter achieved the remarkable feat of being the first female finisher at the grueling Hardrock 100-mile foot race, only a few weeks after she emerged victorious at the Western States 100 in California. She also won the Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc, a race renowned for its extreme difficulty and terrain. With this victory, she made history, becoming the first person ever to win all three of these races in a single year and the second person ever to achieve this incredible trifecta in their lifetime.

Ms. Dauwalter's unparalleled accomplishments serve as an inspiration to all, demonstrating that with grit and dedication, one can achieve the seemingly impossible. We wish Ms. Dauwalter the best of luck as she continues her running career and inspires fellow athletes and fans in Colorado and around the world.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PATRICIA KEANE MARREN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's Sister Sally Walz Memorial Award at Mount Mercy Academy, Patricia Keane Marren. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend the alumni who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

The recipient of this award requires "an expansive heart," and Pattie Keane certainly fits the bill. She began her career as a programmer at Marine Midland Bank (now HSBC Bank), and after attaining a master's degree in business administration, became Vice President at HSBC in 1997. Pattie worked for over two decades and led several company-wide initiatives and philanthropic efforts. As community leader and avid volunteer, she consistently puts the needs of others before her own. She assisted in fundraising events and organizational activities of O'Sullivan School of Irish Dance, Cazenovia Hockey Association, Canisius High School, and naturally, at Mount Mercy Academy. There she served as Treasurer and Board Member of the Alumnae Association co-chair (with her husband, Dan) of the McAuley Gala, and an active member of the Board of Trustees. And even in the face of considerable medical challenges, Pattie continues to find new ways to advocate for others. In fact, as a patient at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, she was responsible for improvements to safety practices for patients and visitors with disabilities. Pattie has always embodied selflessness and compassion, and it has been to the benefit of all those who know her.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Patricia Keane Marren has always embodied these values in her career, relationships, and most importantly, with her husband, Dan, and children Katherine ('11) and Thomas.

RECOGNIZING THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL CERTIFIED DIETARY MANAGERS AND CERTIFIED FOOD PROTECTION PROFESSIONALS DAY OF THE YEAR

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Inaugural National Certified Dietary Managers (CDM), Certified Food Protection Professionals (CFPP) Day of the Year. This day is meant to honor the contributions these professionals have made in the food service management profession and the lives they have impacted through their service in America's healthcare industry.

I would also like to recognize the Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals for their efforts to designate November 28, 2023, as the inaugural National CDM, CFPP Day of the Year. Over 90 percent of the ANFP's more than 14,000 members work in healthcare and a majority of those are in long-term care facilities. As a geriatric nurse practitioner, I have seen firsthand the way in which CDMs and CFPPs positively affect health outcomes for members of our greatest generation.

These professionals play an essential role in America's healthcare industry and as such are responsible for managing nutrition and food service operations. They are trained and qualified to administer menus, food purchasing and preparation, and to apply nutrition principles, among many other things. The CDM, CFPP credential is also the basis for the ANFP Youth Apprenticeship Program, which was approved by the U.S. Department of Labor last year.

I am proud to honor their significant impacts to healthcare and celebrate the inaugural National Certified Dietary Managers, Certified Food Protection Professionals Day of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO ADY BARKAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable individual whose advocacy for universal healthcare helped advance the cause for millions of Americans, even as he struggled with his own health. Ady Barkan, a former intern in my office, passed away due to complications of ALS, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

I first met Ady while walking precincts together when he was still in high school. Even then, he was passionately dedicated to improving the lives of people around him and deeply immersed in a wide variety of policy issues. His unwavering commitment to his country—and the need to stand up for all working families—as well as his fervent advocacy for healthcare reform left an indelible mark on all of us who had the privilege of working alongside him. But more than anything else, I was struck by his dazzling intellect. Ady was brilliant.

Ady's journey was a testament to his resilience and unwavering determination. In 2016, when he was diagnosed with ALS, a devastating neurodegenerative disease that often leads to paralysis and death within a few short years, Ady could have easily chosen to retreat from public life. But instead, he and his family chose to dedicate the remainder of his life to changing the American health care system for the better.

Despite the loss of his voice, Ady Barkan's voice only grew stronger and reached more people. His ability to blend his personal story with calls to action was truly remarkable. He testified before Congress, interviewed presidential candidates, and spoke at the Democratic National Convention, all while battling this debilitating disease. Ady's impact on our nation's health care discourse was immeasurable, and his courage in the face of adversity was unparalleled.

Ady Barkan was instrumental in stopping Republican efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, a critical achievement for health care in America that extended access to tens of millions who otherwise couldn't afford it. Ady's persistence and leadership in these fights were critical, and his contribution, profound. Ady Barkan was not only a health care activist but also a loving husband and father. And he was also a good friend.

I would like to convey my deepest sympathies to Ady's wife, Rachael, his children, and his entire family during this difficult time. May Ady's memory continue to be a source of strength and motivation for all of us who strive to make a difference in the world. Ady will be dearly missed, but his legacy will live on as an inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING NICOLE
GALKOVICH ON BECOMING A CITIZEN
OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Nicole Galkovich, who will take the Oath of Allegiance and become a citizen of the United States of America on November 28, 2023.

Nicole moved from her hometown of Ashdod, Israel, to the United States in 2017, when she was 19 years old. She began her journey with her father, leaving behind her mother and grandmother in Israel. After settling in Houston, Texas, she sought out new educational opportunities to integrate with her new American community. As a testament to her hard work and academic achievement, Nicole earned an associate degree at San Jacinto College.

In 2022, Nicole moved to Washington County and found a community that welcomed her with open arms and a job that provided fulfillment and happiness. She now works as a warranty clerk at a local car dealership, where her dedication, work ethic, and perseverance brighten the lives of those around her.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Ms. Galkovich on becoming a United States citizen. I am confident that her

contributions to the Washington County community will continue to enrich the lives of her friends and neighbors. As she embarks on this new journey, I wish her continued happiness and success.

JAYLYNN ARMIJO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, 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, it is a privilege to recognize Jaylynn's many accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF TINA SCARPELLO
WEBSTER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's Mercy Devotion Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Tina Scarpello Webster. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend the alumni who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

As a staff member at Mount Mercy, Tina has been afforded the rare opportunity to make a tangible impact on the hearts and minds of countless students. Upon graduating from Erie Community College, Tina's brief time working in North Carolina made her recognize her passion and love of our community in Buffalo. Upon her return, Tina eventually found her way to working at the school that she, and her sisters Cheryl ('82) and Joelle ('84), love so dearly: Mount Mercy Academy. She assumed the roles of Recruitment Manager, Di-

rector of Admissions and Communications, newsletter creator, class moderator, club facilitator, and social media coordinator, among a myriad of roles. Tina has been the cheerleading coach for even longer, this skill has shaped her work on behalf of her alma mater. There is no shortage of ways that Tina has bettered the Mount Mercy community, and she shares this enthusiasm in Buffalo, as well. She has volunteered with the South Buffalo Football Association for twenty-five years, assisted in the creation of the Brian Bauer Memorial Golf Tournament, and coaches Buffalo Envy, another local cheerleading team. Tina has been an inspiring mentor to young women in Western New York, and her hard work at Mount Mercy makes her an excellent role model.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Tina Scarpello Webster continues to live these values in her career and relationships.

HONORING MRS. PATTI CARROLL
FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY
SERVICE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patti Carroll for her extraordinary service and dedication to the people of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District.

Patti has been a part of my congressional office since the beginning—and will soon depart after five years of service.

Prior to joining my office, she served ten years on Fairview's City Planning Commission, four years as a City Commissioner, and four years as the city's Mayor. In her years as Mayor, Patti set high goals for the City of Fairview—she exceeded them. Thanks to her leadership, Fairview has seen impressive growth. Additionally, she worked tirelessly with the Tennessee Department of Transportation to improve the city's roads—a direct benefit to her constituents.

Patti's passion to serve and her dedication to Tennessee values drove her entire career. Patti is a fierce defender of liberty, a fighter for limited government, and an advocate for fiscal responsibility. Upon joining my office, Patti continued this level of excellence in her new role. Among my duties representing Tennessee, being an advocate for Tennesseans within the federal government is of the highest priority. To this end, I cannot overemphasize my gratitude for Patti. My constituents have benefitted from her composure and grace countless times. It didn't matter if it was an evening, weekend, or required a long drive across the district, Patti was always willing to help.

Patti is known for her dedication, always ready to solve any problem in front of her. Not only is she dearly loved by the Williamson County community and beyond, but she has also been a vital part of my staff. In the long hours and heavy days, she was a friend to all.

When she walks into a room, she is like a magnet—everyone is drawn to her vivacity and kindness. As much as I wish I could spend all of my time in Tennessee, I simply cannot be in two places at once. But that is why it has been such a blessing to have someone I trust implicitly represent me at important events in Williamson County and beyond. Her work to streamline the application process for new ownership of the Historic Downtown Franklin Post Office was particularly rewarding. Five Points is both a historic landmark and provides a crucial service to the community of over 85,000 residents. Thanks to her hard work, the Post office now has a new operator and is ready to serve the Franklin community.

I often leaned on Patti and her husband, Kevin, for advice. Together, they are a powerhouse. Their accumulated wisdom, knowledge, and experience make them an invaluable resource. Their combined public service and dedication to the State of Tennessee allowed me and my office to provide the best service to Tennesseans possible. I often encouraged my team to create “raving fans” of constituents through our service to the 7th District. Patti did that. Over and over again, she went above and beyond for Tennesseans. She exemplifies servant leadership in every way.

At the core of Patti’s service to our great state is a strong dedication to her faith and the Biblical injunction to love one another. And Patti has done just that. Her love for God and her neighbor is one of the first things I ever noticed about Patti, and it’s what has made her an incredible friend and colleague. Her passion for helping others hasn’t been limited to work. She is active in her community, her church, and is a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. Her three children and grandson are the light of her life.

Because of her service, Tennessee is a better place—I say that without hesitation. My thanks to her for these contributions cannot be overstated. I know she will spread the same joy and excellence in every chapter of her life. On behalf of the United States Congress, Team Green, and a grateful constituency, I thank Patti Carroll for her distinguished service to Tennesseans.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF GEORGE WILLIAM OWINGS III

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of an outstanding Marine, Marylander, and American: my friend, George William Owings III. I had the privilege of working with him when he served in the Maryland House of Delegates and during his tenure as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. On October 31, he passed away at the age of 78. His passing was a great loss for our state and country.

Although born in Florida, George was Marylander to his core, growing up in Calvert County and attending Calvert High School and the University of Maryland, College Park. From a young age, he showed tremendous commitment to his community and his country. In 1964, George left UMD to enlist in the

United States Marine Corps. Serving multiple tours in Vietnam, George attained the rank of Sergeant and received numerous commendations, including the Presidential Citation, Navy Unit Commendation with Bronze Star Device, Navy-Marine Corps Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal with Silver Star Device.

George continued to serve when he returned to Maryland. After finding success in banking, he started a career in Maryland politics. Governor William Donald Schaefer appointed him to serve in the House of Delegates in 1988. He won reelection multiple times and remained in the House of Delegates for sixteen years—ten of which he served as House Majority Whip.

Recognizing George’s character, skill as a legislator, and experiences as a veteran, Governor Robert Ehrlich appointed him to serve as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in 2004. Later, in 2007, Governor Martin O’Malley asked George to stay on as acting Secretary for the department, which he did for six months. Eight years later, Governor Larry Hogan asked him to serve in the role once again. That Democratic and Republican governors alike believed George was best suited to serve the needs of his fellow veterans is a testament to his strong reputation and record of getting things done.

George was a crucial advocate for veterans, military families, and all Marylanders. I join them in mourning his loss. My prayers are with his son George, grandsons Patrick and Emerson, life-partner Katherine Marie Boyd, and the rest of the family and friends he cherished above all else. I hope they can take some comfort in knowing that George’s positive impact on our state and our people will forever endure.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in praying for George and all those who mourn him.

OUTSTANDING TX-08 CITIZEN

HON. MORGAN LUTTRELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding constituent and honorable veteran from Willis, Texas, Mr. Kyle Puls. It is my privilege to stand before you and pay tribute to Mr. Puls, as he has shown the ultimate act of compassion and unwavering selflessness to his family and his community.

Mr. Puls grew up in the Montgomery County, TX in the small town of Willis. He served our country for more than three years in the United States Navy. Due to an unfortunate motorcycle accident, Kyle was honorably discharged.

In 2022, Kyle’s cousin, Travis Glenn Puls, who was diagnosed with diabetes at age 12, contracted COVID, sending his kidneys into critical condition. Driven to take action that would help his cousin, Kyle underwent testing, hoping to be a match for a kidney transplant to Travis. Unfortunately, he was not a match.

Instead of giving up, Kyle found other ways to take action. He got involved in the Kidney Swap Program, which enabled him to donate his kidney to Brittany Flowers, who also resides in TX-08. Similarly, Brittany had a donor who was not her match, so her kidney went to

another person in need, ensuring that Travis would receive a kidney. Because of Kyle’s sacrifice, three people were ultimately saved during this series of procedures that took place in January of this year in Houston, TX.

I am incredibly proud to have constituents like Mr. Kyle Puls in my district. On behalf of the people of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas, I wish Kyle and his family all the best and I thank him for his service to our country and his continued service to our community. He is the definition of a veteran who keeps on giving.

JUSTINE THOMAS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, 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, it is a privilege to recognize Justine’s many accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF TROCAIRE COLLEGE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Trocaire College of Buffalo, New York, as this institution celebrates the 65th anniversary of its founding. Founded in 1958 by the Sisters of Mercy, Trocaire College is a private, career-oriented institution which strives to advance and perpetuate the worthy mission, values and charisma of that order.

As women of faith who commit their lives to God and their resources to serve, advocate and pray for those in need around the world, the Sisters of Mercy strive to advance a just world for people who are poor, sick and uneducated, and Trocaire College is a manifestation of that imperative.

With its roots in nursing and other healthcare professions, Trocaire has expanded its offerings to meet the dynamic

needs of students seeking to advance their careers in order to secure a better future for themselves and their families and contribute to the well-being of their communities.

I congratulate my friend Dr. Bassam Deeb, the president of Trocaire College, as well as the trustees, faculty, staff, students and supporters of the College as they announce that they have met and exceeded the goal set for their Funding the Future for WNY campaign, which is making a Trocaire College education more affordable for more students.

Again, I recognize this important institution and its work to improve the lives of the students it serves, and ultimately, the communities which they will serve.

HONORING DIANE BOYLE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, Jr.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Diane M. Boyle for her 28 years of outstanding Federal service as a civilian attorney for the Department of the Navy (DON) Office of the General Counsel (OGC).

Since she began her distinguished career with DON OGC in 1995, Ms. Boyle has served in several positions, including serving in multiple acquisition attorney positions at the Naval Air Systems Command, and service as Counsel, Navy Region Naval District Washington; Deputy Counsel, Commander Navy Installations Command; and Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Notably, she became a member of the Senior Executive Service in February 2014 when the General Counsel selected her as Counsel for the Office of Naval Research. Later, in December 2019, the General Counsel selected her to serve as the Deputy General Counsel, OGC's "managing partner." During her tenure as Deputy General Counsel, she has impressively managed the personnel, budget, training and oversight of a legal community comprised of more than 1,100 attorneys and professional staff operating in over 145 offices worldwide.

Throughout her career, Ms. Boyle has distinguished herself as an extraordinary attorney who has made invaluable contributions to the DON on a variety of complex matters of significant impact to the national defense mission. From advising on the V-22 Osprey acquisition program, to overseeing legal matters in the Navy Trademark and Licensing Program Office, to steering the DON and OGC through the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Boyle has worked tirelessly to provide proactive, accurate, and innovative legal advice on a multitude of legally complicated issues across a broad spectrum of matters. Additionally, Ms. Boyle has brought innovative business acumen to the operations of the DON OGC, ensuring it functions efficiently and effectively. Her character and sustained work ethic has consistently enabled the DON OGC to meet its mission of supporting Sailors, Marines, and civilians executing the defense mission worldwide.

The daughter of a decorated Navy Flag Officer, Ms. Boyle has continued that legacy of service and has been recognized for her own outstanding contributions. Among her achievements, she has received the DON Meritorious,

Superior, and Distinguished Civilian Service Awards, and many other performance-related accolades. A dedicated civil servant, she is worthy of additional recognition before her fellow citizens as she completes her Federal career.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Diane M. Boyle as she retires from Federal service.

AUBREY MILLER

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, 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, it is a privilege to recognize Aubrey's many accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. AGONAFER SHIFERAW

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mr. Agonafer Shiferaw, a critical leader and steward of progress in the Bay Area community. Mr. Shiferaw leaves behind an indelible legacy of love, leadership, and service to his community and family.

Born in Ethiopia in 1952, Mr. Shiferaw's passion for knowledge led him to California, where he studied economics at San Francisco State University. After he earned his bachelor's degree, he remained in San Francisco where he opened Rasselas Restaurant and Jazz Club, an Ethiopian restaurant located in the Fillmore neighborhood in 1986.

For nearly 30 years, Rasselas was a gathering place for friends, family, and loved ones to come together in celebration. It was a cultural hub within the Bay Area, uniting the community and offering residents and visitors alike

a space where they could join in shared appreciation of jazz music.

In addition to his crucial work as the founder of Rasselas, Mr. Shiferaw also demonstrated his sincere love for his community through his compassionate leadership and altruistic advocacy. He was committed to empowering and uplifting the Black community in the Bay Area and was truly passionate about serving others and giving a voice to the voiceless. His critical contributions made him a beacon of light within his community and undeniably improved the lives of those around him.

Mr. Shiferaw will be remembered not only for his decades of service to the Bay Area, but also for his genuine kindness and compassion. He impacted the lives of so many in his community and was known both for his leadership and the unflinching love he had for his family. His passion for service, valiant advocacy, and perseverance have left a legacy on the people of the Bay Area.

Mr. Shiferaw's enduring spirit will live on in his loving wife, daughter, nieces, nephews, and extended family. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Shiferaw's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of the Bay Area, join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

KATHERINA MOOK

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, 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, it is a privilege to recognize Katherina's many accomplishments.

HONORING AUGUST "AUGIE"
COSENTINO FOR HIS SERVICE TO
OUR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor 94-year-old Korean War

veteran August V. Cosentino for his community accomplishments and life-long dedication to America's values.

In 1951, young August Cosentino enlisted in the United States Air Force and was assigned to attend radio and radar school at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, for one year of intensive training. Following his training, he was assigned to a forward operations outpost on the 38th parallel of the Korean peninsula, where he aided in directing advanced bombing missions in North Korea.

After the Korean War, August Cosentino married the love of his life, Martha, and together they raised three children: Cindy, Ralph, and David, before Martha passed away on their 59th anniversary in 2012. To support his family through a growing America, August worked in the sales business before forming his own company—August Cosentino Enterprises, where they supplied the automotive industry with custom made parts.

The Buffalo community played a large part in Mr. Cosentino's life. August served as the president of Kenmore Rotary, where he tirelessly exemplified their motto of "Service Above Self." As a talented musician, August can play the piano, accordion, and stand-up bass. He has played in several military bands since 1951 and is well known in the Western New York music community. Mr. Cosentino still plays stand-up bass weekly in the choir at the Newman Center mass.

I am excited to thank the guest of honor, veteran August V. Cosentino, for his service. Mr. Cosentino served our country 70 years ago and our grateful community since then, and I hope for many more bright years to come.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL MITROKA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY AND SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Michael Mitroka, a longtime resident of Southgate, MI and veteran of the Second World War, on the occasion of his 100th birthday. His service to our country is worthy of commendation.

Born on November 20, 1923, Michael enlisted in the Army as a Private in May of 1943. Over the next two and a half years of service he would traverse the Pacific, seeing combat in places like New Guinea and the Philippines. The Japanese conquest of the Philippines just a couple of years earlier was one of the worst military defeats in U.S. military history, and the retaking of the islands, though sure to be a long and hard affair, was a point of pride for General MacArthur and the Army. By the time Michael left the Army as a Sergeant in December of 1945, he had earned the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, a good conduct medal, a purple heart, and two bronze stars, awarded for "heroic or meritorious service in a combat zone."

Michael carried on his service after the war by working in his local school district. He retired in 1985 as the Supervisor of Maintenance, Custodial, and Transportation after 35 years with the Southgate School District. Mi-

chael married his wife, Rosemary, just a few weeks before his discharge from the Army in 1945. Though Rosemary passed away in 1994, her legacy carries on in their two sons, Paul and Michael Jr., three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Still an active member of his current and former community, Michael is a member of St. Aloysius-Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Royaltown, IL, the American Legion Post 975 in Dowell, IL, and the Knights of Columbus Council Post 3965 in Southgate, MI.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 100th birthday of Michael Mitroka. A veteran who served our country with honor and bravery during our darkest hours eighty years ago, he spent the last eight decades continuing that service within his local community and uplifting those around him. As we celebrate the milestone of a centennial, Michael should know that he is appreciated and valued by his family, friends, community, and nation. We thank him for his service, and wish him a 101st year filled with laughter, love, and many blessings. I thank Michael.

HONORING GEORGINA "GINA" CARDONA

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Georgina Cardona, affectionately known as Gina, was a woman of extraordinary kindness and caring, and left this world at the young age of 95. Her constant commitment to community and family formed the pillars for who she was in life. Gina moved into our community in the winter of 1952 from The Island of Puerto Rico with her husband Eliseo and only son Aureo. The three lived in a rooming house owned by the Rivera family, this is where she came to love the South Bronx and all those who lived there with her, including her beloved "Bronx Bombers".

After settling in, Gina continued her dedication to service of others by graduating with honors from the Helena Fuld School of Nursing. She started her career at Hunts Point Hospital as a surgical nurse, then worked at the Hospital for Joint Diseases until her retirement 40 years later. During her years in healthcare, she was instrumental in groundbreaking medical procedures and became a highly respected leader in the industry.

While tirelessly working to improve the health of her fellow community members, she also fought for the Bronx we see today. Her political activism was integral in rebuilding the South Bronx. Gina always found the time and energy to campaign, mobilize, and organize her fellow community members to make lasting, positive changes for the South Bronx. Her passion for service and change was instilled in her family, especially her son and granddaughter who continue her legacy of love and community. She was as proud of her civic engagement as I am inspired by it.

A beacon of strength, Gina was the Matriarch of her beloved family. Like many in her generation, she sent much of her hard-earned money to help her mother and sisters in Puer-

to Rico. Ultimately, she helped to settle them in the South Bronx. Gina continued to bring her family together by helping to move her aunt and younger cousins to Brooklyn. Gina's commitment to her family is exemplified by these acts of selflessness.

While the Bronx became Gina's new home she never forgot where she came from. She would go back to Puerto Rico annually to see her aunt, uncle, and cousins. She would celebrate Puerto Rican heritage month with her brother and his family every year in Connecticut. She also made sure to teach her family in New York to appreciate and learn their history and culture. She did this through language, tradition, food, music, and celebrations. She embraced and loved her family with her entire heart. She will be sorely missed.

I want to recognize her truly amazing impact on our community and anyone who knew her. Gina was a healer through and through. From saving lives as a nurse to helping rebuild her community to taking care of her family, she always worked to heal those around her. In the words of Gina's only Granddaughter Ralina, she left behind a legacy of family and love, not in words but in her deeds.

RECOGNIZING MARY ELLEN STONE, 44 YEARS WITH THE KING COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mary Ellen Stone for her many years of service for the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) and congratulate her on her retirement as the Executive Director.

Mary Ellen has served as a steadfast advocate for survivors of sexual assault over the past 44 years throughout King County and Washington State. She has been a visionary leader in changing the landscape of sexual assault services including prevention, education, and victim advocacy. She was influential in establishing the state's first accreditation process for sexual assault providers, professionalizing service delivery and ensuring core services to be accessible; and publishing "He Told Me Not to Tell," one of the first educational pieces in the nation for parents to talk with their children about sexual assault. As a result, KCSARC is nationally recognized for its effective and innovative services.

Mary Ellen has shared her time and expertise in many ways to better inform systems and communities about the needs of victims. This includes serving on the Seattle Archdiocese Review Board, Mental Illness Drug Dependence Oversight Board, Seattle Chief of Police Search committees, Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Sex Offender Management Committee, Women's Funding Alliance, and Municipal League Seattle-King County. My staff and I have had the privilege of working with Mary Ellen on multiple occasions. Through her productive relationships with several elected officials, Mary Ellen has helped the KCSARC gain exposure at both the state and federal level. Her passion, tenacity and leadership have shaped KCSARC into the strong, vibrant nonprofit it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank Mary Ellen Stone for her tireless work and contributions to the community, and I wish her a happy retirement.

KESLEY WHITE

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kesley White of Leadville, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Kesley traveled to Nepal 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 Kesley 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, it is a privilege to recognize Kesley's many accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WWII USMC VETERAN WILLIAM PAUL GOSCH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor World War II Marine Corps veteran William P. Gosch as he celebrates his 100th birthday which is December 8th.

William P. Gosch was born in North Tonawanda, New York, on December 8th, 1923. While attending North Tonawanda High School, he showed academic prowess, earning a football scholarship to attend Niagara University. After graduating from high school in the Fall of 1941, William chose to forgo his scholarship and joined the Marine Corps. For two years, he served as a rifleman and military policeman in the infamous "Carlson's Raiders" in the Eastern Pacific Theatre of World War II.

William Gosch was an exemplary soldier. His unit was awarded a presidential citation for their heroism in capturing the Okinawa Prefecture, Japan. During his time as a Marine, he participated in action in Bougainville, Emirau Island, the St. Matthias Islands, Guam, and Okinawa. Following the Allied victory in World War II, William Gosch worked as a general

manager in the Richardson Boat Company before spending time working in the costume jewelry business in Honolulu. After returning to Buffalo and settling down, his opportunity to dedicate more to the Buffalo community came in 2020 when he was instated as the temporary replacement for the 2nd Ward Alderwoman. Following this, William received the rare opportunity to collaborate with YouTube documentarian Rishi Sharma, where he promoted awareness of the remaining World War II veterans to an audience of over one million people.

Today, I want to congratulate William on his 100th birthday and express my deep gratitude to William Paul Gosch for his service to our country and the Buffalo community. As William said in 2020, "Buffalo is the greatest city in the world." It is a great city because of dedicated individuals such as William Paul Gosch.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CASEY HATCHER

HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Butte County resident, Casey Corin Hatcher, who passed away in the early morning of November 5, 2023, at the young age of 43. She was surrounded by her sister, mother, and two lifelong friends.

Casey was born on February 26, 1980, in Auburn, California to her parents Michelle and Tom Hatcher. When she arrived, she was welcomed by her big sister Kelci Hatcher who became her lifelong treasure. She was inquisitive and had a head for planning, directing and problem-solving early in her development. She moved to Chico to attend college in 1999, graduating, from California State University (CSU), Chico with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing.

Casey began her professional career with a management consulting firm focused on assisting small businesses. She assisted over 60 in total during her tenure. The hands-on work with these businesses provided her with a solid foundation for continuing her work in economic development.

In 2011, Casey joined Butte County Administration as a member of its economic and community development unit, where she began her enduring advocacy for the Butte County community that she served with dedication for the remainder of her life.

Casey worked on a variety of community development projects early in her career with the County including implementation of disaster recovery assistance for homeowners affected by the 2008 wildfires in Butte County. Due to her stellar work, she was promoted to Economic Development Manager in 2016. She returned to CSU, Chico and received her Master's Degree in Public Administration in 2017.

Casey served in the County's Emergency Operation Center during many activations including the Oroville Dam Spillway Incident, the Wall, Ponderosa, and La Porte/Cherokee fires in 2017, the Camp Fire, the 2020 North Complex Fire, and the 2021 Dixie Fire. She worked countless hours supporting the response and recovery to these tragedies in Butte County.

She never wavered, faltered, or tired of her dedication to serving the people of Butte County.

Ultimately, she was promoted to Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and assigned to "lead" disaster recovery organizing County staff, advocating with state and federal agencies, and helping rebuild the community for which she cared so deeply.

Additionally, in October 2021, Casey was asked to testify before a congressional committee on disaster recovery where she was provided a national platform to advocate for disaster recovery. The systems Casey put into place are used today as a model by communities experiencing catastrophic disasters, including most recently by the State of Hawaii in their response to the Lahaina Wildfire in Maui.

Casey was a rock; she was a role model; she was a moral compass. She was encouraging, challenging, motivating, but supportive. Her family, friends, colleagues, and beloved community will cherish her for the rest of the days of their lives.

RECOGNIZING ANDY FLICK FOR TWO YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest gratitude for the outstanding service and unwavering dedication of Andy Flick, who served as the Executive Director of the New Democrat Coalition. During my time as Chair of the New Dems, his tireless efforts were instrumental in advancing our shared vision for pragmatic and innovative solutions to the challenges facing our nation. From the intricacies of policy research to the dynamic coordination required in the Coalition's daily operations, his contributions have truly made a lasting impact.

Andy's commitment to fostering bipartisan collaboration and ability to navigate the complex landscape of Capitol Hill have not gone unnoticed, and now he serves as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Vice President. His strategic insights and meticulous attention to detail were invaluable assets to our team. As we continue to strive for a more effective and efficient government, I want to take this moment to recognize and thank Andy for his exemplary service.

The New Democrat Coalition and I are profoundly grateful for Andy's hard work, and I am confident that his future endeavors will reflect the same level of excellence he brought to our team. I wish Andy the best of luck in all his future endeavors and thank him for his outstanding service.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MEGHAN CROTTY QUINN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's

Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumnae Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Meghan Crotty Quinn. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend the alumni who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

A proud South Buffalo resident, Meghan and her husband Kevin Quinn are the proud parents of Kiera (Mount Mercy Academy, Class of 2027), son Rory and daughter Colleen. Meghan is the daughter of Anita Durkin Crotty (Mount Mercy Academy Class of 1963) and Patrick Crotty. Meghan is a business and community leader. She graduated from John Carroll University in 2007 and earned the title of Certified Public Accountant shortly thereafter. Meghan's rise in the banking industry has been rapid; after a stint with M&T Bank, she now serves as a Senior Vice President in the Commercial Banking division at HSBC Bank. She has twice been recognized by her peers as a top 100 performer in United States commercial banking and is a recipient of the Irish Echo's 40 Under 40 Award in 2021. Meanwhile, her professional success has been coupled with a steadfast commitment of paying it forward. Meghan is the Treasurer of South Buffalo Roots, a rising community organization responsible for organizing the very successful South Buffalo Porchfest, Music in the Park series and South Buffalo Irish Festival. This dedicated group of volunteers in turn supports an array of neighborhood organizations using a creative model of giving back to other charitable organizations including, the South Buffalo Community Table, Buffalo Irish Center, Buffalo Refuse, local sports and school organizations, 11-Day Powerplay, Kids Escaping Drugs, and Feed the Front Line. Citizens like Meghan—those who are consumed with doing right by their neighbors are what makes Buffalo so special. Her commitment to professional excellence and bettering the Western New York community make for an incredible endorsement of Mount Mercy Academy and its principles.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Meghan Crotty Quinn continues to live these values in her career and relationships.

LUIS MOLINA-BARRAZA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Luis Molina-Barraza of Westminster, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Luis traveled to Morocco 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 experi-

ences 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 Luis 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, it is a privilege to recognize Luis' many accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS AN EMPOWERMENT ZONE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would designate certain areas of the District of Columbia as empowerment zones. This bill would effectively reauthorize many of the unique federal tax incentives for business investment in D.C. that expired in 2011. D.C.'s downtown, which has been the economic engine of the city, has been particularly hard hit by the increase in remote and hybrid work since the COVID-19 pandemic, making this bill especially important.

In 1993, Congress created the national empowerment zone program to encourage investment in low-income communities and delegated to federal agencies the authority to designate communities as empowerment zones. D.C. was not among those so designated. However, in 1997, working primarily with Republicans in Congress, I created federal tax incentives for investment in D.C. by businesses and individuals. The business incentives were similar to, but more generous than, those available under the national empowerment zone program. I got the D.C. incentives reauthorized regularly until 2011, when Congress refused to extend the D.C. incentives. At the same time, Congress extended the national empowerment zone program, and the program was last extended through 2025. Under my bill, low-income neighborhoods in D.C. would be treated as empowerment zones as long as the national empowerment zone program remains in effect.

Congress has recognized that the benefits of tax incentives for investment in economically distressed communities outweigh the costs, as it has continuously extended the national empowerment zone program. The tax incentives for D.C. were the only tax incentives for a big city that were not extended, even though they were initially created by Republicans, with the help of several Democrats.

The expiration of the tax incentives for D.C. was tragically timed, as the low-income parts of D.C., which needed the incentives most, were ready for revitalization. As we work to revitalize downtown D.C. and Wards 5, 7 and 8, the need for these incentives for D.C. is of

paramount importance. The tax incentives for D.C. were effective and their costs were de minimis.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING DR. HANK HINE
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
ARTS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Hank Hine, his remarkable achievements and the well-deserved recognition from Spain's King, Felipe VI of the Order of Isabel la Católica. As the Executive Director of The Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, Dr. Hine has not only enriched our community and cultural landscape, but also has forged international connections that highlight the artistic and cultural treasures we hold dear.

Dr. Hine's lifelong commitment to the arts and his exceptional stewardship of The Dalí Museum have left an indelible mark on the cultural life of our community. The Dalí Museum holds the largest collection of Salvador Dalí's artworks outside of Dalí's home country of Spain. Under his visionary leadership, the museum has become a beacon of creativity and inspiration, welcoming visitors from all corners of the globe to experience the masterpieces of Dalí and other renowned artists.

The recent honor bestowed upon Dr. Hine, the Order of Isabel la Católica, is a testament to his dedication and tireless efforts in fostering cultural exchange and promoting the legacy of Salvador Dalí, one of the most celebrated artists of all times. This recognition is one of the highest civilian honors Spain bestows, and it reflects the deep respect and admiration with which he is regarded not only in our local community but also on the international stage. Dr. Hine expressed his gratitude to the entire community in his acceptance address, recognizing all those who welcomed The Dalí to St. Petersburg—the founders, staff, trustees, and volunteers whose embrace of the power of art propelled all the Museum's achievements.

Dr. Hine's work transcends borders, enriching our understanding of art, culture and the human experience. His tireless commitment to fostering collaboration and understanding among different cultures and nations deserves our highest praise and gratitude.

As we congratulate Dr. Hine on this prestigious recognition, we also express our gratitude for his continued contributions to the vibrant cultural tapestry of our community. His passion and leadership at The Dalí Museum have made Tampa Bay a cultural hub and a destination for art enthusiasts worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and applauding Dr. Hank Hine for his outstanding achievements and for bringing the world of art and culture closet to our hearts and our community. Dr. Hine's unwavering commitment to the arts has enhanced the lives of my community and his work will be celebrated by many generations. May his work continue to inspire and enrich us all.

MARIE HANDY

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marie Handy of Lakewood, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Marie traveled to Japan 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 Marie 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, it is a privilege to recognize Marie's many accomplishments.

**CONGRATULATING MICHAEL
BUDNEY**
HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize Mike Budney, Manager of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, on receiving a 2023 Presidential Rank Award (PRA).

The PRA is one of the highest awards bestowed upon career senior executives by the President of the United States for making ex-

traordinary and lasting achievements for their respective agencies.

During his service at the Savannah River Site, Mike has overseen completion of the tank waste treatment system with the startup of the Salt Waste Processing Facility, spearheaded the Accelerated Basin De-inventory project, saving taxpayers billions of dollars, and broken ground on the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative, a facility that will bring government, industry, and academia together to develop and share advanced manufacturing technologies.

Leading a workforce of over 12,000 government and contractor personnel to successfully accomplish these critical tasks demonstrates his commitment and service to this nation. This is in addition to his 29 years of service in the U.S. Navy, including commanding officer of the USS *Emory S. Land* and the USS *Pennsylvania*.

I am grateful to Mike for his service in helping to keep America strong and safe. Congratulations on receiving the Presidential Rank Award, an inspiration for what we can achieve as public servants.