

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING KAREN MILLER

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karen Miller for earning this year's Woman of the Year Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Karen is a longtime volunteer throughout Jefferson County, especially in Olde Town Arvada. She served on the Historic Olde Town Arvada (HOTA) Board for many years and was instrumental in the creation of the Business Improvement District for Olde Town in 2014. Karen is a passionate and dedicated leader and a tremendous asset to the Arvada community. She dedicated countless hours to local events including the Harvest Festival, St. Patrick's Day, Festival of Scarecrows, A Chocolate Affair, and Flicks in the Square. Karen currently sits on the Arvada Historical Society Board and manages the Arvada Flour Mill.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Karen Miller on receiving the 2023 Arvada Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award.

RECOGNIZING VERONICA IGNAT

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Veronica Ignat, who is a member of the Pasco County Senior Leadership Team. In June of 2023, in order to avoid disruption of services for vulnerable seniors in Pasco County, the county stepped up to the plate to provide state and federally funded essential case management and services to seniors via three major programs: Community Care for the Elderly (CCE), Home Care for the Elderly (HCE), and the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI). When the former lead agency was unable to continue in that capacity, Pasco County Senior Services Leadership Team acted swiftly because they understood the importance of ensuring seamless continuity of services to seniors. As such, the team spent hundreds of hours researching and writing a 750-page grant that they did not have experience writing, preparing services that they had never offered, and standing up a new team to complete the services, whereby, almost doubling the size of its current Division. They did so while continuing their normal service to seniors throughout the county. In the end, the county was awarded the honor of becoming the new "Lead Agency." This ensured that over 500 at-risk seniors in Pasco would not go without critical care. The Pasco County Senior

Services Leadership Team also took on new duties and extra challenges during the transition period. All Program Coordinators took specific parts of the new grant or accompanying duties to learn and provide feedback on or they took on extra work to allow other team leaders to do so. This team truly collaborated with each other and several other departments to make this Lead Agency bid a reality. Taking on this new tier of services demonstrates how this team exemplifies the term "Heroes Among Us."

It is clear that Ms. Ignat and the Pasco County Senior Leadership Team has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

HONORING DAVE STEINBACH'S SERVICE TO SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AND THE NATION

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of David Steinbach and to grieve his passing. A dedicated member of Ducks Unlimited and a lover of the great outdoors, the roles and responsibilities Dave filled during his lifetime in Washtenaw County, Michigan are worthy of commendation.

Dave dedicated his life to serving others. After attending Northern Michigan University, he joined the U.S. Navy, where he served as a Nuclear Reactor Operator on the U.S.S. *Omaha* based out of Pearl Harbor. Once returning to Michigan, Dave began to work at the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan, where he supported classroom technology for over 34 years.

Outside of his career, Dave also left a lasting mark on the communities he was a part of. One such organization was the Chelsea Rod and Gun Club, where he was an active member and served in a number of positions, including as president. A testament to his service can also be seen in his work with youth members in the community. In 2002, Dave was one of the founders of the youth shooting group and was an active instructor. In this role, he was a model for safety while encouraging youth to enjoy nature.

Another organization where Dave made a considerable difference is Ducks Unlimited, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving waterfowl habitats in North America. Here, he served in many different roles at the local, state, and national chapters. Among these roles, he served as the Ducks Unlimited Michigan Chairman. His dedication was immeasurable, and his passing is a great loss to the conservation community throughout Michigan. Dave's contributions and service with Western Washtenaw Ducks Unlimited will continue to serve the community for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating and remembering the life-

time of work that David Steinbach has accomplished. His dedication to his country, communities, family, and the wildlife that he worked so hard to conserve is inspirational and will not soon be forgotten. His passion for the great outdoors drove so much of his work and impacted so many. His impact should be celebrated and remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. VERNON C. WALTON, SENIOR PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Vernon C. Walton for his 10th Anniversary as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Vienna.

Church and community have always been staples of the ministry of Dr. Vernon C. Walton. Dr. Walton, a native of Jersey City, New Jersey, has served as Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Vienna, Virginia, since February, 2014. He is the 19th Senior Pastor in the history of this 156-year-old congregation, First Baptist Church of Vienna.

Dr. Walton's primary mission is to "make a difference in our community and be a light of hope for the World." His charismatic, energetic, and innovative leadership has led the congregation of First Baptist into a season where they are "Empowered by the Past and Excited About the Future." As a result of his leadership, First Baptist has increased its community engagement, mission opportunities, and strengthened the capacity of its 33 ministries—making a difference in the lives of those within and outside of the church.

During his tenure at First Baptist, Dr. Walton has focused much of his ministry efforts on missions, cultural awareness, and social justice. Under his leadership, First Baptist Vienna has been on the forefront, helping to ensure that the needs of Fairfax County's marginalized communities are addressed by implementing programming geared toward education and justice such as the annual Juneteenth Celebration and Justice and Legislative Sunday.

First Baptist also partners with area elementary schools and community partners to provide tutoring, Thanksgiving meals, and Christmas presents for students and families. At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the church distributed over 25,000 boxes of food throughout Northern Virginia and held multiple vaccine clinics delivering over 3,000 vaccinations. First Baptist has also provided meals to nearly 1 million food insecure people around the world by partnering with Rise Against Hunger and hosting meal packaging events. He also initiated "Be the Church Sundays" which serve as opportunities for church members to go outside the walls of the church to serve others throughout Northern Virginia.

● 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.

Dr. Walton serves on Fairfax County's Affordable Housing Advisory Council, the Police Reform Task Force, and the Fairfax County Public Schools Strategic Planning Team. Most recently, he has served on the Chairman's Task Force on Equity and Opportunity in Fairfax County, chairing the Public Safety Committee, and is a founding member of Voices of Black Fairfax.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Walton for his tremendous efforts as a leader in our communities, as he celebrates his 10th Anniversary, as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Vienna.

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RECOGNIZING JOEL FOLK

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joel Folk of Arvada, Colorado for winning the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Image Award.

Joel is a retired veterinarian and a nearly 30-year member of the Arvada Jefferson Kiwanis. He is also an active volunteer for the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth. Over many years and through his countless volunteer hours, Joel has improved the lives of the youth and elderly across Jefferson County. Arvada Chamber Image Award winners are selected for the positive image of Arvada they portray within the community, and Joel has done just that.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Joel Folk for winning this award and thank him for his commitment to our community.

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RECOGNIZING MONICA GONZALEZ

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Monica Gonzalez who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Ms. Gonzalez and her fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

HONORING DR. TERESA  
WOODRUFF

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the extraordinary contributions of Dr. Teresa Woodruff—a pioneering scientist and esteemed academic leader. Throughout her career, Dr. Woodruff has earned recognition for groundbreaking research in the fields of ovarian biology and reproductive science. She has also provided compassionate leadership during a tumultuous period at Michigan State University when the campus needed her most.

From her days as a graduate student at Northwestern University to her tenure as Provost and interim President at Michigan State University, Dr. Woodruff has dedicated herself to bettering the lives of others through her medical research and leadership.

Her trailblazing work in the field of oncofertility, a term she coined in 2006 merging the fields of oncology and fertility, has revolutionized cancer care. She has led efforts to improve reproductive care and to address the complex reproductive health needs and quality-of-life issues of cancer survivors whose fertility may be threatened by their disease or its treatment.

Dr. Woodruff has been a passionate advocate for women in STEM, dedicated to advancing scientific knowledge and gender equity. Among her many initiatives to address the attrition of women from scientific careers and promote sex inclusion in biomedical research, she created the Women's Health Science Program for High School Girls & Beyond to provide science education programs to high school female students in Chicago Public Schools.

Her commitment to mentorship and equity and her many contributions to science have earned her numerous awards and honors. She is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Medicine, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and other prestigious organizations. In 2011, Dr. Woodruff was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Mentoring by President Barack Obama. More recently in 2021, she was the recipient of the Endocrine Society's Laureate Award for her achievements in endocrinology.

In August 2020, Dr. Woodruff joined Michigan State University as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and was named interim President of the university in November 2022. During her time leading this global research institution, she demonstrated her steadfast commitment to the students and faculty under her care. She showed exceptional leadership and resilience in the face of adversity, guiding the university through challenging times including a tragic mass shooting incident on campus that took the lives of three students and injured five others on February 13, 2023.

In the wake of the shooting that shook the community, Dr. Woodruff stressed the importance of supporting and caring for the families and students affected by the shooting. She provided a steadying presence and a listening ear to students. She partnered with students, faculty, staff, and community members in rec-

ognizing the anniversary of the incident and in the planning of a permanent memorial that will serve as a space for reflection, honoring, and remembering.

As Dr. Woodruff transitions to her role as MSU Foundation Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology, and the Department of Biomedical Engineering to resume her research, I have no doubt that she will continue to support and empower students in the Spartan community and beyond. It is with profound gratitude that I honor Dr. Woodruff's incredible leadership and achievements.

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EQUAL REPRESENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. HARRIET M. HAGEMAN**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2024*

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate Congress's intent to further describe its expectations of the executive branch when interpreting, administering, and complying with this bill's provisions should it become law. The legislative intent of this bill is simple, yet Congress is compelled to further clarify the record on this bill to pre-empt an executive branch that routinely seeks to avoid the letter of the law through rule- and policy-making, and in the face of an administration opposed to this bill.

The Fourteenth Amendment establishes that a U.S. citizen is a person born or naturalized in the U.S. Federal law further clarifies that a U.S. citizen is someone who is a citizen of the U.S. by law, birth, or naturalization. Under H.R. 7109, it is this citizenship status that the federal government is to collect through the decennial census, and then determine apportionment and the electoral college. Should this bill become law, Congress intends the executive branch to use this definition when implementing the Act, and no rule or policy can infringe on this requirement.

Congress would typically expect the executive branch to execute all of the Nation's lawful force as instructed by the legislative branch and as required by the separation-of-powers provisions found in the Constitution. Congressional and judicial scrutiny of the acts of the executive branch has continued to increase over time because of its propensity to ignore, misinterpret, or misapply Congressionally imposed restrictions or mandates. The current administration has a track record of routinely pushing the limits of, and outright ignoring, the law to achieve political goals through rule-making and other executive policy.

The Biden Administration's regulatory abuse is exemplified through a variety of actions, such as the Department of Education's Income Drive Repayment Program; a slate of Environmental Protection Act rules, such as Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027. Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles, and the Clean Power Plan 2.0; the Bureau of Land Management's Conservation and Landscape Health Rule; and the Security and Exchange Commission's Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors. None of these rulemakings find a foundation in the laws, yet the Administration has moved forward with

them in furtherance of a political agenda. The scope of this issue is further confirmed as a contributing factor in the Supreme Court's consideration of *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*.

Congress should also be concerned about the Biden Administration's willingness to carry out this Act as written in light of its stated opposition to the Equal Representation Act. Just this week, the Biden Administration issued a formal Statement of Administration Policy "strongly opposing the bill." Contrary to the Administration's statement, this law is imperative to gathering important information on the number of non-citizens living here, to the integrity of U.S. elections, and to ensuring that only American citizens are counted towards Congressional apportionment. This is especially so at a time when the Biden Administration is allowing non-citizens en masse into the country.

Congress intends to collect information on the citizenship status of all census respondents, using the legal definition of a United States citizen, and to use this count to determine Congressional apportionment and the electoral college. No administrative rulemaking or policy can or should be used to waive, circumvent, provide exceptions to, or otherwise change the intent of Congress in the Equal Representation Act.

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RECOGNIZING TERENCE TRACY

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Terenn Tracy of Arvada, Colorado, for winning the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Rising Star Award.

The Rising Star Award recognizes High School students who have exemplified extraordinary skills in entrepreneurship, innovation, community impact, and leadership.

Terenn's teachers and peers alike have recognized her as kind, honest, committed, aware, respectful, and empathetic. She has served the Arvada community through an internship with Outdoor Lab, offering to adapt the curriculum around Native Americans at Windy Peak, and through numerous clubs and organizations. Her commitment to the environment and public service demonstrate her bright future as an advocate for Colorado.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Terenn Tracy for winning the Arvada Chamber's Rising Star Award and thank her for her contributions to our community.

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RECOGNIZING THOMAS SNEE

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Thomas Snee, who is a member of the Pasco County Senior Leadership Team. In June of 2023, in order to avoid disruption of

services for vulnerable seniors in Pasco County, the county stepped up to the plate to provide state and federally funded essential case management and services to seniors via three major programs: Community Care for the Elderly (CCE), Home Care for the Elderly (HCE), and the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI). When the former lead agency was unable to continue at that capacity, Pasco County Senior Services Leadership Team acted swiftly because they understood the importance of ensuring seamless continuity of services to seniors. As such, the team spent hundreds of hours researching and writing a 750-page grant that they did not have experience writing, preparing services that they had never offered, and standing up a new team to complete the services, whereby, almost doubling the size of its current Division. They did so while continuing their normal services to seniors throughout the county. In the end, the county was awarded the honor of becoming the new "Lead Agency." This ensured that over 500 at-risk seniors in Pasco would not go without critical care. The Pasco County Senior Services Leadership Team also took on new duties and extra challenges during the transition period. All Program Coordinators took specific parts of the new grant or accompanying duties to learn and provide feedback on or they took on extra work to allow other team leaders to do so. This team truly collaborated with each other and several other departments to make this Lead Agency bid a reality. Taking on this new tier of services demonstrates how this team exemplifies the term "Heroes Among Us."

It is clear that Mr. Snee and the Pasco County Senior Leadership Team has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

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HONORING REDFORD TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION & WELLNESS CENTER

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize a historic milestone for Redford Township as they break ground on their community Recreation and Wellness Center, serving the residents throughout the township. As the Congressperson for Redford Township, I am blessed to have played a small part in obtaining funding for the Center.

This is the first recreation-focused building in Redford Township in more than fifty years. The project reflects the hard work and contributions of many who helped bring it to life. With a nearly 50,000-strong population, Redford has made strides to create opportunities to enjoy outdoor and recreational activities. I am confident that this project will be a treasure and resource for countless residents for years to come.

The 12th Congressional District joins in celebration of this momentous occasion with Redford Township and our residents of the groundbreaking of its Recreation and Wellness Center.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND  
LEGACY OF CAPT. THADDEUS  
(THAD) RAVEN

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Captain Thaddeus (Thad) Raven, who served our city in the Fort Worth Fire Department for 25 years. Captain Raven was an exemplary firefighter and leader and served as the Head of Recruitment during his decades of service to our community.

He was also known as a steadfast champion of diversity in firefighting. In 2022, as the result of his hard work, the most diverse class of fire recruits in the Department's 129-year history graduated. His work helped include more diverse voices and backgrounds into the firefighter ranks, reinforcing the department's commitment to inclusivity and representation in the community it serves.

Captain Raven's legacy with the Fort Worth Fire Department and service to our community will not soon be forgotten. I am praying for his loved ones and the Fort Worth Fire Department during this time.

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PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL  
DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE  
SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL  
LABOR RELATIONS BOARD RELATING TO  
"STANDARD FOR DETERMINING JOINT EMPLOYER  
STATUS"—VETO MESSAGE FROM  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2024*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address my intended vote against H.J. Res. 98, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of a rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status."

In January, House Republicans brought forward a resolution to block a rule issued by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to clarify the definition of who is considered a joint employer under federal law. I voted against the resolution in January because, not only would it have blocked the NLRB's rule, it would have prohibited the Biden administration and any future administrations from issuing similar rulemaking to clarify the definition of who is considered a joint employer. The resolution passed the House in January in a vote of 206-177 and passed the Senate in April in a vote of 50-48. When the resolution was sent to President Biden's desk he vetoed the resolution. When the resolution to override the President's veto comes to the floor, I intend to vote no because I still believe we should not tie the hands of the National Labor Relations Board from ever taking up a similar attempt to clarify essential protections against labor rights violations in situations where multiple companies have control of a worker's conditions.

Let's also be clear about why House Republicans are bringing up this resolution and attempting to override the President's veto. They didn't do it because they're the party of workers' rights. They brought forth H.J. Res. 98 simply as another way to attack the Biden Administration and try to stop the federal government's regulatory and rulemaking authority.

Tuesday afternoon, shortly before the House floor vote on H.J. Res. 98, I met with a group of St. Paul area realtors to discuss several issues including the importance of protecting independent contractor status for real estate agents. Eighty-seven percent of realtors are classified as independent contractors. When the National Labor Relations Board and the Department of Labor are issuing rules relating to joint employers and independent contractors, the agencies must keep in mind the unique classification of realtors as independent contractors. That is why I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 5419 which would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(e)) to ensure that the status of realtors as independent contractors is protected.

The NLRB should work to issue regulations that address the concerns of independent contractors like realtors and protect the rights of working-class Americans whose working conditions are impacted by multiple employers. But it would be prohibited from ever doing that essential work if this veto override was passed, and so I will oppose this legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING STEPHANIE PAUL

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephanie Paul for earning this year's Young Professional Leadership Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

For years, Stephanie has shown a commitment to improving Olde Town Arvada. As the Director of Marketing and Events for the Arvada Business Improvement District, she has helped transform Olde Town into a vibrant area that residents and visitors alike can enjoy.

Stephanie was an instrumental part of bolstering the Olde Town Second Saturday summer concert series, doubling attendance since the beginning of her tenure. She actively engages with local business leaders and community members to ensure projects have input from everyone involved.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Stephanie Paul on receiving the 2023 Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional Leadership Award.

#### RECOGNIZING JOSEPHINE BENSON

### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Josephine Benson, who is a member of

the Pasco County Senior Leadership Team. In June of 2023, in order to avoid disruption of services for vulnerable seniors in Pasco County, the county stepped up to the plate to provide state and federally funded essential case management and services to seniors via three major programs: Community Care for the Elderly (CCE), Home Care for the Elderly (HCE), and the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI). When the former lead agency was unable to continue it that capacity, Pasco County Senior Services Leadership Team acted swiftly because they understood the importance of ensuring seamless continuity of services to seniors. As such, the team spent hundreds of hours researching and writing a 750-page grant that they did not have experience writing, preparing services that they had never offered, and standing up a new team to complete the services, whereby, almost doubling the size of its current Division. They did so while continuing their normal services to seniors throughout the county. In the end, the county was awarded the honor of becoming the new "Lead Agency." This ensured that over 500 at-risk seniors in Pasco would not go without critical care. The Pasco County Senior Services Leadership Team also took on new duties and extra challenges during the transition period. All Program Coordinators took specific parts of the new grant or accompanying duties to learn and provide feedback on or they took on extra work to allow other team leaders to do so. This team truly collaborated with each other and several other departments to make this Lead Agency bid a reality. Taking on this new tier of services demonstrates how this team exemplifies the term "Heroes Among Us."

It is clear that Ms. Benson and the Pasco County Senior Leadership Team has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to vote in favor on the motion to table the motion to vacate the Speaker.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 188.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2024 LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the 2024 Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame inductees. This year's class of sports superstars includes multiple U.S. Olympians and All-American athletes, an Ironman Triathlete and Ultramarathoner, dedicated coaches, and more.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania

through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

This year's inductees include:

Francis Xavier Baur of Shavertown—Football and Basketball

Frederick "Fritz" Bleich of Hanover Township—Wrestling

Qadry "Missile" Ismail of Wilkes-Barre—Football and Track & Field

Raghib "Rocket" Ismail of Wilkes-Barre—Football and Track & Field

Samuel "Sam" Hyder of Hanover Township—Karate International Competitor

Sean Ribbons, Esq. of Dallas—Ironman Triathlete and Ultra Marathoner

Jayson Terdiman of Berwick—U.S. Winter Olympics Luge 2014 and 2018

Ray Yakovonis of Hanover Township—Football and Track & Field

Edward Zawatski of Larksville—Swimming and Water Polo Athlete and Coach

Taylor Lillian Dean of Mountaintop—Figure Skating U.S. Olympics Committee Representative

Amanda Faust of Larksville—Field Hockey Athlete and Coach

Sara Silveti of Mountaintop—Field Hockey U.S. Olympics Alternative 2008

Each person honored has made sports history through their outstanding feats of athletic achievement here at home and in many cases around the world. They have left an indelible mark on regional athletics, and I am pleased to celebrate their contributions to our sports communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

It is an honor to recognize these 12 talented individuals on their induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May their stories and impressive careers inspire the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

#### RECOGNIZING ASHLEY PALACIOS

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ashley Palacios with Hope House Colorado for winning the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional Leadership Award.

The Young Professional Leadership Award recognizes an Arvada young professional whose leadership and dedication has impacted the world around them.

Ashley is the Director of Operations at Hope House Colorado, an Arvada-based resource center and housing provider for teen mothers and their children. She is currently working to help open their Early Learning Center to give more opportunities to kids in the community. Relentless and compassionate, Ashley has also been a dedicated volunteer tutor with at-risk youth with Whiz Kids for twelve years, as well as a youth soccer coach.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Ashley on her award and thank her for all she does to support young people in our community.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM LEWIS

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, William Lewis. A distinguished Army veteran, William, also known as Bill, has been an integral part of the Board of Directors for a local non-profit, One Community Now, serving as a dedicated volunteer since 2013. Bill's commitment extends beyond his role at One Community Now; he serves as a deacon at the First United Methodist Church of New Port Richey and is an active member of the American Legion Post 79. As a leader in Operation Stand Down, Bill plays a pivotal role in fundraising and establishing connections with various Veteran organizations throughout the Tampa Bay area, including American Legions, VFWs, Am Vets, Eagles, Elks, and others. His dedication is evident in his weekly support for veterans at our Veteran Support Center, where he provides lunch and assistance to homeless and at-risk veterans. Bill brings his extensive business experience and strong work ethic to One Community Now's Board meetings, contributing to the organization's strategic direction. At his church, Bill assists his wife, Jean Ann, in managing the food pantry, making personal deliveries of food and supplies to shut-ins. He actively participates in the Pack-A-Sack program, leveraging his network to secure donations of food items. Bill's readiness to respond to any call for assistance reflects his heart for Veterans, children, and anyone facing hunger, driven by his commitment to serving the Lord. In addition to his roles at One Community Now, his church, and at the American Legion Post 79, Bill actively engages in various committees and programs, such as The American Legion's Oratorical Contest, the Christmas Wreaths Across America and the Cub Scouts of America. Despite approaching his 80th birthday in April, Bill's shows no sign of slowing down. He continues to demonstrate an unwavering dedication to others.

It is clear that Mr. Lewis has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

CELEBRATING DR. RACHAEL MAHMOOD, THE 2024 ILLINOIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Teacher Appreciation Week to celebrate an educator from Aurora, Illinois. Dr. Rachael Mahmood, a fifth-grade teacher in Indian Prairie School District 204 at Georgetown Elementary School, was named the 2024 Illinois Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Mahmood has taught in her district since 2005 and came to Georgetown Elementary

School in 2015. Dr. Mahmood was selected from a group of 13 finalists from across the state and is the first person from Indian Prairie School District 204 to be chosen as Illinois Teacher of the Year.

As the daughter of a Russian mother and an Indian father, Dr. Mahmood found her passion for teaching by overcoming obstacles she faced as a mixed-race student. Her dedication to service, education, and equity has allowed her to make a lasting impact on the lives of her students—whether it be helping them succeed in their studies or achieve their extra-curricular goals.

Dr. Mahmood has also become an indispensable leader beyond the classroom, pioneering various cultural and social initiatives to create an inclusive environment where students can connect with their peers. As one administrator notes, she “embodies the qualities of an exceptional educator and inspiring leader.”

At the end of the 2023–2024 school year, Dr. Mahmood will go on sabbatical, touring schools around the state of Illinois and sharing some of her valuable insight with her fellow educators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Rachael Mahmood on being named Illinois Teacher of the Year and thank her for her commitment to improving education for young people in the Aurora community.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Volunteer Fairfax, a non-profit focused on engaging people and organizations to amplify their community impact.

Volunteer Fairfax was created in 1974 and was known then as the Voluntary Action Center of Fairfax County (VAC). In the late seventies, VAC referred 211 volunteers to worthy causes in support of the greater Fairfax County community. Today, the organization engages over 6,000 volunteers annually who donate more than 18,000 hours serving more than 650 nonprofits and public agencies, a value of over 600,000 added to the community.

Over the past five decades, Volunteer Fairfax has had many milestones, and evolved into the organization they are today. In 1992, the focus of the VAC had begun to change and the center was renamed Volunteer Fairfax. Staff began utilizing an electronic process to accommodate the growing interest from volunteers and created a youth volunteer directory to assist students who are looking for service opportunities.

In 1993, Volunteer Fairfax Hosted their first Volunteer Service Awards to showcase the vital role volunteerism plays in our community. In its first year, 350 people attended the County-wide event. Since its inception, over 3,000 individuals, groups, and corporations have been recognized for their volunteer efforts.

Among the many programs and offerings of Volunteer Fairfax, they have served as the designated lead agency for recruitment and deployment of affiliated and spontaneous volunteers, as well as the management of spontaneous volunteers during an emergency in Fairfax County since the early 2000s, Emergency Response activations include Hurricane Isabel, Derecho. Winter Storm Jonas, and, most recently, the Centreville fires in May 2018. Volunteer Fairfax continues to fulfill its mission by mobilizing people and resources to meet community need through involvement in Fairfax County and Regional Emergency Response and Recovery functions.

Volunteer Fairfax believes that volunteerism, as an ideal and a practice, is a vital part of our American history and heritage. They build their programs around the needs of nonprofit and public agencies and individuals throughout Fairfax County in ways that are flexible and accessible to anyone who wants to get involved. From their Alternative Community Service (ACS) for court and attorney referred clients, to the RSVP-Northern Virginia program that is part of AmeriCorps Seniors, to corporate partnerships that allow people in any industry to take part in volunteer efforts, Volunteer Fairfax is making sure that everyone has a chance to be of service to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Volunteer Fairfax on 50 years of service. Their efforts, made on behalf of some of the most vulnerable populations in our community, truly merit our highest praise. The staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers from Volunteer Fairfax help make Fairfax County one of the best places to live, work, and play. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these remarkable citizens on half a century of service to our community.

RECOGNIZING HEATHER FIEDLER

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heather Fiedler of Arvada, Colorado, for winning the Image Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

The Arvada Chamber issues the Image Award to exceptional individuals who have a demonstrated commitment to the Arvada community and its public image.

For over 10 years, Heather has been an active member of the Arvada Community Garden, leading their efforts to provide fresh food, community, and gardening education to all Arvadans. She also plays a primary role in the Garrison Garden Paseo project and teaches over fifteen gardening classes every year to over four hundred attendees. Heather's hard work and dedication to the Arvada gardening community has fed and enriched the lives of hundreds of citizens and visitors alike. This award is a true testament to the leadership Heather has displayed as a gardener and leader in Arvada.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Heather Fiedler for winning the Image Award and thank her for her contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING JAMES DINICOLA

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, James DiNicola, through his volunteerism with local non-profits. As a Korean War veteran approaching his 90th birthday, James embodies the essence of unwavering dedication to community service and a selfless commitment to others. James's years of service in the Army during the Korean War laid the foundation for a lifetime dedicated to volunteering. Currently, he devotes his time to four non-profit organizations: One Community Now, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, and Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. At One Community Now, James is a cornerstone of Operation Stand Down, where he assists with bike transportation for veterans, contributes to maintenance work, and provides invaluable encouragement to younger veterans navigating their challenges. His active involvement in the annual Pack the Park event reflects his dedication to the community, handling pumpkin pickups and managing food donations for hungry children. With over six years of unwavering commitment to One Community Now, James stands as a testament to steadfast volunteerism. For 3 1/2 years, James has been an indispensable volunteer at Sleep in Heavenly Peace, assembling beds for children and personally delivering them to their homes. His service extends to his church, where he selflessly aids in setting up for funerals, tends to landscaping, and tackles various maintenance jobs. In his community and family, James serves as a mentor, dog walker, and a source of encouragement to everyone he encounters. Remarkably, Jim still dedicates 20 hours a week as the maintenance person at Blue Jay Estates in Clearwater. James DiNicola's tireless and selfless service, notwithstanding his age, epitomizes the true spirit of heroism and community dedication. His unwavering desire to be a genuine servant for the glory of God resonates in every aspect of his volunteering. James is an inspiration to everyone he serves with, consistently maintaining a supportive and positive attitude.

It is clear that Mr. DiNicola has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

RECOGNIZING BISHOP ROBERT D. TAYLOR'S SERVICE AND APPOINTMENT TO BISHOP

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop Robert Delano Taylor Sr. on the occasion of his appointment to Bishop of the Southwest Michigan Agape Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Church of God in Christ. His significant service to his congregation, ministry, and community is worthy of commendation.

Bishop Robert D. Taylor has served as the pastor for Glad Tidings Church in Detroit,

Michigan since 1987. In this role he has been a beacon for the community, epitomizing the values of life-long service and dedication. Bishop Taylor has touched so many lives during his time at the Glad Tidings Church and beyond. During his career, he established the Robert D. Taylor Ministries, where personal growth and transformation is emphasized. The mission here is focused on creating lasting change, not only in the community but also on the global scale. This noble work has a positive, lasting influence on its members and the greater community, and is truly inspiring. Under Bishop Taylor's leadership, the Glad Tidings Church has served as a pillar in the Detroit community. Their message reaches so many, especially considering the church has a live-stream option, allowing those who cannot be physically present to join in the mass. This church serves the wider community as well, including providing free clothing for those who are in need.

Notably, on November 17, 2023, Bishop Taylor was elevated and appointed to Bishop for the Southwest Michigan Agape Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Church of God in Christ. This tremendous accomplishment is well deserved and serves as a testament to Bishop Taylor's distinguished career of service. This appointment reinforces how influential Bishop Taylor's faithful career has been and elevates him to a position where he will be able to serve with even greater range. In this office, Bishop Taylor will continue to serve Glad Tidings Church as well as the wider ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bishop Taylor for his lifetime of public service. His commitment to his faith, community, and mission is truly inspiring. I join Bishop Taylor's family, friends, and congregation in extending my best wishes to him during his transition in his service, where I am sure he will continue to serve his community faithfully well into the future.

HONORING KEVIN LYNCH

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Kevin Lynch on his retirement from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) after serving in various positions within NIB for more than 30 years. For the last 15 years, Kevin has served as president of the organization. When you include his work for two of the nonprofit agencies within the NIB network prior to coming to NIB, his career within the program has spanned 40 years helping to create employment opportunities for people who are blind.

I am fortunate to have the headquarters of NIB located in Alexandria, Virginia, within the Congressional District I represent. I have enjoyed opportunities to visit with Kevin and leaders of associated nonprofit agencies over the year.

Through its network of associated nonprofit agencies, NIB is the largest employer of people who are blind in the country. NIB notes that they "create opportunities for people who are blind to become wage earners and taxpayers, reducing their reliance on government support and increasing engagement with their communities." I sincerely appreciate these ef-

forts and the critical work NIB does to empower the blind community in Northern Virginia and across the country.

I would like to thank Kevin Lynch for his leadership at NIB and his long career in creating jobs for people who are blind. I wish him well in his retirement and honor his legacy over the last 40 years.

RECOGNIZING NORMALEE LEE

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Normalee Lee of Arvada, Colorado for winning the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Image Award.

Normalee has spent years working to make Jefferson County a better and safer place to live. She has volunteered in all divisions of the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association and is a former Chairperson and longstanding volunteer for the Arvada Police Department. Additionally, she helped make the annual Bike Rodeo event run with Apex Parks and Recreation District a success. Arvada Chamber Image Award winners are selected for the positive image of Arvada they portray within the community, and Normalee has done just that.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional district, it is my honor to congratulate Normalee Lee on winning this award and thank her for her service to our community.

RECOGNIZING CATHERINE SCHELAND

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Catherine Scheland, has exemplified outstanding dedication and selflessness as a volunteer with a local non-profit, One Community Now. Cathy plays a pivotal role in the organization's Veterans program, serving as a team leader for Operation Stand Down. Her commitment is truly commendable, dedicating over 180 hours each year to the event's setup, overseeing the Chaplains' area, and co-directing the transportation area. Beyond the event, Cathy personally delivers bicycles to veterans in need throughout the year, using her own resources to provide locks and lights. She serves as a mentor, offering support and using her own funds to assist homeless veterans with housing. In the organization's Pack A Sack initiative to fight childhood hunger, Cathy is also actively involved, ensuring children have food every weekend of the year. She not only contributes her time but also financially supports the program. Cathy's engagement extends to the agency's annual Pack the Park fundraiser, where she plays a vital role in securing sponsors, donations, and volunteers. Cathy's dedication isn't confined to our One Community Now; she volunteers with other

non-profits and actively participates in her church. Her strong faith, character, and compassionate heart make her a hero in our community. Additionally, Cathy's role as a prayer warrior and her unwavering support for those in need further showcase her exceptional qualities.

It is clear that Ms. Scheland has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be physically present for all votes on May 8th. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 194, and YEA on Roll Call No. 195.

HONORING ANNETTE WOLF'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Annette Wolf for her milestone 100th birthday celebrated on April 1, 2024. Annette has been a resident of Boynton Beach, Florida since 1999 and is a proud wife and mother to two great men. What a wonderful occasion for Annette, her family, and friends as she reminisces and celebrates a life great in years and rich in accomplishments.

Annette and her husband ran a corrugated box factory business in Upstate New York for several years. She started the Women's Business and Professional Organization in 1954 in Glens Falls, NY. Annette loves to socialize with her friends by playing Mah-Jongg and Canasta. She believes in doing everything in moderation and is an avid reader and regular viewer of MSNBC and CNN.

She has lived through extraordinary times in history and has no doubt witnessed remarkable changes unimaginable at the time of her birth in 1924. May this be a joyous time as her family and friends gather to celebrate this amazing milestone.

Annette always has a smile on her face and remains positive in all things. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to congratulate Ms. Annette Wolf on her 100th birthday and I wish her good health and great happiness.

RECOGNIZING MARK MCGOFF

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mark McGoff of Arvada, Colorado for winning the Pioneer Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Mark has proudly served his community in Arvada for years as a member of the City

Council, the Arvada Fire Board, and a volunteer for the Historical Society, Arvada Jefferson Kiwanis, and the Arvada Center. He is an Emeritus Board Member of the Ralston House and is currently working to plan Arvada's anniversary celebration this year.

The Pioneer Award is granted when a previous winner of the Man or Woman of the Year Award continues to perform notable work for the people of Arvada. Mark has done exactly that with his continual contributions to the community and longstanding dedication to public service.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Mark McGoff for winning the Pioneer Award. We thank him for his commitment to our community.

RECOGNIZING MIKE ORLITO

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Mike Orlito, who has made an indelible mark as an impactful and influential volunteer for the Community Food Bank. Mike's dedication, passion, and tireless efforts are inspirational. From the moment Mike stepped through the doors of this organization, his commitment to alleviating hunger and supporting those in need has been unwavering. His willingness to go above and beyond in every task he undertakes exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism and advocacy. One of Mike's most notable contributions is his leadership and promotion of the Community Food Bank within the community. Whether it's rallying local businesses, community groups, or donors, Mike has a remarkable ability to inspire others to join our fight against hunger. His strategic planning and effective communication skills have resulted in record-breaking donations, tremendous organizational growth, and increased awareness of food insecurity issues in our area. Beyond his efforts in advocacy, Mike lends his talents to the organization's Fundraising Committee, ensuring each event is a success. Mike always has a smile on his face and a genuine warmth in his heart, believing that we are all better together. His positive attitude is infectious and genuine. The empathy Mike demonstrates emulates the welcoming and inclusive environment that the Community Food Bank values and bases its mission upon. Mike also actively engages with local policymakers, participates in community forums, and raises awareness about the importance of addressing food insecurity. Through his efforts, Mike has helped to grow the Community Food Bank from a \$1.8 million operation to a \$5.1 million meal distribution hub for three counties in Florida.

It is clear that Mr. Orlito has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

RECOGNIZING COEN BREHMER'S FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Coen Brehmer, a Yulee High School Hornet who recently won the Florida High School weightlifting championships which is impressive at any age, but even more so as only a junior in high school.

Coen qualified for both the Olympic and traditional in the 119-pound weight class. At the state championship, Coen stung the competition, winning first in the Olympic lift and finishing second in traditional. He pulled off a 160-pound snatch, a 205-pound clean-and-jerk, and a 215-pound bench to bring home the gold. The victory was as sweet as honey and the crowd was buzzing at his magnificent displays of strength.

The Hornets, under the leadership of Coach Kyle Dougherty, performed incredibly well across the board this season. Coen's teammates, Zachary Kruger and Kevin Harris, also qualified for state after exceptional performances this season.

Coen is a fantastic representation of Northeast Florida. He is a kind friend and a great teammate. His hard work paid off and he became Yulee High School's first male state champion in any sport.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 4th Congressional District, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating Coen Brehmer on this remarkable achievement.

BRINGING AWARENESS TO THE EQUAL REPRESENTATION ACT, ISSUES SURROUNDING THE BORDER CRISIS, ANTISEMITISM AND ENERGY COSTS

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents to bring awareness to the Equal Representation Act in addition to issues surrounding the border crisis, anti-semitism and energy costs.

Dear Friend,

This week, I was successful in passing my fourth bill since serving in Congress, the Equal Representation Act.

Our democracy depends on electoral integrity, and that includes fair and equal representation of American citizens.

By requiring a citizenship question on the decennial census, the Equal Representation Act would make sure that only U.S. citizens—those who have the right to vote—are counted when apportioning the number of congressional seats and Electoral College votes that each state has.

Including non-citizens in the count when divvying up the number of congressional seats for each state weakens Americans' representation. In fact, the Center for Immigration Studies found that California has more congressional seats than the population would otherwise allow, and New York has

four more, giving these states a greater influence in determining the direction of our country.

We need guardrails to protect our democracy, and that includes making sure that American citizens—and American citizens only—are accurately represented in their federal government.

It's time to stop diluting the voice and votes of Americans and with the passage of my bill, it's clear that many of my colleagues agree.

**CONDEMNING THE ADMINISTRATION'S DEADLY BORDER CRISIS**

A major reason we need to stop illegal immigrants from skewing representation numbers in our government is due to this administration's disastrous open-border policies that have allowed more than 7.2 million illegal immigrants to enter our country through our southern border. That is more than the population of 36 states.

President Biden inherited policies from President Trump that would have strengthened our border security. However, since Biden's first day in office, he has reversed policies that were in place to stem the flow of illegal immigrants, and has undermined U.S. border security on more than 60 occasions.

The House sent a strong message by passing H. Res. 1112, which condemns this administration's policies that have created this costly border crisis. We also urged the administration to take immediate action to end this national security threat, and we will not rest until law and order is restored at our borders.

**THE PRESIDENT'S CLANDESTINE FLIGHTS OF MORE THAN 400,000 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

The House Homeland Security Committee recently released documents that identified more than 45 airport locations to which the president secretly flew more than 400,000 illegal immigrants.

These documents are another example of how this administration is jeopardizing the safety of Americans and our national security, and why the House needed to pass the strongest border security bill in history, the Secure the Border Act, which would strengthen our borders by restoring President Trump's border policies.

**STANDING WITH JEWISH STUDENTS AND ISRAEL**

You've probably seen footage of antisemitic mobs who have been defending the actions of Hamas, harassing Jewish students and disrupting learning across college campuses in America.

The House has launched a probe to crack down on campus antisemitism, and we will not stop until Jewish students feel safe on their campuses, and until universities that fail to do their part are held accountable.

Colleges and universities need leadership with a moral backbone to stand up against antisemitism and provide a safe learning environment for Jewish students. Any administrators who refuse to hold these protestors accountable are not fit to lead and should resign.

**TAXPAYERS ARE SHOULDERING THE COST OF OPEN BORDER POLICIES**

During a House Budget Committee hearing, members examined the financial consequences of the administration's border crisis and had an opportunity to inform the American people of the true cost of open border policies.

The White House's open border policies have resulted in a surge of illegal immigrant encounters and influx of deadly drugs across our southwestern border.

This is being paid for by the American taxpayer at the federal, state and local levels.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) calculated that illegal immi-

gration for 2023 alone cost taxpayers \$150.7 billion. Taxpayers are shouldering \$8,776 per illegal immigrant per year for nearly 22 million illegal immigrants to cover costs including for housing, feeding, clothing, jailing, adjudication, education and shelter.

To protect American lives and improve the federal government's stewardship of taxpayer dollars, securing our southwestern border requires a collaborative partnership among all levels of government, including federal, state and local.

As a member of the House Budget Committee, I'll continue to look for avenues to enforce the law of the land and implement a cost-effective, comprehensive border security strategy that secures our border, ends illegal immigration and protects our citizens.

**A PORT'S SIGNIFICANCE IN THE HEALTH OF U.S. SUPPLY CHAIN, ECONOMY**

Imagine this: You go to the grocery store and there's no fruit. Or maybe you're building a house and there's a steel and lumber shortage. Why? Because North Carolina's largest port, the Port of Wilmington, has been cut off due to a collapse of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

This collapse would immediately restrict access to the port, which contributes \$12.9 billion to North Carolina's economy every year, directly and indirectly supports more than 87,700 jobs across the Old North State, and would cost the economy tens of millions of dollars each day the port is closed.

That's what the Port of Baltimore and the citizens of Maryland are experiencing due to the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge over the lower Patapsco River.

I recently visited the Port of Baltimore and the wreckage site of the Francis Scott Key Bridge as a member of the House Appropriations Committee. Our mission was to better understand the collapse, its impact on the economy, and what will be needed to rebuild the bridge.

The Port of Baltimore is the nation's farthest-inland port, and the top domestic port for cars, forest products, farm equipment and sugar. The port generates \$4.7 billion in economic value to the state of Maryland and supports nearly 22,000 jobs.

Estimates predict the Baltimore port's closure costs America's economy \$15 million each day it is closed and has added hours to transportation times for vital goods and services that Americans rely on every day in the mid-Atlantic region and beyond.

Ships are having to travel greater distances to offload shipments, and an estimated 5,000 trucks per day are being diverted across the region, adding hours to their travel time and significantly affecting the flow of goods across most of the United States.

Maryland's transportation secretary estimates that the cost to rebuild this critical pillar of our nation's supply chain is nearly \$1.9 billion.

At some point, when Maryland comes to the federal government for our assistance in funding this rebuild, I want you to know that I will be supporting that effort for the sake of our nation's supply chain and for the health of our national economy, just as I would hope my colleagues in Maryland would do if such a tragedy were to ever happen at a North Carolina port.

**SCALING BACK UNACHIEVABLE ENERGY STANDARDS**

If the White House is going to require new product standards for energy conservation, the requirements should be feasible and reasonable.

I cast NC-11's vote for the Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act to modify the Department of Energy's (DOE) procedures for mandating energy-efficiency standards by pro-

hibiting the DOE secretary from requiring standards that are not technologically feasible and economically justified.

Western North Carolinians are already burdened by rising costs, and the last thing we need is more unrealistic federal regulations that further raise prices, fail to provide meaningful energy savings and take away consumer choice.

**GOLD STAR FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

The Gold Star Family Fellowship Program is organized by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the House of Representatives and is an opportunity for Gold Star family members to apply for a one-year fellowship with members of Congress. This includes any family member (parents, children including stepchildren, spouses or siblings) of military members who have died in the line of duty.

If you are interested in applying for this fellowship, visit the CAO website here.

With my warmest regards,  
Chuck Edwards  
Member of Congress

**RECOGNIZING KEITH SORCI**

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keith Sorci for earning the Man of the Year Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Keith has been serving his community for over 20 years in many capacities, including as president of the Arvada Gardeners, volunteering with the Arvada Historical Society and with local schools, and distributing food to those in need. Keith also works with Jefferson County Justice Services which offers alternatives to incarceration for Coloradans, training others to be equally helpful in their work for the community. His continued dedication to the Arvada Community showcases his spirit of service and this award acknowledges his hard work.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Keith on achieving the 2023 Arvada Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year Award.

**RECOGNIZING BRYAN FISHER**

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions that have been made to our community by one of my constituents, Bryan Fisher. Three years ago, his mother was diagnosed with colon cancer and started a non-profit charity with her gastroenterologist and surgeon. Their goal was helping other colon cancer patients. Bryan, who was a Pre-Med student at the University of South Florida in Tampa at the time, volunteered countless hours to help the organization get off the ground. He maintains the non-profit organization's website, updating it regularly with helpful resources for patients and healthcare providers. The Foundation provides pamphlets to endoscopy centers that



perform colonoscopies. If a mass is found, the center gives the patient the pamphlet so patients don't have to go through their cancer journey alone. The foundation also provides the public with pamphlets about colon cancer screening and pamphlets for current colon cancer patients. All of the pamphlets have been designed by Bryan. Bryan has also been instrumental in fundraising efforts to ensure the non-profit foundation has the resources it needs to operate. Bryan even formed the "Green and Gold Committee" at USF where he and his fellow Pre-Med students met regularly to discuss ways to help the Foundation prosper. They held a "game night" at USF to educate college kids about colon cancer and offered screening information for them to share with their family members. They raised a little money and dispensed a lot of information. Bryan is about to start his journey in medical school this summer and plans to practice medicine in Citrus County one day.

It is clear that Mr. Fisher has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

TRIBUTE TO VIOLET SAGE WALKER—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 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, Violet Sage Walker of San Luis Obispo, California.

Violet is the chairwoman of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC), a non-profit offering a foundation for the Chumash people of San Luis Obispo County to continue practicing their heritage and culture with dignity and vibrancy. She assumed the position after the passing of her father, Native American Tribal Chief Fred Harvey Collins, on October 1, 2021, and continues to advance Chumash heritage and culture in partnership with a broad community of Tribal allies, conservation organizations, and others.

As leader of the NCTC, Violet's mission is to protect the sacred places for those who were here long ago, for those here now, and for those who are still coming. The Central Coast is home to many sacred locations that are mentioned in Chumash oral tradition which include stories (saga' squatinas'ni) and context over the past 15,000 years, including an older recorded date at Point Conception, an extremely important Chumash Sacred Place known to Native Americans as the Western Gate (Humqaq).

For Violet, one of those duties is serving as the nominator of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, the first Indigenous-led sanctuary nomination and one that tribal elders and members of the local community in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties have advocated for decades. As proposed, this sanctuary bridges the physical gap of protection between the Monterey Bay and

Channel Islands national marine sanctuaries. It will enhance the lifeforce (tishwin) of coastal ocean waters and shorelines by integrating and engaging the traditional knowledge of the indigenous People in partnership with scientists, environmental public interest groups, and diverse members of the concerned public.

So far, the proposal has received an overwhelmingly positive response, and the plan is to provide formal designation by mid-2024.

Violet's continued leadership to the Chumash people and the San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara County community is an inspiration to men and women throughout the district. Her ongoing efforts ensure that the heritage and legacy of the Chumash are respected and will endure for generations to come.

I am honored to recognize Violet Sage Walker for her continued commitment to the Central Coast. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District for her incredible work in the community.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 FAIRFAX COUNTY VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Volunteer Fairfax and express my sincere appreciation to recipients of the 2024 Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

Established 50 years ago, Volunteer Fairfax matches the skills and interests of thousands of volunteers with the needs of local non-profit organizations. The success of this model and its impact on delivery of needed services is beyond question; Volunteer Fairfax has been rated as one of the most effective community service organizations in the nation.

Each year, Volunteer Fairfax selects a few exceptional individuals, groups, or organizations to receive special recognition. It is my great pleasure to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2024 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honorees:

- Anthony Amos—2024 Rising Star
- Jeffrey Katz—2024 Volunteer Manager
- Michael Mixon—2024 Volunteer of the Year
- Food for Neighbors—2024 Volunteer Program of the Year
- Able Moving & Storage—2024 Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year
- Eileen Ellsworth—Lifetime Achievement Award
- Jeff Bentley—2024 Executive Leader of the Year
- Tom McCook—Braddock District Champion
- Angie Guevara—Dranesville Community Champion
- Hasan Shah—Franconia District Champion
- Dr. Eric Goplerud—Hunter Mill District Champion
- Nancy Hall—Mason District Champion
- Cathy Hosek—Mount Vernon District Champion
- Carrie Conley—Providence District Champion
- Isabella Solano—Springfield District Champion
- Patti Cooksey—Sully District Champion

Robbie Mosley—Chairman's Champion

Mr. Speaker. I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Volunteer Fairfax for its decades of outstanding community service. I congratulate the recipients of the 2024 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards and thank them and the thousands of other local volunteers for their incredible contributions to our community. Their selfless dedication is worthy of our highest praise and is one of the main reasons that our community is often ranked as one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION OF DEXTER

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Educational Foundation of Dexter on the 40th anniversary of their founding. The support they have provided for Dexter's students and educators over the last 40 years is worthy of commendation.

The Educational Foundation of Dexter (EFD) was founded in 1984 to enhance the educational experience for those enrolled in the Dexter Community School District. Through teacher written grants, the EFD provides financial support for new and innovative educational projects. The EFD has awarded over \$1 million since 1984 for programs such as FLEX Robotics Kits for Creekside Middle School, a field trip to the Charles H. Wright Museum for the entire 5th grade, adaptive music for students with special needs, and equipment to support the Iron Dread program at Dexter High School. In 2023, the EFD's Spring Auction raised over \$24,000 for Dexter students.

In 2015, Excellence 4 Dexter Students (E4DS) was formed in response to multiple years of annual budget cuts at the state level. This led to some notable changes within the district, including larger class sizes and reduced staffing. Since their founding, E4DS has donated over \$182,000 to the Dexter Community Schools for additional programming. Their donations have supported additional math and science programming for grades 3–6, mental wellness programs for both staff and students, and an experience at Eastern Michigan University for many 6th grade classes. In 2020, E4DS and the Educational Foundation of Dexter joined forces to better support and respond to the needs of the Dexter Community School District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the work of the Educational Foundation of Dexter over the last four decades. Both the teachers and students of the Dexter community have had a more fulfilling educational experience due to the hard work of the EFD. We are excited to see what they can accomplish over the next 40 years. I thank the EFD.

RECOGNIZING HUMBLE HOUSE

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Humble House Cafe from Golden, Colorado for being honored as part of the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Awards.

Known for its positive atmosphere and work environment, Humble House has designed a business model which includes both community involvement and charity work. Humble House is involved with a variety of causes. They offer free coffee Tuesdays for teachers, first-responders, and non-profit workers, sell retail on behalf of passionate artisans in the local community and creators in developing countries, and allow customers to choose which of several nonprofits the charity proceeds from their purchase will go.

Humble House has taken great care to create a business model that caters to the needs of the environment, encourages local commu-

nity growth and engagement, and supports those in need around the world.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to thank the wonderful people of Humble House for their active involvement in our community.

RECOGNIZING ERNEST SCANGO

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service and patriotism of one of my constituents, Ernest Scango. Mr. Scango was born on January 8, 1923 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was drafted into the United States Army on March 5, 1943. After training at Fort Benning, Ernest joined the 551st Paratroop Infantry Battalion. As a Parachutist and Rifleman, Ernest participated in the major battles taking place in France. He took part in Operation Dragoon which was de-

signed to secure the southern coast of France and the critical Mediterranean ports while forcing the Germans to open a second front while facing the D-Day invasion in Normandy under Operation Overlord. Then, he subsequently re-deployed and took part in the Ardennes Offensive and Rhineland campaigns which were critical to ending war in Europe.

Today, Mr. Scango lives in Homosassa, Florida where he just celebrated his 102nd birthday. This month, he is receiving the distinguished insignia at "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" ("Knight in the Legion of Honor") from the French government. As a Member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Scango and his fellow brothers and sisters-in-arms demonstrated incredible bravery and skill as they fought to save the world from the evils of Nazism, hatred and genocide. We all owe this hero a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid. Today and always, we remember his patriotism and courageous actions. We must honor his service and sacrifice by continuing to protect the sacred values of freedom he fought so hard to defend.