

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO ELLIOTT WYCHE

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Elliott Wyche. A native of Hurst, Elliott has shown us the boundless nature of a child's magical imagination. Born with half a heart and having undergone three open heart surgeries, Elliott has battled immense challenges with remarkable courage and resilience.

Last month, Elliott not only inspired L.D. Bell High School's fine arts department through his creative vision, but he also played an integral role in their musical production. Elliott submitted his original story in the form of illustrations to the Sing Me a Story Foundation, which gave his drawings to Austin composer Mitch Gilly to transform into music.

The school's orchestra, choir, and theater students rehearsed all spring to bring Elliott's creativity to life. The story, titled "Smashers Crashers," follows three superheroes who unite to defeat evil. Both his story and the school's heartwarming gesture are a testament to the broader sense of community and compassion that makes North Texas special.

Elliott has inspired North Texans to overcome adversity with grace, joy, and extraordinary spirit. I look forward to seeing his ambition grow from here.

RECOGNIZING THE 127TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER WARD CHAPEL AME CHURCH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Greater Ward Chapel African American Episcopal Church as they celebrate their 127th church anniversary. An event to celebrate this singular occasion was held on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the church in Columbus, Georgia.

Ward Chapel rose from humble beginnings in 1897 under a bush at the corner of Thirteenth Avenue and 24th Street in Columbus, Georgia. The first pastor of the church was Reverend R.W. Miller. After that, Reverend Swindom assumed the mantle of leadership and pastored for one year. Rev. W.J. Ferguson became the next pastor and moved the church to 26th Street, helping to rebuild it. In 1913, the church was reconstructed a second time.

In 1937, The Reverend R.D. Griffin was appointed as the next pastor. In 1939, the church was forced to move from the 26th Street location by the Government Housing Authority. The church was moved to Poup

Street and was rebuilt in 1940 for the third time. The dedication of this building in honor of God was held on April 16, 1944, by the Presiding Elder of the Savannah District at the time, the Reverend R.L. Butler. This location included the first parsonage built in the history of the church.

Reverend C.K. Knight took the helm of the church in 1949. Blessed by a spirit of benevolence, he made it possible for any child that desired to matriculate at Morris Brown College to improve their quality of life. Because of the passing of the Reverend M.C. Davis, Reverend Knight became the Presiding Elder of the Columbus District in January 1955. Reverend Knight never forgot about this love for Ward Chapel and helped to select its next visionary leader, the Reverend S.F. Jackson.

Reverend Jackson was driven by his desire to serve the Lord and to make Ward Chapel the best church in the East Columbus District. Many contributions happened under his leadership to include the renovation of the parsonage and church; the organ was paid off and new pews were purchased. Furthermore, an additional choir was formed—the Cathedral Choir which was later renamed the S.F. Jackson Choir. Rev. Jackson was reassigned to Americus, Georgia in 1961.

The Reverend M.L. Hood was appointed as the next pastor and served at the church briefly. He was followed by the Reverend M.B. McIendon. The greatest accomplishment of Rev. McIendon, besides bringing souls to Christ, was the building of a new church edifice. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 16, 1967, to celebrate this great milestone in the life of the church.

Another parsonage of the church was purchased in 1984 at the cost of \$60,000. The Reverend R.B. Bass was appointed pastor in 1984 and his family was its first occupants. Rev. Bass served the church faithfully from April 1984 to May 1997. Among his many accomplishments included the mortgage burnings of both the church and the parsonage, the installation of new carpet, and the cushioning of the pews.

Reverend Otis C. Duncan was the next caretaker of this remarkable church. He served faithfully until his retirement in February of 2014. Rev. Duncan's accomplishments were indeed special. During his transformational ministry, Rev. Duncan transitioned the church to a new ministry by changing the name of the church to The Greater Ward Chapel AME Church in anticipation of the church accomplishing even greater things for the Kingdom of God.

On May 10, 2012, the church selected a new and dynamic leader to shepherd the Greater Ward Chapel flock in the form of the Reverend Conitras M. Houston Dickens, or as she affectionately became known as "Pastor C." She was the youngest ever pastor to serve at the church and was its first female pastor. During her tenure, the Greater Ward Chapel Development Center was established to provide after school care as well as Summer Camp to community children, the Boy

Scout Troop 11-1, the Calvin Smyre Pastoral Scholarship, the Voices of Wonder Young Adult Choir, and many other ministries were founded under her incredible leadership.

In October of 2016, Bishop Reginald Jackson appointed the Reverend Terrance Evan's as the new pastor. Pastor Evans has truly built upon the great leaders of the Greater Ward Chapel's past while putting his own visionary niche on the church's bright future. Accomplishments that were made under his stellar leadership include a new front awning, the paying off of the church van and debts, and replacement of the church's roof.

Over the years, people from all walks of life have made a difference in the church and worked well together for the betterment of the Kingdom. The current members of Greater Ward Chapel continue to build on the legacy of labor and love that have set the standard for the church's success. The Greater Ward Chapel's parishioners have worshipped the Lord in spirit and in truth and have governed themselves as humble, spirit filled believers who are keen to do all they can as servants of God.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in extending our sincerest congratulations to The Greater Ward Chapel AME Church and its current pastor, Reverend Curtis Frazier, as they celebrate 127 glorious years of serving God and his people. May Reverend Frazier and church members continue to press forward to the high mark of service and humility set forth by Jesus Christ.

FAMINE THAT WASN'T

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. Wilson of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was grateful last week to tour Israel where I discovered the 'Famine That Wasn't' as correctly editorialized in the June 21st New York Post: "Gaza's supposed famine never happened. It was never more than Hamas propaganda eagerly consumed by the left, the media and the clueless Biden administration."

"The chief UN food-insecurity agency announced this month that it finds the analysis suggesting a famine was on the way wasn't 'plausible' and lacked 'supporting evidence.'"

"It turns out that the numbers from the Famine Early Warning System (a USAID project) were utter garbage..."

Touring Kibbutz Nir Oz demolition and the Nova Music Festival killing field is a chilling reminder all civilized countries are subject to surprise murderous attacks without notice with indiscriminate slaughter of innocent men, women, and children.

Corrupt Judge Merchan continues to earn ridicule for unethical persecution of Donald

• 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.

Trump. Now the Biden campaign has to waste \$50 million to smear Trump because Americans clearly saw judicial abuse for election interference. The result is Merchan re-earns my invitation to attend the Trump Inauguration, as Merchan re-elects Trump.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the Global War on Terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

RECOGNIZING MARLENE
PIASECKI'S RETIREMENT FROM
FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION
OF BUCKS COUNTY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extremely notable constituent within my district, Marlene Piasecki of Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania who is retiring from Family Service Association of Bucks County, a non-profit agency located in Langhorne, Pennsylvania after 23 years of dedicated service.

Marlene graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Masters in Social Work. She has dedicated her life to social services. Holding several positions within Family Service from Director of Development to Chief Operating Officer to Interim Chief Executive Officer upon the sudden passing of their CEO, Audrey J Tucker, Marlene will be remembered for her mentorship, leadership and support of the staff members and the Bucks County community over these 23 years.

Today, I am proud to recognize Marlene Piasecki as an individual who has devoted her career to helping others and helping to meet the social service needs of Bucks County's residents.

We are all incredibly grateful for the positive impact Marlene has had through her long career, and we wish her much enjoyment in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL GARRETT
FISHER, UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Garrett Fisher, who will assume command of the United States Air Force 15th Wing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Fisher grew up in Burrton, Kansas, before accepting an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 1997 from former 4th District Congressman Todd Tiaht. He graduated in 2001 and was commissioned as a C-17 pilot. Since then, he has achieved over 4,000 flight hours in the T-37B, T-1A, T-6A, C-37A, and C-17A aircraft.

Throughout Colonel Fisher's career, he has demonstrated the importance of a strong character and work ethic, laudable core values, and commitment to his country. He has selflessly served across the United States and world, from Hawaii to Washington D.C. to Europe and the Middle East. Colonel Fisher's schooling has taken him across the country as well, furthering his education at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, St. Louis University, the Air Force Research Institute, and most recently, the National War College. He is the recipient of several major awards and decorations, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and more.

I am grateful to Colonel Fisher for his service and sacrifices and look forward to seeing this Kansan excel as Commander of the 15th Wing. The 15th Wing has a long history in service to the United States, dating back to World War II and the war in the Pacific. Today, the 15th Wing is a critical component to projecting combat power across the United States Indo-Pacific Command. While this assignment comes with great responsibility, I am confident Colonel Fisher will gracefully step into this new role and make Kansas and our country proud.

Again, congratulations to Colonel Garrett Fisher as he assumes command of the 15th Wing.

CELEBRATING LOS ANGELES
UNION STATION'S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Los Angeles Union Station's 85th anniversary.

Los Angeles Union Station opened its doors in May of 1939, becoming the main railway station in Los Angeles, California, and the largest railroad passenger terminal in the Western United States. This landmark enjoys the great distinction of being known as the "Last of the Great Train Stations" built in the United States.

Owned by the Metro/Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority since 2012, Union Station is a major transportation hub for Southern California, providing thousands of passengers daily access to Amtrak long distance trains, Amtrak California regional trains, Metrolink commuter trains, and Metro Rail subway and light rail lines.

Los Angeles Union Station is also a vibrant landmark and symbol of Downtown Los Angeles. This station serves as a hub for visitors to Los Angeles, and has been the star of hundreds of movies, television shows and commercials.

The station also showcases an array of arts and cultural events from music and dance to film screenings, architecture tours and holiday programs, and was internationally recognized as the host to the 93rd Oscars in 2021.

In the eight-plus decades since its opening, Los Angeles Union Station has captured the spirit and soul of Los Angeles and is a source of great civic pride for Angelenos.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for Los Angeles

Union Station, and I look forward to seeing all that they do in the next 85 years and beyond.

HONORING GEORGE B.
HERNÁNDEZ, JR.

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the retirement of George B. Hernández, Jr.

Mr. Hernández spent the last 19 years serving South Texas as president and CEO of University Health. A member of the University Health family for more than four decades, Mr. Hernández attended his first Board of Managers meeting in December of 1980. Since that time, University Health has become a nationally recognized health care organization. That growth would not have been possible without his leadership.

University Health is a longtime fixture for community health, trauma care, and disease prevention in San Antonio. During his tenure, Mr. Hernández oversaw the opening of a new state-of-the-art medical office building, the expansion and redesign of University Hospital, and just last year, the opening of a women's and children's hospital. Mr. Hernández has ensured that University Health will continue to expand, with construction of public health clinics and community hospitals underway.

Notably, Mr. Hernández led the health system through the COVID-19 pandemic, with his team of healthcare heroes administering more than 600,000 doses of Covid vaccines throughout our community.

A native of San Antonio, Mr. Hernández has never stopped giving back to his hometown, serving on the boards of the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, the Center for Health Care Services, St. Mary's University and the San Antonio Medical Foundation.

Mr. Hernández's efforts with University Health have improved the lives of thousands of South Texans. With his retirement, he leaves behind a legacy of compassionate care, education, and discovery that will continue on.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to express my gratitude for Mr. George Hernández, Jr. and his spirit of service to San Antonio.

RECOGNIZING JOANNA SEBELIEN
FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS WITH
HARVESTERS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with eternal gratitude to celebrate the long and diverse career of Joanna Sebelien, the last 23 years of which were devoted to service with the charitable food bank, Harvesters. Since 2001, Joanna has been an integral part of Harvesters' mission to create a healthy, thriving community where no one is hungry. As the non-profit's Chief Resource Officer, she has been responsible for its fundraising, volunteer recruitment, food acquisition, communications,

and advocacy. During her long tenure, Joanna has seen Harvesters' recruitment of over 1 million volunteers across 2.5 million hours of service, fundraising of over \$300 million, and acquisition of a whopping 1 billion pounds of food. Let us take a moment to reflect on Joanna's long and fruitful career and its impact on food security here in Missouri's 5th District and beyond.

Although Joanna's decorated career did not begin with Harvesters, she has always sought to make a difference in the lives of others with her professional life. After graduating with honors from Boston College and receiving a master's from Central Michigan University, Joanna settled on the East Coast as an English teacher. It was in this position that she saw firsthand the effect that food insecurity could have on young people leading to misbehavior at school. This experience ignited her passion for fighting food insecurity so that no child would become a victim of it like her students did.

Joanna settled in the Midwest and joined Harvesters, an organization established in 1979 that focused on cutting back food waste in Kansas City, in 2001. As one of the pioneering food banks in the country, Harvesters quickly joined Feeding America, a national organization of food banks. The organization has become a staple charity in Kansas City and beyond, serving to ensure the human right of food security for over forty years. From the moment she joined Harvesters, Joanna committed herself to its mission, exceeding expectations in every way imaginable. Not only did she quickly climb Harvesters' ranks to become Chief Resource Officer, she also involved herself with state and national organizations dedicated to fighting food insecurity. She has served on three separate advisory committees for Feeding America, the Breakfast in the Classroom and Hunger Leader groups for the Food Research and Action Center, the local and Kansas State boards of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Food and Shelter Program, and as a member of Feeding Missouri. Such an illustrious resume demonstrates Joanna's awe-inspiring dedication as a crusader for equality and sets an example for anyone with similar conviction to follow.

Joanna's commitment to civic engagement does not end with ensuring food security. She also serves as a founding member of Hartsook Companies Kansas City Advisory Council, the Global Advisory Council, the American Association of Fundraising Professionals, Rotary 13, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Centurions, Chamber Champions, and the Greater Missouri Leadership Foundation. That is just her current engagement, in the past, she has served on the board of Empower Missouri and as a member of the Non-Profit Advisory Group, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, and the Heart of America Hunger Coalition. With her expansive involvement across the non-profit community, Joanna has become an unstoppable force for good in the Greater Kansas City area.

What I admire most about Joanna is her resilience in the face of adversity. Over the course of her 23-year tenure at Harvesters, she has endured some of the most trying times our country has ever faced and has met these challenges with strength and determination. In 2008, the Great Recession wreaked havoc on the American economy, and the

number of people needing food assistance from Harvesters jumped by forty percent. Over the next six years, Harvesters met this challenge by nearly doubling its food distribution. Joanna herself was a crucial part of this success, being named the Association of Fundraising Professionals Mid America Chapter's Fundraiser of the Year in 2008. Finally, in 2020, as the COVID-19 Pandemic hit, Harvesters saw another forty percent surge in need. Despite a decreasing number of food drives and volunteers due to safety concerns and social distancing regulations, the organization distributed 65.9 million pounds of food and fundraised \$23 million, a record on both counts. As Chief Resource Officer during this period, Joanna was integral to this success. Once again, she proved her ability to face any challenge standing tall and handle it with the utmost skill and grace.

Harvesters' functions according to the belief that access to nutritious food is a human right. From the beginning of her career as a teacher and through her 23 years with Harvesters, Joanna Sebelien has understood this to be true. Her commitment to combatting food insecurity in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District is an inspiration to us all. Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Joanna's 23 years of service with Harvesters. On behalf of the 118th Congress, I wish her a retirement as fulfilling as her career.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THERESA
ERNESTINE RICHARDSON POPE

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Theresa Ernestine Richardson Pope. A trailblazing educator, passionate leader, and loving family member, Mrs. Pope was a guiding light in our community and changed the lives of many.

Born on January 8, 1944, in Somerset, Kentucky, Mrs. Pope was raised by her maternal grandparents, Reverend Robert Mae and Sarah Jane Owsley, and in the loving company of her cousins, whom she considered her siblings. In the early 1960s, Mrs. Pope attended Somerset High School, becoming one of the first Black students to integrate the school. Mrs. Pope attended Kentucky State University, where she met her husband, Jerry D. Pope, Sr. In December 1965, the two were married and moved to Buffalo to continue their education at Buffalo State College. Here, Mrs. Pope earned her Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degrees, and Certificate in School District Administration and Educational Supervision.

Mrs. Pope dedicated her career to public education, serving as an English Language Arts teacher at various Buffalo public schools. She became the first African American woman to serve as an Assistant Principal at Seneca Vocational High School and later went on to become the Assistant Principal at Hutchinson Central Technical High School. After 33 years of dedicated service in the Buffalo Public School System, Mrs. Pope entered a well-deserved retirement.

Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Pope was passionate about serving her community in numerous capacities. As a Golden Soror of

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and a member of the Buffalo Gamma Phi Omega Chapter, Mrs. Pope worked to strengthen the sorority's community relations both locally and nationally. In her retirement, Mrs. Pope continued to advocate for better educational policies through her leadership with the Buffalo Retired Teachers and the Buffalo Retired Administrators Association. Mrs. Pope's exceptional commitment to community service earned her numerous awards from the Second Temple Baptist Church and the NAACP.

Today, Mrs. Pope is remembered as a loving mother of two, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of four. Please join me in honoring Theresa Ernestine Richardson Pope for her lifetime of service and her commitment to making education a reality for all.

RECOGNIZING 4TH ANNUAL
GREATER PRINCE WILLIAM
JUNETEENTH PARADE AND THE
DIVINE NINE

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 4th Annual Greater Prince William Juneteenth Parade in commemoration of the 159th Juneteenth.

June 19, 2024, marks the 159th commemoration of Juneteenth, a celebration of the liberation of enslaved African Americans. On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger led troops to Galveston, Texas to issue General Order No. 3, which made clear that slavery had been abolished in 1863, two and a half years prior, with the Emancipation Proclamation.

This significant moment in American history is worthy of recognition, and the annual Greater Prince William Juneteenth Parade provides that opportunity to the community. This year's parade seeks to celebrate the National Pan-Hellenic Council, known as the Divine Nine, and recognize their continued dedication to supporting Black communities worldwide. For more than 100 years, this group of nine historically Black Greek-letter organizations has uplifted Black communities through civic action, community service, and kinship. It is my privilege to join the greater Prince William County community in recognizing the dedicated work of the Divine Nine.

The importance of this historic day deserves recognition and celebration. This annual parade, which does just that, would not have been possible without the dedicated work of the Greater Prince William Juneteenth Parade Committee—composed of Ms. Mellionese Bennett, Ms. Ebony Lofton, and Ms. Cydny A. Neville. I thank them for their commitment to bringing this celebration to life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 159th anniversary of Juneteenth and the 4th Annual Greater Prince William Juneteenth Parade. Thank you to the Divine Nine for their dedication and to the parade committee for highlighting the celebration of such a significant historical event.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION OF
THOMAS AUSTIN, ARCHITECT OF
THE CAPITOL

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with my fellow members of the Architect of the Capitol Congressional Commission—Speaker of the House MIKE JOHNSON, House Minority Leader HAKEEM JEFFERIES, Committee on House Administration Ranking Member JOE MORELLE, former Chairwoman Kay Granger and incumbent Chairman TOM COLE of the Committee on Appropriations, and Appropriations Committee Ranking Member ROSA DELAURO, as well as my Senate colleagues, the Senate Majority and Minority leaders, the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations—to congratulate Thomas Austin on his appointment to the role of Architect of the Capitol.

The Architect of the Capitol plays a vital role in welcoming millions of visitors to our Capitol and ensuring it is a functional workplace. Thomas Austin has managed construction projects and facilities of all sizes, maintained one of our nation's most hallowed landmarks, and served our country in the military. We are confident that with his extensive experience, Thomas Austin will be an adept and capable Architect of the Capitol.

The Commission also wants to thank Chief Engineer Chere Rexroat and Chief of Operations Joe DiPietro for their service as successive acting Architects of the Capitol over the past year. Their leadership over the past year provided stability for the AOC and reassured us all that the AOC could continue to fulfill its important mission to serve Congress and the public. They have the appreciation of a grateful congressional community.

RECOGNIZING DR. JEFFREY
DUCHIN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO
PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jeffrey Duchin who is retiring after a thirty-year career in public health, most recently as the Health Officer for Public Health—Seattle & King County.

Dr. Duchin began working at Public Health—Seattle & King County in 1994 on assignment from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to handle the Tuberculosis and HIV programs. Four years later, Dr. Duchin served as the Public Health—Seattle & King County Chief of Vaccination and Communicable Disease Epidemiology, a position he held until he was named Health Officer in 2015. He has lent his expertise to numerous national policy and advisory bodies where he helped shape approaches to immunizations and infectious diseases. Dr. Duchin is also a longtime Professor at the University of Washington's Schools of Medicine and Public

Health. In this capacity, he provides mentorship to students and publishes research on communicable disease. His contributions to infectious disease research will undoubtedly leave a mark on the field for years to come.

Dr. Duchin's outstanding work helped King County and Washington State navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and better prepare for public health emergencies. In 2020, King County experienced America's first known COVID-19 case and the first large outbreak. Dr. Duchin immediately stepped into action and his leadership was nationally recognized. During this time, Dr. Duchin prioritized community engagement and solutions that centered equity. My staff and I partnered closely with Public Health—Seattle & King County during the pandemic. Dr. Duchin's invaluable expertise, frequent updates and excellent communication were essential for the intergovernmental partnerships that supported our communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Duchin's prioritization of science and deep understanding of the intersectionality of health saved countless lives.

Dr. Duchin's tireless commitment to public health has benefitted the lives of so many in King County and beyond. His leadership will serve as a model for Washington State's leaders for years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his many accomplishments and contributions to public health. On behalf of Washington's 7th Congressional District, I thank Dr. Jeffrey Duchin for his service to the people of the Pacific Northwest.

END JEW HATRED NATIONAL
CAMPAIGN

HON. NICK LaLOTA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the need to end antisemitism in this generation. I strongly condemn antisemitism in all its forms and I will continue to stand firmly and proudly to end discrimination against, and persecution of, the Jewish community.

Three years ago on Yom Hashoah, Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day, members of the Jewish community in New York and New Jersey came together to form the End Jew Hatred National Campaign, aimed at creating a day of empowerment leading into Jewish American Heritage Month and recognizing the Jewish community's contributions to American history. I am proud of the work they have accomplished so far.

For millennia, the Jewish people have sustained their shared religious, cultural, and ethnic identity and traditions in the face of enslavement, persecution, genocide, segregation, and discrimination, and all manner of adversity. Despite their adversities, Jewish Americans have made indelible contributions to New York and the United States' culture, history, and social fabric, strengthening the country and helping shape all areas of American life.

While we have made significant strides to end the discrimination of Jews, the Jewish community has continued to be subjected to antisemitism and hate, including discrimination in the workplace, at school, and in public

spaces. The horrific tragedy of October 7th, and the war that has carried on since has led to a massive uptick of antisemitism. This antisemitism and hate has manifested itself as both discrimination and violence targeting Jews for their identity and seeking to deny their shared identity, including their connection to their ancestral homeland.

This can go on no more. We must stand as a unified front and combat antisemitism wherever it rears its ugly head. As long as I am serving in Congress, I will always support our Jewish community and work in a bipartisan manner to end antisemitism once and for all. On behalf of the First Congressional District of New York, I thank the End Jew Hatred National Campaign for their work and reaffirm my commitment to ending antisemitism and honoring our Jewish community.

HONORING DR. FEDERICO
ZARAGOZA

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retiring Dr. Federico Zaragoza, who has proudly served as President of the College of Southern Nevada for half a decade.

Dr. Zaragoza has been an education leader for more than 20 years, playing a critical role in driving student success. Before relocating to southern Nevada, Dr. Zaragoza served as Vice Chancellor for Economic and Workforce Development at a network of community colleges in San Antonio, Texas. For the past six years, Dr. Zaragoza has led the College of Southern Nevada, including three main campuses, seven learning centers, and locations that span 8,000 miles. Under his administration, graduation rates at the College of Southern Nevada nearly doubled between 2018 and 2021, and the College was designated as a national Leader College of Distinction in 2019.

In addition to his role at the College of Southern Nevada, Dr. Zaragoza has held several leadership roles and memberships on state and national committees and commissions. As a Member of the Board of Directors for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), he advocates for nearly 1,200 community colleges and more than 12 million students nationwide. He also serves as the U.S. representative on the Board of the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE). He has previously served on the National Skills Coalition's Think Tank, and as State Director for the Wisconsin—Job Training Partnership Act Programs, Dean of Continuing Education for the Milwaukee Area Technical College, and Vice President for the St. Philip's College Southwest Campus.

Throughout his career in education, which included delivering lectures and keynote addresses in the U.S. and across South America, as well as co-authoring workforce education materials, Dr. Zaragoza has received several awards for his work. These include the Education Brillante Award from the National Society of Hispanic MBAs (NSHMB) and the Texas Association of Community Colleges Carl Nelson Leadership Award.

Dr. Zaragoza has had a significant impact on higher education institutions and students

in Nevada and across the country. Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Dr. Federico Zaragoza on his career of service and student advocacy, and in congratulating him on his retirement.

HONORING FIRST SERGEANT
MARC BELO

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Marc Belo, First Sergeant, 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion. Marc was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on April 8, 1970, and graduated from Duquesne University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1992.

Marc served this country for over 30 years beginning with his enlistment in the Marine Corps in 1994. He had the distinction of being a member of the elite Marine Helicopter Squadron One and transported the President, Vice President, and other heads of state around the world.

Following an honorable discharge in 2000, Marc enlisted in the District of Columbia National Guard to continue his love of flying, mainly on the UH-60 Blackhawk. As part of this enlistment, Marc was among those who responded to the Pentagon on 9/11. In 2004, Marc transferred to the Colorado Army National Guard and joined the 2-135th "Blackjacks." During his service, Marc completed deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, and Kosovo. While stateside, Marc contributed to critical missions including wildfire fighting and the National Guard helicopter high-altitude rescue program.

Marc was a dedicated husband and father whose humility, leadership, and good humor touched thousands of lives. He met his high school sweetheart Jennifer in 1986 and married in 1995. Together Marc and Jennifer had two daughters, Danjela and Nadija. Marc loved nothing more than spending time with friends. Marc and Jennifer lost their oldest daughter Danjela following a battle with brain cancer on August 15, 2023, only to learn a few months later that Marc had colorectal cancer. Marc passed on May 15, 2024, nine months to the day after his daughter Danjela.

This world is a better one because of the legacy that Marc leaves behind in those he impacted through his service, his friendship, and his dedication to his family. His service to our nation exemplifies the man, soldier, and Marine he was. I honor Marc and extend my condolences to his wife Jennifer, his daughter Nadija, and his friends and family.

RECOGNIZING MACKINAW TRAILS
WINERY AND BREWERY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mackinaw Trail Winery and Brewery on 20 years of business and service to the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan.

Founded in 2004, the esteemed business is owned and operated by Ralph and Laurie Stable, fulfilling Ralph's lifelong dream of owning a winery. In 2010, their son Dustin took over the operations of the production facility, continuing the family tradition of producing excellent wines for patrons all across the UP and state of Michigan.

Mackinaw Trails is rapidly expanding and is one of the best wineries in Michigan, with a brand new, state of the art facility that was recently built in Petoskey, Michigan.

The winery has been critically acclaimed as one of the finest in the entire state and has even been referred to as the "North Star" of the Michigan wine industry.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mackinaw Trail Winery and Brewery on 20 years of business and service to the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan. Their excellence and hard work has been a boom for the local economy and a staple of the community, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING LANCE CORPORAL
B.A. FRAZIER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lance Corporal B.A. Frazier on being named the South Carolina Highway Patrol Statewide 2023 Trooper of the Year by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS).

This award is presented each year to a South Carolina law enforcement officer whose valorous acts go above and beyond the call of duty.

Last year, after a late-night traffic stop for a speeding ticket, Lance Corporal Frazier was wounded when the driver opened fire before driving off. However, even with his injuries, he was heroically able to get a detailed description of the vehicle, which helped the eventual apprehension of the suspect shortly after.

Upon receipt of his Trooper of the Year recognition, Commander of the SC Highway Patrol, Colonel Christopher Williamson said, "Lance Corporal Frazier exemplifies the Highway Patrol's core values of selfless service, integrity, and responsibility, even in the moments after he was shot on duty. His resilience in his recovery and determination to return to duty after this incident reflects the true spirit of a dedicated public servant. We very much appreciate the SC Sheriff's Association for recognizing Frazier with this honor."

Lance Corporal Frazier is a Navy veteran who has been with Highway Patrol Troop 7 since 2018. He currently serves in Post A, which covers Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Hampton counties.

Additionally, I would like to recognize Destany Hodgkins for being the Blythewood Telecommunications Center nominee for the 2023 Statewide Telecommunications Operator of the Year Award by the SCDPS.

I am grateful to Lance Corporal Frazier and all those in the South Carolina Highway Patrol for their service in protecting the families of the Second District and the Palmetto State.

HONORING REV. DR. WADE A. STEVENSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 21ST PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my dear friend, and a respected faith leader, Rev. Dr. Wade A. Stevenson, on the occasion of his 21st pastoral anniversary at Gideon Missionary Baptist Church in Waukegan, Illinois. For more than two decades Pastor Stevenson's leadership has helped further the spiritual well-being of not only his congregation at Gideon, but the entire surrounding community.

Rev. Dr. Stevenson was invited to become pastor of Gideon Missionary Baptist Church in 2003. At the time, he was the Pastor for Farristown Baptist Church in Berea, Kentucky, the state in which he grew up and where he earned his degrees from the University of Kentucky and Lexington Theological Seminary. On October 19, 2003, Gideon held a formal installation service for Pastor Stevenson.

As a man of faith, Pastor Stevenson's mission for leadership is: To Equip the Saints to Serve, True to this mission, he has empowered his congregation to support their families, their church and their community.

I am honored to have personally observed, and experienced, the extraordinary leadership and powerful ministry of Pastor Stevenson for more than a decade. Across the year's, I have come to know Pastor Stevenson as an exceptional leader, teacher and friend.

Pastor Stevenson is widely recognized in our community for his remarkable service and many accomplishments. He even had the honor of delivering an opening prayer as guest chaplain in this chamber in 2016. Yet, more than the accolades and awards, he is beloved as a beacon of hope, optimism and spirituality for all who know him.

I congratulate Rev. Dr. Wade A. Stevenson, his wife Gloria, his three sons, and the entire Gideon family in honor of his twenty-first pastoral anniversary with Gideon Missionary Baptist Church, and in recognition of his 34 years in the pastoral ministry, I wish him and the entire congregation blessings of health, happiness and peace.

HONORING KIMBERLY DUDECK'S
CONTRIBUTIONS TO NORTHERN
INDIANA

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Kimberly Dudeck, who is retiring on June 27 after 43 years of providing care to Hoosiers in northern Indiana as a recreational therapist, including for the past 36 years at Memorial Hospital of South Bend's Inpatient Rehabilitation center.

Raised in South Bend, Kim has spent over four decades embodying compassionate care and addressing the mental, physical, and spiritual health needs of the patients she has

been tasked with looking after. In her vocation as a recreational therapist, Kim has cared for all kinds of patients, including stroke victims, those suffering from traumatic brain injuries, cardiac patients, amputees, trauma patients, people with spinal cord injuries and neurological disorders, and cancer patients. With every patient, Kim has provided tailored and individualized therapy and care that fits the person's specific needs and interests, and which helps them successfully re-enter their community after they have experienced a life altering event.

Part of what has made Kimberly such a special person to all those who know her is how she has consistently gone above and beyond to help others and how she has been an agent for positive change. This passion for helping others has included starting the therapy dog program on the rehabilitation unit, spearheading a neuro group for stroke survivors and their families, coordinating the annual rehab reunion for previous rehab patients, and serving on the Board of Directors for the Special Olympics.

So many people have benefited from Kim's care over the years, and she has undoubtedly made the greater South Bend community a better and kinder place to live. I and many other Hoosiers are extremely grateful to Kimberly Dudeck for her many years of caring for patients and doing diligent, dedicated work to help others recover and lead better, more fulfilling lives. I wish Kim and her family all the best going forward and a very well-deserved and happy retirement as she begins the next chapter of her life. God bless Kimberly Dudeck.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITLEY COUNTY 4-H FAIR

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Whitley County 4-H Fair.

Though 1924 marked the first year of the fair's uninterrupted, century-long run, its history extends all the way back to 1856 in various forms. This long-standing tradition has made Whitley County a leader in Indiana fairs since before the American Civil War.

The fair has always been about helping, educating, and entertaining Hoosiers. But it has also fulfilled an even deeper role for Whitley County residents: fostering a sense of community. This is its most significant and cherished contribution.

Whether through its ball games, picnics, or opportunities for proud farmers to display their finest produce for neighbors, the fair has fostered countless moments of community over the past century.

This legacy is perhaps best exemplified by a 1935 article in the *Prairie Farmer*. When the marshal of that year's parade was thrown from his horse and broke his ankle, the farmers at the fair took up a collection to pay his medical bills and lost wages. The article states, "That's the kind of folks these big-hearted Whitley County farmers are. They're always ready to help a neighbor . . ." That was true then, and it remains true today.

The 4-H fair has made an indelible impact on the families, farmers, and businesses of Whitley County, and it will continue to do so for another hundred years or more. As the slogan for the fast-growing fair in 1935 declared: "Forward, Whitley County!"

RECOGNIZING PORTUGUESE AMERICANS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of June as National Portuguese Heritage Month, honoring the contributions Portuguese Americans make to our country.

As the descendant of immigrants from the Azores, I admire the rich culture and history of Portuguese communities in the Central Valley, throughout California, and across the country. To me, Portuguese Heritage Month brings back memories of Festas—celebrations spent enjoying Portuguese culture, and food. I for one, have spent many days with friends and family enjoying sopas, sweet bread, and linguica. Bullfights, parades, and, of course, the bodo de leite are cherished traditions in our Valley. These events are made possible by the dedication of cultural organizations who commit themselves to keeping Portuguese heritage alive.

Over 350,000 Portuguese Americans call California home—the largest community in the United States. This community shapes life in our State, and, especially, the Central Valley. The story of the Valley would be impossible without the stories of thousands of Azoreans who crossed an ocean and a continent determined to live the American Dream. Today, that dream is realized. Portuguese-Americans are leaders in dairy and farming, serve proudly in the U.S. military, and give back to our country in countless ways. Three Representatives of Portuguese heritage serve our Valley in Congress, and I am honored to be among them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in proudly recognizing Portuguese Americans' invaluable contributions to our Nation's history, culture, and prosperity as we celebrate National Portuguese Heritage Month.

CONGRATULATING BETH AHEARN ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an unwavering leader in my state who is retiring after several decades of dedicated service to environmental stewardship, legislative leadership, and an inclusive democracy.

For over thirty years, Beth Ahearn has worked tirelessly to protect Maine's environment, advance climate policies, expand voting rights, and secure elections. As the Director of Government Affairs for both Maine Conserva-

tion Alliance and Maine Conservation Voters, Beth's guidance was instrumental in shaping impactful policies for the betterment of Maine's natural resources and democratic processes.

Prior to Beth's tenure with Maine Conservation Voters, her experience and breadth of knowledge were influential in various capacities. Beth's previous roles included lobbying on behalf of Moose Ridge Associates, representing children as guardian ad litem, as staff attorney for Maine Audubon, and as an Assistant District Attorney in Cumberland and Androscoggin Counties.

Throughout her distinguished career, Beth oversaw several achievements that will protect Maine's environment for generations to come. In addition to crafting common sense legislation to make conservation, climate action, and voting rights political priorities, Beth guided the restoration of alewives on the St. Croix River, led the passage into law the Extended Producer Responsibility Program for Packaging and secured funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program.

Beth Ahearn's commitment to the environment and strengthening our democracy makes me very proud to represent her and the State of Maine in Congress. I wish Beth the best in her retirement, and I wholeheartedly thank her for her many years of influential work.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DOUG DURHAM

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doug Durham who passed away at the age of 94 on April 11, 2024. Doug served honorably in the United States Navy during the Korean War and continued his dedication to serving our country after leaving the service.

Born in Reed City, Michigan on July 7, 1929, Doug served on the first ship to leave the United States for Korea, the USS *Endicott* DMS 25. On the *Endicott*, Doug took part in the mission to sweep mines in Hungnam Harbor and assist in the Christmas Miracle evacuation of 105,000 servicemembers from the Chosin reservoir. He was honored as a Humboldt Hero and was selected to participate in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. to see the memorials built to honor him and others that served.

Doug continued to serve his country in the private sector after leaving the Navy. He was instrumental in the development of a groundbreaking missile detection system during his 30-year career at Lockheed. His contributions to this field were invaluable. He was a committed patriot, but his service to this country was not purely through national defense.

Doug had a passion for volunteering. He devoted much of his time to the Humboldt Senior Resource Center, Area 1 Agency on Aging, the Ingomar Club Board, and the Historical Committee. When Alzheimer's claimed the life of Doug's spouse, Virginia, he established a caregiver support group to make sure that others had the help and training they needed to care for family members stricken by the disease.

Doug was captivated by the beauty of our natural world and found solace in nature. He

was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was a strong advocate for the protection of salmonids and worked tirelessly with CalTrout to push for the enactment of policies protecting these fish and their habitat. He was a master rosarian and taught classes on the cultivation of roses. He loved spending time with his many friends. His wit, humor, and kindness left an indelible mark on all he met.

Doug is survived by his sister, Judy, and preceded in death by Virginia, his wife of 50 years, as well as his father, Jules, mother Harriette, stepmother Eleanor, and sister Georgia. He is remembered as a loving husband and brother, a community leader, a patriot, and a dear friend to all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that Doug Durham was a dedicated public servant who will be missed and whose many contributions to Humboldt County and the nation are worthy of commendation. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his many contributions and express our deep condolences to his family and friends.

CONGRATULATING FAYTHE
PETERSEN ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to congratulate Mrs. Faythe Petersen of Norfolk, Nebraska on her retirement.

Faythe is a longtime public servant with over 44 years of service with the Norfolk Fire and Rescue.

Over decades, she supported generations of first responders both on call and off. She assisted with public education programs, helped plan for emergencies and disasters, and coordinated with local, State, and Federal public safety responders.

With her efforts, Norfolk Fire and Rescue was better able to serve the community of Norfolk. I know she will be greatly missed in the department.

On behalf of the First District of Nebraska, I thank Faythe for her service to the community of Norfolk, and extend best wishes to her on her retirement.

HONORING JOHN AGENOR
CANNADY, SR.

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Agenor Cannady, Sr., who peacefully passed away on Saturday, April 20, 2024, surrounded by his loving family at his home in Alexandria, Virginia. John, age eighty-seven, leaves behind a legacy of love, wisdom, and service that is deeply cherished.

John was a U.S. Airforce Technical Sergeant, he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1954, serving with distinction in various locations worldwide, including Libya, Spain, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, and England. He also served at multiple locations within the United States, Nebraska, Indiana, Kansas,

and North Carolina. John retired in 1977, at Pease AFB in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, after serving our country for 23 years. His very noble contributions earned him numerous Air Force Medals, symbolizing his unwavering dedication to his country.

Following his military service, John worked in the Intelligence Community, for the U.S. Government, at Raytheon/E-Systems, as an Electronic Technician. There, he continued to serve our National Security community for more than 12 years, and eventually retired with a total of more than 35 years of dedicated service.

John Agenor Cannady, Sr. was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Antionette Cannady. He leaves behind five children, nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. His legacy lives on through his large and loving family who remember him as filled with profound knowledge, an enthusiastic advocate of education, a generous and wise man.

HONORING MIKE HOWARD

HON. JAKE LaTURNER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation for a member of my staff, Mike Howard, who has recently embarked on a new job off the Hill after nearly three years of service as my communications director. Mike began in my office in August of 2021, and has served since then as a trusted advisor who has constantly sharpened our team and ensured that we are able to get out the message of our work here in Congress to my constituents from Galena to Atchison.

Mike has spent countless early mornings and late nights preparing with me for interviews, town halls, committee hearings, and making sure that we are able to clearly explain the work that we do here. Mike will be sorely missed as he moves on to this new role, but I would like to thank him once again for his dedication and commitment to the people of the Second Congressional District of Kansas.

CONGRATULATING ROMEO
LUCCHESI

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Romeo Lucchesi, the Visual Information Specialist at the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr. VA Medical Center in Memphis, for his successes in video marketing and film-making. Earlier this year, he won a Gold Aster Award for excellence in healthcare advertising for his special video production "A Tribute to Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr." Earlier this year, he also won an Emmy Award for his documentary video essay "The Green Beret Who Fought Muhammad Ali." Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. was a Tuskegee Airman from Memphis. During World War II, Weathers was credited with shooting down German planes while protecting U.S. Army Air Corps bombers. As a re-

sult of his stellar flying record, he earned an Air Medal with 7 Clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the American Theater Ribbon Victory Medal WWII. After the War, he worked for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and eventually returned to Memphis, where he continued to support African Americans in the military, aviation, and elsewhere. Lt. Col. Weathers's inspirational story moved me to introduce legislation to rename the Memphis VA after him. Lucchesi produced a memorial video of Lt. Col. Weathers for a renaming ceremony of the Memphis VA Medical Center in July 2023. "The Green Beret Who Fought Muhammad Ali" tells the story of Memphis native Henry Hooper, a Booker T. Washington High school graduate who enlisted in the Marines and later joined the U.S. Army's Special Forces Green Berets. As a Green Beret, he was invited to the U.S. Olympic Boxing Trials in 1960 held at San Francisco's Cow Palace, where he sparred with Cassius Clay, later known as Muhammad Ali, who won the Gold Medal in the light heavyweight division in the Rome Olympics later that year. Hooper describes the fight in the film, explaining that for a split second, he took his eyes off Ali, and got knocked down. Ali won the match on a technical knock out. Hooper spent 11 years on active duty, some of it in Vietnam, while Ali resisted the draft and was charged with draft evasion in a case later overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court. Hooper later became a Secret Service agent and was assigned White House duty during the Carter Administration. At a state dinner to which Muhammad Ali had been invited, Ali approached Hooper saying he was sure they'd met before. Hooper said they'd met at the Cow Palace and they embraced. Hooper's colleagues asked about the encounter because they had never heard the story of the boxing match. As Hooper explains it, he didn't talk about it: "I lost. I got beat . . . but he (Ali) remembered." Hooper, now a retired insurance agent in Memphis, is finally getting the adulation as a veteran that he deserves, and it is thanks to Mr. Lucchesi's talented filmmaking. The six-minute documentary can be viewed on the Medical Center's Facebook page. Romeo Lucchesi's talent is apparent, and I am pleased that he is working at the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr. VA Medical Center, helping to tell the stories and honor those who have sacrificed to protect our freedoms. I congratulate him on his successes and look forward to seeing what else he has in store for us.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BRIGADIER
GENERAL DEREK M.
SALMI

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Air Force Brigadier General Derek M. Salmi for his critical service and outstanding leadership as Commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base.

Brigadier General Salmi commissioned from the Air Force Academy in 1998 after earning his Bachelor of Science in political science. Throughout his 25-year-long career, he has

commanded at the squadron, group, and wing levels and served as a command pilot with more than 3,000 hours in mobility and trainer aircraft. In addition, he has deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn.

As the Travis Air Force Base 60th Air Mobility Wing Commander, Brigadier General Salmi led the Air Force's largest air mobility organization in terms of personnel and was responsible for the well-being and readiness of more than 26,100 active-duty, reserve and civilian personnel, and their families. In addition, he managed \$13 billion in capital assets, executed a \$650 million budget, and oversaw the Air Force's largest medical center in the continental United States. Brigadier General Salmi's critical leadership and expertise not only made our country safer, but also helped improve the lives of the thousands of military and civilian personnel who work at Travis Air Force Base.

Brigadier General Salmi's commitment to preparing the units at Travis Air Force Base to respond to any potential threat characterized his tenure as Commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing. He led the 60th Air Mobility Wing in executing two intensive joint Agile Combat Employment exercises in the United States Indo-Pacific Command theater of operations while simultaneously providing 35 percent of all Department of Defense logistics support to Ukraine.

Under Brigadier General Salmi's leadership, the 60th Air Mobility won 117 United States Air Force and Air Mobility Command awards. In addition, he directed multiple key military construction projects that will make Travis Air Force Base more resilient and our country more secure.

Brigadier General Salmi's selfless commitment to the military personnel and families stationed at Travis Air Force Base has undeniably improved the base for future generations of servicemembers. On behalf of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for Brigadier General Salmi's dedication and service to our country and community. I know Travis Air Force Base and the Solano County community join me in extending our best wishes as Brigadier General Salmi embarks on his future endeavors.

HONORING GEORGE HOWARD

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the remarkable life and upcoming 100th birthday of George Howard, an African American World War II veteran and an esteemed resident of Lansing, Michigan. Born in Birmingham, Alabama on February 22, 1925, Mr. Howard has led a life of service, resilience, and love for his fellow man. His story is one of transformation, from facing adversity and discrimination to building meaningful and trusting relationships across racial lines.

Mr. Howard's service to our nation began when he was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1943. During World War II, he served in an all-Black unit and was responsible for handling and organizing munitions, a

duty that often placed him under enemy fire. His bravery was demonstrated in key campaigns, including in Naples and the Rome-Arno operations in Italy, and his attachment to the 12th and 15th Air Forces and the Mediterranean Allied Air Force.

Mr. Howard's service earned him multiple decorations, including the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and the WWII Victory Medal.

The experiences Mr. Howard had during the war affected his outlook on life. While serving in Italy and Switzerland, he encountered a level of respect and equality from Europeans that was often denied to him in the segregated American South. These experiences fueled his desire to promote equality and understanding among all people, a mission he has carried with him throughout his life.

Upon returning to the United States, Mr. Howard once again faced the harsh realities of a segregated society. Though he had served with honor and integrity, he and other African American veterans were excluded from celebrations. Despite the lack of recognition and disrespectful treatment, he remained focused on the values he fought for during the war. He expressed deep gratitude for President Truman's decision to desegregate the U.S. Armed Forces in 1948, a significant step towards equality.

After his military service, Mr. Howard moved to Brooklyn, New York, and eventually settled in Michigan, where he built a career as a physical therapy technician at Ingham Medical Center in Lansing. His professional dedication was matched by his passion for jazz music. A proud father of three, he and his saxophone were often exiled by his children to a friend's basement to practice in the early days of developing his talent. Eventually, he was not only performing locally but also traveling across the country to study and listen to other jazz artists. At the age of 92, he realized a lifelong dream by recording his first CD, "George Howard and My Jazz Brothers," thanks to the support of his friends.

Mr. Howard's life is a testament to the power of perseverance and the strength found in service to one's country. To this day, he strongly believes in the fundamental principle that all men are created equal and has spent his life fostering understanding and respect among different cultures. He is also deeply committed to ensuring that people learn about the significant contributions of Black soldiers who have served our country, from the Revolutionary War to World War II to today.

It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize George Howard's extraordinary contributions and wish him a joyous celebration of his 100th birthday in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF JOEY CHIANG

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Joey Chiang, the current president of the Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce of North America (TCCNA). Mr.

Chiang works tirelessly to lead the TCCNA in their mission to support and connect Taiwanese business members in North America.

TCCNA was established in 1986 as a non-profit organization. TCCNA encompasses thirty-five regional chambers primarily composed of Taiwanese immigrants. These regional chambers span the U.S. and Canada, including major metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles, New York, and here in the nation's capital. Under the careful stewardship of past presidents, TCCNA has grown into the largest transnational civilian organization in North America. Serving as a vital platform for communication between Taiwanese businesses in North America and the Taiwanese government, TCCNA regularly advocates for the importance of bilateral U.S.-Taiwan trade relations. As of June 22, 2024, the TCCNA is celebrating its 36th annual meeting of the board of directors. This impressive milestone is a testament to the dedication and passion that TCCNA members bring to their organization.

TCCNA would not be what it is today without the guidance of President Joey Chiang. Mr. Chiang, a talented developer in his own right, has led TCCNA to gather forty new directors under his term. His expert hand brought TCCNA great success in their annual Washington DC Door Knocking Event, where the organization visited over fifty members of Congress. Furthermore, Mr. Chiang is not only a talented and successful leader but a generous benefactor. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he personally arranged and donated millions of masks from Taiwan to the United States for frontline workers. Mr. Chiang's zeal, generosity, and expert governance has significantly enhanced economic and cultural exchanges between Taiwan and the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in commemorating the dedication of Joey Chiang, a man responsible for advancing Taiwanese-American commercial relations.

RECOGNIZING GLORIA ORTIZ-FISHER FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS WITH THE WESTSIDE HOUSING ORGANIZATION IN KANSAS CITY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Gloria Ortiz-Fisher for receiving the prestigious 2024 Mid-America Regional Council Regional Leadership Award. Gloria has bettered the lives of countless people in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District through her remarkable work as the Executive Director for the Westside Housing Organization. This award serves as a testament to her lifelong commitment to supporting her community.

Born in Kansas City—the same city she would later serve—Gloria graduated from Park University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and from DeVry University's Keller Graduate School with an MBA. Since then, she boasts over 30 years of work experience in the field of finance, using her skills to make an impact on her fellow Kansas Citians. Notably, she served as the Director of Finance and Purchasing for Jackson County, Missouri, from

2003 to 2007 and served as a member of its environmental task force, promoting energy efficiency across all County departments. A naturally helpful and supportive person, Gloria first started working with the Westside Housing Organization in 2011 at the request of a friend in need, as there was a vacancy on the board. The rest is history.

Gloria's passion for community service and volunteerism eventually earned her the title of Executive Director of the Westside Housing Organization, which was founded on these very principles in 1973. The group began as Kansas City neighbors joined forces to save their communities from degradation and destruction, forming a local non-profit development group now known as the Westside Housing Organization. With over four decades of experience, growth, and appreciation, the Westside Housing Organization prides itself on working, "at the intersection of home, health, energy, and equity." It not only builds new housing in Kansas City, but also provides essential repair and restoration efforts to citizens who are unable to afford these costs.

Though it has expanded far beyond a small group of neighbors repairing homes, the Westside Housing Organization has maintained the neighborly sentiment that founded the organization so long ago thanks to Gloria's diligent leadership. Gloria has brought far more than remodeled roofs, pristine paint, or functioning furnaces to disadvantaged neighborhoods—she also brings care and dignity to the people she serves. It is through Gloria that the houses and residences the Westside Housing Organization works on become homes and communities.

Gloria's impact on communities is as wide-reaching as it is essential. Beginning with her work for Jackson County, Gloria has worked tirelessly to address ongoing climate concerns and their harsh impact on housing for underprivileged populations. She constantly advocates for sustainability and environmentally friendly housing initiatives, saving lower-income households major costs. Her push for climate sustainability extends beyond her job requirements. Only a year into her role as Executive Director, the Westside Housing Organization was granted with a "Green Designation" from NeighborWorks America for being committed to sustainability. Gloria also serves as Commissioner of the Mayor's Energy Task Force, promoting environmental consciousness throughout the city.

Gloria pours her heart and soul into bettering the lives of Kansas Citians—whether that be in or out of the professional sphere. In her free time, she serves as a mentor for young Latino students in the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Avanzado program and is an active member and Community Leader of the Christ Community Church. Her record of relentless service reminds me of Hebrews 13:16:—"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Gloria continues to serve as a shining example of helping others in need, and I am filled with pride at her commitment to service.

With Gloria's devotion to the people of Kansas City, I cannot think of a more deserving recipient of the 2024 MARC Regional Leadership Award. Recipients of this award have embodied excellence and made meaningful contributions to the Greater Kansas City region. As a former recipient of this award, I am in-

credibly pleased to have Ms. Ortiz-Fisher join the cohort of those who have been granted this honor for their leadership and service, and I am honored to share this award with her. May this achievement express the profound appreciation the people of Kansas City, including myself, have for her. Gloria is truly a neighbor for all Kansas Citians and will continue to have a remarkable living legacy in this city—one that will be felt for generations.

RECOGNIZING DONNA M. CHIERA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I use today to congratulate Donna M. Chiera on her retirement as President of the American Federation of Teachers New Jersey (AFTNJ). Ms. Chiera has dedicated over 40 years of service to the education field and her contributions and accomplishments are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

As President of AFTNJ, Donna Chiera brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. She worked as a special education teacher and resource room teacher for the Perth Amboy Public School District for more than 30 years until her retirement from teaching in 2011. Furthermore, Ms. Chiera also served as president of the local union, Perth Amboy Federation of Teachers, from 1991 until 2013, as well as AFTNJ executive vice president for grades pre-K through 12. Her long-standing involvement with AFT and her tenure as an educator exemplify Ms. Chiera's commitment to serve and advance New Jersey's teachers and students.

Representing the interests of 30,000 members of AFTNJ, Ms. Chiera has been an active member of AFT national, chairing the Teachers program and policy council, serving on subcommittees, and participating in both the National and New Jersey Teacher of the Year selection.

In addition to her leadership of AFTNJ, Ms. Chiera is Vice President of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Executive Board and previously served as Vice President of the Middlesex-Somerset County Central Labor Council, Education Chair of Perth Amboy's Strategic Planning Task Force, and Education Co-Chair for New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's transition committee.

Mr. Speaker, please Join me in leading this body in acknowledgement of the contributions of Donna Chiera. She has tirelessly devoted her time to New Jersey's education and labor communities, and I am honored to recognize her today.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH
ANNIVERSARY OF OPEN BUFFALO

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Open Buffalo and the remarkable work they do to make our community a more just, equitable place for all.

Founded in 2014, Open Buffalo is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing racial, economic, and ecological justice. Open Buffalo works to make Western New York a community free from discrimination and poverty by prioritizing long-term solutions to address systemic inequities. Through all of its actions, Open Buffalo leads with the values of empathy, accountability, collaboration, and restorative justice.

Open Buffalo's work takes place through two main avenues—leadership development and advocacy. They help to create Buffalo's next generation of skilled changemakers, hosting leadership trainings to empower our youth to make a positive difference in our community. Further, Open Buffalo has increased civic engagement in our community by giving individuals the platform to voice their own opinions and ideas.

Since Open Buffalo's founding, they have been a key advocate in social justice-based change, making a tangible impact on the lives of Western New Yorkers. Today, I wish to highlight their newest project, the Open Buffalo Ecology Center. The creation of the "Eco Center" will provide 10 acres of community green space on the East Side of Buffalo. Open Buffalo will host recreational activities and educational events for all in the community to participate in.

For 10 years, Open Buffalo has conducted the grassroots work to make our community a more equitable place for everyone. Please join me in congratulating Open Buffalo on their 10th Anniversary and thanking them for their remarkable service.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR RUSSELL
BARTHOLOW FOR 17 YEARS OF
DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR
COUNTRY

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize Major Russell Bartholow for his 17 years of service with the Nebraska Army National Guard.

Russell Bartholow joined the Nebraska Army National Guard in 2007, motivated to do something for our country and for this world.

In 2008, he was sent to Afghanistan, where he spent 22 months serving as the head of a five-person "Effects Cell." He was responsible for developing and conducting civil-military projects in the nine northern Afghanistan provinces. His team completed 31 projects, including providing innocent children with clothes, food and toys.

Major Bartholow always went above and beyond what was asked of him. When he saw the innocent children, he worked hard to find them a safe place to play. He was able to negotiate with Afghan businessmen and elders to raise over \$200,000 in funding for a park. This park included a soccer field, basketball court and merry-go-rounds and provided an oasis of hope and safety for the kids affected by war.

His heart for service and dedication to the children and civilians are further seen in his being awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his coordination of \$12 million in funding for roads, schools and clinics.

After his time in Afghanistan, Bartholow was promoted to Captain. In 2018, he was promoted to the rank of Major in the Nebraska Army National Guard.

During his years of service, Major Bartholow has also been awarded the Combat Action Badge and the Army Achievement Medal.

Major Russell Bartholow will be retiring in June 2024.

On behalf of the First District of Nebraska, I thank Major Bartholow for his service and extend best wishes on his retirement.

HONORING JACKIE HUNLEY

HON. JAKE LaTURNER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation for a member of my staff for her dedicated service to the people of Kansas. Jackie Hunley began in my office in October of 2021 and since then has dedicated her time, energy, and expertise to improving the lives of the people of the Second Congressional District. From serving as a legislative

correspondent and ensuring we provide thoughtful replies to each constituent letter to shaping our office's appropriations process as my legislative director, Jackie has made our office better with her quick wit, work ethic, and desire to serve others.

Jackie has become an adopted Kansan during her time with our team, not least because she met her husband, Chance—a fellow Southeast Kansan, while serving on our staff. While we will miss her as she has moved on to serve her own home state of Iowa, I extend my deepest gratitude for her time of service to myself and my constituents and look forward to seeing her excel in her new role.