

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONSERVATION TRUST

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. Founded in 1994, NVCT undertook a mission to sustain abundant, thriving and natural places in local neighborhoods and communities. Over the past 30 years, their efforts have led to the protection of over 9,000 acres of land, comprising parks, streams, forests and farms in both rural and urban settings. In a region of over 3 million people and growing, that is an incredible accomplishment that deserves high praise.

NVCT has achieved many significant milestones by demonstrating the energy and willingness to address grassroots environmental concerns and connect with their community. Their mission has been to add and sustain abundant, thriving natural places in out Virginia communities while cultivating inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in every facet of their work. Regardless of our backgrounds, the land and water surrounding us connect us. NVCT believes that if we are to truly execute our vision of a more equitable Northern Virginia, we must address conservation's systemic injustices and inequities.

As they look towards the next 30 years, NVCT has renewed their commitment to land conservation and the promise of an even more impactful future. Their theme this year is "Rise to the Occasion," which includes the acronym of RISE, "Responsibility to Impacting Sustainable Environments." NVCT believes that rising to the occasion will mean being more strategic in their approach, identifying critical areas of our region that are most at risk of development and essential to protect. In those places, we must be undeterred in safeguarding natural habitats to secure a bright future for Northern Virginia's nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.

The existence of organizations like NVCT is a testament to the high level of civic engagement and citizen activism that we are blessed with not only in Fairfax County, but in Northern Virginia as a whole. The actions of governments, while important, will never be sufficient by themselves. Organizations like NVCT provide an invaluable supplement, which ensures that we will continue to prioritize preservation and conservation of our natural resources for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust on three decades of preserving nature. I commend them for their service to our community and our region and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them great success in all their future endeavors. Cheers to another 30 years.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO MELISSA ICE

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Melissa Ice. Melissa saw her first incidence of human trafficking when visiting China as a missional director for a church in Fort Worth. During that time, she also visited women in brothels in China, bringing them baked goods and offering them jobs at the bakery to help them get out and start a new life. After these experiences, Melissa realized how little support there was for homeless women in Fort Worth and the young girls on the streets who were being exploited.

In 2012, Melissa founded The Net, an organization that supports women and children in North Texas who have been victims of sex trafficking. After six years of doing incredible work providing care and recovery for survivors, she went on to found Worthy Co. which gives women employment after they graduate from The Net programs. Women employed at Melissa's organization have the chance to become artisans, learning everything from jewelry making, candle pouring, order fulfillment, and shipping. They're also taught life skills, such as time management and what it means to work in a healthy environment. Melissa's organizations have grown so big that they're opening a secondary location where they'll also educate the community about the issue of human trafficking and exploitation.

I'd like to thank Melissa for her dedication to supporting victims of human trafficking.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. CLARK GODSHALL

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of the outstanding Senior New York State BOCES District Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer of the Orleans/Niagara BOCES, Dr. Clark Godshall.

Dr. Godshall has spent the last 52 years as a New York State educator, 43 of which were spent as a school administrator. He has spent the past 24 years responsible for the educational services for over 30,000 students at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES, which is the 13th largest BOCES out of the 37 that exist in New York State.

Dr. Godshall has demonstrated a great commitment to the success of students across New York State and has been recognized for doing so. He is the six-time recipient of American School and University Management Effectiveness Awards, as well as being named

the 2014 New York State School Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Godshall is also the only administrator to serve as the President of the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS), the New York State Association of School Business Officials (NYASBO), and the International Association of School Business Officials (IASBO).

In addition to his unwavering dedication to the students of New York State, Dr. Godshall also has been a County Chairman for the American Red Cross in Niagara County. During his free time, Dr. Godshall serves his country as an officer (Commodore) with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadron.

Dr. Godshall has dedicated his life to the academic advancement of the students in New York State and the 24th Congressional District of New York extends its heartfelt appreciation for Dr. Godshall's role in enhancing the educational experience and contributing to the overall prosperity of the region.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes to Dr. Clark Godshall for a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement, filled with joy, accomplishments, and continued success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING BRUNETTE WASHINGTON'S 110TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the 110th birthday of an exceptional woman, Brunette Washington.

Born in Forkland, Alabama in 1914, Brunette migrated to Lackawanna, New York in 1937. She shared 70 years of marriage with her husband James until his passing in 2001. Together, they raised four children in a household where the values of love, faith, education, and hard work were instilled and practiced. Her family has grown to include nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, ten great-great-grandchildren, and one great-great-great grandchild.

Brunette is respectfully known as "Mother Washington" to the congregation at Macedonia Baptist Church of Buffalo, where she has served as a Sunday school teacher, in the Nurses Guild, in the church choir, and as the President of the Mission Society. Her tenure is specifically noted for her fundraising with the American Heart Association, the Easter Seals Foundation, and the United Way, as well as for ministering to neighborhood children, the vulnerable, and people who needed an empathetic and supportive ear. A faithful voter since 1937, Brunette contributes to her community charitably and civically.

A believer that it is "never too late to achieve your dreams", Brunette obtained her driver's license at 50 years old. Growing up in the segregated south, her access to an education beyond the 7th grade was limited. In

• 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.

her 60's, she enrolled in the 8th grade at a neighborhood school and continued until she graduated with her diploma from Bennett High School, achieving a lifelong dream.

On Thursday, June 6th, Brunette reached 110 years of age. When asked what she attributes to her long life, she says, "I don't know why He does it, but He keeps me alive and I thank Him, I thank Him, I thank Him!"

I join the people of Western New York in admiration of Brunette's commendable achievements, realized over the course of an exceptional lifetime.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. HUGHES VAN ELLIS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate, cherish, and honor the extraordinary life of Hughes Van Ellis, who was born in 1921 in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma—one of the flashpoints of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

He, alongside his sister Viola Fletcher, was one of the last surviving witnesses of the Tulsa Race Massacre.

At the time of his birth, the Greenwood District of Tulsa was a thriving community built up by its Black residents into a nationally renowned entrepreneurial center known as "Black Wall Street."

In 1921, white supremacy and racist violence were common throughout the United States and went largely unchecked by the justice system.

On the morning of May 30, 1921, Mr. Van Ellis and the other residents of Greenwood District had their world shattered when reports of an alleged and disputed incident between a young Black man and a young white woman gave the white community of Tulsa a pretext for violently attacking the prosperous Black community.

The Tulsa Tribune called for a lynching amidst a climate of white racial hostility and white resentment over Black economic success.

On May 31, 1921, a mob of armed white men descended upon Tulsa's Greenwood District and initiated the unchecked violence known today as the "Tulsa Race Massacre."

Tulsa municipal and county authorities failed to take action to protect the Black community, nor did they attempt to calm or contain the violence.

Law enforcement officials deputized many white men who were participants in the violence as their agents.

In just 24 hours, the white mob's violence led to the death of an estimated 300 Black residents, as well as over 800 injuries.

The white mob looted, damaged, burned, or otherwise destroyed approximately 40 square blocks of Black Wall Street in Greenwood District of Tulsa Oklahoma, which included an estimated 1256 homes of Black residents and virtually every other structure, including churches, schools, businesses, a hospital and a library.

Nearly 9,000 Black Tulsans were left homeless and suffered over \$200 million dollars in losses.

In the wake of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the Governor of Oklahoma declared martial law and units of the Oklahoma National Guard participated in the mass arrests of nearly all of Greenwood's surviving men, women, and children, removing them from Greenwood and unlawfully detaining them in holding centers.

Oklahoma local and state governments dismissed and distorted claims surrounding the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre for decades and the event was effectively erased from collective memory and history.

The final injury to Black residents was that insurance companies refused to pay claims for the losses they suffered to the homes and businesses that had been looted or destroyed.

Mr. Van Ellis dedicated his life to ensuring that this atrocity would not be forgotten and to the pursuit of justice for survivors.

Through it all, his love of country shown through his service as a World War II veteran, fighting for our Nation's freedom.

When he returned home, he continued to serve as a soldier in the fight for civil rights, truth, and justice.

He started a family with his wife, raising their seven children, while working as a sharecropper, mechanic, janitor, gardener, and a gas station attendant.

In 2021, Mr. Van Ellis bravely sat before the United States House Judiciary Committee and testified to the dangers of structural racism and inequality.

He drew attention to the abdication of responsibility by government and city officials to rebuild and repair the Greenwood community and testified to the government on the active blocking of recovery efforts by city officials.

Alongside fellow survivors, he demanded that the government not forget about what happened in Tulsa and that the survivors should receive reparations for the trauma they endured.

He was a vocal and staunch advocate for the enactment of H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act, to address injury caused to the descendants of the formerly enslaved.

He encouraged all people in the United States to reflect upon the history of the United States as an imperfect but committed journey to establish a more perfect union and to cherish and exercise the rights, privileges, and responsibilities guaranteed by the Constitution.

Above all, Hughes Van Ellis refused to sit by quietly as a piece of his life was wiped from public memory as well as the history books.

His staunch advocacy for justice and civil rights won over the hearts and minds of millions to his cause, passing on his determination to redress for the wrongs of the past.

Hughes Van Ellis is survived by his daughters Malee V. Craft and Muriel Ellis Watson, as well as his sister and fellow survivor Viola Ford Fletcher.

On behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I take great pride in recognizing Hughes Van Ellis on a meaningful and prosperous life.

CONGRATULATING UL ON 130TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize UL Solutions on the occasion of the 130th Anniversary of their founding.

Throughout its history, UL Solutions has been an integral part of our Illinois community, consistently working for a "safer, more secure and sustainable world." This remarkable anniversary is a testament to a proud tradition of ingenuity and innovation, and a wonderful moment of celebration for the entire UL Solutions community. I wish all UL employees and their families well as they mark this auspicious occasion.

UL Solutions was founded in 1894 by electrical engineer William Henry Merrill, Jr. Since its founding, UL Solutions has dedicated itself to enhancing product safety and construction safety in America and around the world, becoming a trusted global leader in applied safety science.

Starting from humble origins with a three-person staff, UL today is a powerhouse in championing safer and more reliable standards for consumer products, construction materials, and workplace safety. UL remains a pioneer in American industry, ensuring safety standards in diversified fields ranging from automotive to energy, health care to electronics. UL has improved safety in building construction, and even set the stage for the establishment of the Federal Aviation Administration by becoming the first national organization globally to certify airplanes for use.

For decades UL has influenced American inventions, from kitchen appliances to electronics to automobiles, ensuring that consumers can safely use their toys, tools, devices and vehicles. Today, UL continues to expand safety initiatives while researching cutting-edge innovations, such as next-generation batteries, autonomous vehicles, and 3D printing technologies.

UL Solutions is proudly headquartered in Northbrook, Illinois. It continues to serve as a major tech hub in the 10th District and employs thousands of Illinoisans in building a safer and more sustainable world.

In honor of UL Solution's outstanding contributions to the state of Illinois and its 130th anniversary, the Governor of the State of Illinois, J.B. Pritzker, has proclaimed June 3, 2024 as UL Solutions Day in Illinois.

I congratulate UL Solutions on this anniversary and look forward to working with them as they continue to maintain the safety and integrity of our appliances and materials.

RECOGNIZING RANDY KELLER

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Randy Keller of Cañon City, Colorado for his outstanding performance of duties as the Fremont County Coroner during the extraordinary circumstances during the funeral home tragedy in Penrose, Colorado.

In October of 2023, the remains of nearly 200 individuals were found improperly stored at a local funeral home. This horrific and shocking crime rocked this close knit community and prompted Colorado officials to declare a state disaster.

As the Coroner, Mr. Keller oversaw this crisis with incredible efficiency and compassion. Families who had worked with the funeral home during some of their most vulnerable moments were left wondering if their loved ones were cared for properly.

Mr. Keller worked overtime to coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to identify the deceased, notify their loved ones, and seek justice for the community members impacted by this tragedy. Mr. Keller's work gave closure to grieving families and helped restore trust to the people of Fremont County.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Randy Keller for his commitment and service to Fremont County.

CONGRATULATING JACKIE
KALLEN ON HER INDUCTION
INTO THE INTERNATIONAL BOX-
ING HALL OF FAME

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an inspiring trailblazer and groundbreaking Michigan woman, Jackie Kallen, on her induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York.

A Michigan native, Jackie Kallen—born Kaplan—has made an indelible mark on the world of boxing. In an industry that has historically been led by men, Jackie broke through barriers and paved the way for future generations of women in sports management, journalism, and competitive boxing.

Jackie's journey began in the 1970s when, as a show business journalist, she interviewed stars like Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, and the Rolling Stones. In 1977, she began her focus on sports after interviewing Thomas Hearns, then a boxing prospect from the Kronk gym in Detroit. From there, she would serve as Hearns' publicist over the next decade and become a familiar name in Detroit's competitive boxing scene.

In 1988, she made the transition from publicist to manager, where she began guiding the careers of figures like Bobby Hitz, James Tony, and Bronco McKart. Because of Jackie's dedication, she has led fighters to championships, built incredible careers, and inspired countless fans.

In 2004, Kallen was the inspiration for the film *Against the Ropes* and has gone on to author two books, produce a film, and make nationwide appearances as a motivation speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jackie as she celebrates this outstanding occasion. I am proud to celebrate such an inspiring figure work will be sure to inspire generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABE AMO

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, 2024, I intended to vote YES on Roll Call No. 240, Agreeing to the Amendment Number 28 by Congressman BRIAN MAST of Florida that "ensures veterans can participate in state-approved medical marijuana programs. Removes the current directive that prevents VA Medical Facility staff from recommending, making referrals, or completing forms and registering Veterans for participation in state-approved marijuana programs."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 243, Roll Call No. 244, Roll Call No. 245, Roll Call No. 246, and Roll Call No. 247 on June 5, 2024. Had I been present I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 243, YEA on Roll Call No. 244, NAY on Roll Call No. 245, YEA on Roll Call No. 246, and NAY on Roll Call No. 247.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 NATIONAL
CONVENTION FOR THE ASTRO-
NOMICAL LEAGUE

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate this year's National Convention for the Astronomical League, occurring in Overland Park, Kansas, from July 18 to July 21, 2024. Our community is honored to host hundreds of amateur astronomers as they come together to embrace scientific discovery and expansion. For 78 years, the Astronomical League has worked to educate and expand humanity's understanding of the cosmos.

The Kansas state motto is "ad astra per aspera," which means "to the stars through difficulties." This sentiment is at the heart of who we are as Kansans, and I hope Convention attendees take it with them moving forward. Together, we can overcome any difficulty and strive for what some may believe to be unattainable. With the bright minds that the Astronomical League has fostered, we truly can reach the stars.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these astronomers as they continue our Nation's proud tradition of leading the world in scientific discovery and nurturing the future of astronomy.

HONORING PROFESSOR HEIDE
WHELAN

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of Professor Heide Whelan, Professor Emerita of History at Dartmouth College. Professor Whelan grew up in Lubeck, Germany in the aftermath of World War II.

One of her earliest memories was of Russian tank units stationed less than a mile from her childhood home. This experience informed her love of freedom, democracy, and independent thought. She later emigrated to the United States, becoming a naturalized citizen, and used her personal experiences to illuminate Central European and Russian history. Professor Whelan was a masterful teacher who brought her fascination with and love of Russian culture and history to decades of students at Dartmouth. Her classes on Soviet history were consistently oversubscribed and some of the most popular on campus.

Professor Whelan was also a friend and mentor to students—she led several foreign study programs and provided guidance and personal friendship to her students. She cared about her students, and over thirty years later, her students still care for her.

HONORING DR. YANG DAO

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Yang Dao for a lifetime of achievements spanning over five decades of public service and community contributions to the multi-Lao ethnic people of Laos and the Hmong American Diaspora community in the United States and beyond. Born on September 7, 1943, to Yang Mi Nou and Her Kei in the Xieng Khouang Province during the Royal Kingdom of Laos, Dr. Yang Dao was educated in the time of the French colonial administration of Indochina, received a high school diploma in June 1964, and graduated with a bachelor's degree (baccalaureate française) from the University of Paris in 1968. With funding support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Dr. Yang Dao went on to complete a doctoral program in 1972, becoming the first Hmong in history to receive a PhD in Social Science from The Sorbonne University in France.

After completing his graduate studies, Dr. Yang Dao returned to the Royal Kingdom of Laos to serve the government in many important roles, including as the Director of Human Resources in the Ministry of Planning from 1972 to 1974, and was later appointed by the King of Laos, His Majesty King Sisavang Vatthana as a member of the National Political Consultative Council (National Assembly) from 1974 to 1975 during the last unity coalition government consisting of the Royalist and Neo Lao Hat Sak (Pathet Lao) political factions.

The fall of Laos to the communist Pathet Lao in May 1975 forced hundreds of thousands of Lao, Hmong, and other multi-ethnic

refugees to flee to the neighboring country Thailand by crossing the mighty Mekong River, where Dr. Yang Dao and his family joined the exodus of refugees in seeking safety. In July 1976, Dr. Yang Dao's family resettled to France and later migrated to the State of Minnesota (USA) in 1983.

Upon his arrival in the United States, Dr. Yang Dao joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus as an Adjunct Professor teaching Southeast Asian Anthropology and History. He went on to teach at many local Twin Cities higher education institutions including Hamline University, and Metropolitan State University. Throughout his career, Dr. Yang Dao has authored many books, including Hmong History, Culture, and Spirituality at a Glance Through Speeches released in 2023, Hmong at the Turning Point (1993—French and English), and first Hmong-French Dictionary (1964). He has also co-authored many books and has written extensively in academic periodicals and Journals.

Dr. Yang Dao is also a well-known public speaker who has participated in many national and international conferences in the United States, France, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and China. He speaks Hmong, Lao, French, English, Thai, Vietnamese and Cantonese (Chinese). Dr. Yang Dao is also a prolific artist and composer who has created albums and popular songs from Sib Pab Ciaj Vaj (Hmong unity) to Nkauj Hnub Twj Tuaj Ci lab (Hmong face a bright new dawn)

As one of the very few surviving officials of the Royal Lao government, Dr. Yang Dao is still very active in civic engagement, frequently traveling internationally to foster public diplomacy by promoting peace and encouraging educational and cultural exchanges.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in this well-deserved tribute to Dr. Yang Dao, for his lifetime of service to Hmong Americans in Minnesota and across the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MONSIGNOR
MICHAEL PICARD'S RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual from my district, Monsignor Michael Picard, who has touched and bettered countless lives in our community through his unwavering faith and commitment to his vocation as a Pastor.

Born May 30, 1938, Michael Picard entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia in 1956 at just 18 years old. After nearly a decade of rigorous theological training, he was ordained on May 21, 1966, and embarked on an illustrious 58-year career dedicated to serving the Lord and guiding the spiritual lives of countless individuals and community members.

Affectionately known as Father Mike, he embarked on his pastoral journey as an Associate Pastor at Corpus Christi Church. Then, in 1967, he was assigned to Cardinal O'Hara High School, where he wore many hats: Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Counselor, Basketball Moderator, and Vice Principal for two years. Throughout his tenure there, Father Mike profoundly impacted students and col-

leagues alike. He mentored countless young men and women, guiding them toward successful futures and emphasizing the importance of character, integrity, and unwavering faith.

Father Mike embarked on a new mission in 1981, taking on the role of Principal at Lansdale Catholic High School. Here, he continued to be a beacon of inspiration and guidance for his students and community, exemplifying unwavering dedication and faith. His remarkable talents and unparalleled leadership qualities caught the eye of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, leading to his recruitment as the Director of the Cardinal's Commission and Office for Human Relations.

In 1989, Father Mike answered the call to serve once more and took on a new role at Saint Andrews Catholic Church in Newtown, Pennsylvania. It has been here at Saint Andrew's that Father Mike has served as Pastor, mentor, and friend to over 20,000 parishioners for the past 35 years. While his list of accomplishments is undoubtedly impressive, the quiet, personal moments are what define his profound impact. With every baptism, confirmation, First Communion, Matrimony, and anointing of the sick, Father Mike has been a steadfast presence for so many in life's most significant moments. His unwavering support and genuine kindness have intricately woven together the fabric of the church community, forming a beautiful tapestry of love and faith. In moments of joy and sorrow, he has stood as a steady pillar of comfort, offering solace and hope to all in need. His influence has grown to extend far beyond the physical walls of Saint Andrews, touching the hearts and minds of everyone fortunate enough to encounter him.

For Father Mike, being a Pastor is not merely a job but a lifelong vocation. His tireless efforts in shepherding the largest Catholic church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and fostering a warm, welcoming environment have transformed Saint Andrews into a beacon of hope, inclusivity, joy, and peace for all who cross its threshold. Yet these accomplishments are not what defines him. Father Mike has shown us that true greatness lies in the everyday acts of kindness, compassion, and encouragement and has the power to transform a community.

It is my great honor to commend and congratulate Monsignor Michael Picard—our beloved Father Mike—on 58 years of inspiring service to our community. His exemplary character, unwavering faith, and positive spirit have touched and bettered the lives of so many, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations of our community members.

My sincere and best wishes to Father Mike as he enters this next chapter of life—may it be filled with continued blessings and the same spirit of love and devotion that has defined his life's work. Thank you to Father Mike for his incredible contributions. His legacy will forever shine brightly in our hearts and our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on June 5, 2024, I missed 5 Roll Call votes. Had I been

present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call No. 243, Schweikert of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 43—YES; Roll Call No. 244, Schweikert of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 44—YES; Roll Call No. 245, Steube of Florida Part B Amendment No. 45—NO; Roll Call No. 246, Motion to Recommit to Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025—YES; and Roll Call No. 247, Final Passage of Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025—NO.

HONORING DANA CAMPBELL
SAYLOR

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dana Campbell Saylor, a dedicated Phoenix community advocate and personal friend.

From her early years as a student at Arizona State University, Dana knew she wanted to dedicate her life to fighting for social justice—especially on issues related to women's equality. She quickly established herself in the greater Phoenix area as a fierce advocate for the vulnerable and underserved, sitting on countless boards, councils, and commissions to channel her passion for public service.

Throughout the years, Dana served four Arizona Governors, two Phoenix Mayors, and several ASU administrators in varying capacities to help address community issues. She used her advisory positions to propose, pass, and implement legislation to enhance the lives of women, children, and veterans.

Many in the Phoenix community know Dana best for her role as CEO of the Maricopa County YWCA. She was a firm believer and role model of their mission to empower women, stand against racism, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. As CEO, she focused her efforts on transforming the organization into the impactful entity it is today. She established the YWCA as a 501c4 for advocacy, created the YWCA Metropolitan Women's Forum, and acted as YWCA Board Chair for the Pacific Region for several years.

Throughout her lifetime, Dana was recognized with several highly esteemed honors and awards such as the NAWBO Visionary Award, the West Valley Mover and Shaker award, the YWCA Dorothy Willey Award, and an induction into the Phoenix Union Alumni Hall of Fame.

Dana continued to serve others until her passing on May 13, 2024. She will be dearly missed, but her legacy in Phoenix will endure through the countless lives she touched. Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on June 3, 4, and 5, 2024, due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on

Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; NAY on Roll Call No. 235; NAY on Roll Call No. 236; NAY on Roll Call No. 237; NAY on Roll Call No. 238; NAY on Roll Call No. 239; YEA on Roll Call No. 240; NAY on Roll Call No. 241; NAY on Roll Call No. 242; YEA on Roll Call No. 243; YEA on Roll Call No. 244; NAY on Roll Call No. 245; YEA on Roll Call No. 246; and NAY on Roll Call No. 247.

HONORING THE LANSING WOMAN'S CLUB

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Lansing Woman's Club, an organization of incredible women dedicated to personal growth, knowledge, and the betterment of their community. Founded in 1874, the Club has played an instrumental role in promoting lifelong learning and cultural enrichment, thus lifting the skylines of its members, the city of Lansing, and beyond.

The Lansing Woman's Club began with 25 pioneering women who shared a deep commitment to intellectual improvement. Their dedication is encapsulated in the Club's founding purpose: the study and improvement of its members in literature, science, and the fine arts. More than a century later, the Club proudly carries on its mission as members meet each week to learn from one another through the sharing of individually written research papers.

Throughout its history, the Club has been a beacon of progress and inclusivity, committed to welcoming open-minded and determined women to mirror the diverse community it serves. Members have come from various walks of life and professional backgrounds, including doctors, academics, civil servants, and members of the clergy, and have established and supported cultural organizations, hospitals, and educational institutions. To this day, members not only contribute their time and volunteer efforts, but also foster community engagement, provide aid to refugees and supply food and clothing to those in need.

Over the years, the Lansing Woman's Club has hosted many distinguished guests to share their passion and expertise with members, including Frank Lloyd Wright Creativity Award-winning architect Alden B. Bow, three-time Pulitzer Prize winner Carl Sandburg, and acclaimed author Madeleine L'Engle.

Even in the face of adversity, including a devastating fire in 1996 that severely damaged the group's clubhouse, the resilience of its members has ensured the Club's enduring presence. Inspired by one of the Club's earliest members, Irma T. Jones, these women continue to demonstrate that our futures are limited only by the boundaries we set for ourselves.

As we commemorate this significant milestone, let us recognize the Lansing Woman's Club for its unwavering commitment to education, culture, and service to the community. It is with profound respect and gratitude that I honor the Club's 150th anniversary and recognize its members' contributions. May the Lansing Woman's Club continue to inspire and lead for many more generations to come.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. MYRNA JACKSON

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Mrs. Myrna Carter Jackson, a civil rights activist and community leader in Birmingham, Alabama, who passed away on May 31, 2024, at the age of 82.

Mrs. Jackson was born on July 9, 1941, in Birmingham, Alabama as one of eight children to the late Willie George Carter and Willie Lee Ledger. After graduating from A.H. Parker High School at the age of sixteen, she attended Barbara Durr Beauty College in 1965 and obtained a license in cosmetology. Later in life, she continued her educational journey at Lawson State Community College and Miles College, graduating with a bachelor's degree in social work in 2000.

Mrs. Jackson became involved in the Civil Rights Movement at an early age, serving as the First Vice President of the Metro Birmingham Branch of NAACP. After the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church, she participated in the Children's March and Monday Masses, organized by the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth. In response to her peaceful demonstration, Mrs. Jackson was jailed twice and spent more than three weeks in the Birmingham Jail. She experienced violence and troubling conditions during her incarceration but drew strength from the support and comradery that she received from other members of the Movement.

A dedicated community leader, Mrs. Jackson's commitment to service was the throughline of her career. She served as a certified substitute teacher for several Birmingham schools, provided social services and workforce development to survivors of Hurricane Katrina, facilitated job training for students through the Birmingham Works for Youth, and served as Commissioner of the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District. As a member of the Top Ladies of Distinction, she worked with Top Teens of America to provide scholarships and funding for students.

Even later in life, Mrs. Jackson's commitment to the ideals of the Civil Rights Movement never wavered. In 2009, she organized a conference with the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the FBI to promote healthy dialogue between youth and law enforcement. In 2017, she helped commemorate the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and went on to serve as the Interim President for the Metro Birmingham Branch of the NAACP.

Mrs. Jackson received much recognition for her remarkable leadership and contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. She was honored by the Metro Birmingham Branch of the NAACP in 2013 for the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement. In 2017, she was selected by The HistoryMakers for an oral history interview of her incredible life story.

Mrs. Jackson is preceded in death by her husband, Issic Jackson; parents Willie George Carter and Willie Lee Ledger; and three brothers, Gilbert Carter, Alfred Lee Carter, and John Carter. She is survived by two sons Jeff-

ery Jackson and Michael Jackson; one granddaughter Denitra Streeter; one grandson Kieron Jackson; one brother Willie Carter Jr.; four sisters Sylvia Weatherspoon, Lee Edna Boone, Iris Elom, and Wanda Morton, and a host of cousins, friends, and church members.

On a personal note, Mrs. Jackson was a source of great inspiration for me and so many young Black women. A trailblazer and pioneer, she was devoted to her community, her family, and the power of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Movement. It is because of the courage, bravery, and strength of Foot Soldiers like Myrna Carter Jackson that we enjoy the freedoms we have today. Her life is a testament to the power of ordinary Americans to achieve extraordinary social change. May we find comfort in knowing that she lived a full and blessed life, and that her legacy will live on in the lives she touched.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Mrs. Myrna Carter Jackson and her many contributions to the City of Birmingham, the State of Alabama, and our Nation. May she Rest in Peace and Power.

RECOGNIZING ANASTASIOS G. PILIOTIS AND CHRYS MARIA CARDARIS-PILIOTIS

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Senior Special Agent at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and Senior Manager at AT&T, and dear friends Anastasios Piliotis and Chrys Cardaris-Piliotis for their over 40 years of dedication and commitment to providing quality service to the public.

Anastasios earned his Bachelors in Administration of Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement from San Jose State University in 1976, later returning to earn his Master's in 1978 and Ph.D. in Sociology and Anthropology from U.S. International University in 1981. Chrys attended Wayne State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts, Master's, and subsequent Ph.D. in English Language and Literature.

Chrys began her career as an English Instructor from 1973 to 1977, when she began her career with AT&T where she remained for 45 years before retiring in 2023. She served multiple departments working in external affairs, marketing, and engineering, and served on the Women of AT&T Officer and Executive Board.

Following his service as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff at Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department and a Border Patrol Agent, Anastasios continued his career in the Federal government service as a Criminal Investigator at the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Government Printing Office and the Department of Transportation. In 1986, Anastasios transitioned to Senior Special Agent with the Defense Security Services. In 2005, he became a Senior Special Agent with the Office of Personnel Management, Federal Investigative Services, where he served for 18 years until his retirement in 2023.

In addition to his professional commitments, Anastasios also served as an Adjunct Lecturer

and Instructor, teaching sociology, management, and decision-making courses at Columbia College, Chapman University, and the University of Phoenix.

Through their work in public service, education, telecommunications, and intelligence, Anastasios and Chrys have positively impacted our nation and the Tri-Valley community. I join the residents of my district in commending them for their decades of service and wish them rest, relaxation, a lot of time with their children and grandchildren in retirement.

RECOGNIZING JUNE 9TH AS BATTEN DISEASE AWARENESS DAY

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Batten Disease Awareness Day. Batten Disease is a fatal rare disease of the nervous system that usually begins in childhood. In the U.S., an estimated two to four children out of every 100,000 will get the disease, and unfortunately, there is no cure.

On June 9th Batten Disease advocates around the world will celebrate International Batten Disease Awareness Day. Families and caregivers impacted by this disease are often fighting a silent battle due to a lack of public awareness. Increasing awareness helps honor their fight and strengthen the development of innovative treatment options and research for a cure. That's why last year I was proud to introduce a resolution in support of Batten Disease Awareness Day.

I urge my colleagues to join me on June 9th in honoring the families and caregivers, and most importantly, the children who have been impacted by this terrible disease.

HONORING MRS. LEIGH WALKER FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated citizen from the greatest generation of Americans, Mrs. Leigh Walker.

Mrs. Walker represents the best of patriotism and what it means to be an American. Eighty-three years ago, a fifteen-year-old in California heard a call to help her country. Pearl Harbor had been attacked, the United States entered the war, and women had just begun joining the war effort. Miss Leigh and her mother were two of the many civilians who reported for duty. Women across the country worked long hours and long weeks, including Leigh and her mother. After months of training, Miss Leigh became a certified welder and began working on ships in Richmond, California at only sixteen years old.

The SS *Red Oak Victory*, a ship named for the small town in Iowa, was among the ships Mrs. Walker remembers working on. Built to last, this naval ship is still docked in Richmond today. Now no longer used for war, it is a testament to the skill and perseverance exempli-

fied by young women during the war. Miss Leigh and many of her peers rose to the occasion and served their country well with strength and dedication.

After the war, Leigh married Leland Walker, who was a highly skilled steamfitter and boiler-maker. Together they moved across the country to Tennessee, which is still their home over 70 years later. Together, they raised two children: Jerry Walker, who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, and Marcia Chandler, an elementary school teacher of 46 years. Mrs. Walker and the late Mr. Walker have four grandchildren.

Leigh Walker served her community in many informal ways as well. Mrs. Walker spent nearly twenty years helping her daughter's students with reading and writing. She was a reliable volunteer at the high school baseball games where her son-in-law coached and spent many years making cakes treasured by her community for various events.

Today, she is 97 years old and still resides in Dickson County, Tennessee. The advice she leaves speaks to her legacy, "Be honest, love your family, and always vote."

Leigh Walker's life is a testament to the American spirit of duty and service, and it is with the greatest respect that I recognize her today.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SALES AND DEVELOPMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2024 recipients of the IES Sales Excellence Awards presented by the Institute for Excellence in Sales and Business Development (IES).

IES was created to foster excellence in business sales and development practices and to help sales professionals and organizations maximize their efforts. Each year, IES recognizes individuals, teams, and organizations who demonstrate exemplary performance through leadership, risk taking, innovation, vision, and customer development.

The recipient of the 2024 Lifetime Achievement in Sales Award is Jim Kelly, Senior Vice President North American Federal Sales for Dell Technology. He is responsible for supporting federal customers and their missions, providing the technology and expertise needed to transform and protect their data.

The recipient of the 2024 Woman in Sale Executive Leadership Award is Gerilyn Horan. Gerilyn is the Vice President, Group Sales and Strategic Accounts at Hilton Worldwide Sales. She is responsible for driving the growth of the group segment for all Hilton brands and oversees a total account management approach to Hilton's largest customers.

The 2024 Entrepreneurial Sales Leader of the Year Award is presented to Reggie Aggarwal. Reggie is the CEO and Founder of Cvent, a market-leading meetings, events and hospitality technology provider.

Chuck Ghoorah will receive the 2024 Institute for Excellence in Sales Entrepreneurial Sales Leader of the Year award. Chuck is Co-

founder and President of Worldwide Sales and Marketing at Cvent. Chuck has been instrumental in building Cvent from a startup to a 4,800-person company.

The 2024 Sales Partner of the Year Award is presented to Rebecca Wetherly. Rebecca leads the strategic development and accelerated growth for AWS's diverse and expanding Systems Integrator (SI) partner ecosystem. This rich partner ecosystem enables government, education, and nonprofit customers to grow and deliver impact by leading with AWS cloud services.

Margo Edris will receive the 2024 Institute for Excellence in Sales Rising Sales Star award. Margo Edris is a Regional Vice President of Sales at Salesforce. She leads a team of accomplished Sales professionals who partner with State and Local Governments across the Rocky Mountain Region to modernize Government services.

Tom Snyder will receive the 2024 Institute for Excellence in Sales Speaker of the Year award. He is the Founder and Managing Partner of Funnel Clarity, LLC, a sales training and consulting firm headquartered in Washington, DC. Finally, Tom is listed among America's 100 Most Influential Sales Leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this year's awardees for their innovative and effective leadership and in wishing them success in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. JOHN BREWER

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. John Brewer. A passionate journalist and dedicated community leader, John passed away in mid-April.

I got to know John when I first ran for Congress back in 2012. From the first moments I spent with him, I learned just how deeply he cared about his community, and his passion for local journalism.

John was the consummate newsman and dedicated his professional career to the field of journalism. His first job was with the weekly Upland News in his hometown of Upland, California in 1965. From there, he went on to work with The Associated Press for 19 years as a reporter, editor, bureau chief, and executive in Seattle, Los Angeles, and New York.

As the Seattle bureau chief, he oversaw the coverage of the devastating 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. In Los Angeles, he oversaw the coverage of the 1984 Summer Olympics. During his 10 years as president, CEO, and editor-in-chief of The New York Times Syndication Sales Corp., he enlisted high-profile columnists, including Mikhail Gorbachev, Martha Stewart, and former President Jimmy Carter.

After a prolific career around the country, John joined the Peninsula Daily News in 1998, where he championed local journalism until his retirement in 2015.

John was heavily involved in his community in the North Olympic Peninsula, supporting over 25 nonprofits and other organizations, including the Port Angeles Downtown Association, Community Multicultural Alliance, and Peninsula Home Fund. He served on several

community boards and was a past president of Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington, a statewide press association.

Mr. Speaker, I join our communities of Clallam and Jefferson counties in grieving the loss of a pillar of the community, passionate and dedicated journalist, and compassionate father, brother, husband, and friend. I join John's wife, Barbara, his two sons, and the rest of his family in grieving this sudden and tragic loss.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that journalism, not just at the local level, but across the country, is better because of the dedicated work and passion of Mr. John Brewer. His impact and legacy will be felt in Port Angeles and the broader Washington State community for many, many years to come.

CELEBRATING GENE GERRARD'S
102ND BIRTHDAY

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize the amazing life of United States Coast Guard Veteran Eugene "Gene" Gerrard, who recently celebrated his 102nd birthday.

Gene, like many from the "Greatest Generation" wanted to begin his military career before reaching enlistment age but had to wait and finally enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1942. Gene served in the Coast Guard until 1945, where he attained the rank of Quartermaster First Class. For his service, he earned an American Campaign Medal, an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, a Good Conduct Medal, a

World War II Victory Medal, and a Philippine Liberation Medal.

Previous to his enlistment, Gene worked as a printer by day and attended trade school by night in Brooklyn, New York. After his military service, Gene started his own printing business in Elmont, New York. Gene owned Gerrard Printing from 1951 to 1965, and St. Gerrard Printing in Port Jefferson Station, New York, from 1965 to 2013.

Gene was also a dedicated public servant, having been elected as town councilman for 22 years. Gene also contributed to the Mount Sinai Fire Department for 50 years as its chief, chaplain, and fire police captain. He founded the Mt. Sinai Fire Department Benevolent Association and the Brookhaven Volunteer Firefighters Museum.

Currently, Gene resides in the Town of Canandaigua in Ontario County, New York with his daughter, Pam Rushack. At 102 years old, Gene still gives back to the community by attending events, giving invocations, and leading in the Pledge of Allegiance. Most notably, Gene has served as a Red Coat Ambassador to the Canandaigua VA, where he has done so the last seven years.

Gene Gerrard is an exceptional community member whose devotion to his country and his community is truly inspiring. It brings me great joy to know Gene. I am thrilled to recognize him for his many accomplishments and wish him a very happy 102nd birthday.

CELEBRATING THE LIONS CLUB
OF KENMORE'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 95th anniversary of the Lions Club of Kenmore and their remarkable contributions to our community.

Founded in May of 1929, the Lions Club was established to support the visually impaired in Tonawanda and Kenmore. They are committed to improving access to eye and vision health for everyone through various initiatives such as their Eyeglass Collection Project, which gathers and distributes used eyeglasses worldwide. Locally, the club offers free vision screenings for children, as well as hearing aids and related examinations for those in need. The Kenmore Lions Club further creates welcoming spaces for the visually impaired, hosting annual Christmas parties, Thanksgiving dinners, and picnics throughout the year.

In addition to their work for the visually impaired, the Lions Club is committed to serving the broader community in every possible way. Through participating in programs such as Adopt a Highway to keep our roads litter free, organizing personal care donation drives for women veterans, and providing scholarships for local high school students, the Kenmore Lions Club has undoubtedly made a positive impact on many people's lives.

I thank the Lions Club of Kenmore for 95 years of dedication and service in making our community a better place.