

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE ANDERSON CENTER FOR AUTISM

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100-year anniversary of the Anderson Center for Autism.

In 1924, the Anderson Center for Autism, founded by psychiatrist Victor V. Anderson, was created to enhance, and optimize the quality of life for individuals who are born with autism as well as their families.

By developing an integrated educational system that helped children with their emotional and social needs, Dr. Anderson developed a nationally renowned autism service agency to support the community around the world.

Through the development of new technologies and practices to help with autism services, individuals can thrive and take advantage of this beautiful campus.

During the commencement ceremony in 1944, First-Lady Eleanor Roosevelt addressed the community and the center's 14 graduates. During her speech, Roosevelt left the community with three quotes; "Remember always that you not only have the right to be an individual, you have an obligation to be one," "You have to accept whatever comes and the only important thing is that you meet it with courage," and "You must do the thing which you think you cannot do." These quotes still resonate today as the center succeeds in staying true to its founding and I wish the center the best of luck in the next 100 years.

RECOGNIZING THE SCHOOL OF MINES FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the School of Mines for ranking number one in NCAA Division II for the first time in their football program's history. The Orediggers fought hard for their spot at the top through a strong and impressive season. They earned the division title by winning the Super Region IV final for the third year in a row and made the playoffs for the fifth year in a row, continuing the second-longest playoff streak in the country. Although they did not win in the final championship game, their season was an inspiration to people across Colorado.

This achievement was earned by the dedication of the players, support from students and the community, and the coaching of Pete Sterbick. The team has proven that the Colorado School of Mines is more than an academic powerhouse, it is an athletic one as well.

On behalf of the residents of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, I congratulate the Orediggers on their successful season.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2024

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2024, which would establish and expand prekindergarten programs in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-old children.

This bill seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing funding for states to add prekindergarten for children at three and four years of age, like the kindergarten programs for five-year-olds now routinely available in public schools. This bill would eliminate major shortcomings of unevenly available day care and, importantly, would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools.

This bill would provide federal funds to states, which would be matched by at least 20 percent of a state's own funds, to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds, regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, would be taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique, money-saving aspect of this bill is that it would use existing public-school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all, saving billions of dollars in implementation costs.

The success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with scientific evidence on the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandates the expansion of early childhood education to all children. Early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to some low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by this bill. This bill is a practical way to create universal, public prekindergarten. The goal of this bill is to provide the benefits of early childhood education to those who have been left out of this essential education.

We cannot afford to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass unenriched. This bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education and neuroscience, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT C. COATES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of The Honorable Robert C. Coates, a critical leader in the California judicial system. Judge Coates leaves behind an indelible legacy of service, selflessness, and humanitarianism.

Born in Pacific Beach in 1937, Judge Coates spent his early years cultivating what would become a lifelong passion for protecting the environment and addressing the most pressing issues impacting his community. After graduating with his Bachelor of Science in Engineering Geology from San Diego State University, Judge Coates joined the Naval Reserve, where he faithfully served our country.

Driven by a commitment to justice, Judge Coates earned his Juris Doctor from the California Western School of Law, beginning what would become an almost six decades-long career in the legal system. As a trial lawyer for 12 years, Judge Coates undertook a wide range of civil and criminal defense cases at the state and federal levels and notably won a case before the California Supreme Court.

In 1982, Judge Coates was appointed to a position as a Judge, where he spearheaded efforts to establish the highly successful Serial Inebriate Program, aimed at treating chronic alcohol abuse. In addition, Judge Coates was a leader in changing how the court addresses homelessness and mental health issues, helping pave the way toward a more equitable judicial system in California and beyond.

Judge Coates' commitment to enacting positive change was not only expressed through his critical work as a lawyer and judge, but also through his mentorship of the next generation of lawyers. He served as an Adjunct Law Professor at the University of San Diego School of Law, where he developed the School's Environmental Law course and established and directed the Environmental and Natural Resources Forum. Judge Coates' critical role in legal education also extended to the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, where he created and taught the Poverty Law course.

In addition to his leadership and mentorship, Judge Coates exemplified the spirit of altruism in all areas of his life. He chaired the San

• 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.

Diego's Homeless Women Task Force, providing critical support to women who lack access to public health and psychological care. He also authored multiple books addressing the homelessness crisis in America, including *A Street is Not a Home*, which served as a model for multiple Grand Juries in implementing equitable solutions to housing disputes.

Judge Coates' enduring spirit will live on in his wife of 19 years, daughter, son, and three grandchildren. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Judge Coates' loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of California, join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

HONORING RABBI FELIPE
GOODMAN

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Felipe Goodman for his 25 years of dedicated service to Temple Beth Shalom and southern Nevada.

Before joining Temple Beth Shalom in 1998, Rabbi Goodman served as assistant Rabbi in Comunidad Bet-El de Mexico in Mexico City, one of the largest conservative synagogues in Latin America. He also co-authored the most widely distributed Pesach Haggadah of the Conservative Movement in Latin America.

Rabbi Goodman has served as the Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom in Las Vegas, Nevada for 25 years, and his charisma and dedication to community has made a profound impact on our Jewish community. Attendance at Shabbat services has increased significantly during his tenure through innovative programming and a true sense of community that has transformed Temple Beth Shalom into a more vibrant and stronger congregation.

Rabbi Goodman remains an active leader outside the synagogue. He currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Joint Retirement Board of the Conservative Movement. He is also one of the nine Permanent Members of the Joint Bet Din of Conservative Judaism, and one of a group of only 17 Conservative Rabbis in the world certified by The Joint Bet Din of The Conservative Movement, as experts in the laws and writing of "Gittin." Rabbi Goodman is also part of the AIPAC National Leadership Council and is working on his new book, "Torah from Sin City."

In 2013, Rabbi Goodman was selected by The Daily Forward as one of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis, among the distinguished "36 Rabbis Shaping The 21st Century." In the past, he has served as a member of The Chancellor's Rabbinic Advisory Committee at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, a member of the Executive Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly, and as President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Rabbi Felipe Goodman for his many years of dedicated service to southern Nevada, and in congratulating Rabbi Goodman on his 25th Anniversary Jubilee.

EDWARD GANT, LIFE AND LEGACY

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the Life and Legacy of Edward Gant.

Born in Pleasantville, New Jersey and raised in Absecon, New Jersey, Edward Gant spent much of his childhood along the beautiful shores of New Jersey, being considered by those close to him a "Bay Rat". Edward Gant enjoyed the shore so much that it became a way of life for him. He was a fisherman among many other things, and passing those traits onto his children, most notably Gabriel and Matthew Gant. While spending many of his days enjoying New Jersey's magnificent waters, in the spring of 1974 Edward Gant began an apprenticeship, that would become a staple in who he was.

Edward Gant was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 351, and during his career he became IBEW's business manager and, was an advocate and instrumental voice involved in many individuals' careers as well as local organized labor. During his time as a IBEW member, he became a close friend and mentor to me. Edward Gant and I worked closely together not only in IBEW related matters but matters that were paramount to all working families.

Returning to his roots in Pleasantville, New Jersey, Edward Gant spent time as a board member on the New Jersey Casino Redevelopment Authority (CRDA). It was evident that his love for the area in which he grew up and developed so many fond memories held a special place in his heart. Edward Gant wanted to give back, making positive and everlasting change.

Today, Edward Gant is survived by his wife Susen; his son and daughter in law, Gabriel and Kiersten; his son and daughter Matthew and Andrea; and his two grandchildren, Lyla and Jaxson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Edward Gant of Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, a resident dedicated to his community and who has thoroughly served them to the best of his ability.

HONORING KENTUCKY EAGLE, INC.

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kentucky Eagle, Inc., which is located in Lexington, Kentucky. The company celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2023.

Kentucky Eagle, an alcoholic beverage wholesaler, was founded in 1948 by O.A. Bakhaus. Mr. Bakhaus moved from Oklahoma to Kentucky during the Great Depression in 1937 to support his mother and sister. After serving his country as a Major in World War II, he continued his business career back home in Lexington with numerous different businesses, one being what is today Kentucky Eagle.

In 1997, Mr. Bakhaus' daughter, Ann Bakhaus, became the company's second CEO. She ran the company as a family business and diversified its products. Under her leadership, the company experienced growth and success.

Seventy-five years after its founding, Kentucky Eagle has grown into a leading beverage distributor in the state, delivering beer, soda (Kentucky's own Ale-8-One among others) and water to 23 counties in central Kentucky as well as fine Kentucky Bourbons and other wines and spirits to all counties statewide where alcohol sales are legal.

Today, Kentucky Eagle employs over 250 hard-working Kentuckians and is very close to completing an 80,000-square-foot warehouse expansion. The team is led by Mr. Bakhaus' grandchildren, who proudly represent the company as 3rd generation owners and plan on at least 75 more years of business in the Commonwealth. Tate Russell serves as President and Michael Russell is a Vice President of Kentucky Eagle.

Kentucky Eagle is a highly respected Kentucky business. As the company celebrates its 75th anniversary, I congratulate the owners and all the employees and wish them a bright future. I am honored to recognize this company before the United States Congress.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
REBECCA P. SWANSON

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I stand before you today to pay tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of Williamsport resident, Rebecca Powell Swanson, who passed away on December 31, 2023.

Rebecca was a longtime substitute teacher in Warren, Pennsylvania, where she began her teaching career in the Warren County School District. She taught first at Sheffield Area High School, then at Beaty Middle School, and finally at Warren Area High School, where she retired in 1987.

Rebecca's unwavering commitment extended beyond the classroom. She proudly served as a member of the Warren First Presbyterian Church, where she taught Sunday School, took on the role of a Deacon, engaged in Bible Study circles, and later assumed the position of Secretary for the Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team.

Rebecca's involvement reached across various organizations, including the Warren Association of College Women, Retired Women Teachers of the City of Warren, Warren Forest Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees, and as a Full Life Member of the PASR.

Away from her commitments, Rebecca found joy in travel, literature, piano, crossword puzzles, and enjoyed many bridge games with friends. Most importantly, she enjoyed cheering on the Penn State Nittany Lion football team while surrounded by her loving family.

Today, I encourage my colleagues in Congress to join me in commemorating the life of Rebecca Powell Swanson. May the memory of Rebecca bring solace and blessings to her family, friends, and the community.

HONORING MR. JASON SMILEY
FOR HIS ACTIONS TO HELP OTHERS
ESCAPE FROM AN OVERTURNED
VEHICLE

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I recognize and appreciate my constituent, Mr. Jason Smiley, for the actions he took to save strangers from an overturned vehicle on Christmas Eve. His service to this country has been exceptional and I thank him for the sacrifices that he and his family have made time and again.

On December 24th when a family found themselves in a dangerous and scary situation, he took action to ensure their safety. He should be commended for his action and his willingness to respond quickly, calmly, and without hesitation. In Colorado there are often severe weather conditions which lead to emergencies like this. It is not uncommon for Coloradans to be dependent on their neighbor's vigilance and kindness for assistance on the roads. I hope that Mr. Smiley's unhesitating willingness to intervene after an accident can be emulated by all my constituents.

What I admire most about Mr. Smiley's story is not only his eagerness to help others, but his willingness to do so after having already given so much for our country. Through injury and decades of military service, Mr. Smiley has been an exemplary member of his community and a good citizen.

In choosing to help others, he demonstrated the best characteristics of a serviceman: selflessness, attentiveness, and calm in the face of danger. It is an honor to represent Mr. Jason Smiley in Congress and it is my absolute pleasure to thank him not only for his eagerness to help, but for his consistent dedication to the defense of The United States of America.

HONORING THE IMPRESSIVE
SERVICE OF BETHANY MOULTRY

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor 9-year-old Bethany Moultry for her amazing work in providing care packages to give to the homeless. Through her business, Bethany's Happy Bags, Bethany and her mother have dedicated hours of service providing food, first aid kits, toiletries, and so much more to people in need.

Bethany's mother, Colleen Moultry, began Bethany's Happy Bags in December of 2020, when Bethany's wish for her birthday was to help people. As word began to spread over Facebook, the Moultry's began receiving supplies and funding from across our country. With many packages being sent to their doorstep, schools were able to get involved in helping with packing and distribution.

Bethany's Happy Bags initiative grew, developing a movement across the nation and inspiring others to do the same. This project has formed into a much larger service where community members have joined together to give

donations to the Moultry's. These efforts have led to over 5,000 happy bags to be distributed to the people who need them the most.

I had the privilege of recently meeting Bethany Moultry and was amazed by her dedication to giving back to her community in so many ways. Her slogan "I want every person experiencing homelessness to know that I see you and I care," is truly inspiring and I hope she knows that myself, as well as many others in the district, stand with her and can't wait to see what the future holds for this extraordinary project.

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN DILLER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Nathan Diller for his exemplary dedication and service to our nation. Over the past year, Nate has been a key asset to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. Prior to this, Nate—known then as Colonel Diller—had a distinguished career as an Airman in our United States Air Force.

A proud Texan and graduate of the Air Force Academy, Nate received his commission as a United States Air Force officer in 2000. A pilot with over 2,800 flying hours. Nate flew over 60 different aircraft, was a combat F-16 instructor, instructed at the Air Force Test Pilot School, and held many other positions that bolstered the careers of countless Airmen.

After receiving his wings, Nate was deployed to the 36th Fighter Squadron at Osan Air Base in South Korea where he was responsible for the Korean Peninsula F-16 war plans. In 2006, he was identified as the top F-16 wingman at the squadron. Due to his success with this important mission, Nate was then sent to Shaw Air Force Base. Here he served as the executive officer to the Commander, was a flight instructor, led flights for theater security package deployments, and engaged in operational flight tests with the United States Army. Yet again. Nate showed his ability to excel, being named the top company grade officer of the 20th Fighter Wing.

Next, Nate was sent to his hardship tours—the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, and the French Test Pilot School in Toulouse and Itrès, France. Here, Nate gained language and flight experience with a close ally in a wide array of aircraft.

After barely making it through these assignments, Nate dove headfirst into assignments that would shape the rest of his career as an Airman. In the following years, Nate was assigned to the Air Force's Science Advisory Board, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Joint Staff, the White House Office of Science and Technology, the Department of Defense Strategic Capabilities Office, the Air Force's Rapid Capabilities Office, and later as the proud Director of AFWERX. At AFWERX, he was the lead change agent for the Air Force and was responsible for the largest small business innovation budget in the federal government.

Over these years, he also somehow found time to lead flight tests and operations for the F-35 and the F-16, serve as the commander

of the 586th Flight Test Squadron, and work on many classified programs. He also is perhaps the most educated person I have come to know. His degrees include bachelor's degrees in Physics and Humanities from the United States Air Force Academy, a master's degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a master's degree in International Security and Political Economy from Harvard, a master's degree in Flight Test Engineering from Institut Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace, and a master's degree from the National Defense University at the Eisenhower School.

In 2023, Colonel Diller departed the Air Force and became a Professional Staff Member on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. In this role, Nate used what he learned as an Airman to craft an innovation strategy adopted by the House of Representatives in the Fiscal Year 2024 Defense Appropriations Bill. Because of Nate, the entire Department of Defense is increasingly focused on the challenges facing our Nation and is more appropriately resourced to address them.

On a personal note, Nate has become a trusted advisor, staffer, and friend to the Members of the Subcommittee on both sides of the political aisle and all the staff. Nate's deep knowledge of just about every issue has been a tremendous addition to the Subcommittee. As Nate departs to pursue other goals, I am confident that "past will prove future" and Nate will continue his legacy of service.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Nate for his service to our country, and we wish him all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the House floor on March 8, 2023 due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 138.

HONORING COMMANDER SHEILA
CORCORAN

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Indiana resident Commander Sheila Corcoran.

Even within the veteran community, female veterans tend to be overlooked and underrecognized. This year, I am proud to honor the many Hoosier women veterans who continue to serve our community.

In 2023, Commander Sheila Corcoran became the first woman appointed State Commander to the Department of Indiana Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Commander Corcoran carries on the VFW's noble mission. Among many other accomplishments, the VFW was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, creating a GI Bill for the 20th century, and fighting to improve VA medical center service for women.

Prior to the VFW, Commander Corcoran dedicated 24 years to the Armed Forces, serving in Germany in 1984 before joining the Army Reserves at Fort Harrison and in Baghdad, Iraq from 2006 through 2008. In Iraq, Commander Corcoran supported Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Civil Affairs Officer in charge of a Civil Military Operations Center. Prior to her current role with the VFW, Commander Corcoran served as VFW All-American Post Commander and All-American VFW District Commander. She has held many positions at the state and national level and has been recognized with the Department of Indiana Commander's Eisenhower Award. In addition to her service to our country, Commander Corcoran also serves countless patients throughout her work as a registered nurse at Witham Hospital in Lebanon, Indiana.

A true trailblazer with a servant's heart, Commander Corcoran will continue to leave her mark. Our state is honored to benefit from her leadership.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Commander Corcoran for her ongoing service to the Indianapolis community and beyond.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding votes I missed on January 12, 2024, due to family obligations.

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 9, on the China Exchange Rate Transparency Act, I would have voted yea. This is common sense, bipartisan legislation that will protect global market participants from the economic security threats posed by China.

Additionally, had I been present for Roll Call No. 10, on H.J. Res. 98, I would have voted nay. This resolution would weaken workers' rights and diminish the National Labor Relations Board ability to effectively do its job.

RECOGNIZING ABIGAIL HARKEY

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Abigail Harkey on completing the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program. The Fulbright program is one of the most prestigious and sought-after exchange programs in the world and speaks to Ms. Harkey's commitment to and passion for education.

As an accomplished art teacher, the Fulbright program allowed Ms. Harkey to travel to Finland where she explored how arts education and social-emotional learning contribute to positive school culture. We are proud that Ms. Harkey will now bring this experience back to Colorado to enrich our schools and give our students an international perspective.

On behalf of the residents of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, I congratulate Ms. Harkey on receiving the Fulbright Award and participating in this impactful program. We are

lucky to have dedicated educators like her serving our students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed two votes on November 9, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 641 on agreeing to the amendment to reduce the salary of White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre to \$1; and NAY on Roll Call No. 642 on agreeing to the amendment to prohibit funding to finalize, implement, or enforce the FAR Council's proposed "Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk" rule.

YES TO LIFE

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Saying "Yes to Life" Published for the first time in English, *Yes To Life (In Spite of Everything)* Boston: Beacon Press, 2020, originally appeared in German in 1946 following public lectures delivered in Vienna, Austria in March and April 1946 by the renowned psychiatrist and author Dr. Viktor E. Frankl (1905-1997), the iconic founder of Logotherapy, the third school of Viennese psychotherapy. His thirty-nine books were translated into fifty languages. His classic *Man's Search For Meaning* was reconstructed during nine days in 1946 from bits of paper he had "obtained" during his internment since the original manuscript sown into his coat was confiscated upon arrival in Auschwitz.

An Austrian Jew, Dr. Frankl was deported by the Nazis in 1942 to Terezin, Auschwitz, Dachau, Buchenwald and Turkheim from which he was liberated by the American forces in 1945. His pregnant wife, parents and brother who were deported with him did not survive. Dr. Frankl chose to remain in Vienna after the war—though the majority of survivors left with understandable cause—to head a neurology department in a major hospital and, I believe to prove the limits of Nazism and the power of the individual to contend with great suffering, asserting the human will while serving as a personal exemplar. Already back in 1946, still reeling and recovering from the unfathomable horrors of the Holocaust, Dr. Frankl's insights remain most relevant, pointing at the critical difference a single human being can make whether for good or evil in face of mass ideologies proven empty and utterly destructive.

While the inmates in the camp, testifies Dr. Frankl, were told by their tormentors as a means to dehumanize them that they "were 'not worth the soup'" they were given following a trying day, never mind that the poor-quality soup was the only food they ate

that day. Nazism sought to reduce humanity to meaninglessness. Juxtapose it with Dr. Frankl's noble assertion "of life's unconditional meaning" which is rooted in Judaism's affirmation that human life is a precious divine gift, partaking of God's sacred image; that saving one human life is tantamount to saving an entire world, and destroying one human life is tantamount to destroying an entire world. No wonder saving a life, our own included, is a paramount Mitzvah overriding all but three Commandments. Each of us is unique and irreplaceable, including one's weaknesses. Each human life is of infinite worth and meaning that none can rub us off. Indeed, God's divinity and human dignity are indivisible. Dr. Frankl's personal experience in the camps led to his conviction that having a sense of purpose while in dire circumstances of suffering can make a critical difference for one's very survival.

The book's title *Yes To Life* is intimately intertwined with Judaism's clarion call "L'Chaim! " "To Life!" as well as the Biblical admonition, "U'Varachta Bachaim," "Choose life." "Yes To Life" was forcibly and ironically sung as a hymn by the camps' inmates, originating in a camp song ordered by one of Buchenwald's commanders. Yes, saying "yes" to life in face of imminent death is both courageously encouraging and foolishly disappointing, reminiscent of the Nazi deceiving "Arbeit Macht Frei," "Work Will Free You," upon entering hell's gates. Judaism's endless optimism manifested in Dr. Frankl's approach, captured the Rabbinic teaching not to lose hope even if a sword is placed on your neck. However, the odds do not support it. The same heroic thrust but rarely realistic prevailed in the paradoxical reassuring though not accurate message atop a shtiebel's entrance in the Warsaw Ghetto, "Jews, do not despair!" Is not hope against hope all that we have left when the chips are down, providing us with an extra measure of strength to endure?

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. Kazakhstan's only born rabbi, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors and spent his early childhood in transit and DP Camps in Austria and Germany. He grew up in Haifa, Israel.

RECOGNIZING CAMP COSBY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Camp Cosby. YMCA Camp Cosby has offered youth safe and exciting adventures since 1922.

It began when the YMCA purchased 200 acres of land just north of Trussville in Birmingham, AL, with a house and a 26-acre lake, establishing YMCA Camp Cosby in 1922. Later, another 400 acres were donated by the Hodges Milling Company.

In 1972, YMCA Camp Cosby was relocated to its current location on Lake Logan Martin in Alpine, AL, with over a mile of waterfront, rolling hills and space for camp activities.

Camp Cosby was named after W.M. Cosby, the President of the Birmingham YMCA at the time. YMCA Camp Cosby serves over 2,000 campers each summer for sleepaway camp and over 3,000 additional participants during year-round youth, teen, and adult programming.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of Camp Cosby.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ADVOCACY OF STEPHANIE BARBER-GETER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize a community activist and dependable leader on Buffalo's East Side, Stephanie Barber-Geter. As the longtime chairwoman of Restore Our Community Coalition (ROCC), she was a shining light and inspiration to anyone with a vision of a better future for the City of Buffalo.

A Hamlin Park resident, Stephanie Barber-Geter was the steady hand behind numerous community development projects. She directed the Head Start Partnership at SUNY Buffalo State College, served as the senior vice president of United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, served as board chair of Elim Community Corp, and president of the Hamlin Park Community & Taxpayers Association. Most notably, her efforts were the driving force behind the decision to restore the Humboldt Parkway community. In 2022 and 2023, after tireless years of advocacy and hard work, New York State and the federal government announced plans to re-imagine the Kensington Expressway. Stephanie recognized that urban landscape has the power to hurt or to heal; she saw the Kensington Expressway for what it was—a destruction of a thriving community in Buffalo. Just last March, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg visited Buffalo to affirm that she had it right all along. The United States government has unequivocally backed Stephanie's vision in both words and resources.

Stephanie Barber-Geter embodied everything that is good about our city and its people. She dedicated her time and expertise to countless organizations in the pursuit of a better Buffalo. I trust that the Kensington project, along with many others that Stephanie played a critical role, will continue to transform Western New York in her absence. To her husband, Edwin, and all her loved ones, she will be sorely missed. But for the people of Buffalo's East Side, Stephanie will be remembered as not only a fixture of the community, but as their champion who delivered tangible results.

HONORING SARAH GLAD

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Sarah Glad in recognition of her life and her service and contributions to the State of North Carolina. North Carolina has lost a friend, an inspiration, and an exemplary public servant.

I had the honor of having Sarah serve as my Legislative Assistant while I served in the North Carolina State Senate. Sarah was

among the best that North Carolina has to offer. She was the hardest working Legislative Assistant in the General Assembly, oftentimes spending late nights helping constituents, conducting research, and helping to draft legislation.

Everybody knew who Sarah was for the way she prioritized the people of North Carolina in everything she did, and for the bright light she brought to every room she walked in. This light was often created by the bright colors she wore, usually pink, but also in her spirit, grace, charm, and mesmerizing smile.

Prior to coming to my office, Sarah gallantly served the State of North Carolina from the offices of Governor Pat McCrory and State Treasurer Dale Folwell.

After serving alongside me in the State Senate, Sarah joined the Pope Foundation in Raleigh, North Carolina, as a program officer. She helped launch North Carolina's first and only statewide newspaper, the North State Journal, as communications director for the foundation and served the organization as an expert on public interest law and legal studies, higher education, and human services.

Sarah lived in Raleigh with her husband, Robbie, her son, Hayes, and their dog, Shep.

Sarah was diagnosed with breast cancer a few years ago and succumbed to her illness on January 19, 2024. Sarah fought breast cancer with the same charisma and fortitude as she served the people of North Carolina. Despite her battle with cancer, Sarah's optimism never wavered. She continued to be a positive light in the lives of those around her and an admirable servant to the betterment of her North Carolina neighbors. Sarah Glad was a warrior for the people of North Carolina, and a warrior in her fight against breast cancer.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an outstanding community member, and to lift her family and friends up in prayers as we mourn her loss.

I thank Sarah for her service to North Carolina, and for embodying the true spirit of public service.

Her commitment to North Carolina and my time working alongside her will forever be honored and remembered. May she rest in peace.

HONORING RIGOBERTO A. RAMIREZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rigoberto A. Ramirez for his devotion and dedication to his community as a leader, volunteer, and outstanding citizen.

For his years of service to the City of Stanton, Rigoberto A. Ramirez will be honored as Stanton's 2024 Citizen of the Year by the Cypress College Foundation at the 49th Annual Americana Awards on March 16.

A former Stanton City Council member and Planning Commissioner, Mr. Ramirez first made Stanton home in 1995 with his new bride, Jhovana. They still live in their first home, where they raised their son, Nicholas.

From the day they joined the Stanton community, Rigoberto and Jhovana felt a strong connection to both the residents and the community of Stanton.

Along with serving 10 years on the City Council, from 2012 to 2022, Rigoberto is an active member of the Blessed Sacrament School Consultative Board, the Orange County Youth Motivation Task Force, and the Servite High School Board of Directors.

In his professional life, Ramirez earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in 1990 from Loyola Marymount University. A California native, he currently holds the title of Director for a retirement services firm that he has been with since 1991. He is responsible for twelve representatives that provide retirement services to clients across eight states.

In his spare time, he enjoys volunteering for non-profit events and managing Pony Baseball.

Please join me in thanking Rigoberto Ramirez for his years of service to the City of Stanton and the Orange County community.

RECOGNIZING ARVIN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arvin High School on their 75th anniversary and thank them for their significant contributions to the Arvin community. Arvin High School began serving students in the rural communities of Arvin, Lamont, and Weedpatch in 1949 as part of the Kern High School District. Since their founding, Arvin High School has been committed to serving their students through a diverse array of educational programs, extracurricular activities, and college-level courses. Today, the school's student body is made up of nearly 3,000 students. The mission of Arvin High School is to encourage P.R.I.D.E—participation, responsibility, integrity, determination, and empathy, and to provide students with the skills they need to succeed in their futures. Under the leadership of Principal Ed Watts, Arvin High School has received full accreditation through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, recognizing their dedication to high-quality education and school improvement. Through their Career Technical Education program, students at Arvin High School have the unique opportunity to gain experience in the career path of their choice. In these twelve pathways offerings, students learn how to succeed in numerous fields including health sciences, building and construction, agriculture, and engineering. The CTE program also includes a ROTC pathway, providing students who are interested in serving in the armed forces with the experience they need to thrive after they leave Arvin High School. The staff and faculty at Arvin High School are committed to the educational outcomes of every student. In 2023, 89 students were recipients of a California Scholarship Federation membership, which is awarded to students who demonstrate a high-level of academic achievement. The class of 2023 also received nearly 200 Bilingual Seals and Golden State Seal of Merit awards, and 16 National Honor Society recognitions. This school year, in partnership with Bakersfield College, Arvin High School is offering almost 70 sections of Dual Enrollment course offerings—giving students a chance to earn college credits before they even graduate

high school. In just the past three years alone, Arvin High School has helped 25 students receive their Associate of Arts for Transfer degree in Communication Studies through this initiative. In honor of their work to provide students with dual enrollment opportunities, Arvin High School was one of nine schools recognized as an Exemplary Dual Enrollment School by the California Department of Education in 2023. Arvin High School has been nationally recognized for their academic extracurriculars, including Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial, and the "We the People" Constitution Team, which was started by former teacher Larry Hallum in 1987. Mr. Hallum was one of the many teachers at Arvin High School who has received accolades for his dedication to his students. To celebrate the legacy of Mr. Hallum, the Kern High School District created the "Spirit of Arvin High School" Memorial Scholarship to support future college students in the district. It is because of the commitment of teachers at Arvin High School like Mr. Hallum that students in the Central Valley community flourish, and I want to thank all the faculty and staff at Arvin High School for creating a learning environment that helps our youth become the best they can be.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Arvin High School on their 75th anniversary. Their work to enrich the lives of students in the community of Arvin will be felt for generations to come.

HOMETOWN HERO—NETWORK OF
COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, in 1985, when a group of churches and community organizations saw that children across North Texas were in need, they rose to the occasion, creating the Network of Community Ministries. Today this incredible organization has expanded to serve fourteen zip codes, providing programming such as basic needs assistance, mobile food pantries, stabilization programs, and mental health services.

During the school year, the mobile food pantry stops at seven Title 1 schools, where almost half of the school's students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Over Christmas break when students aren't in school, many of these students go hungry without provided lunch. So, the Network of Community Ministries stepped up, giving students nonperishable food items to eat over the break.

The Network of Community Ministries' impact on the greater-Dallas community is far-reaching and hundreds of families have been blessed by their consistent, dedicated work. I want to thank the Network of Community Ministries for their work to provide food for North Texas children and families over the Christmas Break.

HONORING LUCIEL BOLES-WILSON

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Luciel Boles-Wilson (Ponder) was born in the Boogie Down Bronx to Nelson and Estelle Ponder on August 28, 1947. Growing up she loved math and upon graduating from Theodore Roosevelt High School in 1965 she went to work her first job as an assistant at MetLife Insurance New York. After a year of working there, she spent the next thirty years working as a project manager for Blue Cross Blue Shield. During that time, she experienced so many rich moments.

She met her first husband, Russell M. Boles, Sr. and had two children, Bonita Ponder and Russell M. Boles, Jr. She would then get divorced, become a Grandmother and raise her first Grandchild, Walter J. Redden with the help of her second husband Austin Wilson. She would have many grandchildren, Russell Boles, Randolph Davis, Donovan Hines, Nia Boles, Russia Boles but because of special circumstances she raised her first grandchild as her own.

She stopped working in 1996 due to complications with breast cancer. But she still has so much more love to share and give. So, she started a business from her Co-Op City apartment named Walter's Grandmother Daycare and After School Program where she would nurture the kids in her community. She even became the PTA president of middle school 181 while her grandson was studying there.

Once her grandson was secure enough on his own, she moved to Nereid Ave and quickly became a frequent visitor of the R.A.I.N. Nereid Center. Then soon she would frequent all the R.A.I.N. Centers in the Bronx. She became an active member of United Christian Baptist Church and went to every event there ever was in the Bronx.

So many people had so many kind words for Miss Luciel. Senator Bailey called her a mother figure and a light in the community. District Attorney Clark said that Luciel personified the Bronx with her community service. Speaker Heastie called her the heart and soul of the Bronx.

I want to close by echoing the words of Borough President Vanessa Gibson, "Luciel Boles-Wilson, the life of the party, a great friend, a wonderful Mother and Grandmother, someone you can always count on to cheer you up, make you smile and light up the room with her presence."

Let us keep the family in our hearts, and may she rest easy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA SUPERIOR COURT
JURY DUTY FOR SENIORS OPT
OUT ACT OF 2024

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Superior Court Jury Duty for Seniors Opt Out Act of 2024,

which would allow individuals 70 years of age or older to opt out of jury service in D.C.'s local trial court, the Superior Court.

Most federal courts allow individuals 70 years of age or older to opt out of jury service, including the federal district court for D.C. A majority of states have similar provisions for their courts.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, the D.C. Council does not have authority to amend title 11 of the D.C. Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the local D.C. courts). This bill would amend title 11.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING AUBREY PATIÑO'S
DEDICATION TO THE NEEDIEST
IN HER COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aubrey Patiño, the Executive Director of Avalon Housing in Ann Arbor, MI. After eighteen years with Avalon, including seven as ED, she is moving on. Her work in service to the homeless population of Washtenaw County is worthy of commendation.

Aubrey graduated from Western Michigan University in 2004 before achieving her Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan in 2005. During this time, she was an assistant at the Michigan Neighborhood Partnership in Detroit as well as an intern with Avalon. Before coming onto Avalon's team full time, she was the Intensive Case Manager at the Downtown Emergency Service Center in Seattle, WA, where she dealt with Homeless Outreach and Transition.

Aubrey joined the Avalon team in 2007 where she started as a Senior Property Manager. She quickly rose through the ranks, becoming the Housing Support Services Leader in 2010 and the Associate Director of Avalon Housing in 2012. In 2014, as one of five homeless services providers across the country, she was invited by the National Alliance to End Homelessness to complete the Transatlantic Practice Exchange, where she went to the United Kingdom and studied best practices in the field of housing and homelessness. Her experience in the UK still guides her work in Washtenaw County to this day.

In 2017, Aubrey was selected as the new Executive Director of Avalon Housing. Her tenure at the helm has been a world of change and has been a boon to the homeless in her community. Aubrey's work on supportive housing funding has resulted in growing and innovative efforts. As a key member of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance, Aubrey helped develop the City of Ann Arbor's affordable housing millage ballot initiative, which citizens overwhelmingly supported. This millage provides a significant, ongoing source of financing for affordable housing development. Aubrey has also consistently advocated for harm reduction across the agency and the community, using a compassionate, evidence-based model for engaging people who struggle with substance use disorders. She continues to advocate for unarmed crisis responses at Avalon properties and throughout the community. Aubrey has also built productive relationships

with local law enforcement. Aubrey's efforts have in turn led to Avalon providing full-time staff at the Washtenaw County jail to support returning citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognition of Aubrey Patiño's hard work and dedication to the homeless community. Though we will miss her presence at Avalon, she has set them on a great path of success. We wish her the best in her future endeavors, and thank her for her service. I thank Aubrey.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MRS. MARGUERITE LOUISE
KOPPER CHALLY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mrs. Marguerite Louise Kopper Chally. Mrs. Chally, who passed away at the age of 103, leaves behind an enduring legacy marked by service, love, and compassion.

Born in Aberdeen, Idaho in 1920, Mrs. Chally's life was dedicated to caring for those around her. After graduating from Aberdeen High School, Mrs. Chally attended nursing school at Bethel Deaconess Hospital in Newton, Kansas, earning her Registered Nurse qualification in 1941. She first began her decades-long nursing career at the Children's Hospital of the East Bay in Oakland, California.

Fueled by her passion for service and sincere belief in the importance of bringing comfort to those around her, Mrs. Chally worked at numerous hospitals and medical clinics throughout her career. In the last twenty years of her healthcare career, Mrs. Chally served at the University of California, Davis Student Health Center, providing critical care to countless students.

Beyond her essential role as a nurse, Mrs. Chally embodied altruism and compassion in all areas of her life. Volunteering for Yolo County Hospice for over two decades and serving at the International House in Davis and Sutter Davis Hospital, her selflessness and kindness touched all she encountered, undeniably improving the lives of those around her.

Mrs. Chally will be remembered not only for her decades of service to California patients and their families, but also for her genuine commitment to her family, faith, and community. She was a dearly loved family matriarch and devoted her life to caring for others.

Mrs. Chally's enduring spirit lives on in her four children, 10 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. My deepest sympathies go out to Mrs. Chally's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of Yolo County, join me in celebrating her life and legacy.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
STEPHEN COLE

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the impressive record of Mr. Stephen Cole for his service to our country. During the Vietnam War, Sergeant Cole was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division working directly with the intelligence section. He was a part of a small patrol reconnaissance and ambush team that operated in Vietnam's Central Highlands near the Cambodian border and the La Drang Valley. While in Vietnam during a recon patrol, Sergeant Cole suffered wounds during a fire-fight when he was impaled by a punji stick after stepping in a booby trap. He was subsequently evacuated to the Field Hospital in An Khe for medical treatment. Sergeant Cole was awarded the Bronze Star, which is awarded by the Department of the Army in recognition of heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone, in addition to the Purple Heart for wounds he received in action in the Republic of Vietnam on July 14, 1970. Sergeant Cole received numerous other awards for his service, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star Attachments, the Combat Infantry Badge, and a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. All of these awards are a true representation of Sergeant Cole's true grit while in combat. Upon returning home, Mr. Cole was the Regional Public Affairs and Communications manager for IBM where he served on the board of directors of several regional organizations for economic development. He worked at the IBM Kingston facility in my district as a corporate liaison before it closed in 1995. Mr. Cole's dedication to this country is truly inspiring and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING JESSE MASCARENAS
AND JASON BURNS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jesse Mascarenas and Jason Burns of Salida, Colorado for being named Global Medical Response Stars of Life by the American Ambulance Association.

In May 2022, Mr. Mascarenas, a flight nurse, and Mr. Burns, a flight paramedic, responded to a call about a hiker who had fallen 200 feet down a mountain in poor weather. While the two treated the injured hiker, he went into cardiac arrest. Despite the patient's condition, Mr. Mascarenas and Mr. Burns were able to stabilize the patient until he could be treated at a nearby hospital. The hiker is alive today due to the heroic actions of Mr. Mascarenas and Mr. Burns.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Mascarenas and Mr. Burns and thank them for their bravery and dedication to service.

RECOGNIZING KADRI CAKRANI'S
SERVICE TO THOSE FIGHTING
FOR FREEDOM IN ALBANIA AND
AROUND THE WORLD

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and life-saving actions of Kadri Cakrani, an Albanian national who served his country in resistance to the Nazis during the Second World War. His service to the Allied war effort and his efforts at democratization afterwards are worthy of commendation.

At the outbreak of WWII, General Cakrani served as the Commandant-General of the Berat region of Albania. During the German occupation of his nation, General Kadri protected the people of Berat, including over 600 Jewish refugees, from becoming victims of the Holocaust. His heroic acts include hiding and protecting sacred 6th century biblical texts from Nazi looting and, under the threat of death, repeatedly lying about the whereabouts of Jews in the area, many of whom sheltered within his own house. After a United States Army plane crash landed, General Cakrani hid the three surviving Army nurses for over five months before successfully and secretly returning them to the Allies.

When the communist dictator Enver Hoxha came to power in 1944, General Cakrani was now labeled an enemy of the state. With the assistance of British Intelligence, he escaped, spending time in Italy and Syria before President Truman granted him political asylum in the United States in 1951. He arrived on our shores with the clothes on his back and \$7 in his pocket, dedicating the rest of his life to bring democracy back to Albania. Until his death in 1972 he worked closely with U.S. Intelligence, but was unable to share his story publicly due to the danger it would undoubtedly put his family in who remained in Albania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating and honoring the life and service of Commandant-General Kadri Cakrani. Despite the constant threats to his life, he took on the responsibility of protecting Albanians, Americans, and anybody else who were fleeing the Nazi regime. Though not an American, he spent his entire life fighting for the same things we hold dear: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I thank him for his service, and thank his surviving family, including his grandson, Lee, who lives in my district, for sharing his amazing story with the world.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MICHAEL
S. BERMAN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, we lost a great Minnesotan and great American: Michael S. Berman. He passed away on January 12 at age 84. A skilled lawyer, shrewd political advisor, and principled public servant, Mike made indelible contributions to our nation.

Mike's penchant for politics was evident when he was a young man. Shortly after graduating the University of Minnesota Law School in 1964, he volunteered on President Lyndon B. Johnson's reelection campaign and organized a successful voter registration drive in his community. Impressed with Mike's work, Walter Mondale—then Attorney General of Minnesota—hired Mike to serve as his special assistant. Mike later moved here to Washington, D.C. in 1966 to serve on Mondale's Senate staff as Counsel. He quickly became one of Mondale's most trusted advisors.

Mike's close professional and personal relationship with Mondale continued after Jimmy Carter made the Senator his running-mate. Mike led Mondale's transition team following the 1976 presidential election and went on to

serve as the Vice President's Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff.

After leaving the White House, Mike continued to advise numerous political leaders and mentor up-and-coming political operatives from across the country—and across the generations. They trusted his judgment, enjoyed his humor, and appreciated his honesty. Between 1968 and 2004, Mike also scheduled every Democratic National Convention. Indeed, few people could match Mike's understanding of the innerworkings of the Democratic Party. He was a fixture of the Washington political landscape for decades. Mike also remained a prominent voice on some of the most pressing issues facing our nation and world—from promoting gun safety to advocating for civil and human rights.

Crucially, Mr. Speaker, Mike was a man of character and kindness. He was a devoted husband to his wife of 42 years, Carol—especially in the final months before she tragically passed away of lung cancer in 2007. He showed the same devotion to his second wife, Debbie, whom he married in 2012. My wife Elaine and I are praying for her and their three children and their spouses: Rachel and Dr. Steven Feinleib, Ben and Jen Cowan, and William Cowan. My thoughts are also with their four grandchildren and with Mike's two sisters, Sheila Teitelbaun and Nance Alexander. They ought to take comfort in knowing that we grieve with them. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Mike Berman and praying for his many friends and family.