

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT DEBBY CLARK

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Debby Clark of Frisco, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Debby has faithfully dedicated herself to serving our community.

Debby was born in Central City, Iowa where she started playing the organ for local churches while in junior high. As a pipe organ major, she graduated from Cornell College in 1973 with a Bachelor of Music Education. It is on the campus of her alma mater that she met her husband, Bob, and they later married. Debby taught grades K–8 in Schaumburg, Illinois for five years. She has taught piano privately for over thirty years, which allowed her to raise two beautiful daughters, Emily and Abigail, and works with her family insurance business.

Debby has been actively involved in her community as evidenced by her work with both the Plano and Frisco Chambers of Commerce and was recognized by Frisco as Ambassador of the year. She is a graduate of Plano Leadership Class 17, served on the city of Frisco CPAC committee, Frisco Area Republican Women's group, and volunteered with the National Charity League and Rainbow girls for many years. She has spent 35 years as a church organist, partnering with her husband whenever possible. She is a dedicated mother and grandmother, and her nurturing spirit is felt within the community by everyone who meets her.

I am proud to recognize my friend, Debby, today and am confident she will continue to make a positive impact in our community for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Debby with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I had to miss votes on July 8, 2024.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 336, and YEA on Roll Call No. 337.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM "BILL" KENNEDY

### HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William Kennedy. When Bill Kennedy passed away on June 28th at the age of 74, Janesville lost one of its true leaders. Bill drove our community forward as a successful business leader, philanthropist, and coach.

Bill and his two brothers, Steve and Bob, owned and operated Rock Road Companies, a family-owned road-building construction company that has been active in the Wisconsin transportation industry since 1912. Bill put his time, talents, and experience to the benefit of organizations including the Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association, the Wisconsin Transportation Development Association, and Forward Janesville.

Bill was also a philanthropist who served in numerous leadership positions. He helped support the Boys and Girls Club of Janesville, serving most recently as the Chair of the Capital and Endowment Campaign. Bill also helped support the Ronald McDonald charities as well as numerous other charitable causes through the Kennedy Family Foundation, established by Bill and his brothers in 2013.

An avid golfer, Bill's love of sports also led him to become a founding partner of the Janesville Jets hockey team and support youth sports as a coach and fundraiser.

Bill is survived by his wife Diane, his mother Delores, his siblings Connie, Colleen, Steve, Bob, and Carrie, five children, and 16 grandchildren. Bill leaves a lasting legacy as a devoted father, grandfather, husband, mentor, and community leader. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

RECOGNIZING THE RISING SUN CHURCH'S 170TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 170th anniversary of the Rising Sun Church of Christ in Pleasant Hill, Iowa.

Over the past 170 years, the Rising Sun Church of Christ has been a cornerstone of the community, providing spiritual guidance, support, and a sense of belonging to countless individuals and families. Their mission-based approach centers around building family legacies rooted in Christ's truth emphasizing unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials, and love in all things. Over the years, the church has grown and evolved, embracing new generations while honoring its rich history

and traditions. This impressive milestone is a testament to the enduring faith and dedication of the church's congregation and leadership.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the Rising Sun Church of Christ for their commitment to faith, family, and their community and congratulate them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT ROBERT CLARK

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert "Bob" Clark of Frisco, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. He has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

Bob was born and raised in Iowa and, with music in his DNA, he quickly found his talent at the keyboard. Winning piano competitions turned his talent to passion so he attended Cornell College and graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Music, Piano Performance degree. He met his wife, Debby, on the campus and then the two were married in 1973. Together they raised two independent daughters and have two grandchildren. Bob was drawn to the insurance agency as a means to make a living while having the freedom to stay active in music. He is President of Clark Insurance Advisors Frisco, a business that centers on providing health insurance expertise and employee benefits advice to small and privately held businesses.

Bob is active in community service and previously served on the board of Frisco Parks & Recreation, graduated from Leadership Frisco Class 12, and both Citizens Fire and Police Academy. He has been a Rotarian for over 20 years, a member of the Frisco Chamber for 12 years and has dedicated countless hours to local politics, helping shape the landscape of the city. Bob's musical passion is a gift that he shares with his community in so many ways. He has been a church choir director and director of music for almost 30 years, from Roselle United Methodist in Illinois to First Christian Church in Plano, a journey he shares with his wife. I commend Bob for his long-term commitment to working to advance his city and county and am grateful to have served by his side in Leadership Frisco and to call him friend.

It is an honor to bestow Bob with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

• 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.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on July 8th and 9th as I needed to attend the funeral services of a close friend.

Had I been present for the following roll call votes, I would have voted Aye on:

Roll Call No. 336, July 8, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 897, Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act;

Roll Call No. 337, July 8, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5441, Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act;

Roll Call No. 340, July 9, 2024: On Motion to Recommit—H.R. 7637, Refrigerator Freedom Act; and

Roll Call No. 342, July 9, 2024: On Motion to Recommit—H.R. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act.

Had I been present for the following roll call votes, I would have voted No on:

Roll Call No. 338, July 9, 2024: On Ordering the Previous Question H. Res. 1341, Providing for consideration of the bills H.R. 8281, Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act; H.R. 8772, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025; H.R. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act; H.R. 7637, Refrigerator Freedom Act; and the joint resolution H.J. Res. 165;

Roll Call No. 339, July 9, 2024: On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 1341, Providing for consideration of the bills H.R. 8281, Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act; H.R. 8772, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025; H.R. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act; H.R. 7637, Refrigerator Freedom Act; and the joint resolution H.J. Res. 165;

Roll Call No. 341, July 9, 2024: On Passage—H.R. 7637, Refrigerator Freedom Act; and

Roll Call No. 343, July 9, 2024: On Passage—H.R. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act.

CONGRATULATING THE INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART MARKET ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, we all inhabit one planet with vibrant, colorful rich traditions of folk art. I rise to congratulate the International Folk Art Market, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year for bringing to Santa Fe some of the best of that folk art.

This art gives us a glimpse into the history and cultural traditions across our continents, but also is an economic engine for the families and communities who create these masterpieces.

Since 2004, over a thousand volunteers have shared in this vision as they join forces to make this major economic driver for the art-

ists and the Santa Fe area both possible. For many artists, the revenue feeds their family, and for the collective, the profits go to digging water wells for the village. The first market hosted 60 participating folk artists, and this year my hometown will host 160 artists from over 50 countries. It is one of the largest folk art markets in the world.

This next weekend, the Market will transform the Santa Fe Historic Rail Yard into an international village, with global music, ethnic foods, speakers, and more. The art will come alive in stories, tastes, and dance moves.

Humankind is strongest and kindest when we can celebrate the diverse traditions found in our country, and in our world. Happy Birthday (Feliz Cumpleaños) to International Folk Art Market on their 20th year of bridging cultures.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY OF LUIS PEDROSO

**HON. LORI TRAHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tremendous contributions and legacy of Luis Pedrosa, a successful businessman, community leader and philanthropist who has dedicated his life to the prosperity of the Greater Lowell region. He recently retired and will be celebrating his 65th birthday this year.

Luis was born in Sao Jorge, Azores, Portugal in 1959. His family briefly lived in Angola, Africa before returning to the Azores and immigrating to California in 1969. After the passing of his father, his family returned to Portugal before emigrating back to the U.S. and settling in Lowell. After graduating from Lowell High School in 1980, Luis would embark on a professional career where he would go on to found Qualitronics, Inc., co-found Accutronics, Inc., high-end electronics manufacturing companies, that have employed many people in our region. Before retiring, Luis sold both of his companies—a testament to his tremendous career in business.

In addition to his impressive professional career, Luis never forgot where he came from. He is extremely involved in the Portuguese community, so much so that he established the Hélio and Amélia Pedrosa/Fundação Luso-Americana Endowed Chair in Portuguese Studies at UMASS Dartmouth as well as the Saab-Pedroso Center for Portuguese Studies at UMASS Lowell. He also played an instrumental role in spearheading the effort to bring 24-hour Portuguese programming to local television to serve Lowell and other communities. He is a founding member of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF), where he recruited many individuals, including myself, to serve on its board and support nonprofits in Lowell and beyond. For 27 years, the GLCF has transformed the lives of countless individuals, families and nonprofit organizations in our community by fostering community growth and development through funding, leadership, and collaboration. Luis is also the creator of the Portuguese American Scholarship through the Greater Lowell Foundation which assists graduates of Lowell High School. Through Luis's leadership and efforts, he has made the City of Lowell a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Luis's kindness and wisdom make him a trusted figure for individuals to lean on when experiencing hardship. Most notably, Luis played an integral role in assisting a young woman who was studying at Middlesex Community College to receive her nursing degree. After a car accident left her vehicle totaled, she reached out to Luis, who without hesitation was able to assist her in finding a new vehicle so she could continue her studies and fulfill her practicum.

Throughout his life, Luis has been the recipient of numerous recognitions from distinguished organizations for his work in our community. He has been recognized as the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers Person of the Year, as well as being named a recipient of the prestigious George L. Duncan Award of Excellence. He was selected to receive the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator Award and the International Institute American Dream Award and was inducted into the Lowell High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. In the face of so many well-deserved accolades, Luis has remained humble, accessible, and down to earth—a surprise to no one who has had the pleasure of knowing him.

Luis is known for his love for his family and friends, his kindness to those around him, his entrepreneurial spirit, and his immense pride in the City of Lowell's Portuguese Community. Luis's legacy will continue to leave a lasting and positive impact for many generations to come.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT THOMAS MCCALL

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Thomas McCall of Frisco, Texas and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. He has served and uplifted our community through his leadership and dedication.

Tom was born and raised in Yonkers, NY. Due to life hardships, he was quickly educated in the meaning of mortgage payment and food on the table. He attended Manhattan College, graduating in 1972 with a BSBA in Accounting and his CPA designation, which led to the beginning of a long and prosperous career in which he earned a reputation as a determined account executive. Over 30 plus years of work, Tom had multiple assignments but only 3 employers. He launched his own business. McCall Asset Management, in 1998 in Frisco, TX and it is still going strong. Tom met his wife, Karen, during college and they married in 1975. They raised 2 kids and have 2 wonderful grandchildren.

Throughout his career, Tom has been present in his community through his charitable giving of time, talent and treasure as seen in his involvement with Boy Scouts of America, Leadership Council, St. Baldrick's Children's Cancer Research, Hope for Vision, and Serving HIM (Healthcare International Ministries). A devoted man of faith, Tom attends Holy Cross Catholic Church The Colony with his wife, Karen, where he serves as Volunteer Finance Chair. on the Pastoral Council

and as an Educator. Since 1985 he has been actively involved with Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, and is a past Trustee. He lives the Catholic Christian life of servitude. I am proud of Tom's lifelong contributions to our community, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Tom with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on July 9, 2024, I was unable to cast my vote on: H.R. 7637—Refrigerator Freedom Act. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 341.

RECOGNIZING MR. FRANK KIM'S SERVICE TO ORANGE COUNTY AS THE ORANGE COUNTY CEO

### HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Frank Kim's service to Orange County, California, as the Orange County Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Frank Kim has served Orange County for 29 years, including the last nine years as the Chief Executive Officer for Orange County. During his tenure, he worked with the Board of Supervisors, City Councils, and public and private stakeholders to develop leading edge mental health care services and create a new model of care for the homeless. He managed Orange County's successful emergence from bankruptcy, the completion of major public infrastructure projects, including 100-year flood protection for the Santa Ana River, and major improvements to John Wayne Airport, a new Civic Center, and state-of-the-art animal shelter. These represent just a small portion of his accomplishments. It was an honor to work closely with Frank during my two-terms as an Orange County Supervisor, particularly in my two years as Chairwoman of the Board in 2017 and 2020. His support and level-headed management during the COVID-19 pandemic were invaluable to me and to the people of Orange County.

Mr. Kim should be commended for all his hard work throughout his career and his dedication to improving the lives of Orange County residents.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Frank Kim for his service.

RECOGNIZING PAULINE PEARSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. TROY E. NEHLS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of my constituent

Pauline Pearson of Richmond, Texas. Being a pioneer resident of the Pecan Grove area for 28 years, it is my honor to wish her a Happy Birthday on this momentous milestone.

She was born a twin sister in Rosebud, North Dakota, and has lived a life worthy of many memories. Having grown up working on a family farm and studying in a one room prairie schoolhouse in North Dakota, her story is truly one of the great American frontier.

She was the proud wife to her husband, Robert, and a dear mother to her daughter, Sharon. They traveled across the country for work in California, and eventually moved to the Great State of Texas in 1996. She has brought joy and happiness to everyone who has crossed paths with, and her life story is a testament to her strength, wisdom, and resilience.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Pearson on behalf of the people of the great state of Texas. Happy 100th Birthday to Pauline. May God continue to bless her and her family with abundant health, unending happiness, and boundless love.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT ANN HARRIS

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Ann Harris of Frisco, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Ann has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

Ann was born in Reading, Pennsylvania in 1952. She attended the University of Miami, graduating Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Education in 1974 and went on to earn a Master of Education in 1976. Relocation to Houston, Texas allowed Ann to obtain a job teaching physical education in Middle School. After 3 years, she transferred to Spring Branch ISD to become the Head Women's Varsity Basketball Coach. During this time, she met the Houston Rockets' Coach, Del Harris, whom she married in 1987. They moved several times, including to Milwaukee and LA, before returning to Texas, ultimately settling in Frisco in 2000.

Since then, Ann has been actively involved with numerous community organizations in North Texas. She served as the Development Chair for the Frisco expansion of City House and cofounded both The Frisco Giving Tree and StepUP Frisco. She was selected as one of the Top Ten Women in Collin County, received the Spirit of Frisco Award from the Frisco Chamber of Commerce, and was named Person of the Year in 2022 by Frisco Style Magazine. Ann is strong in her faith, attending Gateway Church in Frisco, recognizing her greatest pride as her husband, their 5 children and grandchildren and that all have become believers in Christ.

I'm confident Ann will continue to make a positive impact in our community through her passion and commitment to bringing awareness to and supporting those in financial crises and homelessness for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Ann with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

CELEBRATING NEGRO ELECTION DAY

### HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Negro Election Day, otherwise known as Black Picnic Holiday, which is celebrated on the third Saturday of July.

Decades before the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, enslaved and free peoples participated in the colonies' first democratic voting system, holding elections of a king or governor to advocate for their community's needs.

First recorded in 1741 in Salem, Massachusetts, the tradition grew to include Africans from across New England and eventually became known as the Black Picnic. Over the centuries, the event shifted to include track and field events, jazz dances, choir performances, and more. The honoring of Negro Election Day reflects the resilience of New Englanders of African descent. To enshrine its significance, the Massachusetts State Legislature passed S. 2703 on February 17, 2022, establishing the third Saturday in July as a state holiday.

In the words of Massachusetts State Senator Joan B. Lovely from Salem, "We must continue to commemorate the meaningful milestones African Americans have contributed to Massachusetts and our Nation today and in all the days going forward." It is with those words that I ask you to please join me in honoring the history and celebration of Negro Election Day.

RECOGNIZING CLIFFORD STRICKLAND

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Technician Fifth Grade Clifford Strickland of Fowler, Colorado, a fallen World War II soldier considered missing in action until December of 2023.

Clifford was a U.S. Army Technician out of Charlie Company, 803rd Engineers Battalion. He was stationed in the Philippines where he was constructing vital landing strips for U.S. forces when the military of Japan attacked the islands. Clifford and his fellow soldiers bravely defended the island for several months before he was captured in April of 1942, forced into the agonizing Bataan Death March, and taken to Cabanatuan Prison Camp where he died months later. After he was buried, it took 81 years to identify Clifford's remains.

In service of his country, Clifford made the ultimate sacrifice and we are eternally grateful for his courage in the line of duty. On June 29, 2024, Clifford will finally return home where he will be buried surrounded by family and loved ones in Florence, Colorado.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Clifford's service and sacrifice. We are thankful to have him home after all these years.

CELEBRATING COLMA'S 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KEVIN MULLIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Town of Colma and join in celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the town's incorporation, and its unique history and significance to my district.

Nestled in the north of San Mateo County, California, Colma is the smallest incorporated community by living population in the county that has a remarkable story to tell. As a San Mateo County native, I'm very familiar with Colma and its fame as a necropolis. Referred to as the "City of Souls," Colma has approximately 1,500 residents but over 1.5 million graves, brandishing the motto "It's great to be alive in Colma." In the early 1900's, San Francisco was growing and developing at a rapid pace, and areas and space for burials became scarce. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors prohibited new burials within city limits, prompting cemeteries to relocate to the more spacious and convenient surroundings of Colma.

Today, Colma boasts 17 cemeteries altogether, including a pet cemetery. This astonishing number of remains includes notable figures such as Levi Strauss, the founder of the namesake blue jean company, Wyatt Earp, the infamous lawman of the Wild West, Joe DiMaggio and Willie McCovey, legendary baseball players, William Randolph Hearst, newspaper tycoon, Bill Graham, famed music promoter, and California political leaders like Governor Edmund "Pat" Brown. Their resting places, along with many others, attract visitors from near and far, making Colma a place of reflection and pilgrimage. Colma's cemeteries are not just places of mourning; they are also spaces of beauty and history. The grounds and historic monuments serve as a living museum, presenting the stories of countless individuals and preserving the history of the region. These cemeteries also significantly contribute to the local economy. Colma's unique position as a necropolis means that cemetery related industries like flower shops and monument businesses have sprung up across town. By supporting local employment and commerce, the town and its residents have utilized their unique circumstances to foster strength and sustainability within their community.

Colma's significance extends beyond its role as a final resting place. Long before incorporation, Ohlone natives settled in the area and the Spanish used the land for farming and ranching. During the Gold Rush, the area that is now Colma was crucial for its agricultural products, dairies, and ranches to feed the greater San Francisco Bay Area and the large influx of people. As the greater San Francisco Bay Area grew, so did Colma, incorporating as Lawndale in 1924. The name changed in 1941 due to a conflict with a post office of the same name in Southern California.

After World War II, Colma saw an increase in new housing subdivisions driven by returning veterans and continued adapting to changing needs and diversifying its economy. Colma is home to the famous "Serramonte Auto Row" of car dealerships, both foreign and domestic, right in the heart of the town and the

town is a retail brick and mortar shopping destination. The Colma BART station opened in 1996 and was the first expansion of the mass transit system deeper into San Mateo County beyond the original plans. Modern success combined with a long, storied history has created a tight-knit community. This deep sense of community and a stable, dedicated elected leadership continues to shape the town. The residents are both resilient and vibrant, with a strong sense of local culture and identity. Colma has embraced the town's unique role, wearing it as a badge of honor for its heritage and history.

I am proud Colma is part of the Congressional District that I represent. The town stands as a testament to the power of adaptation and a reminder of the storied history of San Mateo County. Colma honors the past while also fostering a unique blend of old-world, small-town charm, and modern municipal government. As I reflect on the journey of the Town of Colma, I am reminded of the profound impact that history has on shaping our communities and our identity as Americans. On this day, let us celebrate Colma for its resilient spirit, and its unique place in the heart of San Mateo County.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-  
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT THOMAS  
DILLON

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Thomas Dillon of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Thomas has dedicated himself to faithfully serving his community.

Thomas was born in Pittsfield and attended Pittsfield High School. He graduated from Boston College in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and received his master's degree in teaching from Cambridge College. After graduation, Thomas worked in the Philippines for three years as part of the Peace Corps, where he taught math and science. When he returned home, he began teaching mathematics at his alma mater, Pittsfield High School. Thomas also served as an advisor for several classes and the Student Council while also helping to organize the annual graduation ceremony.

After teaching for 34 years, Thomas retired and began working part-time as the work-based learning coordinator at Pittsfield High. He began working as a counselor and advocate for Project Reconnect to help disadvantaged youth access education, housing, and rehabilitation programs. Additionally, Thomas served as a director and chairperson for Credit Union of the Berkshires for many years. He is a devoted man of faith and attends St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Pittsfield. In his free time, Thomas is passionate about traveling and has visited many countries around the world. I'm proud to call Thomas a good friend and mentor. He has made numerous positive impacts on our community, and I wish him the best for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Thomas with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of Pittsfield.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF DON SANFORD

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas; Don Sanford has spent his entire life near and influenced by bodies of water in both New York and right here in Dane County, Wisconsin, and

Whereas; Don moved to Madison in 1976 to work for Wisconsin Public Television and immediately found himself drawn to the beauty and recreational opportunities afforded by the chain of lakes, and

Whereas; Don is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard captain, a member of the Four Lakes Ice Yacht Club, past commodore of the Mendota Yacht Club, commodore of the International Nite Ice Yacht Class Association, and a boat captain for Belly Lou Cruises, and

Whereas; Don has a year-round passion for the lakes by racing sailboats in the summer and iceboats in the winter in addition to spending time sharing his knowledge with others while conducting tours of the lakes, and

Whereas; Don is the author of *On Fourth Lake: A Social History of Lake Mendota* which is the culmination of a lifetime of experiences, story collecting, research, and passion for Lake Mendota which details the history, lore, and anecdotes of the chain's largest lakes, and

Whereas; Don and his wife, Barb, have raised two fine sons who have each earned the rank of Eagle Scout, graduated from college, and have become successful working professionals, and

Whereas; Don serves as an inspiration to his fellow citizens through his selfless contributions to our community as an author, historian, tour guide, and Scout leader.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Mark Pocan, U.S. Congressman for Wisconsin's Second District, do hereby express my appreciation to Don Sanford for his work to preserve the natural beauty and history of Dane County's most important natural resource—its lakes—and further wish Don Sanford a happy and healthy 75th birthday.

CELEBRATING DR. DAVID G.  
SMITH'S CAREER OF SERVICE

**HON. MIKE GARCIA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of an American patriot who has proudly served our great Nation for more than 40 years. After a storied career in uniform and a distinguished civilian career at CA-27's Plant 42, Dr. Smith has earned some well-deserved time with friends and family.

Prior to directing the 412th Test Wing Operating Location at Plant 42, Dr. Smith began his career when he entered the U.S. Air Force. He graduated with top honors from the first Navigator Offensive Avionics Systems class at Castle Air Force Base. Following his

first formal tour at Ellsworth Air Force Base, Dr. Smith served across the country in an impressive myriad of capacities, ranging anywhere from Instructor Navigator, to Branch Chief, to Regimental Air Liaison Officer. With approximately 3,000 flight hours and numerous accolades, including being a part of the 15th Air Force Crew of the Year, Dr. Smith consistently distinguished himself from his fellow airmen no matter which role he was serving in. His exemplary leadership led him to be selected as Deputy Director of the 412th Test Management Group and eventually the Edwards Inspector General.

During his transition to civilian service, Dr. Smith continued to be an outstanding leader at Edwards Air Force Base. As Director of the 412th Test Wing at Plant 42 he has led a multi-functional team that supports over 16,000 contract and government personnel; and worked with top defense contractors that produce and test B-2, U-2, RQ-4, F-22, and F-35. These important programs are not only the economic backbone of the Antelope Valley—they are also critical to ensuring our Nation's security and ability to deter and win a war. Additionally, he supported NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center's planetary and earth science missions and serves the state of California as our Title-31 Air Support Command Commander.

Dr. Smith's life is a testament to dedication, passion, and leadership. As he enters retirement, his work will undoubtedly leave Edwards Air Force Base and Plant 42 well equipped to continue their mission in the coming years and his legacy will inspire future generations of pilots.

On behalf of a grateful community, I extend our heart felt appreciation to Dr. David Smith for his outstanding service, and wish him happiness and prosperity in retirement. We thank him for his exceptional commitment to our country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded on Tuesday, July 9. Had it been recorded, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 340.

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT BUDDY PELLERIN

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the life of Coach George "Buddy" Pellerin of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Coach Pellerin peacefully passed away on July 4, 2016.

Coach Pellerin was born on January 9, 1939, in Pittsfield. He attended St. Joseph's High School, where he played baseball and achieved All Berkshire Baseball Player status.

In 1962, Coach Pellerin graduated from North Adams State College. During his senior year, Coach Pellerin served as a player-coach, which led him to launch a legendary coaching career spanning over five decades. He successfully led several high school baseball, softball, and football teams to numerous state championships and was known for his confidence, professionalism, and charismatic leadership style. For his outstanding work and contributions to the city, Coach Pellerin was inducted into the Massachusetts Coach Hall of Fame, the UNICO Baseball Hall of Fame, and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Hall of Fame. The Buddy Pellerin Field at Clapp Park has also been designated in his honor.

After he retired from the Pittsfield School Department in 2000, Coach Pellerin volunteered as a Little League coach and for the Babe Ruth All Stars team. He also led summer baseball camps at the local Boy's and Girls Club for fifteen years and founded the Rip City Training Center in Pittsfield. Rip City grants scholarships for students to train at the center and excel in their academic and professional careers. In addition to his famed coaching career, Coach Pellerin was most proud of being a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. I'm proud to recognize Coach Pellerin for making a positive impact on our community and inspiring countless students and athletes to succeed.

It is an honor to bestow Coach Pellerin with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of Pittsfield. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

#### CONGRATULATING THE BOB ROSS AUTO GROUP ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Bob Ross Auto Group, located in my congressional district in Centerville, Ohio, as they celebrate a half-century of service to its customers and the Greater Dayton community.

The Bob Ross Auto Group, which consists of three franchises, Buick, GMC and Mercedes-Benz, commemorated its 50th anniversary on February 22, 2024. Over the past five decades, this family-owned dealership has become a pillar of the community and earned the trust of thousands of customers for their automotive and service needs.

The dealership contributes to a variety of charitable causes and community events, and to the Nation as a whole, through its support of the American Cancer Society's efforts to raise awareness and find a cure for breast cancer.

Robert P. Ross, Sr. started his successful entrepreneurial journey in Richmond, Indiana in February 1974. He became the first African American Buick dealer in the state of Indiana, where he continued to work and serve his community until he moved his business to Centerville, Ohio in 1982.

It took no time for his business to become a symbol of change in the Dayton community, as it was here where Bob Ross became the

first African American Buick Dealer in the state of Ohio and the first African American Mercedes-Benz dealer in the United States.

Bob Ross would continue to be a trailblazer for civil rights in the automobile industry. He would help establish the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers, as well as supporting numerous charities.

After Bob's death in 1997, his wife Norma J. Ross, assumed the presidency of the company, and his daughter Jenell Ross became vice-president and principal dealer at the age of 27. These two remarkable women would become the first female African Americans to be at the helm of an automobile dealership.

They would continue to grow the business together, earning numerous accolades, including recognition as one of the "Top 100 Companies in Dayton." In 2011, Black Enterprise Magazine named the Bob Ross Auto Group "Automobile Dealer of the Year."

When Norma passed away from breast cancer in 2010, Jenell took over the business as its president. In memory of her mother, Jenell established the Norma J. Ross Memorial Foundation, which has raised thousands of dollars for breast cancer research. The foundation hosts a number of events, proudly branded as "Pink Ribbon Driven," to raise awareness about breast cancer prevention.

Jenell Ross is the only second-generation African American female automobile dealer in the United States, and she is the first-ever African American Chair of the American International Automobile Dealers Association.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Jenell Ross and her family for 30 years. I have seen firsthand how she has sustained and grown Bob Ross Auto Group into a thriving small business that her father would be proud of.

The Ross family's commitment to the traditional values of hard work, quality products, and customer service represents the very best of the American entrepreneurial spirit, and serves as a model for all small businesses.

I congratulate Jenell Ross, her family, and her employees on this great milestone in their company's history. I wish them many more years of continued success and leadership in the community.

#### CELEBRATING PASTOR DWAYNE R. GILLISON, SR.

#### HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Pastor Dwayne R. Gillison, Sr., as he receives the Community Leadership Award from the Mary B. Talbert Civic and Cultural Club, Inc. Pastor Gillison's devotion to his faith and public service will be recognized at the 116th Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs Convention.

Pastor Gillison is a proud graduate of the State University of New York Brockport, the Bible College of Rochester, and the Houghton Christian Academy. In 2022, Pastor Gillison was elevated to Pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Buffalo. In his ministry, Pastor Gillison has led the construction of the Mount Olive Senior Manor, an affordable housing community for seniors on the East Side of Buffalo. Working with People Inc., the complex will provide 65 accessible housing units to seniors in need.

Beyond his pastoral work, Pastor Gillison is committed to serving his community in all capacities. Through his leadership with the Concerned Clergy Coalition, the Baptist Ministers Conference of Buffalo & Vicinity, and the Urban Think Tank, Pastor Gillison is a guiding figure in the community. Further, Pastor Gillison leads the Mount Olive Development Corporation, a non-profit organization founded by his late father, Pastor William Gillison. With the Mount Olive Development Corporation, Pastor Gillison provides resources for families on Buffalo's East Side to address their economic, social, and educational needs. Pastor Gillison established the Buffalo Raiders Little League Football team, a safe place for youth to participate in healthy programming.

Today, Pastor Gillison is a loving husband to his wife, Victoria, father of three, and grandfather of three. He continues to unify our community through his devotion to faith and commitment to service. Please join me in congratulating Pastor Dwayne R. Gillison, Sr. for receiving the Community Leadership Award and thanking him for his remarkable dedication to our community.

COMMENDING MEMPHIS PUBLIC  
WORKS DIRECTOR ROBERT  
KNECHT

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Memphis Public Works Director Robert Knecht who is retiring from the City of Memphis after 23 years of making it a safer and more attractive place. Mr. Knecht is a hard-working and outstanding public servant who always had time to answer my questions about federal funding for city projects or how securing federal funding could advance the city's infrastructure needs, a quality invaluable to me as the Congressman representing Memphis. Mr. Knecht concentrated his efforts on the full Public Works portfolio including stormwater and wastewater operations, blight remediation, Code Enforcement, environmental enforcement, sustainability, street sweeping and street maintenance operations, and the results are to his credit. My staff and I worked closely with Mr. Knecht as we realized the \$41 million Big River Crossing project, which included improvements on downtown Memphis' Main Street from Uptown to the Harahan Bridge and the conversion of the vehicle sections of the bridge into a bike/pedestrian path. This project was made possible by \$15 million in federal funds I secured through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER IV) Grant as well as matching grants from state and local funds and private funds. Mr. Knecht was instrumental in helping to execute Community Project Funding I secured for projects such as developing the Memphis Cobblestone Landing Recreational Center, which received \$4 million. I have also worked closely with him to secure district projects in the past several Water Resources Development Acts, including provisions to deauthorize the Wolf River to create a lake adjacent to the historic downtown Snuff District and to accommodate a floating entertainment dock at Cobblestone Landing. A

graduate of the University of Memphis with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering (2003), he also has a Master of Business Administration (2008) from the University of Phoenix. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he served during Desert Storm/Desert Shield. Married to Memphis native Mandy, he and his three children have bright days ahead as he heads for an opportunity in the private sector. As Mayor Paul Young has said, his shoes will be hard to fill. His has been a job well done.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-  
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT  
MICHAEL MURGO

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Michael Murgo of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Coach Murgo has dedicated himself to faithfully serving and uplifting his community.

A native of Bristol, Rhode Island, Coach Murgo attended Colt Memorial High School and Brewster Academy. During this time, he discovered his passion for sports, and this inspired him to study physical education. In 1969, Coach Murgo graduated from the University of Rhode Island, where he was recognized for his athletic abilities and distinction in football. As such, he was selected to play professional football for the Providence Steamrollers. Coach Murgo began working for the Pittsfield Public School System in 1972 as a physical education teacher, a role he held for over 35 years. He also served as the football coach for Pittsfield High School for 17 years and led his students to success through physical fitness, teamwork, and discipline.

On top of his professional career, Coach Murgo worked diligently to support his four children so that they had the opportunity to pursue their interests. He is married to his wife, Ellen, and they will celebrate 52 years of wonderful marriage this year. I am pleased to recognize Coach Murgo for a lifetime of service as a teacher, coach, and mentor for our youth. His contributions to our community have been nothing short of outstanding, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Coach Murgo with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of Pittsfield.

HONORING EDGAR "EDDIE" PETER  
GUARALDI OF BROCKTON, MAS-  
SACHUSETTS ON HIS 100TH  
BIRTHDAY, JUNE 29, 2024

### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Edgar "Eddie" Peter Guaraldi, in recognition of his 100th birthday and with the deepest appreciation for his courageous service to our Nation during World War II and his many contributions to the Brockton commu-

nity. Eddie was born in Bourne, Massachusetts on June 29, 1924, to John and Angelina Zambelli. Along with his siblings Yober "Bert," Yolanda, and Lillian Guaraldi, Eddie lived in Bourne and Springfield before moving to Brockton. He graduated from Brockton High School in 1941 and worked at a shipyard for ten months before enlisting in the United States Army.

Eddie served his country with pride and distinction from March 1942 to December 1945 as a Sergeant and member of the 296th Combat Engineer Battalion, Company C. He fought in five major battles, including the Battle of Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, and battles in northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Guaraldi landed on Omaha Beach during the Normandy Landings on D-Day and was part of the liberation of Buchenwald—courageous acts that later earned him the European Campaign Medal and the French Legion of Honour Medal.

Eddie met the love of his life, Rose Marie Altieri on New Year's Eve in 1947. They married in Brockton on October 12, 1950. The couple raised two sons, E. Peter Guaraldi, Jr. and John Joseph Guaraldi. Eddie and Marie doted on their grandson, Peter James Guaraldi, throughout his childhood.

After his service, Mr. Guaraldi attended school to be a radio and electronic technician, eventually getting a job at Central Radio in Brockton. There, he fixed televisions and installed antennae, with the desire to open his own business. In 1951, that dream came true as Eddie opened Community Television in Brockton, running the family business for 44 years before working part-time alongside his eldest son until the age of 80.

Eddie was very involved in the South Shore and Brockton communities. For decades, he was a longtime volunteer and communicant at his local church Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Brockton. His volunteering at the Brockton Kids Road Races at D.W. Field Park for nearly 15 years helped make a positive impact on thousands of children and aspiring athletes. Mr. Guaraldi was also a regular at various veterans' meetings and events hosted by the Brockton VA Medical Center, and the Whitman Veterans of Foreign War Post, among others.

He and Marie were known for their love of travel, visiting many places around the world, including Europe, China, Japan, and South America.

Eddie is a man of many hobbies and talents, particularly his ability to repair electronics, appliances, and anything else his family needs fixing. He looks forward to supporting his favorite team, the New England Patriots, every Sunday during football season.

Mr. Speaker, Edgar "Eddie" Peter Guaraldi's legacy is one of committed service to his country, and his community, and most importantly, his family. It is my distinct privilege to join Mr. Guaraldi's family and friends in recognizing his 100th birthday and to thank him for his service on behalf of a grateful Nation.

RECOGNIZING COL. ANDREW L. LIPUT'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AND NEW JERSEY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week in New Jersey at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Colonel Andrew L. Liput, Commander of the New Jersey Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, will receive a Presidential Lifetime Achievement and Volunteer Service Award, recognizing his outstanding commitment to volunteerism and his remarkable 10 years of service to our country in the Civil Air Patrol.

Sworn in as the 24th Commander of the New Jersey Wing of the Civil Air Patrol on July 10, 2021, Col. Liput is a three-generation Civil Air Patrol family member. National service and volunteerism runs in their blood.

Col. Liput's father, Andrew Liput Sr. served in the Pennsylvania Wing during World War II as a submarine spotter on the East Coast and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his contributions to the American war effort in defense of the homeland. Col. Liput's daughter, Sloane Liput, was a member of the Picatinny Composite Squadron from 2015–2018 and achieved the rank of C/SMSGT before beginning her studies at Rutgers University on an ROTC scholarship. The Liput family's commitment to service to our nation in the Civil Air Patrol represents the best attributes of volunteerism and civic engagement.

Col. Liput previously served at the squadron, wing, region, and national staff levels where, among other achievements of distinction—including the Civil Air Patrol Meritorious Service Award—he was named National Government Relations Officer of the Year for 2020 by CAP Commanding Officer Maj Gen Mark Smith. Col. Liput's tenure as Commander of the New Jersey Wing, has brought the NJWG to the forefront of the Civil Air Patrol's mission and has led to new initiatives to modernize the Wing and connect them to the community, including key strategic partnerships with the NFL Alumni Association and the National Law Enforcement Against Drugs organizations to offer new opportunities through the national cadet program.

With its roots in World War II, the Civil Air Patrol is a Total Force partner and serves as the United States Air Force Auxiliary, prepared to answer the call to search for and find the lost, provide comfort in times of disaster, and work to keep the homeland safe. It provides a proving ground for the next generation of American pilots through its Cadet program—many of whom continue their service to our Nation in the Armed Forces—while promoting aviation and the fields of aerospace and STEM. Through his distinguished term of service in the Civil Air Patrol, Col. Liput has enriched the national cadet program and ensured continued engagement of America's future leaders in the fields of aviation and aerospace technology.

The Volunteer Service Award that Col. Liput receives is a presidential citation that honors Americans who have served more than 5000 hours in support of their community and nation and is a well-deserved recognition of Col. Liput's leadership, commitment to civic en-

gagement, to the State of New Jersey, and the United States of America.

A graduate of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey and Fordham Law School, Col. Liput enjoyed a distinguished career as a corporate and banking attorney for more than 25 years and is a successful entrepreneur, currently employed as the Founder, President, and CEO of Secure Insight, a financial services and technology company. While establishing a successful career in law, Col. Liput continued his family's tradition of service to our nation by joining the Civil Air Patrol, serving throughout the Northeast before his appointment as Commander of the NJWG.

During his time of service and as Commander of the NJWG, Col. Liput has embodied the Civil Air Patrol's values of Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect, rightfully earning this recognition which is a testament to his character and contributions to our community. I am honored to join his family, friends, and the greater New Jersey community in thanking him for his service to our Nation, his dedication to our state, and his selfless work to instill the values of patriotism and service in the next generation of New Jersey—and America's—leaders.

**SUPPORTING RACE-CONSCIOUS ADMISSIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we end the 2024 session of the Supreme Court and prepare for students to return to school, I wish to reaffirm the need for race-conscious decisions in higher education to ensure that students of color receive fair consideration in admissions.

Affirmative action is an important equity tool to counteract the effects of discrimination and structural barriers to education facing students of color, a tool that emerged from the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. President John F. Kennedy first established affirmative action to promote racial equality and prevent unfair labor practices through an executive order in 1961 that created the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity. The landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 went further to prohibit discrimination and promote equal opportunity based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. Subsequent executive orders, laws, and holdings by the Supreme Court supported race- and gender-conscious actions to address discrimination and enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The consideration of race in college admissions promotes equal treatment without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin. The resulting campus diversity is a crucial element of quality higher education. Diversity curates higher learning opportunities and fosters a sense of belonging for traditionally-marginalized communities. Research shows that a strong sense of belonging has many positive outcomes for students, including improved persistence, retention, grades, and health. Diversity in higher education expands perspectives, promotes innovation, and prepares students to interact with our diverse citizens.

One year ago, the Supreme Court gutted 50 years of race-conscious admissions in higher education with its decision in *Students for Fair Admissions Inc. v. President and the Fellows of Harvard*. In a 6–3 decision, the extremist-dominated court ruled that affirmative action violated equal protection under the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment manifested new freedom and rights at the federal level by establishing “equal protection under the laws” for all American citizens regardless of race. Shockingly and offensively, the conservative-dominated court manipulated an amendment intended to cultivate racial equality to stifle programs that correct systemic racial discrimination. I firmly agree with Justices Jackson and Sotomayor who opposed the ruling. Justice Sotomayor warned that “. . . racial inequality will persist in educational institutions so long as it is ignored.” Justice Jackson noted the contradictory nature of the absence of race in admissions decisions but not in military academies, prioritizing racial inclusion for military benefit rather than educational enrichment.

The 7th District of Illinois, Chicago, and Illinois are home to millions of families whose children deserve the same access to higher education opportunities that privileged individuals enjoy. Extremists' attacks on race-conscious admissions jeopardizes the future educational opportunities of Black and Brown children. A colorblind approach to the college admissions process does not acknowledge the entrenched racial struggles that minorities face in America. When institutions fail to acknowledge race, they fail to recognize the barriers to education associated with race that can perpetuate racial inequality in higher education. The Supreme Court's promotion of a colorblind society serves to protect the wealthy and well-connected.

I vow to fight for equal opportunity and justice. We must protect the tools that are key to securing our civil rights—like race-conscious admissions, free and fair elections, and voter protections—to ensure that our nation's progress in civil rights does not reverse. Advancement toward racial equality cannot be made without consideration of race.

**RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT JO-ANNE SOULES**

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. JoAnne Soules of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. JoAnne has dedicated herself to faithfully serving and uplifting her community.

JoAnne was born in Pittsfield and attended Pittsfield High School. In 1969, she graduated from Elms College with a bachelor's degree in history. JoAnne also obtained her master's degree in educational administration and leadership from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. She later taught social studies at South Junior High, now known as Herberg Middle School. In 1994, JoAnne transferred to Pittsfield High, where she taught history before being appointed to serve as the Dean of Students and Vice Principal. After retiring in 2006,

JoAnne was asked to serve as interim principal for the 2009–2010 school year, which she happily accepted. Throughout her career, she dedicated herself to serving her students and staff, and this did not go unnoticed. JoAnne has run into former students many years later who fondly remember her class and the positive impact she made on them as an educator.

In addition to her professional career, JoAnne has given back to her community in many ways. She volunteered at local soup kitchens and provided patient outreach at Berkshire Medical Center through her church to help those in need. She is married to her husband Harry, and together, they raised two wonderful children and have many more grandchildren. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with them and rescuing senior dogs so that they can spend the rest of their years in a warm and loving home. I'm proud to recognize JoAnne today a lifetime of public service and contributions to our community. She has inspired countless students to be successful and live fulfilling lives.

It is an honor to bestow JoAnne with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of Pittsfield.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WACKER CHEMICAL

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Wacker Chemical of Eddyville, Iowa. Wacker Chemical established its Eddyville plant in 1999 and recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Wacker Chemical has been at the forefront of cyclodextrin production since it was first built. The Eddyville plant plays a central role within our global network of Biotech and Biopharma sites.

From Iowa alone, Wacker produces all the cyclodextrin it sells. Eddyville is an important pillar of the BioSolutions portfolio and Wacker's growth strategy.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to Wacker Chemical on a tremendous 25 years of business in Iowa and honor its dedication to manufacturing for Iowans.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Wacker Chemical of Eddyville, Iowa for its 25th anniversary. I wish nothing but the best as they continue their great work in Iowa.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JONATHAN DELAGRAVE

**HON. BRYAN STEIL**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Jonathan Delagrave. Jonathan served as the County Executive of Racine County from April 2015 until his sudden passing on June 28th.

Jonathan, a lifelong resident of Racine County, was a beloved figure in his commu-

nity. He served Racine County both as an elected official and a civil servant. He began as the Town Chairman and later Village President of Caledonia. Jonathan then worked in the Racine County Human Services Department, becoming Director in 2010. He was first elected as Racine County Executive in 2015. His popularity was reflected in his reelections as County Executive in 2019 and 2023, a testament to his leadership and the community's trust in him.

Jonathan constantly worked to make Racine County the best it could be. He focused on spurring economic growth and workforce development by forging partnerships between local, state, and private entities to benefit all residents. He championed mental health and fought to expand access to these critical services in Racine County. Jonathan's dedication to improving the lives of people in Racine County was evident. I was honored to work together with Jonathan on efforts to preserve our Great Lakes community harbors.

As many of us in Racine County know, Jonathan was a true Wisconsinite at heart. He was an avid fan of Wisconsin Badgers football and encouraged those who attended his funeral to wear their favorite Badgers attire. He also established a scholarship in his memory to provide student-athletes with mental health care.

Most importantly, Jonathan was deeply devoted to his family, and a great friend to me and many others. Jonathan is survived by his son Maguire and daughter Makenzy. I offer my condolences to his family during this difficult time. Jonathan will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I had to miss votes on July 9, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 338; NAY on Roll Call No. 339; YEA on Roll Call No. 340; NAY on Roll Call No. 341; YEA on Roll Call No. 342; and NAY on Roll Call No. 343.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT HEATHER BOWERS

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Heather Bowers of Frisco, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Heather has faithfully dedicated herself to serving our community.

Heather was born in Waco, Texas in 1977 and moved to Carrollton in 1980 where she resided until she married her husband, Jason. She graduated from the University of North Texas in 2002 with a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree and then moved to Frisco in 2005 where she raised her two children, Macy and Caleb. Heather has been President of Lone Star Benefits since 2000, buying the

agency 4 years ago and building a thriving employee benefits agency with her husband.

Since her move to Frisco, she has been actively involved with numerous community and political organizations in North Texas. Heather's strength is not only due to her love of lifting weights, but also evidenced by her service to the city through roles on the boards of Frisco Community Development Corporation, Frisco Chamber of Commerce and Frisco Family Services. She is invested in our youth and schools as a District Improvement Committee and Mindbender Academy Committee member. Heather's philanthropic passion is notable, as her family and business support organizations such as National Breast Cancer Foundation, Community Council of Greater Dallas and Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic.

I am proud to recognize Heather today for her outstanding efforts to support those in need and uplift those she works with. I'm confident she will continue to make a positive impact in our community for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Heather with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DENNIS DEER PH.D., COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, to the immediate and extended family, staff, friends, supporters, constituents, colleagues, and well-wishers of my dear friend, colleague, comrade, political ally, and our senior representative on the Cook County Board, I rise to honor Dr. Dennis Deer.

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ and I am sure that he has already said to Dennis, welcome home my good and faithful servant. I have known the Deer Family for more than fifty years when I met and worked with his parents; father Herman, Mother Shirley and their neighbors who founded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Health Center in North Lawndale on West Greenshaw Street, they lived on Greenshaw Street, it was one of the first of ten centers of its kind in the United States, now there are fourteen hundred and they are servicing more than 30 million low and moderate income individuals. Of course, that portion of Greenshaw Street is now Honorary Shirley Deer Way. I lived on West Greenshaw Street. Dennis grew up around community activism and politics. He took to it like a duck takes to water, attended George W. Collins High School where my wife taught, my friends were principals, teachers and administrators. He went off to college, returned home, earned additional college degrees, married his high school sweetheart, wonderful wife Barbara, settled in the community, they have three children and he became a leader, worked with President Bobbie Steele, Commissioner Bob Steele, the Turner Family, the Scott Family, Lawndale Christian and the Faith Community to help bring the North Lawndale Community back to a state of optimistic redevelopment and it is on a roll.



Dr. Deer's service has been simply outstanding, he was an effective legislator, helped promote and pass Second Chance, helped nationalize the idea that gun violence is a Public Health Crisis, he was an outstanding community leader, he was the most loyal, most trustworthy and most likeminded political ally I have ever had, he was my friend and a representative of the people. He was also an outstanding businessman before becoming a County Commissioner, I remember when we took a business delegation to the Arab Emirates and Dennis was meeting with Warren Buffett and other top businesspersons in our country. Yes, our friend and brother from West Greshaw Street has moved on but he has left an indelible mark on the North Lawndale Community and on Government in Cook County that can and will never be erased or forgotten. Yes, Brother Dennis, he has been the best, he has done the best.

Now, yes, we will keep working to keep the candles lit and the fires burning. May he be at peace.

---

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this infor-

mation, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Novo Nordisk's high prices for Ozempic and Wegovy for patients with diabetes and obesity.

SD-562