

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SHELDON COOPER

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheldon Cooper for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Sheldon has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Sheldon, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Sheldon's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wayne Carle Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Sheldon Cooper on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING SGT. WILLIAM LIND
ON RECEIVING THE FIRST RESPONDER HERO AWARD

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sgt. William Lind of Moline, Illinois on receiving the First Responder Hero Award from Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois.

In October of 2022, Sgt. Lind was attacked and critically injured after trying to apprehend a suspect trying to flee the scene of an arson. After his long road of recovery, he finally got back to work at the East Moline Police Department. Upon his return, he received a Purple Heart because of the bravery he showed in the line of duty. The Purple Heart Award is given to officers in the department who have sustained a serious injury from an assault "with potentially lethal force" while on duty. On that day in October, Sgt. Lind sustained life threatening injuries while trying to protect those in our community. Following this Purple Heart, he received the First Responder Hero Award from Black Hawk College. I'm indubitably grateful to have an officer like Sgt. Lind serving the community I represent here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Sgt. William Lind formally on the honor of receiving the First Responder Hero Award. I join the rest of the community in thanking Sgt. Lind for his courage and bravery in the line of duty.

NO FUNDS FOR IRANIAN
TERRORISM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5961, the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act. If passed, H.R. 5961 would destroy our credibility in negotiation for our nation moving forward on future diplomacy with Iran, putting the U.S.—and the world—in danger of a nuclearized Iran.

Let's be clear: the prisoner swap agreement established earlier this year by President Biden helped eliminate a long-standing obstacle for improving U.S.-Iran relations and was an important step in preventing Iran from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon. By passing this legislation, we could be making future negotiations with Iran impossible, and eroding U.S. diplomatic credibility at a time when regional violence is on the rise. This loss of credibility and leverage damages the United States' ability to negotiate for future hostage release, including Israelis being held in Gaza.

This would be the second time the United States has gone back on its word with Iran. Lest we forget, it was former President Trump who threw the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) into chaos when he announced the U.S. would withdraw from the deal in May 2018. Since the U.S. withdrew, Iran announced that it will not limit its stockpile of low-enriched uranium, which is a loss for national security here at home and across the globe.

As my colleague Rep. GREGORY MEEKS, the Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said during the markup of this bill: this is not about being friends with Iran. This is about using the best proven method—diplomacy—to stop Iran's nuclear ambition. It is through diplomacy that we have the best chance of reopening formal nuclear negotiations in the future, and we must keep this possibility alive.

In addition to preserving our negotiating integrity with Iran, I am voting against this bill because the United States has a reputation of providing humanitarian aid to oppressed populations, even when we disagree with their governments. We know that when a population is deprived of food, water, access to medicine, and safe shelter, it makes it easier for oppressive regimes to thrive and control their people. If this bill were to pass, the United States would take the unprecedented step of opening up the possibility of sanctions on humanitarian aid. The civilians of Iran did not choose their government. They will suffer the most under economic sanctions.

For these reasons, I must vote against this legislation.

BAILEIGH BENTLEY

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Baileigh Bentley for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Baileigh has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Baileigh, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Baileigh's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Baileigh Bentley on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING PEYTON SALLOWES
ON RECEIVING THE CIVILIAN
FIRST RESPONDER HERO AWARD

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peyton Sallows of Port Byron, Illinois on receiving the Civilian First Responder Hero Award from Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois.

This past September, Peyton Sallows, a bright 7-year-old from Port Byron, showed a remarkable amount of courage when her mother Ali experienced severe anaphylactic shock. Peyton quickly called 911 and calmly spoke to the dispatcher. Her bravery and ability to stay calm during an extremely stressful situation saved her mother's life. Her actions allowed first responders to arrive quickly and conduct lifesaving treatment. It is an honor to have a child as bright and courageous as Peyton in the district I get to represent in Congress. I can't wait to see where this bravery leads her in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally congratulate Peyton on receiving this much deserved "Civilian First Responder Hero Award" from Black Hawk College. I join the rest of the community in thanking her for her incredible display of courage and bravery during an extremely challenging situation.

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

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

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM A. MCFARLANE'S SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY AND TO OUR NATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of William "Bill" A. McFarlane and to grieve his passing. A dedicated public servant, his devotion to his community, state, and nation is worthy of remembrance and commendation.

Bill graduated from Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan in 1965, later being inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2004. His secondary education was interrupted by the conflict in Vietnam, which at that time was growing in its size and intensity. William proudly served his country in the Army under Colonel George S. Patton IV in 1968 and 1969, during which he was awarded two Bronze Stars for "heroic achievement in a combat zone" as well as two Purple Hearts.

After his service in the Army, Bill graduated from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan. A true leader in his community, he was appointed as Head Detective for the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office before serving as the Township Supervisor for Superior Township for 20 years. In his position as Township Supervisor, Bill was crucial in the negotiations that resulted in Hyundai establishing their American HQ in Superior Township in 2003. During his tenure, Superior Township saw a marked increase in population as well as their median income. Not yet satisfied, he would also serve six years on the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Bill was integral in facilitating transportation improvements in Superior Township and throughout Washtenaw County, providing increased mobility and access to all of our residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating and honoring the life and service of Bill McFarlane. A leader in his community and a friend to many, his presence will be greatly missed but not forgotten. His memory lives on in his wife, Sharon, two children, and four grandchildren. We offer them prayers of solace in this difficult time, and thank them for sharing their husband, father, and grandfather with us. He made our corner of Michigan a better and more welcoming place for all.

SERGIO NAVARRO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergio Navarro for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Sergio has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Sergio, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Sergio's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High

School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Sergio Navarro on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING THE MOLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT ON RECEIVING THE FIRST RESPONDER AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Moline Fire Department in Moline, Illinois who received the First Responder Agency of the Year Award from Black Hawk College.

The Moline Fire Department works incredibly hard to ensure the safety and well-being of the community in which they serve. They are so loved by the city of Moline that they received more nominations than any of the other first responder agencies in the area. The "First Responder Agency of the Year" award acknowledges the dedication and extraordinary contributions of the Moline Fire Department to the community. I am proud to call Moline my home and I am incredibly grateful to have First Responders like these on call when you need them most.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Moline Fire Department formally on the honor of receiving the First Responder Agency of the Year Award. I join the rest of the community in thanking the Moline Fire Department for their commitment to serving and protecting the residents of Moline, Illinois.

HONORING JAMES J. MOSCONI

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James J. Mosconi, Jr. of Liverpool, NY for his distinguished career with the United States Postal Service.

Mr. Mosconi was born in Syracuse, NY on Oct. 14, 1951, to Roslyn and James Mosconi, Sr., who was also employed by the USPS. James, Jr. followed in his father's footsteps after having graduated from LeMoyne College with a degree in sociology. He started his career with the USPS part-time during the Christmas season in 1973 at the main post office in downtown Syracuse. In 1979, he was promoted to a full-time clerk/carrier at the office in Liverpool, NY.

At various points, Mr. Mosconi was called on for assignments outside his main location. For instance, he was the Officer in Charge at the Hastings, NY office for a stint in 1991. He also worked as an instructor at the Taft Road Main Office, and later taught computer usage at the downtown office. He even ran stamp shows at local parks and the New York State Fair.

Throughout his nearly 50-year career, Mr. Mosconi embodied everything an employer could hope for in an employee, namely, dedi-

cation, product and service knowledge, a passion for customer service, and unparalleled reliability. His work ethic, the processes he helped to implement, and his amiable and gentle nature will undoubtedly live on at this branch for years to come. And, most importantly, he remained a devoted father, making his five children incredibly proud of his hard work and dedication over the years.

On behalf of New York's 22nd Congressional District, I would like to commend Mr. Mosconi for his nearly five decades of federal employment and his outstanding commitment toward improved Postal Service operations and serving our Central New York community. James J. Mosconi's many contributions to the United States Postal Service—and to the Liverpool branch in particular—will be felt for many years to come.

JULIUS GARCIA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julius Garcia for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Julius has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Julius, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Julius's hard work; determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Julius Garcia on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM FAILURE TO SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5283, the Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act of 2023.

In bringing H.R. 5283 to the House floor, Republicans again demonstrate they are more interested in political grandstanding and punishing asylum seekers than advancing any serious policy on immigration. Under the guise of protecting our public lands and national parks, H.R. 5283 would prohibit any temporary or permanent housing for asylum seekers on land controlled by National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or the Forest Service (USFS). If Republicans truly cared about our public lands, they would not have passed an Interior Appropriations bill that dramatically cuts funding for our federal land management agencies, including \$450 million from the National Park

Service and \$312 million from the U.S. Forest Service.

Mr. Chair, this is another messaging bill from House Republicans that will never become law. It is time we focus on finding real solutions to the issues our constituents are facing.

CONGRATULATING LOS ALAMOS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Los Alamos Public Schools in New Mexico, which is the 2023 College Board Advanced Placement Small District of the Year.

Every year, the College Board honors three districts with an Advanced Placement District of the Year award. Each represents a small, medium, or large district and has achieved the most significant increases in AP Exam scores. They have also expanded access to Advanced Placement courses for a greater diversity of students. The College Board awarded Los Alamos Public Schools this distinction from over 12,000 school districts across the U.S. and Canada as the national leader among small-sized school districts.

Advanced Placement courses provide avenues to higher education opportunities and unlock many doors for students. Los Alamos Public Schools had 40 percent or more of its graduating cohort take at least one Advanced Placement exam. Their scores demonstrate high-level achievement. This proves that our students have the potential to excel when offered challenging educational opportunities. The award is a great testament to the hard work and commitment of the administrators, educators, families, and students of Los Alamos.

Los Alamos Public Schools is a wonderful example of the excellence and achievement that exemplify the great state of New Mexico. I commend the educational community whose dedication and work ethic paved the way for this well-deserved award.

JUAN JOSE MORENO SANTOS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juan Jose Moreno Santos for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Juan Jose has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Juan Jose, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Juan Jose's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Juan Jose Moreno Santos on achieving the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNUAL
FAMILY CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, December 16, 2023, Brevard County families, businesses and local community organizations will gather to celebrate the 15th Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza. This wonderful event, which will take place at Fred Poppe Regional Park in Palm Bay, FL, will provide an uplifting message of hope and future during this Christmas season.

The House Church, River of Life Christian Center, Elevation Church, Eastwind Pentecostal Church, Grace Bible Church, Jornada al Cielo, Church on the Rock, Truth Reveal Ministries, Wings of Grace Ministries, CITA Rescue Mission, have all united to bring the 15th Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza to our City and County.

Working with several community and business partners such as the City of Palm Bay Parks & Recreation, Thrifty Specialty Produce, Chick-Fil-A, Fruits of my Labor, Engel & Volk, Gator Automotive, the Mortgage Firm, Frog Bones-Family Shooting Center, Z88.3FM, All Digital All Day, Grifols Plasma Distribution Center, Double Scope, Al Dia Today Newspaper, Martin's Famous Potato Rolls, SMTC Manufacturing, and Premiere Oaks 10 Cinema, the mission is to provide a positive venue for residents and children to celebrate Christmas, serve others and give back to their community.

Over sixty local businesses and organizations have made donations of toys, food, gift certificates, equipment, finances, and goodie bags, and will feature musicians and artist such as Unified Sound with Joel Lopez, Peabod, Carl Lewis and the Intensity Band, Eddie Anthony as Eddie Frost, Jalixa Morales as FA-LA-LA-LA-LIXA and Corey Sprenkle with S & S Sound.

Senior Pastor Ken Delgado of The House at Palm Bay said: "With today's news being filled with division, contention, and expressions of hatred, it is exciting to see the City of Palm Bay, along with the city's businesses and the citizens, create an event where love, joy and peace are expressed. The Family Christmas Extravaganza is the greatest expression that so many people yearn for and is what the angels proclaimed at the birth of Jesus, saying 'Peace and good will towards all men'."

The Mayor of the City of Palm Bay, Rob Medina, issued a proclamation in support for this year's celebration, recognizing the Extravaganza has become the largest Christmas party on the Space Coast and December 16, 2023, as Family Christmas Extravaganza Day.

The spirit of the holidays is all about giving and spending time with loved ones. This year's Extravaganza brings our community together to remind us of that. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting all those who are doing their part to spread the Christmas spirit this holiday season and those who have worked so hard to make the 15th Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza possible.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JEFFREY
PEIRCE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Officer Jeffrey Peirce of the Newfields Police Department for his recent act of bravery that earned him the Department's Life Saving Award. When an armed man experiencing a mental health crisis needed assistance, Officer Peirce relied on his training, experience, and sense of duty to effectively de-escalate the situation and help the individual access proper care. I commend Officer Peirce on his courage during a difficult situation and thank him for his decades of service to the Newfields and Rye Police Departments.

In response to calls about a distressed individual in the police department's parking lot, Officer Peirce arrived on the scene ready to assist in the de-escalation of a mental health crisis. Without any backup Peirce engaged with the man, asking him questions and listening to his concerns, empowered by his years of de-escalation training and mental health classes. After removing a gun from the individual's car, Officer Peirce encouraged the man to travel with him to Portsmouth Hospital in order to receive treatment and speak with the staff at the Behavioral Health Unit.

Officer Peirce's ability to de-escalate the situation is a result of his quick thinking and courage, as well as the professional training in mental health affairs he received as a member of the force. By listening to the concerns of the individual, acting quickly to withdraw and empty his gun, and helping him access the care he needed, Officer Peirce demonstrated bravery and empathy, making him truly deserving of the Life Saving Award.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Officer Peirce for his bravery and recognize him for his service to the people of New Hampshire. His heroism and sense of duty will serve as a shining example for all Granite State public safety professionals. I wish Officer Peirce all the best in his future endeavors.

JESUS FIGUEROA-ARRIGA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jesus Figueroa-Arriga for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jesus has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jesus, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jesus's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jesus Figueroa-Arriga on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, due to a family health issue that required prompt attention, I missed two suspension votes last night regarding our greatest ally, Israel. Had I been present, I would have voted yes—without reservation—for both measures: I unequivocally reaffirm Israel's right to exist, and I support the immediate release of all hostages taken by the jihadist terrorist organization Hamas. I am thankful that my colleagues in Congress voted overwhelmingly in favor of these measures. Anyone familiar with my voting record knows that I have always stood foursquare in support of Israel and will continue to do so. Hamas must be eradicated, all prisoners must be released, and we must continue to remove any shred of doubt about Israel's right to exist.

AZAHNAE MEDINA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Azahnae Medina for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Azahnae has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Azahnae, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Azahnae's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Azahnae Medina on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO CAPTAIN KENNETH
ZACHARIE

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Dallas Fire-Rescue Captain Kenneth Zacharie. Earlier this month at a Nimitz High School basketball game, Kenneth, alongside an Arlington Lamar High School Athletic Trainer and Arlington EMS supervisor, worked to save a young athlete when she collapsed on the court during pregame warm-ups. The young athlete went into cardiac arrest and Kenneth swooped into action, using chest compressions and a defibrillator. As a result of his heroic actions, the student-athlete is now on the road to recovery.

Kenneth's wife coaches the Nimitz High School girls' varsity basketball team. Luckily,

Kenneth brought their three sons to the game earlier than usual and was there when the student-athlete collapsed before the game began. As the Captain of the Rapid Intervention Team, Kenneth is no stranger to serious situations and was able to work with others to provide a swift, lifesaving response.

I'd like to thank Captain Kenneth Zacharie for being a shining example of the heroes that make North Texas such an amazing community to live in.

HONORING MAJOR DAVID
CHARLES HOFFMAN

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Major David Charles Hoffman for 39 years of dedicated service to our country.

Major Hoffman started his career with the U.S. Army after graduating from Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1985, when he received his commission as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army. His Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal are a testament to his exceptional achievements and the magnitude of his contributions through his service.

Major Hoffman's commitment to learning was instrumental in his success. In 1988, he graduated from the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College. That same year, he graduated from the Army Logistics Management College, where he was named as a distinguished graduate of the Management of Defense Acquisitions Course.

On October 2, 1998, Major Hoffman joined the U.S. Army Reserves, and on that same date, he joined the U.S. Department of Justice as an attorney with the Civil Division, Commercial Litigation Branch. While there, he continued to serve the people of Virginia. Since 2005, he has served as the Deputy General Counsel for Audit Policy and Contract Litigation in the Office of General Counsel for the Defense Contract Audit Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In recognition of his esteemed service on behalf of the American people, the Defense Contract Audit Agency bestowed Major Hoffman with the Civilian Meritorious Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Major David Charles Hoffman for 39 years of service to our country and in wishing him the best as he retires to spend time with his wife of 43 years, Cheryl, and their two children, Kristin and Jonathan.

JAYLIN MARTINEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jaylin Martinez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jaylin has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along

the way. Students like Jaylin, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jaylin's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jaylin Martinez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING LARRY D. SMITH

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest gratitude and admiration for the exemplary service and dedication of Mr. Larry D. Smith. It is with great honor that we acknowledge his remarkable contributions and years of service to our country and our Military Academies. I thank him for his invaluable partnership over the past decade as this weekend marks his last round of academy nomination interviews that he will conduct in support of my office.

Born in Los Angeles in 1940, Mr. Smith's journey is one marked by commitment and achievement. A graduate of Manual Arts High School in 1958, he furthered his education at the United States Military Academy, earning a BS in General Engineering in 1962. Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army, Armor Branch, Mr. Smith's military service took him to Germany, the United States, and Vietnam, where he served with distinction in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Transitioning to civilian life in 1970, Mr. Smith embarked on a successful career in Commercial Real Estate, notably with Grubb & Ellis Company, where he served on the Board of Directors and managed offices in the Los Angeles area. His relocation from Southern California to Sacramento in 1979 marked the beginning of a new chapter as a Commercial Real Estate Developer, leaving an indelible mark by constructing the IRS office facility in Sacramento and managing others in Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. His foray into residential home building in 1990 saw the creation and sale of hundreds of homes in the Sacramento area, a testament to his enduring entrepreneurial spirit.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Smith has been an active and engaged member of the West Point community. Currently serving as the President of the West Point Alumni in Northern California, he also holds the position of National Trustee for the Association of Graduates. His involvement in the West Point Admissions Department and his role as the e-mail network moderator for the West Point Parents Net (wpp-net) showcase his commitment to the development and support of future generations. Mr. Smith's family life is equally commendable, having been married to his wife, Maren, for 35 years. His sons, Tom and Mark, have followed in his footsteps, with Tom serving as an officer in the Army and Mark as a legislative aide to a California State Senator.

I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Larry D. Smith in recognition of his outstanding achievements and unwavering dedication to public service. His legacy serves as

an inspiration to us all, and we are grateful for his continued contributions to the betterment of our community and Nation.

HONORING THE CONTINUED SERVICE OF COMMANDER CHRISTIAN WOODSIDE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Commander Christian Woodside, United States Navy, during his service as a legislative fellow in my Washington, D.C. office this year. Throughout 2023, Christian has played a critical role in supporting my work on the House Armed Services Committee and representing the proud Navy community in eastern Connecticut.

As Ranking Member of the House Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, which has the solemn, critical duty of overseeing much of our nation's Navy, Marine Corps, and various Air Force programs and policies, his perspective was essential to me and my office. Year in, and year out, the Department of Defense's legislative fellowship program brings highly talented officers to Capitol Hill who provide invaluable benefits to Members of the House and Senate and the defense committees. Officers, like Christian, bring real-world experience from their time in the classroom at the various academies and experiences from their time serving on active duty. This year, as our subcommittee actively worked to shape our nation's critical shipbuilding programs, shipbuilding industrial base development, and Navy and Marine Corps readiness through the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, Christian provided exquisite judgement in navigating the landscape of crafting such a large and critical piece of legislation.

Christian has also seized initiative in a variety of areas beyond naval affairs that benefit eastern Connecticut. He worked tirelessly to provide insight into our Navy's planned shipbuilding programs, visited with leadership at Naval Submarine New London to discuss ongoing installation operations, and focused on submarine industrial base issues crucial to sustaining the Navy's fleet. He also used his recent shore assignment as a resource sponsor at the Surface Directorates as the SSDS and Enterprise Test and Evaluation Officer for N96 to provide invaluable insight on the Navy's budget process throughout this calendar year. Lastly, he engaged in persistent communication with the embassies of Australia and the United Kingdom to facilitate various engagements in my office and around Capitol Hill and, most importantly, leveraged those relationships as the Congress considered legislative proposals to execute the trilateral AUKUS security agreement.

Christian's work ethic, diligence, intelligence, and first-hand experience as a Surface Warfare Officer made an immediate benefit and memorable impact on my office and subcommittee staff. He was also an energetic, affable colleague to my entire congressional staff, willing to help in small ways and big ways to serve the constituents of Connecticut's 2nd Congressional District. His sense of

humor and thoughtful comments on issues outside of his Navy portfolio were much appreciated by the whole team, and they will be friends for life.

After traveling across the world with tenures on the USS *Doyle* (FFG 39) and USS *Stout* (DDG 55), and numerous shore assignments including Integrated Undersea Surveillance System (IUSS) qualification at Whibdey Island in the state of Washington, I am thankful for his family's tremendous sacrifice to our nation and for landing in the District of Columbia for the current phase of their life. Though Christian's presence will be deeply missed by both my personal staff and Seapower staff, I know full-well that he will make his presence known as he heads to Naval Education and Training Command to serve as Executive Officer aboard USS *Mahan* (DDG 72).

Mr. Speaker, as has also been the case for each of his predecessors that my office has had the opportunity to host, I have benefitted greatly from Christian's training and background. This recurring process that the fellowship program fosters, strengthens civilian-military understanding for future leaders of the greatest military in the world, which I believe is a necessary component of a strong democracy. Our Nation is best served at sea and here onshore by officers and leaders of the highest caliber, like Christian. He embodies such qualities and has a promising career ahead in continued service to our nation, and we owe him such gratitude. I ask that the House join me in wishing CDR Christian Woodside, his spouse Leigh Anne, and their two daughters, Hannah and Charlotte, the best of luck in their next life chapter.

ESHAYA GRAY-SULLIVAN

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eshaya Gray-Sullivan for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Eshaya has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Eshaya, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Eshaya's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Eshaya Gray-Sullivan on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in advance of the 300th Anniversary of the

First Congregational Church and Meeting House in Shrewsbury. The Congregation will celebrate this tremendous milestone on Monday, December 4.

Mr. Speaker, the history of the Church spans almost as far back as the town itself. In October 1717, the General Court of Massachusetts permitted Shrewsbury as a township, as long as 40 families would settle there, build a meeting house, and settle an ordained minister within three years. With little delay, Reverend Job Cushing was ordained, and the original church covenant was adopted on December 4, 1723.

For 109 years, the meeting house was the site for both church and town affairs, until the two separated in 1832. Since its inception, the Church has undergone moves, repairs, remodels, and expansions. Nevertheless, the Church remained a steadfast community center.

During its long history, the Church has remained a site of social responsibility. The Church championed a Vigilance Committee to support the Underground Railroad. Its ministries outreach to those in need. And today, the Church is an open and affirming Congregation.

In 1961, the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury became part of the United Church of Christ. Since then, the Church has opened its doors to all, supporting the diverse needs of the Shrewsbury community.

Mr. Speaker, the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury strives to keep adapting to be in service to all people. I look forward to celebrating this crucial community organization on their 300th Anniversary. Please join me in paying honor and tribute to the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF WDSU CHANNEL 6

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize a local television station, WDSU Channel 6, on their 75th Anniversary. On December 18, 1948, WDSU became the first television station to "sign on" in the State of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region and for the next nine years would remain our only local station.

Starting with the invocation of archdiocesan chancellor Monsignor Charles J. Plauche in 1948, WDSU has been an eyewitness for historical moments that have shaped our region. WDSU was on the scene during the building of the Crescent City Connection which connects New Orleans' East Bank to the West Bank. The station was there to provide the first live election results in the Greater New Orleans area, and WDSU reporters were the only ones to live broadcast the World's Fair in New Orleans in 1984. The station chronicled the moments leading up to landfall of Hurricane Katrina, with coverage during the storm, and the days, months, and years following as the people of Southeast Louisiana recovered and rebuilt. The station has since covered other major storms to hit the area including Hurricanes Gustav, Ike, Laura, and Ida.

The name WDSU is widely recognized across the Greater New Orleans area but not

many know the significance behind the name. The “W” in WDSU is used by stations east of the Mississippi River. The “D” honors the Desoto Hotel where the original radio station, formerly known as WCBE, broadcasted above. The “S” is a nod to the old New Orleans States newspaper, and the “U” recognizes Joe Uhalt who bought the original radio station.

It is truly my pleasure to recognize WDSU’s 75th Anniversary. On behalf of the great people of Louisiana’s First Congressional District, I thank the anchors, photographers, journalists, and the whole staff at WDSU for their continued coverage of breaking news, historical events, and representation of the Greater

New Orleans area, ensuring our community is informed and entertained. WDSU’s commitment to public service and broadcasting does not go unnoticed and is appreciated by the entire New Orleans region.

DAYANA BANUELOS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dayana Banuelos for earning the

Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Dayana has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Dayana, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Dayana’s hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Dayana Banuelos on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.