

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EVELYN HICKMAN

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

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

Evelyn has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Evelyn, 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 Evelyn's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
DUTCHESS COUNTY DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY WILLIAM GRADY

**HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dutchess County District Attorney William Grady. William is retiring after 40 years of serving the Dutchess County community as District Attorney.

William began his career in the District Attorney's Office in 1970 after his service in the U.S. Army, where he reached the rank of captain and received a Bronze Star. He started as an Assistant DA and was first elected as District Attorney in 1983. William has been re-elected 10 times and is currently the longest serving district attorney in New York State.

Under William's leadership, the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office has grown to a full-time staff of 39 attorneys which includes 20 female prosecutors. During his tenure William worked with Dutchess County to develop programs that address issues that lead to crime, such as substance abuse and mental health. These programs include the Dutchess County Drug Task Force, the Domestic Abuse Response Team, and the DWI Bureau. William has truly worked tirelessly to improve the criminal justice system in Dutchess County and keep residents safe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the career of Dutchess County District Attorney William Grady. We wish him nothing but the best in his well-earned retirement.

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE  
JOSH KEENAN ON HIS RETIRE-  
MENT

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend The Honorable Josh Keenan, on his retirement.

Born in the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1937, The Honorable Mayor Josh Keenan attended and graduated from Northeast Catholic High School as a member of their Philadelphia Inter League Commission Championship Basketball Team in 1956. After graduating from High School, Mayor Josh Keenan matriculated to Erskine College in Due West, South Carolina, graduating with a bachelor's degree in science. His desire to continue his education led him to earn a master's degree in science and physical education at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York as well as earn a Certificate in Educational Administration from Glassboro College in Glassboro, New Jersey.

The Honorable Josh Keenan has been heavily involved within his community. He is a member of several organizations including the Knights of Columbus, Stratford's Joint Land Use Board, and the Free Public Library Board of Trustees, as well as the Stratford Ambulance Association Inc. He formerly served as president of the Stratford Board of Education, which he was a part of for 22 years before 10 years as Treasurer for the Sterling Regional High School Board of Education. Mayor Keenan paid close attention to the development of the borough as a committeeman concerning Stratford's Economic Development. He is also a member of the Holy Family Council & Bishop Eustace General Assembly, St. Luke R.C. Church, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

The Honorable Mayor Keenan served as Edgewood Regional High School's Athletic Director for 30 years. Throughout his career, Mayor Keenan served on the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association's Executive Committee, National Council of Secondary School Athletic Directors Executive Committee, and formerly led as President of the South Jersey Coaches Association. For his commitment to Athletics Mayor Josh Keenan was inducted into the Philadelphia Basketball Association and the South Jersey Coaches Hall of Fame.

Today, in his retirement, Mayor Keenan will have more time with his family. A resident of the Borough of Stratford for 59 years, Mayor Keenan shared 57 years with the late Medge Keenan, whom together, they had three sons John, Mike and Matt who are all residents of Stratford. He is the proud grandfather of three and great-grandfather of two.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending The Honorable Mayor Josh Keenan of the Borough of Stratford, New

Jersey, a resident dedicated to his community who has thoroughly served them to the best of his ability.

STUDENT THESPIANS ACT  
AGAINST FOOD INSECURITY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, January 14, 2024, high school students, troupe members of New Jersey Thespians, will be honored for their leadership and contributions to a statewide program designed to help those facing food insecurity in our state.

Their charitable efforts are part of a program known as Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat, a community service venture in which students participate statewide to make a difference and help their neighbors in need. In just one month, October 2023, this humanitarian effort collected over 8,953 pounds of food. Eleven New Jersey schools with 255 Thespians participated, including four from the Fourth Congressional District of New Jersey: Toms River North, Manasquan and Brick high schools, and Ocean County Vocational Technical School Performing Arts Academy, all of which will be honored at a closing ceremony at Robbinsville High School.

I note that Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat had been previously run by the Educational Theatre Association before being discontinued in 2018. However, the students and adults that make up the New Jersey Thespians State Board saw the value and impact of the program, stepped up and revived the 2018 effort into the program that we now honor. As part of the program, theater students collect canned and dry goods from their neighbors and friends to then be delivered to local charities and food banks.

New Jersey Thespians serves as a leading honor society of the arts, holding a festival each year for high school students in January and a festival for junior high students in May in the Garden State. New Jersey has one of the fastest-growing Junior Thespian chapters in the country, doubling in membership in each of the last two years. New Jersey also has both high school and junior high Thespian officers who participate in events locally, regionally, and nationally.

Congratulations and thanks to the students of Thespians Troupe 7455, based out of Toms River High School North who collected over 450 pounds of food for one of the largest food bank organizations in the state, Fulfill of Monmouth and Ocean Counties:

Alexa De Los Santos, Allyson Olivera, Bailey Terrett, Betania Esparza, Brianna Fredella, Darlene Penn, Delaney Koovits, Elizabeth Diamond, Emma York, Faith Moreno, Gage Alburger, Hannah Kemp, Joey Beatty, Joey Scholz, Jose Padilla, Kara Kube, Kayla Fredricks, Kelly Nide, Leah Hugo, Levi Dudek,

• 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.

Liam Ryan, Lillyanne Smith, Lucas Maciel, Madison McPhee, Mars Byles, Mycah Subai, Peyton Mendes, Riley Poll, Sania Williams, Yazmin Beita, Zachary Menth and Danielle Brooks; as well as their advisor, Dr. Michael Penna.

Congratulations and thanks to the students of Thespians Troupe 6185, based out of the Ocean County Vocational Technical School Performing Arts Academy in Toms River, N. J., whose students have collected 514 pounds of food for the Beachwood Thanksgiving Food Drive:

Emily Altomare, Joshua Arneth, Enrique Bartolo, Zel Bollard, Ava Brierley, Christopher Castaneda, Colin Chaplin, Noelle Coburn, Lluvia Cohen, Adeon-Ethan Congdon, Catherine Cullen, Brooke DeFazio, Paige Derco, Lana Dubrow, Mia Dungan, Haley East, Julia Emer, Miley Ferriolo, Zoe Frantz, Keira Gabbai, Sophie Gabriel, Ariana Gallagher, Cassandra Garipey, Jose Gonzalez, Irene Gross, Susan Guida, Gracie Hammel, Kenneth Hankins, Lauren Harry, Allyson Hovance, Riley Hubert, Maya Jackson, Alani Jasinski, Zoey Jastrzebski, Saturn Johnson, Keira Kennis, Alexis Kinsey, Joseph LaManna, Olivia Linton, Raine Lopez, Samantha Martínez, Dakota Mason, Mia Matviiv, Gabrielle McColley, Madelynn McDevitt, Maci McNeil, Regina Messenger, Gianna Minardi, Riley Paluszak, Molly Pease, Jordan Perucki, Alexandra Reed, Benjamin Ricker, Victoria Roberts, Tayden Rock, Hannah Rowley, Cali Scott, Andrew Shuberck, Kristin Uphold, Isabella Vitello, Samantha Voss, Katie Wallace, Christina Watrous, Mia Whalen, Kai Williams, Ella Ytterberg and Aronas Zajanj; as well as their Troupe Directors Carolyn Little and Joseph Puliafico.

Congratulations and thanks to the students of Thespians Troupe 3411, based out of Brick Memorial High School, whose students collected 414 pounds of food for the Manasquan Food Pantry:

Michael Wells, Jules Fuches, Jenna Barry, Isabel Bartucci, Jessica O'Brien, Ky Morghan, Joseph Wronko, Molly and Emma Idzahl, Ava Hasen, Luca Buckno, Skylar Hillin, Emily Farrel, Alexis Marrveled and Jess Corsentino; as well as their advisor, Jessica O'Brien.

Congratulations and thanks to the students of Thespians Troupe 2430, based out of Manasquan High School, who collected 374 pounds of much needed food for the Manasquan Food Pantry:

Casey Finnegan, Cormac Lawrence, Janelle Slovak, Jessica Slovak, Olivia Maes, Lexi Drent, Charlotte Dery and Bridget Freeman; as well as their advisor, Maddi Schille.

Working together, these students, and their advisors, have made a significant and positive impact in our communities, helping to feed the hungry. Their noble and generous efforts are inspiring and deeply appreciated.

AARON LANE

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

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

Aaron has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Aaron, 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 Aaron's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Moore Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM A. SHAFER II

### HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of William A. Shafer II, a pillar of the Broome County community who was beloved by all who knew him. William recently passed away on November 6, 2023, at the age of 79.

William attended public school in Erie, Pennsylvania and enlisted in the United States Air Force after graduating high school. He spent his early career as an Electronics Warfare Officer before his discharge in 1966. He then worked for Spectrum Control in Erie before moving to Binghamton in 1988 where he worked for Lockheed Martin and later BAE Systems. He also spent several years in the Civil Air Patrol where he attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

William, also known as "Bill," was known throughout the community for his selflessness and integrity. A devoted member of the Civil Air Patrol, he was committed to mentoring young cadets in his community and was awarded Communicator of the Year during several years of his service. His contributions to Broome County will endure for generations to come, and he will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the life of William A. Shafer II, a remarkable man who made a lasting difference in his community.

### NAYELI LECHUGA

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

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

Nayeli has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Nayeli, 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 Nayeli'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 Nayeli Lechuga on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF AUDIE LEON MURPHY

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the extraordinary life and legacy of Audie Murphy. Audie Leon Murphy was born the son of sharecroppers on June 29, 1925, near Kingston, Texas, and rose to national fame as the most decorated U.S. combat soldier of World War II. Among his 33 awards and decorations he was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States, for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty". He also received nearly every decoration for valor that our country had to offer, as well as honors from Belgium and France. Murphy is credited with killing over 240 enemy soldiers, and wounding and capturing many others. Beginning his service as an Army Private, Murphy quickly rose to the enlisted rank of Staff Sergeant, then was given a "battlefield commission" as 2nd Lieutenant. He fought in 9 major campaigns across the European Theater, and he was wounded three times.

Upon returning to the United States after the end of World War II, Murphy received a hero's welcome. He appeared on the cover of Life Magazine, which led James Cagney to invite Murphy to Hollywood in September 1945. His 1949 autobiography "To Hell and Back" was a best seller which was made into a movie in 1955, in which Audie Murphy starred as himself. The movie held the record as Universal's highest grossing picture until 1975 when it was surpassed by the movie "Jaws." Over Murphy's time in Hollywood, he made a total of 44 feature films and a 26-episode western television series.

In 1955, Murphy became interested in Freemasonry. Encouraged by his close friend, Texas theater owner Skipper Cherry, he petitioned and joined the Masonic Order in California. Later he returned to Texas to conduct his 32-degree work where he joined the Shriners. Murphy remained active in various masonic events and was a member of good standing at the time of his death.

Murphy suffered from what is now known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and suffered from chronic insomnia and depression. Always an advocate for the needs of veterans, Murphy spoke out candidly about his personal problems with PTSD, then referred to as "Battle Fatigue." He publicly called for the United States government to study the emotional impact war has on veterans and to extend health care benefits to address PTSD and other mental health problems of returning war veterans.

On May 28, 1971, Murphy was killed when the small plane in which he was a passenger crashed on the side of a mountain near Roanoke, Virginia. On June 7, 1971, Audie Murphy was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. His gravesite is the second most visited gravesite in the Cemetery.

On June 9, 1999, the Texas Legislature officially designated his birthday, June 20th, as Audie Murphy Day. Governor George W. Bush

of Texas made a similar proclamation declaring June 20th officially to be Audie Murphy Day in the State of Texas. On October 29, 2013, Governor Rick Perry posthumously presented him with the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor. Audie Murphy is an American hero and a distinguished Texan. I am proud to honor his legacy today.

RECOGNIZING MS. PEGGY  
UPCHURCH

**HON. RALPH NORMAN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of Peggy Upchurch in Lake Wylie, South Carolina and the tremendous impact she has had on our great state and our local government.

Peggy is an active member of the York County GOP where she currently serves as the Precinct President for the River Hills Precinct. She is the first Republican member of the York County Council since Reconstruction. She also served as a founding member of the Clover and Lake Wylie South Carolina Federation of Republican Women as both the President and Legislative Chair. Under her leadership, five additional clubs have been added to the SCFRW, including the first federated women's club in the 6th District of South Carolina. Peggy is continually looking for ways to best serve the people of South Carolina and has changed the lives of many by welcoming them into service alongside her.

In addition to her commitment to service, I would like to recognize the impact that Peggy has had on South Carolina legislation. Peggy was instrumental in spotlighting state legislation, recruiting members to help advocate for South Carolina legislators to pass both the Heartbeat Bill and the Saving Women's Sports bill. Peggy has been a tireless proponent of judicial reform during the 2023 legislative season, organizing statewide meetings with multiple judicial leaders to address the issues that face South Carolina and our nation. Peggy has also been elected as a delegate or alternate delegate to the National Federation of Republican Women convention, and most recently led the South Carolina delegation in campaigning for the successful election of 2024–2025 officers who are dedicated to protecting the dignity of biological women in leadership and society.

Peggy is a leader among leaders and the impact she has had on South Carolina is built to last. On behalf of the 5th District of South Carolina, it is my most sincere pleasure to recognize her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen matter, I was absent for Roll Call No. 2. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

JAYDEN CORN

**HON. BRITANNY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

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

Jayden has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jayden, 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 Jayden'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 Jayden Corn on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ONE STOP AUTO CARE

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 35th anniversary of One Stop Auto Care, an outstanding community auto shop that exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses. One Stop Auto Care has served the communities of Northeast Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Glendale since opening for business on Eagle Rock Blvd in 1989.

One Stop Auto Care was founded by Gerry Vicario when he was 25 years old. Prior to opening the small business, Mr. Vicario worked at his uncle's tire shop, which is where he discovered the need for an auto repair shop in the community.

Mr. Vicario and his wife enthusiastically opened their business and have since expanded their services to include tires, oil changes, tune-ups, brake repair, and more. One Stop Auto Care grew from one employee to eight experienced technicians, and they have remained focused on helping the people of our community.

I congratulate Mr. Vicario and the entire team at One Stop Auto Care for their continued dedication to providing exceptional automobile repair service to Angelenos. I would also like to recognize Mr. Vicario for supporting various community events and organizations throughout Northeast Los Angeles. I look forward to seeing One Stop Auto Care's continued growth and success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating One Stop Auto Care on its 35th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING GLENN JOHNSON

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glenn Johnson for

his 20 years of service as Mayor of Pullman and his dedication to the highest standards of servant leadership.

Glenn has been a trusted member of the Pullman community for more than four decades. In 1979, he left behind a successful career in Sacramento, Calif. to become a professor at Washington State University's Edward R. Murrow College of Communications. For thirty-five years, he taught courses in communications and television news, always pushing his students to reach their full potential.

Glenn quickly became beloved on campus, not only by his students, but by all of Cougar Nation for the spirit, talent, and tradition he embodied as "The Voice of the Cougs." Even before Martin Stadium put in a quality set of loudspeakers, Glenn led the crowd in a call-and-response that has become legendary in Cougar football. To this day, every time Glenn calls out "And that's another . . .," the crowd enthusiastically responds with, "Cougar first down!"

In 2004, Glenn began his first term as Mayor of Pullman. Over the next twenty years and five terms, he earned the trust of Pullman residents, city officials, and business leaders alike through dedicated leadership and a commitment to making Pullman a special place to call home. He spearheaded investments and initiatives like Project Downtown, which continues to revamp the city center and inspire incredible growth.

Mayor Johnson has also led with tremendous vision about the future of the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport. I have been blessed to work with him on various projects over the years to remodel the airport's infrastructure, the services it provides, and create the space for new economic opportunities across the region. Glenn's vision and determination were the primary reasons why the airport added a new runway back in 2019 and have been the driving force behind the brand new terminal that is set to open later this year. His leadership has been absolutely essential to the airport's success and ensuring it will continue to connect the Palouse and residents all across Eastern Washington with the rest of the world for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Glenn's committed service to the Pullman community. He has been a fierce advocate for the city, and as he enters his well-deserved retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his years of devoted service and wishing him well in this next chapter.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE  
OF DEBORAH A. ZULOAGA

**HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the 20 years of dedicated service that Ms. Deborah A. Zuloaga has provided as President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of El Paso County (UWEPCC).

Ms. Zuloaga, a native El Pasoan and alumna of North Texas State University, dedicated 11 years to various roles in political and government service in Washington, D.C., before returning to her hometown. Upon her return to El Paso, she continued her service to the

community as an Associate Director and then Resource Development Director at the UWEPC. In 2003, she was appointed the President and Chief Executive Officer, marking the beginning of a transformative era for the organization.

Under Ms. Zuloaga's leadership, the UWEPC not only faced challenges head-on but also thrived. The generous donation from philanthropist Mackenzie Scott in 2020 stands as a testament to the organization's impact and the trust placed in Ms. Zuloaga's stewardship. Her unwavering leadership during difficult times, including the response to the August 3, 2019 tragedy, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, underscores her commitment to community resilience.

Ms. Zuloaga's involvement in various non-profit initiatives, state boards, and community events further highlights her dedication to the well-being of El Paso. Her accolades, including being honored as one of six Women of Impact by El Paso Inc. in 2019, receiving the Outstanding Child Advocate—West Texas award from Children at Risk in 2021, and being nominated for El Paso Inc.'s 2023 El Pasoan of the Year, are a testament to her lasting impact to our community.

Today, it is my privilege to honor Ms. Deborah A. Zuloaga for her exemplary service, leadership, and dedication to our community, and wish her and her family the best upon her retirement.

KALEIGH MELINGER

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

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

Kaleigh has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Kaleigh, 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 Kaleigh'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 Kaleigh Melinger on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT JUAN  
ERIC CANTU

### HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible person, honorable soldier, and remarkable community member, the late Sergeant Juan "Eric" Cantu. Sergeant Cantu honorably served our Nation in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. A native of Lenoir County, graduating in 1964 and immediately enlisting in the Army. After working in Illinois for a few years, he returned home to Kingston,

earning his industrial maintenance degree from Lenoir Community College in 1986. He served as the Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, President of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 892, and a founding member of AmVets Post 1111.

Mr. Cantu is most known for founding the G.I. Joe Living Military History Museum, displaying memorabilia, uniforms, weapons, and photos from all major conflicts starting with the Revolutionary War. More than just a museum; it is a place of solace where veterans freely share their experiences and heal their wounds. Thanks to him, many veterans' lives have been saved due to the community and camaraderie fostered at the museum.

According to those who knew him the best, they cherished his work ethic, optimism, and community involvement. I thank them for joining me in celebrating the life of this wonderful Veteran. I wish Mr. Cantu's family the best in the future and hope that Mr. Cantu's creation, the G.I. Joe Living Military History Museum, can continue to serve those who gave it all.

### HOW ILLINOIS CAN USE SUBCRITICAL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO DEAL WITH NUCLEAR SPENT FUEL

#### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on December 8th, Governor Pritzker signed into law a measure that will allow new small modular reactor (SMR) technology to proceed in Illinois. A moratorium on new construction has been in place since 1987. Illinois and 15 other states imposed bans primarily because, even with Congressional authorization and funding, the proposed permanent storage repository at Yucca Flats Nevada to this day has not received a single pound of spent nuclear fuel (SNF).

The estimated 87,000 metric tons of commercial SNF has been stored temporarily in holding ponds and dry casks primarily at the sites of U.S. nuclear power plants, both currently operating and shut down. The storage and security costs have been imposed on rate payers.

The law, which takes effect next June 1st, authorizes a state regulatory structure for SMRs and limits them to 300 MWe, or from a fourth to a third the power of the state's six operating reactors.

I have recently been paying special attention to subcritical advanced nuclear technology, which can consume the remaining energy in the SNF. The approach is based on pioneering molten salt research done at Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) in the 1960s. It takes advantage of the large number of neutrons that can be produced by superconducting linear accelerators like the one brought online at the ORNL Spallation Neutron Source in the years since 2010.

Mr. Speaker, Illinois has been first in the nuclear age, dating from the first nuclear reactor in the basement of Professor Fermi's lab at the University of Chicago in the fall of 1942. The first commercial nuclear power plant was built in 1957. Today, more than half of Illinois' power generated comes from nuclear energy.

That is the most of any state. We have more SNF stored temporarily here than any state, more than 11,000 metric tons. We have even proposed constructing permanent storage sites, but without success.

Again, we can lead the nation and the world into the next generation of clean, safe, affordable power.

The pending FY 2024 Energy & Water Appropriations legislation contains a line item for more than \$1 billion for advanced modular power research and development. I urge that a significant amount be devoted to accelerator driven subcritical projects.

Therefore, I include in the RECORD the following article on the new legislation from the Capital News Illinois dated December 8, 2023: PRITZKER SIGNS MEASURE ALLOWING NEW SMALL-SCALE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IN ILLINOIS

(By Jerry Nowicki & Andrew Adams)

Gov. JB Pritzker on Friday signed into law a measure that will allow for the limited development of new nuclear power generation technology in the state.

The measure, House Bill 2473, does not allow new large-scale power generation facilities like the six plants that are already operational in the state, but rather allows for new smaller-scale emergent technology.

Since 1987, the state has had a moratorium on any new nuclear power construction until the federal government designates a long-term disposal site for nuclear waste—something that has never occurred. The new law will take effect on June 1, 2024, but because permitting nuclear energy takes many years at the federal level, the earliest a nuclear project could be brought online in Illinois would be in the 2030s.

HB 2473 creates a regulatory structure for the construction of small modular nuclear reactors, or SMRs. The bill limits the nameplate capacity of such reactors to 300 megawatts, about one-third the size of the smallest of the six existing nuclear power plants in Illinois. It also requires the state to perform a study that will inform rules for regulating SMRs, which must be adopted by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency by January 2026.

The bill's proponents say it's a necessary step as Illinois tries to end its reliance on carbon-emitting power sources over the next two decades. But its opponents say it distracts from Illinois' efforts to deploy 100 percent renewable energy production and is an endorsement of unproven technology.

The bill passed with bipartisan support in the Senate, 44-7, and the House, 98-8, on the final day of the fall veto session last month. The opposition came exclusively from Democrats. Pritzker vetoed an earlier version of the measure but helped usher the compromise through the legislature.

The bill's sponsors said after its passage that it has the potential to bolster Illinois' electric grid reliability as the state's energy mix becomes increasingly reliant on intermittent technologies such as wind and solar.

Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, sponsored the bill in the Senate, while Rep. Lance Yednock, D-Ottawa, was its House sponsor. Rezin noted last month that she is particularly interested in the potential for SMRs to be developed at the sites of former coal plants, avoiding the need to build new transmission lines, although that process could take many years.

David Kraft, an outspoken critic of nuclear energy and head of the Chicago-based advocacy group Nuclear Energy Information Service, testified against the measure at several points during the legislative process.

Kraft said he was concerned about the lack of existing SMR installations and the

unproven nature of the technology. While some nuclear reactors of this scale exist in other countries, no commercial SMRs have ever been built in the United States.

Counting Illinois, 11 states currently have some level of nuclear construction bans on the books. Since 2016, five other states have either repealed or weakened their bans. Several of the states that have lifted their bans have done so to pave the way for SMR technology.

But the biggest U.S. player in that industry has seen several recent setbacks.

In November, NuScale Power—the only company with a federally approved SMR design—announced that it was canceling its highly watched “Carbon Free Power Project” in Utah, which would have been the first commercial project with a NuScale reactor. Still, its leaders say the company will continue with its other projects, which are at varying steps of regulation and planning.

Rezin told Capitol News Illinois last month she hopes Illinois’ and other states’ moves to reverse their construction bans will encourage nuclear energy development in the U.S.

Pritzker did not issue a statement but signed the bill along with 15 others that were sent to his desk following November’s fall veto session. That included a measure that would require the state to purchase exclusively “zero-emission vehicles,” such as electric vehicles, after Jan. 1, 2030.

Senate Bill 1769 excludes law enforcement vehicles and vehicles purchased by the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of a program that provides buses to some mass transit systems.

#### COMMEMORATING THE MALAKOFF TIGERS STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the extraordinary achievement of the Malakoff Tigers in clinching the 3A Division 1 State Football Championship. Their remarkable undefeated season, culminating in a 16–0 record, has not only brought home the school’s first-ever football title but has also showcased the exceptional talent and spirit of Henderson County.

Special congratulations to Head Coach Jamie Driskell, quarterback Mike Jones, the Offensive MVP, and middle linebacker Parker Poteete, the Defensive MVP, for their outstanding leadership and skill. The unwavering dedication and hard work of the entire team and coaching staff are inspirational. The Malakoff Tigers have set a high bar for excellence, and I eagerly anticipate more triumphs and great success for both the team and Malakoff High School in the future.

LARRY HELMUTH

### HON. BRITANNY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

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

Larry has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Larry, 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 Larry’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 Larry Helmuth on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT MARION LEE

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a gifted carpenter, church leader, and good friend. Robert “Marion” Lee transitioned from this life on January 6, 2024. His love, kindness, warmth, and generosity will be well remembered and sorely missed.

Robert Marion Lee was born on December 20, 1932, in Charleston County, South Carolina. He was raised by his grandmother, Mary Middleton, and attended Charleston County schools. As a young boy, Marion learned the values of family and hard work, having worked on the family farm while also caring for his siblings. He maintained this devotion towards family as he became a father to his first son, Marshall Lee Cohen, and later married his wife of 49 years, Vermel Lee. This union was blessed with a daughter, Vera.

As an adult, Marion learned the trade of cabinetry and worked as a contractor. He built homes for countless families in Charleston County, and he took great pride in ensuring families had access to clean water in John’s Island, Peters Field, Hollywood, and other rural areas. He later worked as a rehabilitation specialist and a building inspector until he retired to care for his wife. Marion was known for building picnic tables for members of the community and delivering them in his old blue truck.

I came to know Mr. Lee through his activities throughout the Sea Islands of Charleston County. He served on various residential home builder commissions, the St. John’s Constituent School Board for District 9, the St. John’s Precinct No. 2 Election Commission, the Sea Island Health Care Center Board of Directors, the Rural Missions Board of Directors, the SC Fire Commission, and the St. John’s Water Company on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer. In addition, he and his wife fed and clothed people in need, visited the sick and shut in, and wrote encouraging letters to incarcerated individuals throughout their lives.

A man of deep faith, Marion joined Ferry Field Baptist Church in 1947, where he worshiped for 76 years. He was ordained a Deacon in 1967, served on the prayer and tarry service, and used his carpentry skills to repair and enhance the church’s beauty. He was equally devoted to the church’s youth, transporting carloads of children to Sunday school every week, and serving as Sunday school teacher and Superintendent. Marion also believed strongly in scripture’s words to “come

as you are.” As a young man, he often had to attend church service in work clothes, which imbued him with a commitment to making Ferry Field a welcoming place for all people, regardless of their attire. Marion loved singing hymns that embodied his love and trust in God and served on the Senior Choir and Male Choir for many years.

Left to cherish his memory are his two devoted children, six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, nine great-great-grandchildren, four adopted grandchildren, God-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, cousins, caregivers, and the entire neighborhood of Lincrest Road.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Robert “Marion” Lee. Marion often remarked that he felt “mighty blessed” for all the people and experiences he encountered throughout his life. I and the entire Charleston community are likewise blessed for having known Marion. His rich legacy will continue to touch generations of Charlestonians for years to come.

#### APPRECIATING AMBASSADOR HASAN MURAT MERCAN

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Türkiye Relations and Turkish Americans, I am grateful to recognize the Honorable Hasan Murat Mercan, Ambassador of Türkiye to the United States, for his past three years of service reinforcing Türkiye as a crucial NATO ally of America. This significant alliance is mutually beneficial for our nations, NATO membership with courageous troop participation in the Korean War in 1950, promotion of important fuel pipelines for European energy independence, facilitation of grain shipments to Egypt and Africa, restored economic relations with Armenia, to early crucial drone support of Ukraine, and Swedish admission to NATO.

Prior to being appointed as Ambassador of Türkiye to the U.S., Mercan served as Ambassador to Tokyo, in Japan, Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, and Chairman of the Turkish Foreign Affairs Committee during the 23rd Term of the Turkish Parliament. Mercan also served as Chairman of the Turkish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Interparliamentary Defense and Security Assembly as well as the vice-president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Türkiye has been well represented with Ambassador Mercan and Mrs. Inci Mercan.

A highlight of my service in Congress was in August of last year, when I presented a wreath on behalf of the American people at the Mostafa Kemal Atatürk Memorial at Antikabir in Ankara. I am grateful for my opportunity to coordinate with Ambassador Mercan in supporting the warmest relationship for Türkiye with their appreciated ally America and look forward to continuing that work with his successor.

## RECOGNIZING BILL HANEKE

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize First District constituent and U.S. Army veteran, Bill Haneke upon his retirement from the Families of the Wounded Fund Board.

A graduate of Hampton High School and a 1966 graduate of the United States Military Academy, Bill Haneke attended both the Army Ranger and Airborne Schools. After several Infantry assignments in the U.S. and Germany, he served as Commanding Officer of Camp Gates, Marktredwitz, West Germany. He then attended the Army Special Warfare School at Ft. Bragg, NC, where he was trained as an Advisor in preparation for a tour with Advisory Team 37 in Hoa Da District, Binh Thuan Province, South Vietnam in 1968.

Captain Haneke was instrumental in establishing and directing this new Advisory Team with the Vietnamese Regional Forces/Popular Forces. He was awarded three Bronze Star Medals (one with "V" for Valor), a Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry for his service in Vietnam.

On November 13, 1968, Bill suffered massive traumatic injuries when he was blown up by a Viet Cong Command Detonated Mine, causing multiple amputations, massive head injuries requiring five neurosurgical operations, severance of his carotid artery, and severe shrapnel wounds over 90 percent of his body. Following his extensive treatment and successful rehabilitation, he earned a master's degree in healthcare and business administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has worked for over thirty years managing organizations in all sectors of the Healthcare Field and is a true patient advocate.

Haneke has been a member of MOAA, Blinded Veterans of America, the DAV, Vietnam Veterans of America, as well as continuously volunteering as a patient advocate and counselor for Amputees, Head Injured, and those with severe traumatic injuries. Bill was presented with the prestigious award of the National Veteran of the Year by the Daughters of the American Revolution and is currently serving on the Veterans Service Board of Virginia.

Moreover, Bill is the Co-Founder and Board Member of The Families of the Wounded Fund, Inc., a charity gathering donated funds to provide assistance to family members and caregivers of combat wounded or injured military patients receiving treatment at McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center, Ft. Belvoir Warrior Transition Medical Center, Walter Reed Medical Center, Hampton Road Medical Center and recently, combat wounded Special Immigration Visa holders from Iraq and Afghanistan service in supporting U.S. & Coalition forces. Under Bill's leadership, Families of the Wounded Fund has awarded 800 family caregiver grants totaling \$5.2 million since 2005.

Bill Haneke's memoirs were published with the title *Trust Not* which recounts the harrowing events in Vietnam where he was given up for dead, until he was miraculously saved by a caring Army medical staff and a voice from above to reassure him.

I congratulate Bill on his recent retirement from the FOTWF Board after 18 years of service. Bill represents the best of Virginia, a Commonwealth made stronger through our ability to keep our promises to our veterans, our military families, and our allies. I thank Bill Haneke for his advocacy, his compassion, and his deep and abiding sense of service to our veterans, our country and our Commonwealth.

## MAURICIO GARCIA

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

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

Mauricio has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Mauricio, 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 Mauricio'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 Mauricio Garcia on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

## RECOGNIZING FRED JOSEPH JOHNSON, JR.

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fred Joseph Johnson, Jr., on the occasion of his recognition as a 2024 Southern University at New Orleans Center for African and African American Studies Living Legend. Mr. Johnson is receiving this high honor because of his dedicated service to the citizens of New Orleans.

For over 30 years, Mr. Johnson has dedicated his life to counseling families and individuals in the process of becoming and maintaining the rights, responsibilities, and privileges of homeownership. In 1993, Mr. Johnson served as a co-founder of The Black Men of Labor Parade Club. BMOL focus is on preserving the history and culture of traditional jazz music, which is passed on from generation to generation, seeking to preserve traditional New Orleans Jazz by hiring musicians that play New Orleans Jazz Music as it was performed by such great Brass Bands as the Olympia, the Onward, the Tuxedo and the Eureka.

Fred J. Johnson, Jr. is known best as a community and cultural activist who focuses on creating social change. He has been employed with the Neighborhood Development Foundation since its inception in 1986 and was appointed as Chief Executive Officer in 2009. He remains committed to directly serving the needs of clients in asset building through the homeownership process. As a counselor and advocate for homeownership

who has a no-nonsense delivery of the message, he is often asked to deliver that message by participating in numerous community lectures, forums, and television and radio talk show appearances.

As a counselor, Mr. Johnson provides housing and financial counseling to individuals and families seeking to build their assets through the purchase of property. He assists clients in the development of action plans to build their assets and resolve credit issues and advocating for clients throughout the entire home purchase process. Moreover, Mr. Johnson provides educational services to non-profit organizations and businesses around the country to enable them to provide those same services to their communities. As a housing advocate, Mr. Johnson participates in several housing organizations that shape housing policies and the industry that is responsible for its governance. He is presently the President of the Louisiana Housing Education Collaborative and a Board Member of the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance.

I am humbled to know and call him a personal friend. Fred is such a great man who has done so much to improve the lives of countless residents across my district. We are so honored to have Mr. Johnson, a true advocate for mankind.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to severe weather in D.C., my flight was rerouted and I was unable to vote during the Quorum Call on January 9, 2024. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted: PRESENT on Roll Call No. 1.

## COMMENDING ROBERT EDMUND ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Robert Edmund on his retirement.

On June 24, 2022, Robert Edmund retired from Edmund Optics as its Chief Executive Officer. Over the years Robert Edmund has made a substantial impact during his tenure and fulfilled many achievements that advanced the growth of the small family company into a successful and accredited industry.

Prior to his accomplishments in the optics world, Robert Edmund graduated from the University of Buffalo's Organizational Development Program. He also received a Bachelor of Science in Business Management at Georgetown University's School of Business. Not only was Robert Edmund a vital part of Edmund Optics, Inc., he was in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, and was a former instructor officer, and vice-captain. He was also the past president of the Barrington Lions Club, as well as a SPIE Fellow in 2021, founding chair of the Advisory Board at the University of Arizona College of Optical Sciences,

former president and board member of the Direct Marketing Association, and past chair and board member of the Optical Society of America.

Over the span of fifty years, Robert Edmund applied many different approaches that carried the business to where it is today. When he first began at Edmund Optics, Inc., he created an innovative telescope, while also creating processes in direct marketing known by all industries, beyond optics. Robert Edmund was recognized for all his work by being named Direct Marketer of the Year in 1983 by the Philadelphia Direct Marketing Association.

Today, Edmund Optics has become the world leader in optics, thanks to Robert Edmund's metamorphic strategies. Edmund Optics is now a leading global supplier of optics, imaging, and photonics technology that has served a variety of markets including Life Sciences, Biomedical, Industrial Inspection, Semiconductor, R and D, and Defense since 1942.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Robert Edmund, a Barrington resident dedicated to his community and who is a true leader of his industry.

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#### MIA QUINONES

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mia Quinones for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth Award.

Mia has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Mia, 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 Mia'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 Mia Quinones on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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#### CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF PATSY ANN (PAT) DANNER

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense pride that I rise today to honor a great Missourian, former Congresswoman Pat Danner (MO-6) on her 90th birthday. An experienced leader, innovative thinker, and dedicated professional, Pat serves as a prime example of a true public servant and moreover, a kind human being.

Born January 13, 1934, in Louisville, Kentucky, Pat grew up in Bevier, Missouri where she attended public schools and then graduated from Northwest Missouri State University Cum Laude with a BA in political science. On the pursuit to grow as a leader and further

involve herself in public service, Pat went on to work as the District Administrator to Congressman Jerry Litton following graduation. As a testament to the unwavering commitment to her community and serving others, she was appointed to a sub-cabinet position in the Administration of President Jimmy Carter.

In 1982, Pat attained a momentous milestone in her career by securing a coveted position in the Missouri State Senate through a triumphant electoral victory over incumbent Senator Hardin Cox and was re-elected in 1986 and 1990. As a pivotal turning point, Pat successfully ran for Congress in 1992, defeating the incumbent Republican Tom Coleman and secured her seat in Missouri's Sixth District. She was re-elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, 1996, and 1998.

Beyond her extraordinary career accomplishments, Pat's courageousness and resilience as she underwent breast cancer stand as evidence of her unshakeable willpower. As a proud breast cancer survivor, Pat has shared her positivity, vibrance and fearlessness to all those around her. Her dedication and love for her family has created long lasting bonds with a marriage of over 41 years with her husband Markt Meyer and four children, Stephen, Stephanie, Shane, and Shavonne. Their close-knit family made up of 10 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren have continued to serve as an important pillar in Pat and Markt's life, bringing them joy and fulfillment to their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District as we forever enshrine Pat's legacy and wish her the happiest of birthdays. On this special occasion, let us celebrate this milestone and Pat Danner's achievements throughout her distinguished career but most importantly, her impact as a lifelong friend, partner, mother and a proud Missourian.

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#### URGING THE EXTENSION OF PRO-GROWTH TAX PROVISIONS

### HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of extending the pro-growth tax provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA).

In 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed the TCJA into law, which ushered in prosperity to the American economy. These benefits included significant investments in American workers, families, and local communities. Thanks to House Republican leadership and Chairman JASON SMITH, Congress has prioritized the restoration of these important provisions, such as the full and immediate expensing for research and development, full expensing of investments in new equipment, machinery, and technology, and business interest deductibility.

Under these important TCJA provisions, job creators across our nation increased innovation, expanded facilities, and reinvested in their employees. For example, the International Paper Company utilized the research and design expensing reforms to advance efficiency and safety standards at their box plant in Eighty-Four, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I hear across southwestern Pennsylvania the need to restore these vital

TCJA provisions. I urge Congress and the Administration to recognize the opportunity before us. Restoring these provisions can strengthen the U.S. economy, help create new American jobs, and increase our nation's competitiveness. I stand with the businesses and workers in my district, and I encourage my colleagues to extend these expired provisions immediately.

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#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM PAGE

### HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of William (Bill) Henry Page, a fixture of the Dutchess County community who was beloved by all who knew him. William recently passed away on December 23, 2023, at the age of 82.

William was a lifelong resident of Dutchess County and active in his community. In 1962, he married the love of his life, Helen Marie Wilser, in Poughkeepsie, NY. Today, their three sons are raising their families in Dutchess County. William served on the Board of Directors of H.G. Page, the company founded by his father Henry Page, Sr. He and his beloved wife Helen successfully grew Park Page Associates into a prominent real estate development company. In addition, he served on many boards throughout the community and received honors including the Lagrange Symbol of Freedom Award, Family of the Year, and LaGrange Rotarian of the Year.

William, who was also known as "Bill," will be remembered for his tenacity and affection for those around him. At the age of eighteen, he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, but he never let his diagnosis stand in his way. He enjoyed conversation, red wine, and time spent with his family. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of William Henry Page, a man who made a lasting difference in his community.

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#### ALLI GIBSON

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

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

Alli has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Alli, 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 Alli's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Mandalay Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

CELEBRATING THE FORTY-FOURTH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND DOCTOR NORMAN N. FRANCIS

### HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the forty-four years of Pastoral excellence of Reverend Doctor Norman Nathan Francis. Reverend Doctor Norman Nathan Francis was born to the union of the late Norman Francis and the late Eartha Singleton Cambrice on January 9, 1954, in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is the oldest of twelve siblings.

He is a product of the Jefferson Parish School System. He attended McDonogh No. 27 Elementary School and is a 1971 West Jefferson Senior High School graduate. Reverend Francis accepted Christ in his life in 1974 and was baptized at the St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church by the late Reverend Doctor Arthur Monday, Jr. He acknowledged his call to preach the gospel of Christ and was licensed to preach on December 19, 1975. He received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Theology from the Union Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. He became an ordained minister in April 1980. Following the untimely death of the late Reverend Doctor Arthur Monday, Jr., Reverend Francis was elected pastor by a unanimous vote of the church's congregation. He was installed as the church's third pastor on June 20, 1980, under the auspices of the Westside Missionary Baptist Association.

The church has a functioning youth ministry, a weekly prayer service, and Bible Study. He has implemented the following ministries: New Members, Evangelistic, Senior Citizens, Prison, Drug Prevention, Transportation, and many other ministries and committees. Pastor Francis encourages the entire membership to participate in all church functions. He believes there is a place for everyone who wishes to contribute to the work of the Almighty Father. He has officiated hundreds of baptisms, Christenings, funerals, and weddings.

Pastor Francis is a member of the Free and Accepted Prince Hall Masonic Lodge No. 102 and a Third Degree Mason, a member of the Louisiana State Missionary Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention, LSA Incorporated. He is the First Vice-President of the West New Orleans Missionary Baptist Education Association. He is the Senior Advisor to the Westside Missionary Baptist Association President—Reverend Doctor Orin D. Grant, Sr.

Pastor Francis received numerous accolades from Civic organizations; he was the first recipient of the Global Citizen Award, a Pastor of the Month Recipient, and a Civilians' Clergy Honoree. He was awarded his Honorary Doctorate Degree in Theology from Christian Bible College on April 3, 2011, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's 2016 Citizen of the Year Award and the 2020 Union Baptist College and Theological Seminary Distinguished Alumni Citizen Award. He is listed in Who's Who Among

American Ministers' Registry and many other organizations for his dedicated spirit, but he knows his real reward is in heaven.

Pastor Francis is the loving and devoted husband of First Lady Nedra Washington Francis. He is the proud and caring father of Nathaniel, Chiquita, and Imani Francis, and Willie Moore, Jr.

### COMMENDING FERN BILLET ON HER RETIREMENT

### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Fern S. Billet on her retirement.

Fern S. Billet is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where she earned the status of cum laude, graduating with a Bachelor of the Arts in Anthropology before she continued her education at Rutgers University-Camden School of Law. Her illustrious career began as a Law Clerk for Kelly, Harrington, McLaughlin & Foster in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and for three years she was an Associate Attorney, drafting pleadings and preparing written correspondence with courts, witnesses, and clients.

Fern S. Billet would go onto work in the office of Congressman Joseph M. Hoeffel of Pennsylvania's 13th District as a part-time District Representative until 2003 when she stepped into the role full-time for one year. She held many roles in the representative's office including assisting in planning events, attending events on behalf of the Congressman, and working as a constituent service caseworker. In February of 2005, Fern S. Billet joined the staff at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center as a Correspondence Analyst and Congressional Liaison, a role that she has held to the present day. She has also headed several other roles during her time at the Medical Center, such as a one-year tenure as the Interim Vice-President of External Affairs Product Line, three years effectively as the Center's Public Affairs Officer as well as the Community Relations Coordinator and Interim Privacy/FOIA Officer.

Across her several roles throughout her career, Fern S. Billet held responsibility for several staff members in Medical Media and Voluntary Service, helped implement and manage the facility's Privacy and Freedom of Information Act programs, manage, and track oral and written correspondence as well as provide Congressional briefings, visits, and tours as she worked to support Veterans. She also oversaw media interaction, community relations, and all communication with internal and external stakeholders. She worked diligently to promote attention to veteran's affairs as well as, planned, coordinated, and supervised special events to raise spirits and moral of both staff and patients of the center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Fern S. Billet of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a public servant dedicated to the veteran community, upon her

retirement from the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center.

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEFFREY B. SENFT

### HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Jeffrey B. Senft, a man dedicated to the Dutchess County community who was beloved by all who knew him. Jeffrey recently passed away on October 25, 2023, at the age of 71.

Jeffrey was the Founder, CEO, and President of S&O Construction Services, Inc., based in Pleasant Valley, NY. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Construction Management from Utica College of Syracuse University before starting a career in construction. He worked at several firms while developing the expertise that led to him founding S&O.

In the community, Jeffrey served on the Town of Pleasant Valley Planning Board as Vice Chairman and later Chairman, as President of the Northeast Subcontractors Association, and Vice President of the Empire State Subcontractors Association, Inc. He also served as Vice Chair, and later Chair of the Board of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Jeffrey was also a longtime member of the Construction Management Advisory Board and a member of the Pioneer Society at Utica University.

Jeffrey will be remembered for his zest for life, sense of humor, work ethic, and love for family and friends. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of Jeffrey B. Senft, a man whose involvement in the Dutchess County community left a lasting impact.

### DAYANA BANUELOS

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2024*

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.