

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DANNA OROZCO
HERNANDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Danna Orozco Hernandez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Danna has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Danna, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Danna's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Danna Orozco Hernandez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING SHERBURNE COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER
BRUCE PRICE

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional service and dedication of Sherburne County Veterans Service Officer, Bruce Price.

Throughout his career, Bruce has exemplified the highest levels of selflessness and commitment when working with our veterans. His 24 years of active-duty service in the U.S. Army, combined with his years of service at the county, state, and federal level, demonstrates his true dedication to our country.

Over the past 9 years, Bruce has served as the Veterans Service Officer for Sherburne. In this role, he has worked tirelessly on behalf of our veterans and their families, helping to ensure they receive the benefits and care they have earned. Through this role, Bruce worked with my office to participate in our Veterans' Resource Fair in Elk River in March 2024. Despite it being the worst day of winter in 2024, Bruce showed up to support the 20 veterans who attended. His compassion and advocacy have made a lasting impact on the lives of countless veterans in our community.

Bruce and his team go above and beyond for our veterans. Every year, see 3,000 individuals and field more than 20,000 calls from veterans having trouble or seeking resources. Bruce is a hero, thankfully that fact was recognized by the International City/County Management with the Life, Well Run Community Hero Award for his outstanding service to others.

He has been an incredible friend to the veterans and military families of Sherburne County and to our office. While his service will be missed by all of us, we are deeply grateful for his contributions to our Nation and our veteran community.

I thank Bruce for his service to his fellow veterans and their families, the State of Minnesota, and our Nation. We wish him the best in his retirement.

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL ART
TEACHERS IN THE CONGRES-
SIONAL ART COMPETITION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedicated high school art teachers across Michigan's 9th Congressional District for their invaluable contributions of time and resources to the Congressional Art Competition. These educators not only nurture the creative talents of our youth but also play a pivotal role in enriching our community through their commitment to arts education.

Our district's art teachers have consistently demonstrated excellence in their field, fostering environments where students can explore their artistic abilities. Their efforts culminate each year in the participation of their students in the Congressional Art Competition, an event that showcases the exceptional talent and creativity of our young artists. This competition not only highlights the artistic talents of our students, but also underscores the critical role that art teachers play in developing these skills.

Through their dedication, these educators inspire a love of art that goes beyond the classroom, instilling in their students a lifelong appreciation for the arts and encouraging them to contribute creatively to their community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the high school art teachers of Michigan's 9th Congressional District. Their selfless commitment to dedicate time, resources, and energy to the success of this annual competition is something to be proud of. I am deeply grateful for the leadership and inspiration they display to these outstanding young adults.

TRIBUTE TO GAIL CRAWFORD—
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRES-
SIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my of-

fice extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Gail Crawford of San Luis Obispo, California.

For Gail, service to others is not just a profession—it's a way of life. Not only has she spent over two decades valuing our beloved veterans as a Commander in the United States Navy Nurse Corps, she's also successfully raised two children as a single mother while serving non-profits caring for homeless dogs and cats. As evidence of the profound impact on those she's cared for, many families have named their babies after her.

One of her most enduring moments was when she served Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, a renowned Level I Trauma Center. Gail's expertise spanned critical care units such as burn and trauma, neuro, thoracic ICU, and the Emergency Department. She was notably on duty during the Boston Marathon bombing, when her unwavering courage and compassion healed the course of many lives for the better.

Now residing in San Luis Obispo, Gail continues her legacy of service with unyielding devotion. In her role at the San Luis Obispo Veterans Services Collaborative and the Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum, Gail's expertise and tireless work ethic are invaluable assets. Her vigorous efforts have transformed the landscape of veteran support in our community. At the San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge, she orchestrates a multitude of veteran dinners, fundraisers, and events. Gail consistently draws widespread participation and support. Her visionary leadership led to the creation of the Veterans Services Collaborative, a pivotal hub of over 60 agencies providing essential assistance to more than 1,000 veterans. Gail's commitment to veterans also extends to supporting the Para Olympic Surfing Championship in Pismo Beach demonstrating inclusivity for all. Her instrumental role in major projects, including "The Wall That Heals" and Anglers' Anonymous fishing trips for veterans, further exemplifies her profound impact on the veteran community.

Gail's belief in serving everyone extends to animals, as she volunteers at Woods Humane Society, a local nonprofit dedicated to the human care of homeless dogs and cats. Their work relies on the dedication of volunteers such as Gail. Amongst her peers, she is often referred to as a "humble servant" whose devotion transcends all boundaries. Gail's relentless commitment and tireless efforts exemplify the qualities of a true Woman of the Year.

In honoring Gail Crawford's remarkable achievements, we celebrate her enduring legacy of service, which continues to uplift and inspire lives in the 24th District and beyond.

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE 86TH BIRTHDAY
OF DOROTHY SANDERS KENDRICK

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 86th birthday of Dorothy Sanders Kendrick.

Dorothy was born on April 24, 1938, and was the second child of 10 children born to George and Eugenia Sanders.

Dorothy was married to the late William Earl Kendrick. They were blessed with six children: Leonard Kendrick, Barbara Scott, Valerie Cousin, Charles Kendrick, Anthony Kendrick and Sonya Kirk.

Dorothy has 11 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Dorothy loves the Lord and is a member of Greenbrier Baptist Church in Anniston, Alabama.

She will be celebrated by family and friends on July 20, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dorothy Sanders Kendrick and wishing her a very happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING GABRIEL PRICE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gabriel Price for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Gabriel has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Gabriel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Gabriel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

TRIBUTE TO ROSALYN RIVERA—
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRES-
SIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Rosalyn Rivera of Santa Maria, California.

Rosalyn Rivera is an amazingly compassionate, positive, and resilient volunteer. She also acts as a long-distance caregiver for her father, Hector in Puerto Rico, who was diagnosed with Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease

at fifty-eight years old. She knows well the journey of a caregiving daughter and has made it her mission to assist others as they care for their loved ones.

Rosalyn is a champion in the community, a role model for those living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. She has been a volunteer and an advocate for the Alzheimer's Association for many years. On top of that, she has led efforts to bring awareness and education on Alzheimer's to Santa Maria, as well as the broader Central Coast area. She not only leads our advocacy efforts in the district, but volunteers with every aspect of the Alzheimer's Association.

Currently, Rosalyn is training as a community educator with an interest in outreach, especially within Spanish-speaking communities. In this role, she plans to assist with education on dementia—what it is, what it isn't, and how to communicate about it more effectively. She will show people where to find resources and how to better understand those who are dealing with the disease.

With her dedication and passion, Rosalyn has improved every community she has lived in. In fact, everything she works on and learns at the Alzheimer's Association, Central Coast Chapter, she takes back to her home community in Puerto Rico to raise awareness among those impacted by the disease.

Rosalyn is guided by a true and humble desire to make a positive impact on the world around her. She impressively juggles being a mother, a daughter, a caregiver, an employee, and a volunteer all in one day. She performs every one of those roles exceptionally and gives her one hundred percent to everything.

Rosalyn is a shining example of perseverance through deep personal and familial struggle. She models compassion, care, and dedication for all those in her community. Even more, she has committed to reaching beyond her community to benefit others.

I am honored to recognize Rosalyn Rivera, for her exemplary leadership and volunteerism in ensuring the resources and information are available to everyone in the Central Coast. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Rosalyn Rivera.

RECOGNIZING PERMIAN
RESOURCES

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to recognize and honor Permian Resources, one of the largest exploration and production companies in the Permian Basin. Our Nation is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and a strong innovative spirit that encapsulates the American character. Nowhere is more evident than right here in the Permian Basin, where we lead the Nation in affordable, reliable, and clean energy production that has revitalized our economy and fundamentally changed the global energy landscape.

Among the trailblazers is the team at Permian Resources—including Will Hickey, James Walter, Guy Oliphint, John Bell, Brandon Gaynor, and Robert Shannon, along with

their many employees who work tirelessly to provide the country, and the world, with the energy it needs. Permian Resources' commitment to their employees, partners, communities, and environment showcases their operational excellence. There is no question that this organization is greatly admired by those in their community and beyond.

The impact that this company produces extends far beyond the Permian Basin and the state of Texas—it is felt throughout the entire world. Along with providing substantial job growth to the Permian Basin region, Permian Resources has proven its dedication to guiding us in restoring American energy dominance from the ground up. These individuals carry the entrepreneurial spirit our state is so well-known for, which has helped us unleash the massive energy potential of this region.

I am proud to honor the contributions of Permian Resources to our community. While we strive in the United States Congress to enact pro-energy policies, I am proud to represent these individuals who will help deliver this promise.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY
OF WILLIAM CLAUDE FINLEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th birthday of William Claude "Bud" Finley.

Bud was born on May 1, 1944, in rural Jacksonville, Alabama. He was the fifth child and the only son born to William Lee Claude Finley and Nile Borden Finley.

Bud was married to the late Barbara "Bob" Lipham Finley and was blessed with one daughter, Kristi. He also has a son-in-law, Danny Smith, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Bud worked for years in parts management at Ft. McClellan in Anniston, Alabama. He also served as a volunteer fireman for the Weaver Fire Department and a councilman for the City of Weaver.

Bud was a longtime member of Weaver First United Methodist Church and is an avid University of Alabama football fan.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Bud Finley and thanking him for his service to his community and wishing him a happy 80th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 2024, I was not recorded on Roll Call vote No. 177 and No. 178.

Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on both Roll Call No. 177 and No. 178.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN FLOCK—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Karen Flock of Ventura, California.

Karen Flock epitomizes a life of advocacy and service to marginalized people in our region. Her first exposure to advocacy was as a volunteer with the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) in 1973 and 1974, while she was a college student. Armed with a B.A. in Economics from Reed College in 1975, the UFW enlisted Karen to help Ventura County farm workers negotiate their collective bargaining agreements after they voted for UFW representation in elections conducted by the Agricultural Labor Relations Board.

Karen dedicated five years to the UFW farm worker movement in Ventura County, then joined Channel Counties Legal Services to stand up for Rancho Sespe farm workers who were being evicted from their homes. These efforts to stop the evictions eventually led Karen to join Rodney Fernandez, who she worked with to create the Rancho Sespe Housing Complex on Highway 126 in Fillmore.

Fernandez recruited Karen to work with him at Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), the purpose of developing homes for farm workers, low wage workers, seniors and the disabled. Karen rose from Project Manager to Real Estate Development Director, and her work with CEDC over the next thirty-five years fueled her passion and honed her affordable housing development skills into a lifelong career. In 1986, Karen completed a National Internship in Community Economic Development, and in 2006–2008 she was recognized by NeighborWorks with America's Harvard Award for excellence in Community Development.

In 2016, Karen took her skills to the San Buenaventura Housing Authority, and is currently the Real Estate Development Director, where she leads the agency's efforts to create new affordable housing developments. In this role, she has been a tireless activist and a major player in protecting the homeless population of Ventura. She believes that homelessness must be addressed by providing housing for people.

On October 18, 2023, Karen received the 1st Annual Carmen Ramirez Housing Advocacy Award from H.O.M.E (Housing Opportunities Made Easier). She also received the El Concilio del Condado de Ventura 16th Annual Latino Leadership Award for Community Service.

I am honored to recognize Karen Flock for her continued commitment and tireless efforts to provide affordable housing on the Central Coast. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Karen Flock, for her incredible service to her community.

RECOGNIZING ELIANA ROMERO-YEATTS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eliana Romero-Yeatts for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Eliana has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Eliana, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Eliana's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Eliana Romero-Yeatts on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM WINNING THE NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jacksonville State University Women's Bowling Team for winning the NCAA Division I National Title in the program's first season.

On April 13th, The Jacksonville State Gamecocks beat Arkansas State in a best-of-seven match to secure their title win. The game was played at Thunderbowl Lanes in Alley Park, Michigan.

Impressively, the Gamecocks completed this accomplishment in the program's first year. This is the first national championship for Jacksonville State in over thirty years and the first ever at the Division I level.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Shannon O'Keefe, the Jacksonville State University Women's Bowling team, students, faculty, and all the fans. Go Gamecocks.

HONORING MR. JOHN F. SARGENT, JR.

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. John F. Sargent, Jr. for his dedicated service to the U.S. Congress and the American people with over three decades of federal service while working at the Department of Commerce and at the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Mr. Sargent recently retired from CRS as a specialist in science and technology policy. During his time at the agency, Mr. Sargent made invaluable contribu-

tions to Congress with his expertise to national security and economic competitiveness, defense research and development policy; and federal support for manufacturing in high-technology industries.

Mr. Sargent was born in Newport News, VA and raised in Alexandria, VA where he attended Bishop Ireton High School captaining the football team his senior year and serving as the president of the Model United Nations club. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in systems engineering and earned a commission in the United States Army. Mr. Sargent served in the Army Reserve where he rose to the rank of Captain.

Mr. Sargent begun his career in the private sector with a small publishing company that focused on government publications and then entered federal service at the Department of Commerce, serving as the first public affairs director of the Technology Administration. Mr. Sargent subsequently served as a senior policy advisor to the Under Secretary for Technology and the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy where he coauthored many influential reports on the role of technology in national competitiveness, the information technology workforce, and biotechnology, among other topics.

Eventually, Mr. Sargent joined CRS and was instrumental in the Service's coverage of federal research and development programs and activities that contributed to national security and economic competitiveness. He led the agency's analysis of the implementation of the America COMPETES Act as well as its reauthorization. Mr. Sargent took over leadership of CRS' flagship federal research and development funding report and led its annual development for many years. He was recognized in Congress for his expertise on the operations and policies of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, National Science and Technology Council, and coverage of technology assessment and science and technology advice to Congress. Mr. Sargent served as a senior reviewer for CRS' written products and as a mentor to new analysts. Throughout his career at CRS, he embodied the agency's mission values of providing authoritative, objective, non-partisan, and timely service to Congress.

On behalf of the American people, I thank Mr. Sargent for his decades of service to the country.

TRIBUTE TO MARIAN SHAPIRO—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Marian Shapiro of Goleta, California.

Marian Shapiro grew up in Berkeley, and first arrived in the district in 1960 as a UCSB freshman. She returned in 1968, when her husband was in a doctoral program at UCSB. Her husband's job took them to a small university town in rural Kansas, where Marian

raised her two kids while advocating for women's reproductive rights and LGBTQ rights. She fought against hatred and led the way in human rights efforts.

In 1980, she traveled from Kansas to D.C. as a delegate to the National League of Women Voters conference. In her televised meeting with President Jimmy Carter, she spoke on behalf of the Floridian delegation asking President Carter to address the immigration crisis in Florida. A woman of many talents, she lobbied legislators while singing and playing the guitar at many women's movement events.

Marian designed and led a number of workshops in conservative towns for Parents & Daughters and Parents & Sons, teaching them how to talk about puberty, dating, emotional management, and consent.

In retirement, the Shapiros were thrilled to return to Goleta, where Marian taught for 11 years at Santa Barbara City College. She served on several boards, including Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County as well as the Democratic Service Club, and always volunteered to elect candidates for public office. One of her proudest accomplishments has been organizing her Big List of individuals who share her views on caring for the planet and human rights, and who respond to her Shapiro Action Alerts. The group has grown to include 650 recipients who appreciate her calls to action and her notices of important events or protest demonstrations they may not know about.

At 81 years old, Marian enjoys making pottery and has become an excellent photographer. She adores her children and relatives. You will often see Marian lending her photography skills to events for political candidates and non-profits alike. Her captures continue to be featured in publications like Noozhawk, Montecito Journal and the Santa Barbara Independent, often depicting the ongoing social and political movements of our district and has contributed many letters to our local publications.

I am honored to recognize Marian Shapiro. Throughout the Central Coast and, indeed, across the Nation, countless people know Marian Shapiro for her tireless service to a multitude of causes. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Marian Shapiro, for her incredible service to her community.

RECOGNIZING KAYRA RODAS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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

Kayra has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Kayra, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Kayra's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr. Don tragically passed away on April 24th. His passing is a loss for New Jersey and this entire chamber.

Don will be missed, not only by family and friends, but also by his constituents. He came from a family of committed public servants. I also had the pleasure of serving with his father, Congressman Donald Payne, Sr., for many years on the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Like his father, Don was steadfast in his service to his constituents and the entire state of New Jersey. During his public service career, he was a passionate advocate for fair housing, for unfettered access to healthcare, and for those who were often forgotten by people in powerful positions. The Tenth District of New Jersey has lost a dedicated and effective public servant. He will be sorely missed.

I send my condolences to his wife Beatrice, their children, and his staff during this difficult time.

"VALDEZ FIMBRES FAMILY DAY" NOVEMBER 24, 2023

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Valdez Fimbres family who have been members of the Tucson community for generations. They held a family reunion on November 23, 2023 at the KayCee Club in Tucson, Arizona to celebrate their shared heritage, strengthen family ties, recognize marriages, and births, and honor those who have passed on.

The Valdez Fimbres family currently enjoys nine generations, many living across the country, but most of them reside in Tucson, Arizona.

Feliciano Fimbres, born in 1895, and Aurelia Valdez, born in 1899, were both first generation U.S. Citizens. They married on May 20, 1921, in Tucson, AZ and raised their eight children, Ernesto, Gilberto, Manuel, Carlos, Rudolfo, Maria del Carmen, Federico, and Gloria in Tucson, Arizona.

The Historic American Buildings Survey of the U.S. Interior Department conducted two studies in 1980 which are registered with the Library of Congress as Fimbres House No. 1 and Fimbres House No. 2. The summary states: "The name Fimbres has been associated with this section of South Meyer Avenue since 1881, when the City Directory lists a Santos Fimbres. The builder of this house,

Feliciano Fimbres, Sr., (probably related to Santos), lived here with his family until the late 1930's Fimbres, a laborer and wagon driver, lived across the street until he built this dwelling (Fimbres House No. 1), around 1905. Feliciano and Julia Fimbres had seven children. Two of them, Julia and Gabriel, lived in the apartments that Feliciano added at Meyer Avenue in Barrio Historico/Barrio Libre."

Julia Fimbres (the daughter), married Jesus Sanchez and lived next door at Meyer Avenue, also constructed by Feliciano Fimbres, Sr. in 1926. Jesus and Julia Sanchez died in 1959 and 1974, but their daughter, Evangelina Cota, still occupies that space with her family. The property at Meyer passed out of the Fimbres family in 1939, and has been rented by a succession of short-term tenants since that time. The dwellings were converted for commercial use after 1974 by a service agency for the handicapped.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ELAINE YIN— CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Dr. Elaine Yin of Santa Maria, California.

Dr. Elaine Yin is a dedicated obstetrician-gynecologist based in Santa Maria, California. She embodies the essence of compassionate care and service to California's 24th District, where she's resided for over two decades. Dr. Yin has a strong commitment to women's health, practicing at the Santa Maria Women's Health Center and collaborating on research with researchers at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo while maintaining affiliations with Marian Regional Medical Center and French Hospital Medical Center.

Dr. Yin obtained her medical degree at Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple, where she laid the foundation for her expertise in robotic surgery and high-risk obstetrics. She utilizes her knowledge in collaboration with researchers at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, making significant contributions to important studies examining the relationship between nutrition and outcomes for mothers and newborns in patients with obesity-related conditions. Through this research, Dr. Yin seeks to improve clinical outcomes and empower women with knowledge and resources to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

One of the main highlights of Dr. Yin's career was establishing the obstetrics-gynecology residency program at Marian Regional Medical Center six years ago. Her spearheading of this program marked a monumental milestone in medical education for the region, producing highly skilled professionals who have filled the gap for obstetrics-gynecology professionals in Santa Barbara County.

Dr. Yin's impact on our community goes beyond her professional career. A patron of the

arts, she generously supports the Cal Poly Performing Arts Center, recognizing the importance of cultural enrichment in fostering the vibrant community of San Luis Obispo. Additionally, Dr. Yin's advocacy extends to underserved populations, including the Mixteco community, where she tirelessly works to bridge cultural and linguistic gaps and dismantle barriers to healthcare access.

Dr. Elaine Yin's nomination for Central Coast Woman of the Year for the 24th Congressional District is a testament to her remarkable contributions as a healthcare professional, community leader, and advocate for underserved populations. Her dedication, compassion, and unwavering service make her an inspiration to all.

RECOGNIZING FAITH PEREZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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

Faith has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Faith, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Faith's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, on May 1, 2024, I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 172.

As a supporter of all faith-based communities, I became a cosponsor of this bill and was pleased to see it pass the House.

HONORING CAPTAIN HAROLD M. ANDERSON AS VETERAN OF THE MONTH FOR MICHIGAN'S 9TH DISTRICT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound respect to recognize the remarkable valor and contributions of Captain Harold M. Anderson, U.S. Navy (Ret), our esteemed Veteran of the Month for May 2024 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. It is with great honor that I highlight the exemplary

service and dedication of a true American hero whose courage has left an indelible mark on our Nation's history

Captain Anderson was born on a small farm in Ontario, Canada, and raised in Detroit, where he graduated from Southeastern High School alongside his future wife, Sandra Page, in 1960. His distinguished military career began with a congressional appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1964. Over the next 18 years, he served on five submarines, including four years in command of the nuclear attack submarine USS *Shark* (SSN 591). His naval journey continued with notable assignments, including attendance at the Naval War College and earning a master's degree in international relations from Salve Regina University

After retiring from active duty, Captain Anderson's commitment to serving others persisted. He continued to serve as Naval Science Instructor at Whitney Young Magnet High School in Chicago, sharing his knowledge and shaping the future of young minds. In 1998, Captain Anderson faced a personal battle when diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Despite an initial prognosis of 2–3 years, he achieved two years of remission and has since managed his condition with innovative treatments.

Captain Anderson's resilience extends beyond his personal challenges; he has been a beacon of hope for others, actively participating in annual 5K walks to raise funds for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation. His efforts have remarkably contributed over \$300,000 towards research for better treatments and a potential cure.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Harold M. Anderson's life story is a testament to heroism, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to our country. His military service during pivotal moments in history, combined with his ongoing contributions to medical research and education, exemplifies a legacy of valor and service that continues to inspire us all.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and respect for Captain Anderson. His legacy is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our service members and their families, and his life inspires future generations to uphold the values of freedom, resilience, and dedication that define our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT CLIF SMART ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize President Clif Smart of Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri, as he retires following an outstanding career as the university's longest serving president dating back to 1961.

President Smart is the university's 11th president, and he is retiring after 13 years as the top official. During that time, the university achieved many notable milestones such as setting enrollment, retention, and graduation records, expanding academic offerings, raising more than \$440 million in donations, and con-

structing or renovating dozens of buildings. More importantly, he accomplished all of this while raising tuition by less than inflation, allowing the university to be among the most affordable in the country.

President Smart graduated from Tulane University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in political science, and from the University of Arkansas School of Law with his Juris Doctorate Degree. He served his country in the U.S. Army before joining the private sector as an attorney. He subsequently became Missouri State's General Counsel, and then was appointed the university's interim president before receiving the nod to take over as president.

President Smart's visionary development of IDEA Commons transformed an abandoned industrial area into a thriving hub for economic development, innovation, and community engagement. His collaboration with the University of Missouri to offer engineering and pharmacy programs significantly addressed workforce shortages and strengthened the state's economic and educational landscapes. He also facilitated the university's recognition as a doctoral-granting institution. These are just a few of his many, many accomplishments.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to President Smart for his outstanding leadership at Missouri State University and his profound effect on the broader community. I also want to extend my best wishes for his retirement and future endeavors. I am proud that he is one of my constituents.

RECOGNIZING ITZELTH ROBLES

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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

Itzelth has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Itzelth, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Itzelth's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

SUPPORTING THE REPORT ACT

HON. LUCY McBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mrs. McBATH. Mr. Speaker, as a mother in Congress, one of my top priorities is protecting children. I know the incomparable love that a person can feel for their child and the horrors of losing a child. I set out to pass a bill that will protect our children and help law enforcement in their efforts to find those who wish to prey on the vulnerabilities of kids across the globe.

That is why I am so proud to support the REPORT Act which includes my bill, the END Child Exploitation Act. As a provision in the REPORT Act, the END Child Exploitation Act will empower law enforcement to conduct comprehensive, thorough investigations without their evidence being prematurely thrown out after 90 days and instead extends evidence preservation to one year.

Technology is making advancements every day and while that means progress for many of us, that also means new avenues for predators to gain access to our young. These predators have gotten creative with their exploitative means, and it is our job to get even more creative so that law enforcement has the tools and support to track these horrible individuals.

I have heard far too many stories of young children and teens being targeted by those wishing to spread child sexual abuse material. Our children are our future and as parents and loved ones of these children, it is our job to go the extra mile to protect them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my votes for H.R. 7219 and H.R. 7525.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 177, and YEA on Roll Call No. 178.

HONORING MARIA JAYA'S RETIREMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Jaya's retirement and public service. Maria is a dedicated parent and community activist whose tireless efforts have profoundly impacted Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, and beyond. For nearly 30 years, Maria has been a driving force behind educational initiatives and community advocacy, leaving an unparalleled mark on the landscape of her neighborhood.

Maria Jaya's journey as an activist began with a simple goal: to improve the educational opportunities for her children and those in her community. Unsatisfied with the status quo, Maria started organizing with fellow parents to address issues such as academic achievement, school safety, and overcrowding in local schools. Her early efforts laid the groundwork for lasting change and set her on a path of advocacy that would define her legacy.

One of Maria's crowning achievements is the establishment of the Cypress Hills Community School/P.S. 89, a beacon of bilingual education and community engagement. Maria's vision and relentless advocacy were instrumental in creating this innovative dual-language public school in 1997. Her work culminated in constructing a new school building, which opened its doors in 2010. The new building, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities

and a 50-50 Spanish/English dual language model, stands as a testament to Maria's unwavering dedication to educational excellence and community engagement. Through her leadership as Parent Co-Director for over 27 years, Maria cultivated a culture of collaboration and empowerment, ensuring that the voices of parents, educators, and students were heard and valued.

Maria's advocacy extends beyond the classroom walls, encompassing broader community issues such as housing justice and immigrant rights. She mobilized her neighbors and fellow parents to demand better living conditions and to defend the rights of immigrants in Cypress Hills. Maria's commitment to social justice and equity was a guiding light for her community, inspiring others to join her in the fight for a better future for all.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Maria Jaya, a visionary leader, tireless advocate, and a devoted parent whose legacy will endure for generations to come. May she have a wonderful and fruitful retirement. She can now take a step back and admire the decades of work she leaves behind that has undoubtedly elevated the quality of life and education in Cypress Hills.

RECOGNIZING SERAPHINE PASARIBU

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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

Seraphine has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Seraphine, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Seraphine's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING SHERBURNE COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER DIANE ARNOLD

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant, Sherburne County Auditor-Treasurer Diane Arnold. After 34 years of service to the county, the last 17 of which as Auditor-Treasurer, Diane is retiring this July.

Throughout her tenure as Auditor-Treasurer, Diane has overseen financial operations in Sherburne County, ensuring the responsible and efficient management of taxpayer funds. Diane's dedication to transparency and ac-

countability has earned her the respect and trust of her coworkers and constituents.

In her role as County Auditor/Treasurer, Diane managed the county's investments and checking account, administered elections, issued driver's licenses and collected and computed taxes for individuals throughout Sherburne County.

Her achievements extend beyond her official role as Sherburne County Auditor-Treasurer. Diane is a World Champion and Reserve World Champion with her horses and is an active member of the Sherburne County community.

We would like to thank Diane for the profound impact she has had on Sherburne County and hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GEORGE "LUM" ATKINSON

HON. ANNA PAULINA LUNA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George "Lum" Atkinson, a veteran and dedicated community leader from Gulfport, Florida.

George was born on June 23, 1926, in Birmingham, Alabama, right before the Great Depression. As Tom Brokaw once said, "the greatest generation that ever lived." The oldest of 4 boys, he had only one pair of shoes. They were for school, Church, and any other fancy occasion. This meant basketball in the school gym was played barefoot or in socks. When he was nine years old, he was hit in the head with a baseball bat and had to stay in bed for six months. He would spend his days in bed shooting bbs into a metal tin with wax. Every evening, his father would melt the wax, pick out the bbs, and hang it back up in the morning.

In the mid-1940s, Lum and his family had to leave the cold of Alabama for the warmth of Arizona or Florida due to his brother's asthma. They had been to Florida before to visit family, so they landed in Treasure Island and began their lives on the Gulf Coast. He and his family became a part of the community and became the first six members of Church by the Sea in Madeira Beach, Florida. Lum was a student in high school when World War II began. As a senior at St. Petersburg High School, Lum decided to drop out of school and enlist in the Marines to defend our country. Since he was only 17, his parents had to give their permission. His mother was against his early enlistment, wanting him to get his diploma before enlisting. She made him promise that he would get his diploma when he returned after the war was over. So, after the war, he returned to St. Petersburg High School to get his degree. When you make a promise to Momma, you keep it.

Lum was an excellent marksman during World War II. He went to Hawaii in the 2nd Division, then transferred to the 6th Division to participate in the Battle of Okinawa. On April 1, 1945, the invasion of Okinawa began. Lum was a member of the main landing force in northern Okinawa. By April 20th, the northern portion of the island was under the control of the 6th Division. With the northern portion secured, Lum's unit took on new duties critical to

the war effort. Lum assisted in maintaining the airstrip during the day, guarding the airstrip from snipers and sabotage while in a foxhole at night, and getting supplies to the southern portion of the island where the Japanese had a stronghold.

When the war ended, Lum's unit was sent to China to guard Japanese prisoners and help the Chinese repair their country. For their service in the Battle of Okinawa, the 6th Marine Division was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest division award possible.

Corporal George "Lum" Atkinson was awarded the World War II Combat Action Ribbon, the Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal.

When he returned from World War II, he met and married the love of his life, Mary. They settled down in the small town of Gulfport, Florida, where they raised three girls. During this time, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve. He was called up for the Korean War and was stationed at Camp Lejeune. Always willing to serve his country and community, Lum worked for 38 years at Florida Power as a lineman, foreman, and switchman. While at Florida Power, he played on the company softball team. Knowing his love for the game, one of his coworkers asked him to help with Gulfport Little League around 1957. He started coaching and remained active on and off for almost 50 years, serving as President, Secretary, Umpire, Scorekeeper, Manager, Coach, and Groundskeeper. He is still in touch with many of his players. In fact, at his 95th birthday party, about 30 of his former ball-players came to celebrate him.

In 2002, the City of Gulfport renovated the baseball fields at Tomlinson Park, and because of his dedication and loyalty, they named the new park "Lum Atkinson Ball Fields." Caring about the City of Gulfport, Lum was also a member of the Gulfport Volunteer Fire Department. He retired with the rank of lieutenant when the city changed to a Fire Department with full-time firefighters. When his wife Mary and her sister, Catherine Hickman, founded the Gulfport Community Players and the Gulfport Historical Society, Lum became a member of both organizations. Just as he was a dedicated member of the Gulfport Little League, Lum was an active supporter and volunteer of those two organizations Gulfport Community Players, Gulfport Historical Society, and the Gulfport Little League continue to flourish today, contributing to the vibrant community of Gulfport, thanks in no small measure to the dedication of Lum Atkinson.

Please join me in appreciation for Lum Atkinson and all the men like him, who selflessly defended our freedoms abroad and then came home to build strong families and strong communities. I thank Lum. May God Bless him and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was delayed in traveling to Washington, D.C. from South Carolina, and missed votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 177 (H.R. 7219), and YEA on Roll Call No. 178 (H.R. 7525).

RECOGNIZING JOELYS RIVERA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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

Joelys has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Joelys, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Joelys's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF DELL COMPUTERS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor and celebrate Dell Technologies' 40 years of remarkable service. Founded on May 3, 1984, by Michael Dell in a dorm room at the University of Texas, the company has made a monumental and lasting impression toward making Central Texas a great place to call home. The impacts Dell Technologies has made not only on the region but also the state are impeccable and I am honored Dell Technologies calls Round Rock home.

Throughout their years of service, Dell Technologies has become a global leader in innovation and a critical economic engine for Central Texas. During their many years they have remained devoted to their mission of making technologies that drive human progress. While having their headquarters in Central Texas, Dell Technologies has been able to provide high paying jobs, make economic opportunities, and support our district's growth. Dell Technologies has made enormous contributions to the technology revolution that has defined our changing times, bringing growth and prosperity to Central Texas.

Dell Technologies has touched countless lives for the better and continues to make a positive impact on those it is dedicated to serve. I am proud to help celebrate 40 years of this incredible organization, and to join Central Texas in wishing this amazing company nothing but the best in the decades to come.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF KELLY LUNGREN MCCOLLUM

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Kelly Lungren McCollum, my Chief of Staff since my election to Congress in 2010. Kelly is retiring from Capitol Hill today, having served several Members of Congress for more than twenty-five years.

The daughter of former U.S. Congressman Dan Lungren, Kelly was born in Long Beach, California. Upon her father's first election to Congress, her family moved to the Washington, DC area in 1979. Raised in Vienna, Virginia, Kelly attended Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School.

Kelly graduated from high school in three years and started at Santa Clara University. Shortly thereafter, Kelly began a career in August of 1994 as a Congressional staffer for then-U.S. Representative James Inhofe, who at that time was running for Oklahoma's open U.S. Senate seat. During Kelly's time in Congress, she held every position in my district and D.C. offices, other than Legislative Director.

After her service to the Sooner State, Kelly returned to Capitol Hill and entered a new chapter of her professional life, serving as Chief of Staff to U.S. Congressman Jeff Fortenberry. Around the same time, she would meet her loving husband, Jason, whom she has been married to for nearly eighteen years.

Kelly would continue in Congress, dedicating a period of time to the legislative team of U.S. Representative Louie Gohmert before the beginning of a thirteen-and-a-half-year career as my Chief of Staff.

As my Chief of Staff, Kelly will be best remembered as a true professional, a dedicated servant to the people of Virginia's Ninth District, and a source of responsible leadership for my staff, colleagues, and family. More importantly, she has been a great friend.

Congratulations to Kelly on her remarkable career. Her institutional knowledge, loyalty and leadership are qualities that will be missed by my office and many others. I wish her nothing more than the absolute best.

HONORING JUDGE IRA LLOYD "TOOKIE" KIRKHAM

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my long-time friend, Ira Lloyd "Tookie" Kirkham of Tarkington Prairie, Texas, who passed away on April 29, 2024. Tookie dutifully served the residents of Liberty County for twelve years as county judge before retiring in 2006. He was a patriarch in the surrounding community, a wonderful mentor to many, a fantastic athlete, and a devoted public servant.

Tookie was born on August 26, 1942, in Cleveland, Texas, to Ira Joe Kirkham and Bobbie Chapman Kirkham. The family later moved to Tarkington Prairie, where Tookie attended Tarkington High School, excelling in

many different sports. His athletic accomplishments in high school earned him nine college scholarships, a state championship in the high jump, and All-State honors in football and basketball. After graduation in 1961, Tookie attended the University of Corpus Christi on a basketball scholarship. Nevertheless, he remained a staunch supporter of Tarkington ISD and Tarkington athletics for the rest of his life.

Following college, Tookie accepted a job as a lineman with Southwestern Bell but soon moved on to work at Jefferson Chemical before spending many years at Texaco. During that time, he also started a second career in public service, beginning with an appointment on the Dairy Day Board in 1968. Tookie went on to hold many other public service positions, including serving on the Tarkington School Board, the Cleveland Bank and Trust Board of Directors, the Soil and Water Conservation District, the Trinity River Board, and the Yettie-Kersting Hospital Board. He was also an involved member and leader at Oak Shade Baptist Church, the Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, the Cleveland Rotary Club, and the Tarkington Prairie Masonic Lodge No. 498.

However, the crescendo of his public service career occurred when Tookie was elected as Liberty County Judge in 1994, the first person to ever do so from Tarkington Prairie. Throughout his tenure in this position, Tookie remained committed to bringing jobs and industry to Liberty County. He championed many transportation projects in the area, promoted fiscally conservative policies, and worked to help juveniles turn their lives around. In retirement, Tookie's role in local politics was advisor and counselor to many elected officials, often filling in as a substitute judge for surrounding Southeast Texas county judges. One of Tookie's legacy projects was the State Highway 105 relief route bypass in Cleveland. For his work securing contracts, right-of-way, and funding, the Texas Department of Transportation honored him with its prestigious Road Hand Award in 2012.

Tookie married his high school sweetheart, Cordella Price Kirkham, in 1964 and had two daughters, Kem and Kehle. His four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren were the pride and joy of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I will always appreciate Judge Ira Lloyd "Tookie" Kirkham's support and friendship over the years. I send my deepest sympathy and prayers to his wife, Cordella, and loved ones. He will certainly be missed by all.

RECOGNIZING DESTINY OROZCO
URIBE

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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

Destiny has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who

strive to make the most of their education, like Destiny, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Destiny's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Destiny Orozco Uribe on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call No. 177. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass as Amended, H.R. 719, The Information Quality Assurance Act, I would have voted YEA; and

Roll Call No. 178. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 7525, the Special District Grant Accessibility Act, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY WADHAMS'
DEDICATION TO HIS NATION AND
HIS COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Timothy Wadhams, the former Chair of the Wolfpack environmental association and a community leader in Ann Arbor. His consistent philanthropy and his tireless efforts in supporting our community's conservation efforts are worthy of commendation.

Tim is a native Ann Arborite who attended Pioneer High School, where he is in their Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a member of both the football and basketball teams. To this day, Tim is an active booster of the Pioneer Football Program and started the Pioneer Academic Athletic Fund. His own athletic talents on the field earned him a position on the University of Michigan Football Team, a premier educational institution which he would graduate from with a bachelor's degree in economics and a Master of Business Administration degree.

Tim is not only a former Chief Executive Officer, board member for major business organizations, and longtime supporter of our community's educational institutions, but has also contributed significantly to our state's natural resources conservation. As Chair of the conservation group, "The Wolfpack", Tim was instrumental in leading various conservation and environmental groups to accomplish the organization's goals. The Wolfpack is composed of some of our state's leading organizations in environmental work, but Wolfpack's impact

has also extended past local efforts to advocate that Congress take action to protect our land and waterways from contaminants, to support wildlife, and to preserve our Great Lakes. As Chair, Tim was responsible for leading this coalition that continues to do invaluable work for our natural at areas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Timothy Wadhams for his dedication to conservation, philanthropy, and community development in the Ann Arbor regional area. I thank Tim.

RECOGNIZING AIRPORT DEDICATION CEREMONY IN HONOR OF
MR. DUANE SPALSBURY

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Airport Dedication Ceremony in honor of Mr. Duane Spalsbury.

Mr. Spalsbury served as an officer in the Army Air Corps during WWII. He served in the air force as a fighter pilot in the European Theater. He flew a variety of planes including P47, P51, P38, P39 and P63.

When he returned home from the war, he moved to the Gila Valley with his wife Laura Lee Golden where he worked as an accountant. Mr. Spalsbury also helped to found and serve as the first chairman of the Mt. Graham Community Hospital.

He then turned his attention to remote controlled airplanes. He built them and flew them. Mr Duane Spalsbury passed away in Safford, AZ on Friday, November 16, 2012.

We extend our gratitude for his dedicated service and are eternally thankful for his contributions to our country.

RECOGNIZING VANASSA ALEX
RADCLIFFE

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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

Vanassa has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Vanassa, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Vanassa's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Vanassa Alex Radcliffe on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.