

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF KEITH
E. WEATHERSPOON

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life of Keith E. Weatherspoon. He was born on December 13, 1949, in New Orleans, part of Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, to Catherine Aduaf Weatherspoon and Leslie E. Weatherspoon.

Keith was raised by his maternal grandparents in Robbins, Illinois, and attended Eisenhower High School in Chicago. Eventually, he moved back to New Orleans, graduating from Walter L. Cohen Senior High School. Mr. Weatherspoon remained in New Orleans during college, attending Xavier University of Louisiana, and later receiving a master's degree from Tulane University. Keith was also a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., to which he was initiated in the Fairfax/Alexandria Chapter in 1983.

In his professional life, Keith Weatherspoon was involved in pharmaceutical sales, and later stockbroking. During his transition into the world of stockbroking, he paused this work to serve as Special Assistant to then, United States President Ronald Reagan. Upon his return to investment banking, he was able to establish housing finance agencies to provide mortgages to low-income families for municipalities and states.

Keith later served as Senior Vice President at Donaldson, Lufkin, & Jenrette, a major investment banking firm, through which he handled bond issues across the nation. His work in this role was monumental for Louisiana public schools, which were able to remain open in April 1988 thanks to Keith's facilitating a Louisiana bond refunding issue of \$1.2 billion. Mr. Weatherspoon also held innumerable leadership positions, such as Director of Business Development at Airware LLC and Managing Partner of Sterling—Weatherspoon. He had over 40 years of real estate experience, most recently at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, and worked tirelessly on developing the Electric Vehicle charging industry.

Keith was committed to serving as a positive force for good, through uplifting others and remained committed to the city of New Orleans. Here, he served on the Board of City Trusts and counseled public officials on economic and municipal issues. He was devoted to the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, as a lifetime member and 1990's King Zulu. Keith was also a founding member of the Good Providers Fishing Club.

Mr. Weatherspoon met the love of his life, Debra Sterling Weatherspoon, in 2005, and was able to create beautiful memories by her side. They spent their time traveling and watching their beloved New Orleans Saints football games, alongside their cherished friends from their time at university. Most of all, they spent their time smiling and laughing

alongside one another. Keith and Debra were members of the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, and, after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, the couple relocated to Texas, where they became members of the Metropolitan Church in Houston, Texas. Though residing in Houston, they celebrated every holiday and milestone in New Orleans.

Keith is survived by his devoted wife, Debra Sterling Weatherspoon, and one daughter, Ashley Marie Weatherspoon from his late ex-wife Marie Slade Weatherspoon. Keith also leaves to cherish his memories, three sisters, Cosette Weatherspoon West Kaufman (Julius), Giselle Weatherspoon Williams, and Nadja Weatherspoon Carr (Dennis); Sister-in-laws, Yvonne Sterling, Verdell Sterling Carter, and Brother-in-law Howard A. Sterling; Godchildren, Kristal Terrel, Nikki Carter-Williams, Rodrick Davis, and Myran Ifford; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lester Earl Weatherspoon, and Catherine Aduaf Weatherspoon, Maternal grandparents, Albert S. Aduaf (Adolph), Mary Dixon Adolph (step-grandmother), Elizabeth Ovide Aduaf and his Aunt Irene Aduaf Williams.

Mr. Weatherspoon was a staunch believer in "if you want something in life, you must work hard for it". This is evident through the work that he put into every facet of his life, from his devotion to his loving family and friends to the innumerable number of commitments to which he dedicated himself. His legacy should serve as an inspiration to all. I will forever cherish the many conversations I shared over the years with my fraternity brother and confidant. His impact will be forever engraved in the lives he touched along the way. I am proud to say, I am a benefactor of his knowledge. Rest well, my brother.

HONORING NICK DEGUILIO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nick Deguilio, a Deputy with the Napa County Sheriff's Department. I have named Mr. Deguilio as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Napa County in California's 4th District as a result of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Mr. Deguilio was born and grew up in Napa, California, where he spent most of his younger years playing football. After graduating from Justin Sienna High School. Mr. Deguilio attended college at University of California, Santa Cruz, obtaining a bachelor's degree in history in 2004.

In 2008, Mr. Deguilio and his brother Dominic attended the Police Academy before embarking on his career as a Deputy Sheriff

at the Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office where he spent the next four years. Mr. Deguilio then made the move to the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office where he spent nine years before being hired by the Napa County Sheriff's Office in 2021.

In the early afternoon on July, 16, 2023, Mr. Deguilio responded to a medical call from an adult male that had sustained a hand cut from a boat propeller. Not knowing the severity of the injury, and without a dispatch broadcast, he recognized the potentially urgent situation, notified his colleagues and raced to the scene. Within seven minutes. Mr. Deguilio arrived and took control of the incident. While evaluating the patient's injury, consisting of a partial hand amputation, he requested an air ambulance and applied a tourniquet to stop excessive bleeding. Mr. Deguilio remained attentive to the patient, who was in apparent shock and somewhat unresponsive, before being relieved by Cal Fire and other responding deputies. The patient was then transported by helicopter to a hospital where he underwent multiple surgeries. The quick thinking and actions by Mr. Deguilio helped stabilize the victim and prevented a possibly far worse outcome.

Exactly two months later Mr. Deguilio responded to a stabbing at a remote residence in Napa County. Initial details from a call to 911 were that the caller's husband had been stabbed by an unknown person in their backyard and that the husband was attempting to hold the suspect down. Mr. Deguilio was first to arrive on scene and decided to attempt to locate the victim and suspect without waiting for backup. He found the injured resident, who had taken the weapon and was holding the suspect down. Mr. Deguilio took control of the knife and immediately handcuffed the suspect when the resident fell to his hands and knees. He promptly cut open the resident's bloodied shirt, finding a 3-inch open stab wound on his upper back. Not knowing the severity of the stab wound, Mr. Deguilio immediately applied a "chest seal" to the resident's back, applying continual pressure while awaiting further medical assistance. As deputies arrived at the scene, he learned the suspect had also been stabbed during the altercation. Once medical personnel arrived and began aiding the resident, Mr. Deguilio moved to provide first aid to the suspect, applying another "chest seal" to the suspect's stab wound. Mr. Deguilio's quick decision-making certainly saved lives.

Mr. Deguilio's actions during both incidents show selfless dedication and service at the highest of levels to our community and the Law Enforcement profession.

Outside of work Mr. Deguilio is heavily involved in his child's Little League team as the coach. He recently competed with his brother in the Top Cop Challenge pistol match in Amador County. The brother duo placed second in the team competition and placed second and third in the individual competition. They then donated their five-thousand-dollar winnings to the First Responder Support Network/West Coast Post-Trauma Retreat. Mr. Deguilio is proudly married to Kati Deguilio,

• 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.

and they share three children: 12-year-old Vincent, 10-year-old Joseph and 6-year-old Gus.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Mr. Deguilio for his persistence, service and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING MASSILLON MAYOR
KATHY CATAZARO-PERRY

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Kathy Catazaro-Perry on her service as the Mayor of Massillon, and my sincere gratitude for all that she has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated her partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Ms. Catazaro-Perry's drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that she has bettered countless lives as a result of her steadfast service. Throughout her time in office, she proved to be a true public servant and leader. She leads by example through her perseverance, compassion, and dedication to her role in the community.

As Ms. Catazaro-Perry goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Ms. Catazaro-Perry for her commitment to the people of Massillon and to Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING WOLF +
WILDFLOWER

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wolf + Wildflower for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Wolf + Wildflower for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

HONORING DEBORAH LAMAISON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deborah Lamaison, a Public Safety Officer with the Rohnert Park

Department of Public Safety in Rohnert Park, California. I have named Mrs. Lamaison as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Sonoma County in California's 4th District as a result of her extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Mrs. Lamaison was born in Santa Rosa, California, and grew up in the nearby city of Rohnert Park. She began her career in the automobile towing industry, helping her father run a small family business where she was the sole female tow truck operator in Sonoma County for many years. Mrs. Lamaison, with the support of her husband, then pursued her dream of becoming a police officer. She has since been a dedicated Public Safety Officer for the city of Rohnert Park for 20 years.

During her time at the Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety, she has served as a Detective, a Firefighter, a member of the Multi-disciplinary Accident Investigation Team, and as her current title of School Resource Officer. As the School Resource Officer for the city of Rohnert Park, she has worked to build meaningful relationships with students, staff, faculty, and the community. She regularly engages with youth in not just one school, but all the schools within the city's jurisdiction. Her compassionate approach to policing has been part of her mission to thoughtfully engage with those around her to reach positive and successful outcomes whilst fostering trust within the community. Mrs. Lamaison has set a public example of how law enforcement can engage with youth and keep our students and school campuses safer.

When Mrs. Lamaison is not on duty, she is a dedicated mother to her two children, Nico and Mariah. She also volunteers her time to participate with Rancho Cotate High School's MECHA club events and serves as the teacher's assistant for the Zero Period Weight Training Class. She is also a member of the National Physique Committee for amateur bodybuilding and is a Spanish language translator. Those who know her describe her as humble, patient, respectful, caring, strong and an exemplary role model.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Mrs. Debbie Lamaison for her persistence, service, and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her today.

RECOGNIZING BOSTON HEIGHTS
MAYOR BILL GONCY

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Bill Gony on his service as the Mayor of Boston Heights, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Mr. Gony's drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he

proved to be a true public servant and leader. He leads by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As Mr. Gony goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Gony for his commitment to the people of Boston Heights and to Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE PARALLEL

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Parallel for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to The Parallel for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION
OF THE RANDLE CLOCK TOWER
IN HONOR OF FORMER IRVING
MAYOR MARVIN RANDLE

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedication and renaming of the Whistlestop Plaza Clock Tower to honor Marvin Randle, who is not only the former Mayor of Irving, but also a beloved mentor and friend. His lifetime of service to our city spans a variety from his decades as a devoted small business owner, community leader, and public servant. I'm pleased that the Whistlestop Plaza Clock Tower will be renamed in his honor as a tribute to his impact on our community.

Marvin has dedicated his life to making our city better, always looking for ways to improve the lives of those around him. Through his small business, Irving Counter Top, Marvin created 1,200 jobs for North Texans, inspiring many with his entrepreneurial spirit and desire to do good.

From sponsoring local sports teams and charities to serving in leadership roles in local organizations, Marvin has always found ways to embrace our community. Whether he's cooking fish fries for the Irving Heritage Society or flipping burgers at hamburger cookouts to support the Irving Police Department, Marvin's legacy will always be one of selfless service.

A pillar of our community, it is fitting that we honor Marvin by dedicating the Whistlestop Plaza Clock Tower as the Randle Clock Tower. On this momentous occasion, I want to honor and thank my dear friends and mentors, Marvin and Bobbie Randle, for their enduring commitment to serving others.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RITA
LENTZ OF BRISTOL BOROUGH,
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an extraordinary constituent from my district, Rita Lentz (née Porfirio) of Bristol Borough, Pennsylvania, who passed away at the age of 86 on January 12, 2024. Rita was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 17, 1937 but grew up and was a lifelong resident in Bristol Borough, Pennsylvania where she would spend the next 80 plus years growing up and raising her family becoming a beacon of joy in our community.

Rita graduated from Bristol High School in 1955 and went on to marry the love of her life, United States Navy World War II Veteran Philip Lentz on October 3, 1970. A proud Italian American, Rita was bilingual and became a dual citizen of Italy in November of 2010. This was a culmination of frequent trips she and Philip made to Italy to enjoy her culture and an excellent glass of vino in the village of Roccavivara.

Rita was a dedicated member of St. Ann Church and her faith inspired a life of service to our community. In addition to volunteering at church events, she and her husband were active members of the local Moose Lodge and VFW. She worked tirelessly throughout her beloved borough assisting countless people with care and transportation.

Rita also gave her time to serve as the judge of elections in the East Ward of Bristol Borough for many years. Some of Rita's most meaningful interactions were as a secretary at Warren Snyder School. She was fondly referred to as "Miss Rita" and worked to instill the same love and respect in the students that she gave to everyone around her.

Our community mourns Rita's passing but celebrates the legacy of her life. She will be missed by us all, especially her son Joseph, daughters Maria and Darlene, her sons-in-law Philip and Carl, and her grandchildren Philip and Daniel.

RECOGNIZING AMY RUTKIN AND
HER SERVICE TO THE U.S.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Amy Rutkin for nearly twenty-five years of outstanding service to the constituents of New York's 12th Congressional District and the House Judiciary Committee.

The decision to hire Amy as my Chief of Staff in 1999 was—as all my best decisions are—at the suggestion of my wife, Joyce, who had met her while working on the same New York City Comptroller race. While Amy hadn't previously worked on the Hill, upon meeting her, I knew she possessed the intellect, tenacity, and problem-solving skills necessary to step directly into the Chief of Staff role.

Previously, Amy had served as Director of Government Relations and Public Policy at Hadassah; as a Policy Analyst for New York Governor Mario Cuomo; and as Associate Director of Public Affairs at Planned Parenthood. This experience demonstrated our shared passion for advocacy and fighting for the principles we both believe in: women's and LGBTQ+ equality, civil rights, progressive Zionism, and much more.

While Amy grew up in Arizona and earned her undergraduate degree at Brandeis University in Boston, Massachusetts, she became steeped in the world of New York City politics when she studied at my alma mater, Columbia University, going on to graduate with a master's in public administration.

Despite a promise not to stay in the position "a day over four years," Amy was quickly thrown into the center of some of our nation's most significant challenges, and her commitment to seeing those challenges through kept her fighting alongside me for nearly twenty-five years. Barely two years into her taking the Chief of Staff role, the 9/11 terrorist attacks devastated my district, which then stretched from the Upper West Side of Manhattan through the heart of the World Trade Center and to parts of Brooklyn. We knew immediately that the air in Lower Manhattan wasn't safe to breathe—despite assurances from the Bush Administration—and in the years following, Amy dedicated herself to leading efforts in Congress to care for the victims, work that culminated in the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. This landmark legislation upheld our promise to our nation's heroes who responded to the attacks as well as to all those who had been impacted by the toxic dust in the disaster area—a monumental feat that affected thousands of lives. Thanks to her persistence and dedication, Amy's impact on our 9/11 families can be felt far and wide.

Years later, in 2017, our work together would face its biggest test as I entered the race to become Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee. Thanks in great part to the strong record I had built over the years with Amy's advice, I earned the trust of my colleagues to become the Ranking Member, a goal we had discussed for many years finally coming to fruition. I was proud to appoint Amy as Chief of Staff to the Committee, a role she seamlessly assumed following our victory.

Becoming Ranking Member—and later, Chairman—of the Judiciary Committee brought with it great opportunities for legislative action that Amy and I had talked about for years. It came with a caveat, however; Donald Trump was the President, and there was mounting pressure to launch an impeachment inquiry as he was fundamentally threatening and degrading our democracy.

Amy navigated the complexities of leading an impeachment with a steady hand, facing a demanding schedule and non-stop media attention, managing a staff of some of our nation's finest minds, and working closely with the House Leadership team. This experience earned her the acclaim of former Majority Leader STENY HOYER, who praised her "wise counsel" and "razor-sharp instincts," an assessment I couldn't agree with more.

After the Impeachment concluded in early 2020, unbeknownst to anyone at the time, we would be back again the following year for yet

another impeachment after President Trump led the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol. While under vastly different circumstances—this time, the Members were the direct victims of the President's crimes—Amy built on past experience to give President Trump the dishonor of being the only President to be impeached twice.

Impeachments aside, Amy's tenure leading the staff of the Judiciary Committee allowed us to realize several legislative goals we had worked on together for two decades.

For example, back in 2009, when same-sex marriages were under attack, Amy was critical in helping author the Respect for Marriage Act to protect marriage equality, a bill that was seen as fanciful at the time. Although the Supreme Court later recognized marriage equality in the Obergefell decision, this right came under renewed threat when Justice Thomas urged revisiting that precedent in the Dobbs case, which overturned decades of precedent protecting the right to reproductive freedom. Amy seized the moment and jumped into action to revive efforts to pass the Respect for Marriage Act. Within months, we were on the White House Lawn together with President Biden as he signed the bill into law. A dream that seemed impossible just a decade earlier had become a reality largely due to Amy's relentless tenacity for LGBTQ+ equality.

Fighting for civil rights has always been at the core of my political philosophy, but it was never more urgent than in the wake of George Floyd's murder in 2020, when our country was clamoring for change to our nation's approach to policing. Amy worked in tandem with then-Representative and now-Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass to advance the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act through the House, not once but twice. On their work together, former Congresswoman Bass said, "Let me say in no uncertain terms that the United States House of Representatives would not have been able to pass the most comprehensive police reform package in United States history—the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act—two different times, without Amy's steady guidance and leadership."

Simply put, under Amy's leadership, the House Judiciary Committee was as productive and consequential as it has ever been in the years I served as Chairman. These accomplishments allowed me to run in a difficult primary last cycle on a record that was unmatched, and I am thankful to Amy not only for helping to develop this record, but also for amplifying to constituents the impact of my work in Washington.

Even now in the minority, Amy continues to influence the issues she is most passionate about. In the wake of the October 7th attack on Israel, she has doubled down on her work supporting my role as the most senior Jewish Member of Congress and she is a visible demonstration that you can be both progressive and Zionist. She is relentless in her work supporting our informal group of Jewish Members of Congress—and her success in bringing together voices from across the political spectrum speaks volumes to her understanding of the complexities of the Jewish community and her deep connection to the values that bind us together.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Amy's children, Phoebe and Zoey. Both of her children were born during her tenure in the office, and for me and the rest of our team, it has

been a pleasure watching them grow up and hearing their stories and jokes about their dog, Rufus.

As Amy moves on to the next chapter in her life, I am forever grateful to have had her by my side for nearly twenty-five years as my most trusted advisor. With her brilliant political instincts, keen understanding of policy, and strong moral compass, she has been essential in bringing about so many of my accomplishments throughout my tenure in Congress.

I want to thank her for her many years of service and her friendship over the years. My district, the Judiciary Committee, and the lives of millions of people are better off for having had Amy fighting on their behalf.

HONORING SANTA ROSA POLICE
DEPARTMENT K9 GHOST

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ghost, a City of Santa Rosa Police Department K9. I have named Ghost as a Public Safety Hero of the Year from Sonoma County in California's 4th District because of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Ghost is a 2-year-old Malinois who was born in Modesto, California and began his service with the Santa Rosa Police Department in September 2022. He lives and works with his partner, Officer Aaron Gonzales-Campos, along with Officer Gonzales-Campos' wife and two daughters. Ghost enjoys being a big brother to his two little sisters.

In a time of rampant gun violence, Ghost serves a crucial role for our community. Ghost and Officer Gonzales-Campos are Sonoma County's first firearm detection Police K9 team. After hundreds of hours of training and achieving certification in January 2023, Ghost is able to detect odors from firearms and related objects such as ammunition. After identifying an odor, Ghost identifies the threat to his partner.

In his first year and in addition to his regular duties, Ghost intercepted and removed eight illegal firearms from the streets of Santa Rosa. Just two weeks ago, he helped bust an identity theft ring that was also manufacturing illegal ghost guns and assault rifles. A proactive approach to intercepting illegal firearms is keeping Santa Rosa safe and reducing the risk of violent crimes.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Ghost for his persistence, service and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING SILVER LAKE
MAYOR BERNIE HOVEY

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Bernie Hovey on his service as the Mayor of Silver Lake, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done

for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Mr. Hovey's drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He leads by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As Mr. Hovey goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Hovey for his commitment to the people of Silver Lake and to Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING XO GIFTS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize XO Gifts for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to XO Gifts for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
DAVID NORVELL

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor David Norvell for the incredible life and legacy he led serving the people of New Mexico. Mr. Norvell passed away on December 21, 2023 at the age of 88. I want to express my sincerest condolences to his wife, Leader Gail Chasey, and his family. I pray that all who loved him find solace and healing.

Mr. Norvell was born in Missouri and raised in Oklahoma. He made New Mexico his home. There, he practiced law in Clovis and then went on to a remarkable career in public service. He touched countless lives in our beautiful state as the youngest Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives and Attorney General. He was a legislative visionary in his fights for a higher minimum wage, a clean environment, and the repeal of the death penalty. As the man who led the charge for the New Mexico Human Rights Act, he created a brighter and more equitable future for all communities in our state.

I am confident that Mr. Norvell's legacy will live on through his family and friends and his innumerable accomplishments. His tireless dedication to the people of New Mexico proves how much we can accomplish as advocates for our beloved communities. I'm proud to follow in Mr. Norvell's footsteps and

continue working for the people of New Mexico. For that and more, we recognize Mr. Norvell for his invaluable service to the state of New Mexico and to the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE WALTER L.
COHEN HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM NAMING CEREMONY IN
HONOR OF JAMES "JIM" H.
RABY

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Mr. James "Jim" Raby, who has devoted his life to serving his community, and to celebrate Walter L. Cohen High School, for their choice to honor him with the dedication of the Gymnasium Naming Ceremony. Mr. Raby, though born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was raised from the age of 9 months in my home, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Raby attended New Orleans public schools, James Weldon Elementary School, and Walter L. Cohen Senior High School. Jim and his high school sweetheart, Nola, were part of the third graduating class of Walter L. Cohen High School in 1955 and have been married for 63 years.

Upon graduating from Walter L. Cohen High School, Mr. Raby matriculated at Southern University in Baton Rouge, where he earned a BS in Mathematics. Jim went on to earn a master's in education, and a certification in Adult Education. During his time at Southern, he became involved in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Program and, after graduating in 1959, received a Commission as an Army Second Lieutenant. In September of 1963, after serving 4 years on active military duty, during which he was often the only African American commissioned officer, Mr. Raby was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.

After his discharge from the military, Jim began worked at the Philip Morris Tobacco company, a company for which he was the only African American sales representative in Louisiana. In November 1967, he resigned from his position at Philip Morris Tobacco company, and became the first African American to serve as a Field Underwriter for New York Life Insurance Company in the New Orleans General Office.

Once he retired from this position in 1994, Mr. Raby began working for the Orleans Parish School Board as the Program Coordinator for Project Independence. In August 2009, Jim was elected President of the Board of Directors of the Walter L. Cohen Alumni Association, through which he spearheaded efforts to rebuild Walter L. Cohen High School on its original site.

Mr. Raby's dedication to the different communities of which he is a part is evident throughout his story. He has not only contributed immensely to his Alma Mater, Walter L. Cohen High School, but also to our state, and to our nation. I commend Walter L. Cohen High School for dedicating the Gymnasium Naming Ceremony in honor of Mr. Jim Raby, and I am proud to acknowledge Mr. Raby for his dedication to serving others, both locally and beyond.

HONORING RUDY JEHLER FOR FIVE DECADES OF SERVICE IN THE MOHAVE COUNTY SHERIFF'S SEARCH AND RESCUE

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I honor Rudy Jehle who will retire from the Mohave County Sheriff's Search and Rescue after five decades of exemplary dedication to his community. Rudy truly personifies the patriotic virtue of service. From 1962 to 1964, he served his country in the Army and was honorably discharged. After moving to Lake Havasu City, Arizona in 1973, Rudy served as a Mohave County Sheriff's deputy and then as a reserve officer in the Lake Havasu Police Department.

Rudy also served in the Mohave County Search and Rescue program. Anyone who has traversed the sweeping wilderness of western Arizona can appreciate the lifesaving importance of this work. Through his time with the Search and Rescue division, of which he was a founding member, Rudy has been recognized with greatly deserved accreditations and awards. His work and service for the Mohave County community merits the utmost commendation.

On behalf of myself and the great people of Arizona's ninth district, I extend my sincere gratitude to Rudy for his service, and I wish him the best as he moves onto the next chapter of his life.

HONORING JOSEPH A. FARROW

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph A. Farrow, the Chief of Police with the University of California, Davis Police Department (UCDPD). I have named Mr. Farrow as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Yolo County in California's 4th District as a result of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Mr. Farrow was born in Tokyo, Japan and moved to the United States at the age of 10. He and his four brothers grew up in a military household and enjoyed all aspects of family, friendships and sports in the Monterey Peninsula. Mr. Farrow earned an associate of arts degree from Monterey Peninsula Community College, a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from California State University, Sacramento and a master's degree in education at California State University, San Diego. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the FBI National Executive Institute, and the Peace Officer Standards and Training Law Enforcement Command College.

Mr. Farrow's distinguished career in law enforcement began as an officer with the Pacific Grove Police Department. He followed his lifelong dream of being a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer joining the CHP in 1980. Working his way through the ranks, Mr. Farrow became Deputy Commissioner in November 2004. He was appointed commissioner in

February 2008 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, becoming the first Japanese American to head the CHP and was later reappointed by Governor Jerry Brown.

Mr. Farrow has been serving as the Chief of Police at the University of California, Davis since 2017. He has contributed to the evolution of the Police Accountability Board, promoting accountability, trust and communication between the campus community and the UCDPD. Mr. Farrow is a proponent of diversifying the law enforcement workforce to ensure that UC Davis police officers are reflective of the communities they serve. He is the University of California Systemwide Coordinator, collaborating with all 10 police chiefs to effectively operate and guide contemporary policy and administer 21st century policing programs. He has earned awards for his leadership including the Distinguished Service Award in 2017 and the UC Davis Chancellor's Award for Exceptional University Leadership in 2023.

Mr. Farrow is an active member in our community being heavily involved with the California Chapter of the March of Dimes, the Special Olympics Northern California, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and various UC Davis athletic programs and initiatives. He is the President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness California as well as a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the California Peace Officers Association and the Asian Peace Officers Association. In 2022, Mr. Farrow championed a new state law which made it possible for anyone who is legally authorized to work in the United States to become a peace officer in California, regardless of citizenship status.

For the past four decades, Mr. Farrow proved he is an accomplished and seasoned leader with a contagious passion for public service and safety. He embodies the values of respect, inclusion and kindness to others and consistently works towards staff diversity, community engagement and accountability implementing contemporary policies and programs that serve as a model for other institutions.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Mr. Farrow for his persistence, service and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING AKRON MAYOR DAN HARRIGAN

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Dan Horrigan on his service as the Mayor of Akron, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Mr. Horrigan's drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He leads by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As Mr. Horrigan goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Horrigan for his commitment to the people of Akron and to Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE CRAFT BOX

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Craft Box for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Sustainability Award.

The Sustainability Award is given to a business in Wheat Ridge with a strong commitment to the environment. Since their opening, The Craft Box has created a sustainable program that has stopped 19,000 pieces of fabric, 6,000 rubber stamps, 14,000 books, and 152,000 craft items from ending up in a landfill—an estimated 12,000 pounds of waste.

I thank The Craft Box for their continued work to help create a greener, more sustainable Wheat Ridge.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROY SCHERER

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Roy Scherer, who passed away on December 8th, at the age of 81.

Roy was born on February 2, 1942, in Richmond, Virginia. He spent most of his childhood attending military schools and then went on to spend a few years in the U.S. Air Force after graduation.

According to his family, Roy's experience at the 1969 Democratic Convention in Chicago inspired him to fight injustice wherever he saw it. For him, one of those injustices was the penalties for drugs in Virginia. Roy formed Virginians for the Study of Marijuana Laws, becoming Virginia's first registered marijuana lobbyist.

In 1977, Roy was arrested for sneaking weed plants into the Virginia State Capitol. According to Roy, Delegate Cranwell didn't know what a weed plant looked like and wanted to see one, so he brought one in to show him. This explanation was apparently true and led him to being let off the hook.

When I was in the House of Delegates, he came to all of the Subcommittee on Courts of Justice meetings, advocating for saner drug policies and weed legalization.

There was once a bill introduced which would make the penalties in Virginia for crack cocaine and powdered cocaine possession similar to those in the federal law. Roy stood up and detailed how powdered cocaine was used primarily by white drug users and crack cocaine was used primarily by black drug users, and that in the bill the penalty for crack was far harsher than for powdered cocaine. Knowing the Members of the Committee, Roy knew we wouldn't stand for this injustice.

Bob McDonald, Dave Albo, and I looked at each other and then looked down the dais. Kenny Melvin and others looked back and instantly we knew Roy was right; we amended the bill to make the penalties equitable.

Years later, the Supreme Court of the United States struck down the federal law because the inequitable drug penalties were unconstitutional.

Roy Scherer proved that, at least in Virginia, a well-reasoned conscientious citizen could address his government and be heard. We will always be indebted to his example.

Roy was also a big supporter of concealed carry. Being that he had no driver's license, Roy would ride his bicycle to the Capitol and keep his gun on him as the route he traveled to the Capitol was through an unsafe part of town. However, when he wanted to eat in a restaurant nearby, he would have to hide his gun in a bush outside of the restaurant. This led him to fight for concealed carry in restaurants in Virginia.

Roy is survived by his beloved wife and best friend, Sally, his sister Barbara, and his brother Frank, as well as many friends. I wish them all my deepest condolences for their loss.

A true Libertarian and a dedicated citizen, Roy made an impact on everyone he met, including myself. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LAUREN CURRY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lauren Curry on becoming the new Chief of Staff for Gov. Brian Kemp.

Lauren has made history, once again, this time becoming the first woman to permanently hold the position. Previously, she made history when she became the first female deputy Chief of Staff to the governor.

Lauren graduated with a bachelor's from Wofford College. She then pursued a master's from the University of Georgia.

Her entire career has been dedicated to public service. She has held an array of impressive positions in state government, such as Deputy Director of Georgia's Environmental Protection Division, and Director of government and public affairs at the Georgia DNR.

Lauren is also a veteran of Governor Kemp's staff, having served as his Chief Operating Officer and as his director of governmental affairs and policy.

I congratulate Lauren. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this position.

TAU CHAPTER 100TH CELEBRATION

HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the members of Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,

Incorporated as they celebrate 100 years of sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action.

Tau Chapter was chartered in the 13th Congressional District on January 24, 1924, and was the first Black Greek letter organization chartered on the campus of Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. Delta Sigma Theta, A Service Sorority, was founded 111 years ago on January 13, 1913, on the campus of Howard University by twenty-two collegiate women. Just two months after its founding, the Founders of Delta Sigma Theta, in their first act of public service, participated in the Women's Suffrage March in Washington, D.C., advocating for the right to vote for all women.

It is no coincidence that an organization committed to public service, and political awareness would have trailblazing and dedicated members who have contributed so much to congress. From my great state of Michigan, I want to recognize my predecessors, also members of Delta Sigma Theta, Congresswomen Barbara-Rose Collins, Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick and Brenda Lawrence.

In the 100 years since its chartering, Tau Chapter has continued the mission of sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action within Detroit, MI. Congratulations.

RECOGNIZING LAKEMORE MAYOR RICHARD COLE, JR.

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Richard Cole, Jr., on his service as the Mayor of Lakemore, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Mr. Cole's drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He leads by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As Mr. Cole goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Cole for his commitment to the people of Lakemore and to Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE WHEAT RIDGE COMMUNITY AND FAMILY COALITION FOR EDUCATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wheat Ridge Community and Family Coalition for Education for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 City Council Partnership Award.

The award is given to an organization in the Wheat Ridge community that has demonstrated dedication, service, and leadership to the local area. The members of this organization selflessly volunteer their time, even in the face of challenging circumstances, to nurture and uplift young people growing up in Wheat Ridge. Initially formed as a response to the impact of the pandemic on Wheat Ridge families, the coalition has continued to support and address the needs of the community, ensuring that every family has the safety and support they need to navigate uncertain times.

Congratulations to the Wheat Ridge Community and Family Coalition for Education on the accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for their contributions to the Wheat Ridge community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROLINE WEST

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to extend my condolences to the family and the Tampa Bay community mourning the passing of Caroline West. Caroline passed away at the age of 26 due to complications of Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood (AHC), a rare neurological disorder that she was born with. Despite experiencing the challenges from a rare generic condition, Caroline was a champion for improving health care for people with medical complexities and a beacon of inspiration to me and everyone whose paths she crossed.

Born five weeks prematurely, Caroline suffered a seizure and stopped breathing in the first 12 hours of her life. Throughout her life, she underwent specialized speech, physical and cognitive therapy coordinated with the help of the Chronic-Complex Clinic at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, a national leader in pediatric care. Although her battle with AHC was challenging and debilitating, Caroline was able to receive an education while creating lasting memories.

Caroline was always vibrant and loving, and her joy centered around spending precious moments with her family and friends. From indulging in her favorite music by Miley Cyrus and Taylor Swift to getting pampered with nails and makeup, she embraced life with a fun-loving spirit. Despite her limited speech, Caroline communicated effortlessly through her expressive eyes, warm hugs and an innate ability to sense when someone needed comfort, making her a uniquely perceptive and uplifting presence in the lives of those around her.

I am proud of Caroline's resilience and of her mother, Tish, for her unconditional love and willingness to fight for Caroline and every child with medically complex conditions. Caroline and Tish's invaluable work and advocacy inspired my work on the ACE Kids Act, which created a national medical home model for children with medical complexities. Tish and Caroline advocated for this bill in Washington and locally in Florida and in Congress, including Tish's testimony before the Energy and Commerce Committee. Because of their tireless advocacy, ACE Kids was signed into law.

in 2019, so now children with medical complex needs can access better and more coordinated care, which will improve health outcomes, lower costs, and make families lives easier.

I have the deepest gratitude to Caroline and Tish for their sacrifices in helping address the unique challenges my neighbors with medically complex conditions face under the health care system to bring the best care. Caroline is survived by her parents, Tish and Bill West; her siblings, Billy, Drew, and Mallory; and many family members and friends who were all very dear to her. Additionally, I want to extend my gratitude to the medical team that helped Caroline and her family through this journey.

Keri Eisenbeis, BayCare Health System's Chief of Staff and Chief Communications Officer, emphasized the West Family's dedication to advocacy, stating that "the West Family, including Caroline, have been tireless champions for medically complex patients, including those at BayCare's St. Joseph's Children's Hospital." In addition to extending their condolences, they "mourn Caroline's passing, but celebrate the legacy of advocacy she inspired which led to the passage of the ACE Kids Act."

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere condolences to Caroline's family and friends. She will be remembered by her warm smile and contagious laugh. Caroline was taken from us too soon, but she leaves with us infinite life lessons and an immeasurable impact on those who knew and loved her.

Rest in peace, Caroline.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEPHEN WISE TEMPLE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the outstanding achievements of Stephen Wise Temple on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. Since its founding by Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin in 1964, Stephen Wise Temple has grown to become one of the strongest pillars of the faith community in Los Angeles. Stephen Wise Temple's core principles of creativity, inclusivity, and generosity truly embody the values of its namesake, Rabbi Stephen Samuel Wise, and further the mission of tikkun olam, "repairing the world."

The history of Stephen Wise Temple serves as a testament to the American ideal that greatness can spring from humble origins. Initially, the congregation consisted of just 35 families and lacked a permanent location. Through the dedication of Rabbi Zeldin and the perseverance of its members, the Temple never once faltered in its conviction to provide a place for the Reform Jewish community of Los Angeles, until finally, in 1969, the congregation moved into its current home in Bel-Air, overlooking one of the most beautiful views in all of Los Angeles.

Under the stewardship of their outstanding clergy, including Senior Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback; Rabbis David Woznica, Ron Stern, Sari Laufer and Josh Knobel; Senior Rabbi

Emeritus Eli Herscher; and Cantor Emma Lutz, Stephen Wise Temple today provides a spiritual home for Southern California's Jewish community. It is a place where people connect with their faith, with their neighbors, and with the State of Israel. Now more than ever, people also turn to Stephen Wise Temple for courageous moral leadership.

In the face of rising bigotry and hatred, Stephen Wise Temple has worked to increase awareness of antisemitism in our local communities and to combat its normalization through educational initiatives and interfaith partnerships. Last year, they also convened an important discussion of international efforts to combat antisemitism with European representatives.

"The Wise Way Forward", as it has come to be known, is perhaps best personified by the Temple's Center for Tikkun Olam, which advocates for efforts to promote climate justice, prevent gun violence, and provide food relief for the homeless. Additionally, in partnership with Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), the Temple also works to assist newly housed veterans by providing them with furniture, appliances, and other amenities to help them transition off the street and into new homes. In sickness and in health, in sorrow and in joy, Stephen Wise Temple and their congregants answer the call to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Stephen Wise Temple and join in celebration of this momentous anniversary.

HONORING LAUREN COUGHLAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor Lauren Coughlan, a dispatcher with the Vacaville Police Department. I have named Ms. Coughlan as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County in California's 4th District as a result of her extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

Ms. Coughlan was born in California and from an early age had a desire to become a police officer and help our community. Last year she completed her bachelor's degree in emergency management and plans to continue her education with the goal of earning her master's degree in clinical psychology.

Ms. Coughlan's law enforcement career began in 1998 when she was 16 years old as a Vacaville Police Department cadet. She later served as an intern for the department assigned to Patrol, Records, Property & Evidence, Crime Prevention and Dispatch until she was hired as a full-time dispatcher in July 2003. In 2016 she was promoted to communications supervisor of the Vacaville Police Department, where she presently serves.

Ms. Coughlan attended a 3-day Yoga for First Responders training in Colorado, with the intent to bring it back and help local first responders alleviate their high stress levels. On June 21, 2023, she achieved this goal by hosting a yoga class at the Solano Events Center, for members of the Solano County Sheriffs Office, Solano County Probation Department, California Highway Patrol, Fairfield Police Department and Vacaville Police De-

partment. She additionally assisted in teaching classes at the Fairfield Police Department, California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System Users Group Raining conference and multiple classes at the Vacaville Police Department.

Ms. Coughlan is an active member of Solano Family First Responders, a nonprofit organization supporting the first responder community and their families. She also is an assistant team leader with the Emergency Tactical Communications Team, responding with SWAT to critical incidents and a member of the Vacaville Telecommunicator's Emergency Response Team, responding to dispatch mutual aid requests throughout the state during wildfires and other major events.

Ms. Coughlan is an active member in our community, regularly managing and presenting 9–1–1 presentations for kids at local elementary schools and other community outreach events such as First Responder's Day at Hemlock Elementary School and National Night Out. She coordinates and participates in the communications center's annual tree donation for Festival of Trees. She also played a major role in coordinating the New Year's Eve fundraising event for retired officer Walt Simon and plays a supporting role in many other fundraising events supporting first responders.

Ms. Coughlan currently lives in Vacaville with her foster puppy, Sundae, and enjoys traveling in her spare time. She is proud of her Irish heritage and dual citizenship. Ms. Coughlan is passionate about mental health, wellness, and resiliency. She plans to focus on continuing her education and training in resiliency and the neurobiology of stress and trauma in the first responder environment.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Ms. Coughlan for her persistence, service, and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING TALLMADGE MAYOR DAVID KLINE

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to David Kline on his service as the Mayor of Tallmadge, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Mr. Kline's drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He leads by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As Mr. Kline goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Kline for his commitment to the people of Tallmadge and to Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING WHEAT RIDGE
CYCLERY

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wheat Ridge Cyclery for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's Business of the Year Award.

Wheat Ridge Cyclery has been a pillar of the Wheat Ridge community since 1973. Now in their 50th year, they employ over 80 individuals and are the largest and oldest independent bike shop in Colorado.

Their philanthropic endeavors include sponsoring the Colorado High School Cycling League and the Colorado Mountain Bike Association and providing paid advocacy days for employees to assist in trail stewardship efforts. Wheat Ridge Cyclery also partners with Bicycles for Humanity to collect bikes that would have otherwise been thrown into Colorado landfills. These bikes are taken to Bicycle Empowerment Centers in Africa to help provide basic transportation and mobility. Wheat Ridge Cyclery's continued support to communities near and far is commendable and greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Wheat Ridge Cyclery on the accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for their continued contributions to the Wheat Ridge community.

PANCYPRIAN ASSOCIATION OF
FLORIDA'S 2024 PERSON OF THE
YEAR

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the PanCyprian Association of Florida's 2024 Person of the Year, Savas Tsivicos. A native from Cyprus, Mr. Tsivicos currently serves as Supreme President of AHEPA, the largest Hellenic-American organization in the country which has just celebrated its 100th anniversary last year. I'm proud to call myself an AHEPAN, a devoted member of the Tarpon Springs, George Washington Chapter No. 16. As the longest-standing Hellenic-American organization, AHEPA has helped to assimilate and educate Greek immigrants, like my grandparents, as they arrived in America. AHEPA has a lot to be proud of—its good works have elevated the stature of American citizens of Greek ancestry since its first convention in Atlanta in 1923. AHEPA has served as a beacon of all that is true and good about our culture.

As a member of Congress, I have come to rely upon AHEPA's advice and counsel on a variety of issues, especially as it relates to my work as Co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus and Congressional Hellenic-Israel Alliance. Together, we have worked to strengthen U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus, secure religious freedom and protection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and promote solutions for Cyprus. With Mr. Tsivicos at the helm, AHEPA has continued to lead on the world stage call-

ing out the intransigence of Turkey's President Erdogan. It has joined in the fight to prevent the sale of F-16s and F-16 modernization kits to Turkey. And, I am confident, that he will lead AHEPA to continue its work as an important partner in the charge to ensure the United States stands firm in its commitment to defend Greece against Turkish aggression.

Domestically, AHEPA concluded an eight-year campaign that donated 20,000 gallons of milk to assist victims of the Flint Water Crisis and helped neighbors recover from the East Palestine train derailment through a \$7,500 donation; surpassed \$1 million to sponsor over 100 service dogs to help veterans who suffer from PTSD, collectively awarded millions of dollars in scholarships annually; and is set to begin work on two new affordable senior housing communities sponsored by chapters in Des Moines and South Bend.

I subscribe to the old Greek proverb that a society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit. The AHEPA pioneers who more than 100 years ago had a vision of eradicating bigotry and discrimination by promoting the ancient Hellenic ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence to encourage a more perfect society are beaming with pride from above. The fruits of their vision and their labor continue to prosper because of the efforts from those, like Mr. Tsivicos, who carry forth the mission throughout our country. Again, congratulation to the entire organization and to Mr. Tsivicos on leading AHEPA to have another productive year. I wish him continued success and many more years of fruitful educational, philanthropic, and civic endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the House floor on the afternoon of January 11, 2024, and the morning of January 12, 2024, because these two vote series conflicted with a funeral in Ohio that I attended to honor the life of a dear friend of mine, who sadly passed away recently. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 6; NAY on Roll Call No. 7; NAY on Roll Call No. 8; YEA on Roll Call No. 9; and NAY on Roll Call No. 10.

HONORING BAYARD RUSTIN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Bayard Rustin. His life was dedicated to civil rights advocacy, but because he was a gay man, his hard work and accomplishments were often shadowed.

Mr. Rustin was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, where he was raised by his grandparents, Julia and Janifer Rustin. Julia was an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

and Bayard was introduced to the fight for civil rights when he campaigned against the discriminatory Jim Crow laws.

In 1948, Rustin traveled to India to learn from leaders of the Gandhian movement on nonviolent civil resistance. He brought those skills back to his work in the United States, assisting in writing "Speak Truth to Power: A Quaker Search for an Alternative to Violence." This was one of the most influential pacifist papers of its time, though Rustin remained an anonymous contributor due to fear that his known sexual orientation would compromise readers' respect for his contributions.

Rustin was instrumental in organizing the March on Washington in 1962. And yet, other prominent organizers did not want Rustin to receive any public credit for his hard work. His other accomplishments include organizing a group called "In Friendship" to provide legal assistance to people threatened with eviction and being named the first president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization's A. Philip Randolph Institute, which works towards integration and unionization of African Americans into formerly all-white unions. Later in life, he went on many humanitarian missions to provide aid and care to refugees in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Haiti.

Despite never receiving the recognition he deserved, he kept organizing and campaigning for what was right. Rustin worked for his own rights as a Black gay man and promoted values of nonviolence in civil resistance.

His unwavering dedication and vision of a peaceful and equitable nation is a guiding light. Though he was never given the recognition he deserved in life, I ask us to honor him now.

RECOGNIZING VETERAN
LAWRENCE DENNIS EGAN

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Egan. He courageously served our country in the U.S. Navy; then he came home to serve our community as a dedicated volunteer.

Larry was born in 1943 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma as the youngest of seven children. After moving to California, Larry enlisted with the U.S. Navy where he served a term as a hospital corpsman. Upon returning from service, Larry began his career in the sales industry. He held sales and leadership positions at Gallo Winery, Remy Martin, and other companies in the beverage industry. In the 1990s, Larry pivoted into business ventures, opening his own concession business, S&S Concessions.

In 2007, Larry began serving as the executive director of the Downtown Pomona Owner's Association. Throughout his 13-year tenure, Larry oversaw critical revitalization efforts for the City of Pomona, which include the return of the Pomona Christmas Parade and the Downtown Trolley. He retired in 2020, known as the "Downtown Pops" for all his revitalization efforts.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. On Sunday, December 17, 2023, Larry passed away at home, in the company of his two

daughters. He is survived by his two older sisters, his two daughters, his two sons-in-law, and his four grandchildren. I offer my deepest condolences on their loss.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Lawrence Dennis Egan. His years of military service and commitment to the city and the people of Pomona are worthy of the highest commendation. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
JAMES BALYS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief James G. Baly on the occasion of his retirement from the Erie County Sheriff's Office, and to thank him for the dedication and commitment he demonstrated to his community through his long and distinguished career in law enforcement and corrections.

Chief Baly began his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff Thomas Higgins in October of 1995, was promoted to Sergeant in February of 2013, then Lieutenant in August of 2016, and Captain in July of 2020. Finally, he joined the Command Staff in July of 2021 as 1st Deputy Superintendent of Correctional Health and six months later was promoted to Chief of Correctional Health. Through all of these roles, Chief Baly demonstrated a commitment to service to the public, to upholding the rule of law, and to his fellow officers. Before his service as a sworn officer in the Erie County Sheriff's Office, he supported the protection of public safety as an electrician with the Buffalo Fire Department.

Chief Baly can now enjoy a well-earned retirement with Jeanine Colpoys, his wife of 29 years, and his children Allison, Olivia and Ryan. Like myself, Chief Baly is an alumnus of Buffalo State College; he grew up in West Seneca, NY.

Again, I commend Chief Baly for his long and distinguished career and thank him for his dedication to the safety of the public and the rule of law. His commitment has been exemplary.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT OF BOY SCOUT
TROOP 211

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of five exemplary individuals from Boy Scout Troop 211 who recently became Eagle Scouts: Patrick Harrigan, Ian Lochridge, Noah Brunet, Garner Abrams, Garrison Abrams. Each of their Eagle Scout projects were carefully crafted and will leave a lasting impact on our community.

Patrick Harrigan constructed raised gardens and beds for Tucson Village Farm. TVF is a working urban farm built by and for the youth

of our community. It is a seed-to-table program designed to reconnect young people to a healthy food system, teach them how to grow and prepare fresh food and empower them to make healthy life choices.

Ian Lochridge and volunteers cleared half an acre of vegetation, leveled the land, pre-painted 200 inches of horse fencing, and built a fence into a coral. Ian did this for a local non-profit organization called the Brave Brays, which provides equine therapy to help preteen girls overcome their challenges.

Noah Brunet constructed a sensory path to support students with special needs and added a brick walkway to the outdoor classroom and garden at DeGrazia Elementary School.

Garner Abrams cleaned up and beautified the United States Flag grounds, the brick patio surrounding the flagpole, a lockbox for storing the U.S. flag, repainting the flagpole, and adding a bench for seating at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy.

Lastly, Garrison Abrams removed trespassing items and illegal catchments in the area of Rice Peak, and the Santa Catalina Mountains. He communicated with both Arizona Game and Fish Department and the US Forest Service in returning our public lands back to its natural state.

The dedication and hard work exhibited by Patrick Harrigan, Ian Lochridge, Noah Brunet, Garner Abrams, and Garrison Abrams in these projects are commendable. Their commitment to Troop 211 and the community does not go unnoticed. We take pride in having these outstanding young individuals in our district and encourage them to continue their exceptional work.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
DR. BOB POSTON

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Robert "Bob" Poston, the esteemed founder of Vet to Vet, a nonprofit organization comprising over 1,500 members dedicated to supporting veterans in claiming the benefits they have rightfully earned. Dr. Bob's remarkable contributions warrant acknowledgment and sincere appreciation.

Dr. Bob Poston, a native of Cartersville, Georgia, enlisted in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Flourishing in the military, Dr. Bob seized every educational opportunity; and, after ascending to the rank of Sergeant, accepted a commission, ultimately retiring as a Major. His two tours in Vietnam earned him accolades and awards, including the Bronze Star for bravery. Bob was also awarded two Purple Hearts, as he still bears the physical reminders of his sacrifices, with bullets embedded from a sniper's rifle.

Among Dr. Bob's myriad of accomplishments, he was a former president, and remains an active member, of the Gideon's, conducts weekly meetings at Young Street Baptist Church to aid those grappling with PTSD, spousal abuse, or drug addiction, and leads a jailhouse ministry on weekends, as well as currently serving as the President of the Vet to Vet organization. I have known Dr.

Bob for many years and can personally attest to the fact that he consistently serves his country and community, and it is my pleasure to have this opportunity to express my gratitude for his transformative impact on Bartow County and our entire community.

On behalf of the citizens of Bartow County and Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I offer my heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Bob Poston for his unyielding dedication to his fellow veterans, and his community and country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VED
NANDA

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished member of Denver's academic community and a cherished friend, Professor Ved Nanda. His recent passing is a profound loss, not only to the University of Denver and our local community, but to many across the U.S. and the world.

Professor Nanda was more than just an esteemed colleague; he was a kind and passionate individual whose impact on our community extended far beyond the walls of the university. His commitment to education, international law, and the promotion of cultural understanding left a mark on all who knew him.

Born in 1934 in Gujranwala, India, Ved Nanda built an exemplary career starting at Punjab University where he received an M.A. in Economics. He went on to receive a law degree from Delhi University, a law degree from Northwestern University, and completed subsequent postgraduate work at Yale University.

After joining the University of Denver's (DU's) Sturm College of Law in 1972, Professor Nanda inspired generations of scholars, students, and activists, whether it was through his teachings or the 24 books he authored—spanning various fields of international law.

For over five decades, Professor Nanda uplifted the students of DU and the Indian diaspora community, becoming a prominent figure and a bridge between our two nations. He also served in several illustrious positions, including Chairman of the Board of Hindu University of America and Vice President of the American Society of International Law.

In 2006 Professor Nanda was honored with a \$1 million founding gift from the University of Denver to launch the Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law, promoting programs and scholarships in the field of international law. He was also honored with the prestigious Gandhi-King-Ikeda Award for Community Peace Building in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2018. These accolades are a testament to his significant impact on the field and tireless efforts to advance knowledge and cultural exchange. His work was noticed and rightly honored for its impact.

For more than 30 years, Professor Nanda shared his wisdom with the larger Colorado community through his regular columns in the Denver Post. His clear and reasoned explanations of international issues provided important perspectives to readers.

As we remember and mourn the passing of Ved Nanda, we also celebrate the enduring legacy he leaves behind. I have no doubt his

intellectual contributions, passion for education, and love for both India and the United States will continue to inspire us all.

Sadly, Ved lost his beloved wife and partner Katharine last August. During this difficult time, my heart goes out to his friends and family—his daughter, Anjati, son-in-law, granddaughters, extended family, and all those who counted him as a friend, teacher, and mentor.

He will be missed.

CONGRATULATING DUCHESNE
BOYS' SOCCER ON THEIR CLASS
1 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Duchesne High School on their victory in Missouri's Class 1 Boys' Soccer State Championship.

The Pioneers claimed the Class 1 title for the first time in 20 years with a narrow 1–0 victory over Dubourg. Junior Zach Hubert came off the bench to net the game's only goal, as goalie Ben Burke led the defense in recording its ninth shutout of the season. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home a state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Duchesne Boys' Soccer Team for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING GREEN MAYOR
GERARD NEUGEBAUER

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Gerard Neugebauer on his service as the Mayor of Green, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Mr. Neugebauer's drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He leads by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As Mr. Neugebauer goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Neugebauer for his commitment to the people of Green and to Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE KIWANIS CLUB
OF DADE CITY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kiwanis Club of Dade City as it celebrates its 100th anniversary this week. Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis club, with Kiwanis members participating in over 150,000 service projects, devoting more than six million hours of service and raising nearly \$100 million every year in communities around the globe.

The Kiwanis Club of Dade City is especially impactful. Under the skillful leadership of President Kristia Dimarakis, the Kiwanis Club of Dade City has made immeasurable contributions to the community. In addition to raising funds to support countless local charities and organizations, the Club sponsors a program to help children receive eyeglasses in partnership with the local schools and eye doctors. Kiwanis of Dade City also helps facilitate clothing drives and keeps the local food pantry stocked for children in need. The lives of residents throughout Pasco County have been improved because of this group's philanthropic approach to making a difference to the lives of others.

HONORING THE WASHINGTON
HUSKIES' 2023 FOOTBALL SEASON

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Washington Huskies' remarkable 2023 football season. The Huskies reached the College Football Playoff, secured the greatest number of wins in the football program's history, and won the Pac-12 Championship. Under the leadership of head coach Kalen DeBoer, the Huskies put a well-deserved national spotlight on the university's football program and concluded the regular season with a perfect 13–0 record.

The University of Washington continues to bring immense pride to Seattle and Washington State. It is a leader in both academic and athletic excellence in the Pacific Northwest and the United States. I would like to commemorate the amazing work of the coaching staff and the student-athletes as they prepare for another excellent season. Congratulations on a phenomenal season and go Dawgs.

RECOGNIZING ONE HUNDRED
YEARS OF THE KERHONKSON
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the historic 100-year anniversary of the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company.

On December 26, 1924, the Kerhonkson Fire Company was organized as a meeting of

31 men. In a community that needed their men to step up, the community worked together to build a fire company that has continuously protected Kerhonkson and the surrounding areas. Today, the fire company includes 84 men and women among its ranks.

Over the past 100 years, the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company has maintained a strong group of dedicated workers and generations of families. Creating such a strong institution is inspiring and I wish them success in the next 100 years as they continue protecting their neighbors.

I want to personally thank the men who started this fire company 100 years ago as well as those who lead this great group of men and women today. I thank Fire Chief Steve Stephens and President, Former Chief, and Life Member Christopher D. DePew. Their work does not go unnoticed, and I wish them great success in the future.

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS
DAYS

HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Shen Yun Performing Arts Days:

Whereas, Shen Yun Performing Arts was established in 2006 by a group of elite Chinese artists in New York with a mission of reviving 5,000 years of Chinese culture, and since then, has grown into a household name around the world; and

Whereas, Through the universal language of music and dance, Shen Yun weaves a wondrous tapestry of heavenly realms, ancient legends, and modern heroic tales, taking you on a journey through 5,000 years of Chinese culture, its stunning beauty and tremendous energy leave audiences uplifted and inspired; and

Whereas, Shen Yun features the world's foremost classically trained dancers, a unique orchestra blending East and West, and dazzling animated backdrops—together creating one spectacular performance; and

Whereas, There has been an overwhelming and positive response to Shen Yun Performing Arts around the world, it is traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be, a study in grace, fluidity, inner strength, and positive virtues; and

Whereas, Themes of kindness, compassion, and courage are brought out through the songs of eminent vocalists and stunning choreography, the human spirit triumphs over adversity in powerful, thought-provoking dances, providing an uplifting and inspiring experience, energizing our Motor City with hope; and

Now therefore, be it resolved, I, SHRI THANEDAR, Member of Congress, do hereby proclaim the Shen Yun Performing Arts to be recognized for their artistic accomplishments and culture contributions to the city of Detroit.

EULOGY FOR MICHAEL
DESTEFANO

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, long before I was a Congressman and long before I had been a Council Member, I am and will always be the eternally grateful student of Michael DeStefano. For his influence on me is as powerful today, as it was nearly two decades ago, when God first brought him into my life.

When I was a kid, growing up in the 1990s, I would watch a show known as *Boy Meets World*, which had an iconic character, a wise, revered teacher by the name of George Feeny.

Mr. DeStefano was, in many ways, the Mr. Feeny of Herbert H. Lehman High School in the Bronx. As a teacher, Mr. DeStefano embodied for me the nobility of public education as a profession. And as a person, he was a formidable presence who could inhabit a room with the power of his personality and the force of his intellect. He had an eloquence and erudition that could captivate almost anyone who heard him speak. And captivate he did.

Indeed, Mr. DeStefano was the first educator to inspire me.

He engendered in me a love of words and ideas—a love that has remained with me ever since. He enabled me to discover a talent for public speaking I never thought I had. He encouraged me to lead the Lehman High School Law Team, which, I believe, set me on a trajectory that led to the New York City Council and then ultimately to the United States Congress. Words cannot capture the fullness of what Mr. DeStefano has meant to me.

The only constant in life, it has been said, is change. The ancient Greek thinker, Heraclitus, put it best: no person steps into the same river twice. The river is not the same, and neither is the person. Everyone and everything changes constantly at every moment. Reflecting on the theme of a constantly changing self, William James once observed that we have various selves at various points in our lives, and how do we know which one of those selves is the true self? According to James, the true self is one in which we feel most deeply and intensely alive.

Mr. DeStefano inspired me to pursue Moot Court in high school, and it is through Moot Court where I began discovering something resembling my true self, where I felt most deeply and intensely alive for the first time in my life.

As a student at Lehman High School, I remember looking for reasons to stop by Mr. DeStefano's office just to listen to and learn from him, just to be inspired by him. He never disappointed. He never ceased to amaze me with the sheer breadth of his knowledge and the sheer eloquence with which he could express every thought that came to mind and the sheer seamlessness with which he could move from one subject area to the next: philosophy and history and psychology, economics and international relations, literature, and religion. He could speak effortlessly about all of it. He had anecdotes and allusions, quotes and statistics that he could readily recover from his encyclopedic mind.

Whether it is Abraham Maslow's theory of self-actualization as the highest human need or Immanuel Kant's concept of the thing in itself or Soren Kierkegaard's leap of faith: all of these ideas that continue to shape how I think about life and the world were born out of conversations with Mr. DeStefano nearly two decades ago.

Those dialogues with Mr. DeStefano remain fresh in my mind as if we had spoken yesterday. I often find myself wondering: What would Mr. DeStefano do about a particular problem? What would he think about a particular question?

As I ask these questions, I am reminded that I am a better person and a better public servant for having had Mr. DeStefano as an educator in my life.

Mr. DeStefano brought out the best in me, and that, to me, is the greatest gift that one can give you.

I am grateful to his wife for sharing her brilliant husband and to his daughters for sharing their brilliant father with the students of Lehman High School, where he served with distinction as an Assistant Principal and teacher for decades.

He was a close confidante of Robert Leder, who at the time was the longest serving principal in the NYC public school system, beloved by many in the Bronx and beyond. The two of them, together, were the dream team in public education.

I miss and love them both.

Mr. DeStefano's legacy will live on not only in the lives of his family and friends but also in the lives of his students.

I will end as I began: I am proud to be a student of Michael DeStefano—always have been and always will be.

May my greatest teacher Rest in Peace.

RECOGNIZING THE WHEAT RIDGE
ROTARY CLUB

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wheat Ridge Rotary Club for receiving the Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Non-Profit of the Year Award.

The Non-Profit of the Year Award recognizes an organization serving the Wheat Ridge community for their outstanding work and the difference they are making in the community. The Wheat Ridge Rotary Club supports service activities by individuals and groups that are working to improve the community. They raise money by manning the beer tent at the Carnation Festival, volunteering at local schools, sponsoring a coat drive, and also offer scholarships for local students.

We are grateful to the Wheat Ridge Rotary Club for their many contributions to the Wheat Ridge community.

REMEMBERING ARCHITECT
ROBERT BONNER NORCROSS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my deep respects to Robert Bonner Nor-

cross, a Memphis architect known for his designs of many Memphis landmarks, who died from complications of Early Onset Alzheimer's on December 27 at the age of 62. A native of Tyronza, Arkansas, and a graduate of Marked Tree High School and Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas, Mr. Norcross became a principal in the architecture firm Looney Rick Kiss and led projects that transformed the city of Memphis and nearby communities for three decades. He was licensed in seven states and perhaps best known for his work on AutoZone Park, named the Minor League Ballpark of the Year in 2009 by Baseball America, and the FedEx Forum, home of the NBA Grizzlies and the University of Memphis Tigers. He had a hand in South City, the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital expansion, Soulsville Charter School and Multipurpose Building, Central Station, many homes in Harbor Town, the University of Memphis Men's Basketball Training Center, AutoZone's headquarters and the FedEx World Technology Center in Collierville. In 2020, he won the prestigious Francis Gassner Award from the American Institute of Architects—Memphis Chapter. Active in his Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church and its Vestry St. Columba outreach ministry in West Tennessee, Mr. Norcross was also a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Memphis, Leadership Memphis, the Memphis Leadership Academy of Arkansas, Dean's Circle at Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, and was a founding committee member of the Regional Memphis Design Center. I attended his service at Grace-St. Luke's on Saturday which was packed to the walls. I read the eulogy written by his children and will never look at butterflies again in the same way. I express my sincere condolences to his wife of 37 years, Jill, and their children Phoebe and Brandt, his colleagues and his many friends. He led a good life, but he left us too soon.

HONORING PERRY HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL DAN MARBURGER

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Principal Dan Marburger's family who are grieving following an attack on Perry High School.

During the attack, Principal Marburger heroically and selflessly put himself in harm's way enabling his students to run to safety. He saved many lives through his actions.

Dan passed away and will be laid to rest this weekend. As his daughter Claire said, "Dad taught us, inspired us to be better people every day. He passed many lessons and things on to us kids."

There's no doubt his impact will live on through the many students he mentored as an educator.

My heart goes out to Dan's wife and children. I would like to include in the RECORD a Facebook post written by his daughter Claire that encapsulates the tremendous man, husband, father, grandfather, and educator he was:

"Yet another post I didn't imagine having to write . . .

If you are lucky enough to know my Dad, you know there are not enough words to say about him.

Dad taught us, inspired us to be better people everyday. He passed many lessons and things on to us kids.

Education is important. Five Perry High School graduates . . . were lucky to walk across the stage as Dad said our name with pride and we gave him a hug, Dad's hugs will never be beaten . . . and then five college graduates that represented the state of Iowa. Two graduates from UNI, a Central College grad, a Luther College grad, and a University of Iowa grad. Four out of five of us now work in schools or for schools. The fifth child actually makes money.

As a teacher in his building and watching him handle students and accommodating as needed to see them succeed, it became clear to me the impact we teachers and adults can have on our students. Sometimes all a kiddo needs to find success is for someone to genuinely hear them, and see them, and prove to them that someone cares about them after their mistakes, after their bad choices, and to not leave them out to dry. Dad took no greater pride than seeing the kids he harped on and held up tough expectations for, walk across the stage with a diploma in hand. He also made sure that each student had their name pronounced correctly, spending months before graduation with flash cards pronouncing each name over and over so that every student and family got to hear their child's name or their name as they crossed the stage. If you know how diverse Perry is, you know how tough a test this can be.

Another thing Dad taught us was how to love. How to love each other, how to love our parents, how to love our spouses and significant others, how to love our kids and grandkids. And it comes down to one word, selflessly.

Dad loved my mom, Dad is in love with my mom, unconditional, no question, Dan & Elizabeth 4evr. His patience, his grace, his unwavering support for mom in good and bad times was so clear, I understand what it truly means and looks like to love another person, not just saying you love them but to live it and prove it every day. Not every kid is lucky enough to see this from their parents but we were.

Dad showed us that we are never too busy or too far away to care and support your parents. Dad has so much love and respect for his parents, he would drop anything to be there for them, however, whenever they needed. Give back to the people that give so much for you.

Us kids know now, especially looking back on our growing up years how much Dad loved us. Tough love when we needed, patience and understanding when we needed that. Expectations that he had, but expectations that he made sure we knew were important for us to have for ourselves.

It is the little things like calling me Clairey or sending me a random amount on Venmo saying "Gas" or "Lunch on me". I was so excited for my Dad to meet my girlfriend's three boys, knowing they would love him and he would love them as if they were my own. Going out of his way to make sure our boys felt welcome to the Marburger family. I really wish Dad had an opportunity to play catch with them, especially the youngest and his passion and love he is developing for football and being able to bond over that. The grandkids don't yet understand what they lost today, but there will forever be "grandpas babies", bear traps, gummy bears in the freezer, and plenty of naps in grandpas chair. All things we will carry on.

My Dad was an incredible man, educator, husband, Dad, grandpa. A person I aspire to be and hope to make proud every day.

He will be greatly missed.

I love you, Dad. You are the best, forever".

Principal Marburger showcased to America, to Iowa, to our own families what Perry Strong means.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
NORMAN RAYMOND SMITH

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life of Norman Raymond Smith, Executive Director of Harmony House Senior Center, the Tremé Community Education Program, an agency of the New Orleans Council on Aging. He was the son of the late Yvonne and Matthew Smith, Sr., born on November 17, 1944, in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the Historic Tremé Community, located in the district I represent. Mr. Smith passed away on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

Mr. Smith and his family, Roman Catholics, attended St. Peter Claver Catholic Church. The Mass was conducted in Latin which Smith could not understand, but he enjoyed the Gregorian chants and the singing of standard Black Catholic Church Hymns. He sometimes visited other churches with friends, which had very powerful Tremé voices accompanied by piano and sometimes guitar or drums. In his adult life, Norman joined Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, where he served as an Usher.

As a youth living in the Historic Tremé, he attended Joseph A. Craig Elementary School, graduated from Joseph S. Clark Senior High School, and received his associate degree in Mortuary Science from the Commonwealth College of Science in Houston, Texas, becoming a licensed Mortician.

As a child, some of the first stories Smith heard were of family members from generations past. He knew that his father had been in the military, along with his grandfather and great-grandfather. In fact, his mother's great-grandfather had served in the War of 1812, and her great-uncle had fought in the 9th Cavalry Heavy Artillery in the Civil War. Their stories fascinated Norman. Soon after finishing his training, he was drafted into the Army where he was to serve as a telephone technician, arriving in Vietnam and transferred to work as an identification specialist, and later he was tasked with preparing fallen heroes for return home to their families. After Smith returned from Vietnam, he worked as a funeral escort stationed at Oakland Army Base. His military service included serving as a United States Army Sergeant, Quarter Master Corporal, and was a Purple Heart Recipient, though never receiving his Medal of Honor. He was honorably discharged in 1969. He was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign War, following his service in the Vietnam War, a member of the American Legion Post 500, and the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 15.

He returned to New Orleans and began working at Charbonnet-Labat Funeral Home, also working at several other funeral homes in the city. His passion to see his community uplifted led to his ultimate involvement in community politics. His life as a community activist

started to take shape. He attended the inaugural class at the Institute of Politics at Loyola University. Norman also served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, electing President Jimmy Carter. Norman was instrumental in helping to elect countless men and women to state, local, and national offices.

Education was always very important to Norman, so at the age of 50, he returned to Southern University at New Orleans and earned a Bachelor of Arts, BA in History. Norman worked as an Education Specialist at the State Department of Education under Superintendent Kelly Nix, serving Veterans across the State of Louisiana. His departure from the Department of Education led him to follow his dream of creating calendars like the one he read as a child at Joseph A. Craig School, Norman Rockwell. He began what would eventually add up to nine years of research on historical Black figures from Louisiana under the title "Etches of Ebony Louisiana", dedicating the rest of his life to researching and educating his community in the contributions of Black people born in Louisiana. In 1983 he published his first calendar.

An active resident of New Orleans until his passing, Norman was a renowned Culture Bearer, Tremé's Drummer, Photographer, member of Joseph S. Clark Alumni Association, Knights of Peter Claver Tommy Lafon Chapter 214, Loyola Institute of Politics, Amistad Research Center, Southern University New Orleans Alumni Association, Officer/Member, New Orleans Embalmers Association, Crescent City Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, Louisiana Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, Louisiana Black History Historian, Political Strategist and President of Tremé Improvement Political Society (T.I.P.S.), and past member of the Upper Pontalba Board of Directors. He was also the Author and Publisher of "Footprints of Black Louisiana".

Norman was the proud father of two sons, Corey Norman Smith (Heather) and Christopher Jude Smith, born from his marriage to Joyce Singleton Smith. He was the loving grandfather of Sterling and Sydney Smith, and Taylor Hampton; great-grandfather of Ava Rose and Dallan Steen, Jr., his sister Emelda Petit. Norman is preceded in death by siblings Emma Smith Brown, Matthew Smith, Jr., Anthony Smith, Verdelle Smith Johnson, Isabelle Smith, and Paulette Smith Pate.

He was one of those children who knew what he wanted to do at a young age. He wanted to be a historian. Specifically, he wanted to record and preserve Black history. As early as the fifth grade, Smith had the idea to make calendars that would bring to life the stories of Black historical figures. His goal was to share the many contributions Black people had made to American society, especially some who might be lesser known. "The point was to do something positive," he explained. "So little Black kids like me could have something to look forward to. To look up to." He successfully fulfilled his dream.

His impact on Greater New Orleans, especially the Tremé Community will forever remain engraved in the lives he touched along the way. Rest well, my brother.

HONORING THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA'S MAUI RECOVERY SUPPORT TEAM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a team of public servants from the City of Santa Rosa all of whom traveled to and continue to support local and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recovery efforts in Maui, Hawaii following the tragic wildfires of August 2023. The team includes Division Chief—Fire Marshall Paul Lowenthal, Deputy Director of Water and Sewer Operations Joe Schiavone, Chief Building Officer Jesse Oswald, Marin Water Communications and Public Affairs Officer Adriane Mertens and Programmer—Analyst Jake Bayless. I have named the team as a Public Safety Hero of the Year from Sonoma County in California's 4th District as a result of their extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

While people across our nation watched in horror as a wildfire engulfed Lahaina, many in our district found the sight sickeningly familiar. Just a few years prior in 2017, the Tubbs Fire swept through Santa Rosa destroying thousands of homes and taking twenty-two lives. Our community has hard-won wisdom when it comes to recovering from wildfire.

So, when FEMA Region IX Administrator Robert Fenton called Santa Rosa to ask for their expertise, these extraordinary public servants answered. Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Schiavone, Mr. Oswald, Ms. Mertens, and Mr. Bayless landed in Maui on August 27, 2023. Over the coming months, the team provided extensive technical guidance in debris removal, information recovery, public communications, sewer service restoration, water service restoration and the development of

Maui's official recovery web portal: mauirecovers.org.

Mr. Lowenthal has been to Maui four times since the fire and continues to consult Maui County's Department of Water Supply, Department of Public Works, and numerous other agencies on recovery. Mr. Bayless helped convert key digital resources for survivors including our own community's sonomacountyrecovers.org. into the new mauirecovers.org. The website now serves as the official clearinghouse for Maui fire survivors seeking recovery information and services. Ms. Mertens provided over two months of public information support and provided technical guidance on the development of mauirecovers.org. Mr. Schiavone continues to work with Maui drinking and wastewater and was critical to the testing, flushing and restoration of water services. Mr. Oswald helped develop damage assessments and a rebuilding framework. He continues to consult Maui County Development Services Administration on recovery plan implementation and permitting process.

Mr. Speaker, we thank this team of exemplary civil servants for their persistence, service and commitment to our nation. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

RECOGNIZING CANTON MAYOR
THOMAS BERNABEI

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Thomas Bernabei on his service as the Mayor of Canton, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as

we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Mr. Bernabei's drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He leads by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As Mr. Bernabei goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Bernabei for his commitment to the people of Canton and to Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE WHEAT RIDGE
THEATRE COMPANY

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wheat Ridge Theatre Company for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Cultural Commission Award.

The Cultural Commission Award recognizes a local business or organization that helps enrich art and culture in Wheat Ridge. Wheat Ridge Theatre Company strives to promote an artistic community where participants can express their diverse points of view through performative arts with the focus of promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion. Their hard work and dedication to the Wheat Ridge Community is tremendous.

Congratulations to the Wheat Ridge Theatre Company on the accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for their continued contribution to the Wheat Ridge community.