

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINE HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing October as National Spine Health Awareness Month.

In the U.S. 100 million people suffer from neck or back conditions every year according to the CDC. Back pain is the number one cause of missed workdays, the leading cause of job-related disability and pain in the U.S., and the most common non-cancer related reason for an opioid prescription in the U.S. In addition, those with back and neck pain are four times more likely to become clinically depressed.

The National Spine Health Foundation, located in my district in Reston, Virginia, is the only national patient-centered non-profit dedicated to helping patients overcome debilitating spinal conditions and take back their lives.

During the past 6 years, the Foundation has renewed its commitment to and has developed award winning patient education, advocacy, and research work to give patients the tools they need to make informed decisions about their spine health and navigate their own treatment journeys with confidence.

This past year, the Foundation formed an Opioid and Spine Health Task Force. Chronic low back pain is one of the most common types of chronic pain in adults worldwide. The goal of the Task Force is providing people suffering from back pain with information on effective alternatives to opioid use that can help them reduce and manage pain.

The Foundation also has formed a Spine & Bone Health Task Force. Osteoporosis is at epidemic levels in our nation, and it causes debilitating fractures in the spine more than anywhere else in the body. In response to this epidemic that affects both women and men, which occurs at younger ages than ever before, this Task Force is addressing the need for patient education by creating digital and internet resources, free to the public. In addition, NSHF has conducted independent research to determine better ways of diagnosing osteoporosis in spine patients who need surgery, and this research has won the highest award, being named "Best Paper" by the North American Spine Society.

The Foundation continues to be strongly committed to spine health research. Patient reported outcomes have long been part of the fabric of NSHF since its inception. As they are deeply invested in supporting evidence-based health care decision making, it is important to be part of the process of creating the evidence. Their cloud-based research tool called 'Spine-online' enables them to conduct multicenter studies and partner with research teams both in the U.S. and internationally Ac-

tive studies are currently occurring on robotic surgery, enhanced surgical recovery, augmented reality, genetic basis for personalized spine treatments, stem cell therapy, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the importance of good spinal health and thanking the NSHF and the health care providers who help spine and neck patients, not just in October, but all year long.

RECOGNIZING DAVE SNOW

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former mayor of Richmond, Indiana, Dave Snow.

Dave's dream from a young age was to serve his community as mayor of Richmond, a dream he fulfilled for two terms, from 2016 to 2023.

In his eight years in office, he prioritized investment in the local community and collaboration between the city and Wayne County governments.

He also saw the city through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before running for office, Dave worked in radio for WFMG, another role he used to benefit his hometown.

I want to thank Dave for his dedication, loyalty, and commitment to Richmond and our state.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MARK KEPPLER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Mark Keppler, a leader, educator and advocate of the Central Valley.

Prior to his professional embarkation, Mark achieved academic distinction earning a bachelor's degree (Magna Cum Laude) in business administration, with a minor in economics, from the State University of New York, as well as his master's degree, and a law degree in industrial relations with a concentration in collective bargaining and negotiations from the University of Wisconsin.

Following his educational achievements, Mr. Keppler began his career in the East Coast where he practiced labor-management law in Hartford, Connecticut and was an adjunct professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Hartford Graduate Center, where he taught labor and employment relations and negotiations. In 1987, he relocated to the Central Valley to join the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno as the Di-

rector of Graduate Programs from 1998 through 2003. During this tenure, Mark shaped the valley's future leaders through his teachings of employment law, industrial relations, and ethics.

Mark was then promoted to the Kenneth L. Maddy Professor of Public Affairs on June 1, 2004. In this role, his responsibilities were expanded to serve as the Executive Director of the Maddy Institute for the Valley's four public universities: University of California, Merced, California State University Fresno, California State University Stanislaus, and California State University Bakersfield.

His dedication to education and career development has shone through his exemplary leadership of the Maddy Institute, where he carried out their mission to elevate citizen participation and government performance at all levels through leadership education for public service. In this effort, he also provided his oversight to the Maddy Institute's Legislative Internship program which provides students with the opportunity to intern in legislative offices throughout the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento and even Washington, D.C. Under his diligence, The Maddy Institute and Costa Scholars program provided over 500 scholarships to students across the Valley to pursue these distinguished internships. Throughout his journey, Mark has been a source of guidance and wisdom for the students at California State University Fresno and beyond He has shared his knowledge as a teacher leaving a lasting impact on both local and national levels.

Rooted in advocacy, Professor Keppler earned honors and recognitions along the way such as the Clovis Citizen of the Year, Faculty Advisor of the Year (twice) from the Society for Human Resource Management—Region VI, Duncan Enterprises Faculty Award, the School of Business Faculty Award for Classroom Excellence and currently holds the Chair of the Clovis Community Foundation.

In addition to his remarkable professional achievements, Mark is a devoted husband to Karen Keppler, and a loving father to his daughter Caroline Keppler whom he will spend his well-deserved retirement with.

We thank professor Keppler for his devotion to empowering students in the pursuit of their educational and professional aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in commemorating the phenomenal career of Director Mark Keppler of The Maddy Institute. May we continue to be inspired by his good work for years to come.

HONORING ROBERT RANDLE

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I would like to recognize Robert Randle, president of the Sun City West Republican Club.

• 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.

Throughout his tenure as president, Robert has distinguished himself by providing exceptional service to the residents of Sun City West, Arizona. As president of the club, Robert has been an advocate for educating members on the civic engagement process and how to interact with elected officials. The efforts of Robert and the Sun City West Republican Club have been pivotal to the success of elected officials and candidates in the Phoenix West Valley.

I am thankful for Robert's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate his service to the 8th Congressional District and the State of Arizona.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC).

In 1964, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson passed the Urban Mass Transit Act, which pumped \$375 million over three years into public transit projects across the nation. The Virginia General Assembly followed suit by creating the Northern Virginia Transportation District to plan and construct a transportation network that promoted safety, convenience, and economic growth. The Commission did not waste time, starting work on a rapid transit system that first year.

Today, NVTC serves as a regional forum for discussion and analysis of transit issues. NVTC is charged with the funding and stewardship of WMATA and the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), which it co-owns. Northern Virginia is also home to six bus systems, for which NVTC works across jurisdictional boundaries to coordinate transit service.

Over the last six decades, NVTC has been instrumental in transforming transit in the Northern Virginia region. From establishing the WMATA compact in 1966 to working with the Virginia General Assembly to create a bus rapid transit (BRT) system connecting Tysons and Alexandria, NVTC has taken big steps to connect our region in innovative ways. NVTC represents a jurisdiction of 2 million people, with 740,000 households, and over 1.3 million jobs, which is no small undertaking. The half mile of property around Metrorail stations is just 3 percent of the region's land, but it contains 30 percent of the property value, 40 percent of the jobs, and 50 percent of the new apartments. Promoting well-connected and expansive transit creates opportunities for growth, and NVTC has embraced that mission on behalf of our region.

As NVTC begins its next 60 years, the organization is striving to meet its goals for the region. Increasing the capacity of the regional transit network by expanding and improving the quality, coverage, and frequency of new and existing systems is a top priority. NVTC is also continuing to look for ways to improve access and mobility throughout Northern Virginia by connecting regional and local transit systems.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this milestone for the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. NVTC has become a champion for commuters across the region, an advocate for sustainable transit funding, and a leading voice on transportation policy throughout the Commonwealth.

RECOGNIZING ANGOTTI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angotti's Italian Restaurant in Columbus, Indiana.

Serving the community since 2019, Angotti's moved to its current location downtown last year.

Denise and I are frequent customers, and their gift is that they always make us feel like family.

Angotti's is a blessing for the Columbus area, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to recognize them today.

DEONDRA DIXON INCLUDE PROJECT ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act.

In 2018, NIH launched the INCLUDE Project to investigate conditions that affect individuals with Down syndrome and the general population, such as Alzheimer's disease, congenital heart disease, and diabetes. Many diseases affect individuals with Down syndrome differently than typical people. This means including individuals with Down syndrome in biomedical research is crucial to understand how to treat them. It also means investigating those differences helps us understand how diseases work generally.

The University of Colorado's Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome Research has been on the forefront of this critical work. Just last month, Crnic Institute scientists published groundbreaking research on the differences in oxygen physiology for people with Down syndrome. This new knowledge will help improve treatments for all people with chronic hypoxia. This is the kind of research we need to foster, and it's why the INCLUDE project needs its own authorization to continue its important work.

I do want to raise one issue I have with this bill as we consider it today. It originally contained an authorization of \$250 million annually, but to conform with the inexplicable rules of this majority which say you can't authorize more than a current appropriation, it was amended in subcommittee to only \$90 million each year. This authorization does not even match the \$125 million included in this year's NIH appropriations bill for the INCLUDE

Project, much less give the program room to evolve. We need to move this important legislation, but we must restore the authorization to \$250 million as consideration of this bill continues.

Finally, I'd like to thank my constituent Michelle Whitten, founder of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, whose tireless advocacy for people with Down syndrome has spurred research and led to scientific breakthroughs. It has also helped bring this bill to the floor of the House of Representatives today.

RECOGNIZING JIM LIENHOOP

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former mayor of Columbus, Jim Lienhoop.

A Columbus native, Jim started his service in city government in 2006 on the city council.

Over his two terms in office, Jim accomplished much, despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He prioritized partnerships, leading to successes in infrastructure, health, education, and economic development.

Under his leadership, Columbus was chosen as the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's city of the year.

Today, I recognize those achievements and thank him for his efforts to help my hometown thrive.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM COLEMAN'S 105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. William Coleman, a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a remarkable constituent of my district as he celebrates the 105th year of his birth.

Dr. Coleman was born and raised on his parents' farm outside of Lawrenceville, NJ. He is an alumnus of Princeton University, where he competed on the track and field team as a freshman. He then attended Temple School of Medicine, interning at Philadelphia General Hospital, and completing his surgical residency at Abington Hospital.

While attending medical school, he entered the U.S. Navy in 1943 under the V-16 program. He served 2 years of active duty at the Veteran's Hospital in Lyon, NJ.

After leaving the Navy, Dr. Coleman opened a general practice in Trenton, NJ. He and his wife, Betty, lived in Morrisville and then Yardley, where they raised their 5 children. Betty and Dr. Coleman were married for 56 years until she sadly passed away in 2007.

Dr. Coleman went from running a surgical practice to a general practice. After practicing surgery for 20 years, he took a position at Meadow Lakes, in New Jersey working for another 20 years as a physician and medical director until his retirement.

Dr. Coleman moved to the community of Pennswood Village in Newtown, PA where he currently resides and is loved and admired by all who know him.

As we celebrate Dr. Coleman's 105 years of life, we are incredibly grateful for the many positive impacts he has made. We want to thank him for his devoted service to our Country and we heartily wish Dr. Coleman continued joy and God's blessings for the future.

COMMEMORATING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF REV. DR. PAUL SHEPPARD, SENIOR PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MERRIFIELD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Reverend Dr. Paul Anthony Sheppard, a native of Fairfax County, Virginia, who possesses a God-given desire to serve people. He describes himself as "a humble and committed soldier on the battlefield of life trying to destroy the vicious armies of Satan." He attended Howard University, where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and Sociology in 1991.

Pastor Sheppard was licensed to preach the Gospel on March 21, 1993, and was ordained on December 10, 2000, at the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. He earned his Master of Theology Degree from Wilbur H. Waters School of Religion and Theological Seminary in 2003.

In April 2017, Pastor Sheppard received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from St. Thomas Christian University in Jacksonville, Florida for his committed service in the community and abroad, and for his preaching ministry.

Pastor Sheppard aims to help people apply timeless truths of Scripture to their everyday lives. He formerly served as a certified instructor and advisor teaching Ministerial Counseling and Psychology of Religion. He was inducted into the Savannah State University Foundation Hall of Fame for his community activism and service. He is especially passionate about youth and elders. He feels: "When you bridge the gap between the two groups, you can create a very powerful society with the youth absorbing much wisdom and knowledge."

Rev. Sheppard has been extremely active in civic and community organizations serving on numerous civic and non-profit advisory boards in the Savannah and Chatham County areas. He was a member of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (I.M.A.), partnering with several organizations to bring about educational and economic empowerment. Rev. Sheppard also served as President of the Georgia Fellowship of Churches through the National Baptist Convention of America, International, Inc.

Throughout his ministry he has participated in symposiums discussing social issues, economic development, and religious thought concerning the contemporary church in the 21st century. He also worked with the Governor of Virginia where he spearheaded the Voting Restoration Rights for felons through the Peninsula Baptist Pastor's Council.

Pastor Sheppard has established numerous ministries that have transformed congregations and communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast. In 2019, after much prayer and fasting, Pastor Sheppard's path guided him to lead the First Baptist Church of Merrifield in Falls Church, Virginia.

He currently serves as the 3rd Vice Moderator of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association and is extremely active in civic organizations that uplift multi-generational interests in topics such as media, politics, and education. In February 2024, he traveled with a missionary group serving an orphanage and community in South Africa.

He is married to the former Esther Morris whom he cherishes dearly. Out of this beautiful union, they are blessed with one son, Justin Gregory Milton Sheppard. Pastor Sheppard's favorite Bible verse: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me"—Philippians 4:13.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Sheppard for his tremendous efforts as a leader in our communities, as he celebrates his 5th Anniversary as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Merrifield.

RECOGNIZING HENRY SOCIAL CLUB

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Henry Social Club, a restaurant in my hometown of Columbus, Indiana.

Opening in 2014, Henry Social Club is helmed by Gethin Thomas, former executive chef at Columbus-based Cummins.

With an impressive resume including work in New York, Paris, and London, Chef Thomas now calls Columbus home, a testament to the community we have in my district.

Today, I recognize Henry Social Club and Chef Thomas' efforts as he continues to bless the Sixth District.

RECOGNIZING THREE HEROES FROM BURTCHVILLE TOWNSHIP

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three exceptional heroes from Burtchville Township who demonstrated extraordinary courage on August 24, 2024.

Early that afternoon, Rick Onyshkevich noticed smoke rising from his neighbor's property on State Road. At first, Mr. Onyshkevich believed that the smoke was a result of yardwork—however, as the smoke grew thicker, he soon realized that it was coming from the house.

Immediately, Mr. Onyshkevich alerted 911 and didn't spare any time before entering the home and removing the occupant. According to Chief Harrington of the Burtchville Township Fire Department, Mr. Onyshkevich was able to remove the occupant from the home but was not able to get her down the steps to fully exit the house.

It was at this time that two deputies, Jacob Garza and Doug Schneider, arrived at the scene where they proceeded to rescue her. Soon after, she was turned over to Burtchville Fire & Rescue and was quickly transferred to the hospital.

Thanks to an extraordinary display of heroism by Mr. Onyshkevich, Deputy Garza, Deputy Schneider, and the dispatchers responsible for coordinating the response, a life was saved. Our community is indebted to every person involved in this rescue.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of these heroes exemplify the very best of our community. Their bravery, quick thinking, and lack of hesitation to act in the face of danger is truly commendable. The actions of these brave men are a fervent reminder of the impact one can have when they put service above self. We should all be inspired by their heroism, and I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding their efforts.

RECOGNIZING HOUSING ASSISTANCE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Housing Assistance as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Housing Assistance was originally founded in 1974 by Rick Presbrey in a small office converted from a garage in West Yarmouth. At first, the organization's sole program was administering State Chapter 707 Rental Assistance, but in 1975, Housing Assistance also began administering HUD Section Rental Assistance, followed by weatherization services. Over the past five decades the Cape Cod and Islands region has grown and evolved and so has the organization. What began as a rental voucher agency with only a few employees has grown into a regional housing agency and one of the largest developers of affordable housing in the region.

Now with 120 employees and led by CEO Alisa Magnotta and Board Chairman Bill Bogdanovich, Housing Assistance strives to elevate the Cape and Islands economy and community, empower residents of all ages and income levels, and address the root causes of housing shortages and affordability. In addition to its original rental subsidy and voucher program services, Housing Assistance offers homelessness prevention and outreach services, shelter services, and permanent and transitional supportive housing. Further, Housing Assistance offers first time home buyer courses, and as the only HUD-approved housing counseling agency serving the Cape and Islands, the organization provides housing counseling on issues such as foreclosure prevention, reverse mortgages, and other housing related matters.

Through its many services and programs, Housing Assistance works to bridge the gap between homelessness and homeownership to support the vision of a year-round Cape Cod community where everyone has access to housing and a stable place to call home. Over the last 50 years, the organization has assisted more than 200,000 residents, provided shelter to over 20,000 people, and built

over 585 affordable housing units across the Cape and Islands. Housing Assistance has established itself as a leader in the community by creating housing solutions for families at a variety of income levels and working to address some of the greatest challenges in access to housing.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Housing Assistance, and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the organization for its unwavering commitment to supporting the residents of the Cape and Islands and improving access to affordable housing.

RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE FAIRFAX RESOLVES AND THE FAIRFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Fairfax Resolves and the Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution for the exemplary service and invaluable contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Fairfax Resolves Chapter has long been recognized as a pillar of strength and resilience within the Fairfax community. Since their establishment, they have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to defending the ideals and principles upon which our Nation was founded.

Their tireless efforts in preserving our historical heritage and honoring our Nation's values have had a profound impact on our society. From their active involvement in local events to their extremely informative educational initiatives, the Fairfax Resolves Chapter has consistently demonstrated the highest standards of duty and patriotism.

This year, the Fairfax Resolves Chapter was a leader in the efforts to commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Fairfax Resolves. On July 5, 1774, George Washington, George Mason and other leaders of Fairfax County met in Alexandria, Virginia to appoint a committee to draft a document that would serve as instructions to the County's delegates at the Virginia Convention and, as Washington put it, "define our Constitutional Rights." George Washington and George Mason met at Mount Vernon and drafted a set of resolutions that came to be known as the Fairfax Resolves. At a meeting of Fairfax County residents on July 18, 1774, the Fairfax Resolves were adopted.

While other counties across Virginia and in other American colonies adopted resolutions of "resolves" during the late spring and summer of 1774, the Fairfax Resolves were the most detailed, the most influential and most radical. The Fairfax Resolves was an important influence on the drafting of other documents that served as the foundation for the future government, laws and basic rights and freedoms of the citizens of the United States, including the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, and the United States Bill of Rights.

This document continues to serve as a cornerstone for the foundation of the United States of America and its role as the beacon of liberty and justice for many persons across the globe who yearn and struggle to achieve the basic human desire to be free.

The Fairfax Resolves Chapter has also been instrumental in fostering a spirit of honor and civic responsibility in the next generation. The chapter's dedication to educating others about our rich history and the importance of active citizenship is truly commendable. By instilling a sense of duty and pride in our collective heritage, they have contributed to the growth and development of responsible and engaged citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each member of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution as they continue the important work of honoring the heroes of the American Revolution in years to come. I express my deep appreciation to the Fairfax Resolves Chapter for their vital role in promoting unity and fostering a strong sense of community within our district.

RECOGNIZING UPLAND COLUMBUS PUMP HOUSE

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Upland Columbus Pump House in my hometown.

The Columbus Pump House was designed by Harrison Albright and constructed in 1903.

Over the years, the historic building has had many incarnations, and now houses Upland Brewing Company, which has been brewing quality beer for 25 years.

Even as it changes, the Pump House has never lost its intended architectural quality.

Today I thank Upland for their dedication to keeping that history.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE HOME2 SUITES

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Home2 Suites by Hilton in Paris, Texas.

The Hilton brand is a longstanding leader in the world of hospitality, and this new addition to Paris, Texas, is no exception. The Home2 Suites, which opened its doors on April 1st, 2024, represents a remarkable achievement and a profound personal milestone for the Pankaj family.

As the Mayor of Paris and a second-generation Hilton franchisee, Mihir "Mark" Pankaj has proudly followed in the footsteps of his father, Pankaj "Greg" Magan, who established the Hampton Inn by Hilton here in Paris 24 years ago. Greg's enduring legacy as a five-time oral cancer survivor and unwavering pillar of strength has been a source of inspiration and perseverance for his family. The Home2

Suites project is the result of faithful collaboration between father and son, and it is the pinnacle of the Pankaj family's continued dedication and hard work.

It is the first Hilton hotel to be equipped with a groundbreaking geothermal HVAC system to improve environmental sustainability and hospitality for guests. Additionally, the Home2 Suites boasts a full bar and coffee shop, Paris Coffee Co., Obsidian Craft Cocktail Bar, and a 6,000 square foot Conference and Event Center, enhancing the guest experience and contributing to our community's vibrancy. Today, we celebrate not just the opening of a hotel, but a lifetime of innovation, resilience, and family tradition.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in honor of this historic occasion. Congratulations to Mark and his family, and I wish them the very best.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS MONTH AND RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 20TH AS WORLD HYDROCEPHALUS DAY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as the proud Co-Chair of the Congressional Pediatric and Adult Hydrocephalus Caucus—along with my good friend Congressman LLOYD DOGGETT of Texas—I rise to express my support for the goals and ideas of World Hydrocephalus Day and recognize September as National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month.

Hydrocephalus—a build-up of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain—is colloquially known as "water on the brain." Everyone, from babies to the elderly, can develop it. While some cases are congenital, it can also be caused by a traumatic brain injury, an infection, or even just develop as part of the aging process—anyone can acquire hydrocephalus at any time.

Hydrocephalus is a life-threatening condition that affects approximately 1,000,000 people in the United States with an incidence rate of 85 per 100,000 individuals. One out of every 770 babies born will develop hydrocephalus. Nationwide, over 400,000 babies a year are born with hydrocephalus. Since 2000, more than 470,000 United States servicemembers have sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI), one cause of Hydrocephalus.

Brain surgery is the only treatment—many patients endure dozens of surgeries in their lifetime. The implantation of a 'shunt', a tube that allows fluid to move from one part of the body to another, is the standard course of treatment for hydrocephalus. Unfortunately, shunt's have one of the highest failure rates of all medical devices, resulting in repeated procedures for patients and a diminished quality of life. It is essential to better understand this condition and its profound impact on the people we represent.

While there is no cure yet, Congress can play a role in moving the ball forward.

Mr. Speaker, further education and research is needed to prevent, detect, and treat hydrocephalus.

Fortunately, there are wonderful organizations such as the Hydrocephalus Association and Pediatric Hydrocephalus Foundation, that serve as global leaders for hydrocephalus awareness, education, support, research, and advocacy. These organization are advancing the wellbeing of every individual with hydrocephalus, their families, and their caregivers.

Especially important to the awareness work of hydrocephalus community are the volunteers who give their time to advocate for and provide services to all those living with hydrocephalus.

I'd like to offer special thanks to Carly Weismann, one of my constituents and a volunteer who for the last eight years has been the chairperson of the New Jersey Hydrocephalus Walk which raises needed awareness and funds to aid those with hydrocephalus.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting the important goals of World Hydrocephalus Day and join me in recognizing September as Hydrocephalus Month.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
JONATHAN PAUL WOOD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and extraordinary work of Jonathan Paul Wood, a man who devoted himself not only to his family but also to the well-being and safety of his community. His absence will be deeply felt by all who knew him.

Jonathan was raised in Springfield, Virginia, and studied at the University of Virginia where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology. He later received his Master of Business Administration from George Mason University. Over the years, Jonathan worked with multiple companies, each one recognizing his expertise and leadership. His final 20 years before retirement were spent as a construction and IT project manager at Northrop Grumman.

Above all else, Jonathan took great pride in being a volunteer firefighter and EMT. He began his service at the young age of 18 and continued in various roles for over 50 years. He achieved the esteemed rank of Command Officer and played a crucial role in training the next generation of firefighters, instructing Fairfax Fire Academy students in the demanding task of driving emergency vehicles. Jonathan's expertise and dedication were instrumental in the design and commissioning of numerous fire engines, ambulances, and service vehicles.

His volunteer career began at the Greater Springfield Station 22, where he quickly rose through the ranks to become Chief. In 1982, he relocated to Fair Oaks, where he continued to serve with distinction at Fair Oaks Station 21. There, Jonathan held several leadership roles, including Chief and President, earning the respect and admiration of his peers and community alike.

Outside of his work and fire station duties, Jonathan loved domestic and wild animals, hiking, camping, kayaking, and distance cycling. He led groups of volunteers to maintain his community's wild spaces, controlling

invasive plants, cutting down dead trees, and monitoring the wild fox population.

Jonathan's commitment to his family was unwavering. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte Knapp, her children, Gabrielle and Nathaniel Baylon, his brother James Wood, and his nephew Christopher Wood. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gloria and James Wood, and brother, David Wood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the joyful and resilient life of Jonathan Paul Wood and in sending his family our sincere condolences.

REMEMBERING JIM MORRIS

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jim Morris, who passed away in July at the age of 81.

For decades, Jim has been a leader in the civic, business, and sports communities in our state.

Jim grew up in Terre Haute and graduated from Indiana University in 1965.

By 1967, he was chief of staff for Indianapolis mayor Richard Lugar.

He proceeded to hold leadership positions with Lilly Endowment, Indianapolis Water Company, the World Food Programme, and, most recently, Pacers Sports and Entertainment, serving as vice chair since 2014.

Jim was a devout Hoosier through and through, loyal to his city and his state.

He was committed to giving back, including by serving on the executive boards of the U.S. Olympics Committee, UNICEF, the American Red Cross, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway board of directors, and the Indianapolis Power and Light Advisory Board.

He leaves a legacy like no other, and I thank his family for sharing this servant leader with all of us.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF TRACEY ANNE KENNEDY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Ms. Tracey Anne Kennedy, who passed on September 16, 2024, and whose life's work instilled faith, hope, and love in everyone around her.

Ms. Kennedy was born on May 6, 1963, to John and Carol Kennedy of Tonawanda, New York. She attended Sweet Home High School and graduated from Buffalo State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. She married John Plante in 1991, and together they raised two beautiful children, Michael and Mary Katherine. Though they went their separate ways later in life, Tracey lived out the last five years of her life with John, who helped her navigate her medical journey.

After being diagnosed with Stage 4 Breast Cancer and later Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma,

Ms. Kennedy bravely fought for nine years through numerous treatments and procedures, always with a positive attitude and remaining strong in her faith. As a member of The Chapel at CrossPoint, Ms. Kennedy found comfort in knowing that God was with her every step of the way.

Ms. Kennedy always ensured that those around her felt loved. She was everyone's loudest cheerleader, strongest supporter, and best friend. She relentlessly encouraged her family and friends to strive for the impossible and reach for the stars. She always wanted to make everyone feel seen and special, armed with her thousand-watt smile and contagious laughter.

Today, Ms. Kennedy is remembered as a hard-working woman of God, who put the needs of others first, had a profound love for her children and family, and continuously fought for her health. Please join me in honoring Ms. Tracey Anne Kennedy for her lifetime of dedication to service and faith.

HONORING JUDITH PITTMAN FOR
30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY THROUGH SECOND
STORY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judith Pittman, Chief Executive Officer of Second Story. Judith has been serving communities in Northern Virginia through Second Story since 1995. Since 1972, Second Story has worked closely with youth and families across Northern Virginia through strategic programs to help them work towards self-sufficiency as well as break cycles of homelessness, abuse, and poverty. As Chief Executive Officer, Judith has used her background of almost 30 years in nonprofit management and advocacy to obtain more services for at-risk, abused, homeless and runaway youth—including opening seven new programs since 2004 targeted to this population. Because of Judith, thousands of youths and families have been able to write their Second Stories.

Judith has served on federal panels to develop standards for federally funded programs serving runaway, homeless, and street youth. She also was a Greater Washington Nonprofit Roundtable Fellow. She has presented at numerous National Conferences on topics relevant to youth and young adults. Judith serves on the Policy Advisory Committee for the National Network for Youth. She is a member of the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team of Fairfax County as a former Board Member for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Judith Pittman for her tremendous efforts as a leader in Northern Virginia communities, as she celebrates her retirement after 30 years with Second Story.

RECOGNIZING TOM DEBAUN

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former mayor of Shelbyville, Tom DeBaun.

First elected in 2011, Tom served his community as mayor for three terms.

As mayor, he prioritized economic development and residents, establishing an adult high school, creating Advantage Shelby County, and investing in trails and sidewalks to increase accessibility.

Before serving as mayor, Tom was a probation officer and head of the city's building and planning commission.

Today, I thank Tom for his service and support for the Hoosiers of Shelbyville.

CELEBRATING THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF IRENE "QUEEN OF ALGIERS" BURRUS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Irene Burrus, a woman known as a dear friend, mentor and confidant to many, and most notably, a cornerstone of the Algiers community, my hometown and part of the Congressional District I represent, whose influence was felt far and wide. Her commitment to service was evident through her extensive involvement in various organizations.

Irene Burrus, lovingly known as "Ms. Irene" and the "Queen of Algiers," passed away peacefully on August 23, 2024, at the remarkable age of 101. Born on March 31, 1923, Irene's life journey began on a humble farm in rural Mississippi, where she was raised by her parents, Annis and Alonzo Harrison, alongside her four siblings: Ellie, Jack, Ruby, and Imogene. The Great Depression deeply influenced her upbringing, instilling in her a profound resilience and an unwavering sense of community that would define her life. Irene's life was a testament to devotion—to her family, her community, and the countless causes that she championed with passion and dedication.

The year she turned 100, she proudly served as the Grand Marshall of The Algiers Mardi Gras and rode in the 2024 Krewe of NOMTOC. Irene was known for her sharp mind and quick sense of humor, qualities that endeared her to all who had the pleasure of knowing her. She often remarked, "You've got to leave a place better than you found it or we're really in trouble. I hope I've helped." Her life embodied this philosophy, as she worked tirelessly to uplift her community and inspire others to do the same through her active participation and generosity.

As a key figure in the Kiwanis Club, she generously contributed her time and resources to numerous other causes. She served as Vice President of the Board of Welcome Neighbors and was actively involved in the Kiwanis Club, Tall Timbers Garden Club, and the Algiers Charter School Association for

Fundraising. She was a member of the Algiers Police Advisory Group. She not only organized and funded Mardi Gras breakfasts for local officers, but also Irene's dedication also extended to the Military Wives Organization, the Old Aurora Neighborhood Association's Night Out Against Crime, Save Algiers Courthouse, Chalmette Refining's Westbank Citizens' Advisory Council and the Historic New Orleans French Quarter Easter Parade. As a member of the Algiers Republican Women, she tirelessly worked to support and raise awareness for local initiatives.

She was a cherished daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Irene is survived by her loving daughter, Marilyn Mislove, and her son-in-law, Michael. Her legacy continues through her grandchildren: John Crowe (wife Kelly), Rebecca Crowe Claunch (husband Charles), Alan Mislove (wife Talmadge), and Caroline Mislove, as well as her great-grandchildren Ivy, Courtney, Ava, Abby, Sarah, Reeves, Evan, and Mira.

Preceding her in death were her first husband, Arvid Dahl, her second husband, John C. Burrus, and her beloved daughter, Marcia Dahl Crowe.

I am so blessed and grateful to have known this phenomenal woman, a real Trailblazer and Leader, my true friend. Ms. Irene will forever be remembered for her indomitable spirit, her tireless dedication to her community, and her boundless love for her family. Her legacy of kindness, leadership, and service will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know her. I will certainly miss my dear friend.

HONORING CATHY SCHWANKE

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I would like to recognize Cathy Schwanke for her work with the Anthem, New River, Desert Hills, and Phoenix Republican Club.

Cathy saw a need to educate Republicans in the northern most areas of our Congressional District and was a driving force in creating this group. She works tirelessly to keep members engaged in the political process, promote civic engagement, and educate citizens on Republican principles.

I am thankful for Cathy's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day and honor those who were held captive and were returned, as well as those who remain missing.

Established in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is held yearly on the third Friday of September. This day is marked by ceremonies at the Pentagon and at military installations across the Nation. More than 81,000 American service personnel are missing from previous conflicts and approximately 38,000 are believed to be recoverable. I commend the work of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in searching for our missing Americans and ensuring that no service member is left behind.

As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, I work hard each year to ensure that the POW/MIA Accounting Agency has the necessary funding to continue their essential work. We have a duty to these service members that have endured unspeakable indignities to protect and preserve our freedoms. The United States cannot and will not abandon the search for those who gave their last full measure of devotion in overseas wars.

I cannot express the depth of my gratitude for every patriot who has served our Nation. I will continue to use my role in Congress to bring every imprisoned or missing service-member home. Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of our colleagues in the House of Representatives in commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

HONORING SUSTAINABLE SOLANO'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to honor and commend Sustainable Solano as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. This remarkable milestone is a testament to the crucial work Sustainable Solano has accomplished to support sustainable food access in Solano County.

First established as the Benicia Community Gardens in 1999, Sustainable Solano's all-volunteer organization has spearheaded efforts to bolster local food systems and promote ecologically sustainable practices in Solano County. Since its founding, Sustainable Solano has installed 68 sustainable gardens and planted over 400 trees, helping bring green infrastructure to urban areas in Solano County.

Sustainable Solano's critical initiatives are combating food insecurity in our communities, raise public awareness about the climate crisis, and support our local farmers. In addition, Sustainable Solano's efforts to promote youth engagement will help encourage today's youth to become the environmental advocates and sustainability leaders of tomorrow.

As our planet faces increasingly severe threats from the climate crisis, organizations like Sustainable Solano are critical to building sustainable, resilient communities. We look forward to seeing the essential work Sustainable Solano will continue to accomplish in our communities and beyond.

On behalf of the constituents of California's Fourth and Eighth Congressional District, we would like to congratulate Sustainable Solano on its 25th anniversary and extend our sincere gratitude for its service to the Solano County community.

RECOGNIZING THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS, ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tremendous community in my district, The Woodlands, Texas, as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary on October 19th.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, George Mitchell began developing plans for a new hometown called The Woodlands. Mr. Mitchell's vision was for an all-encompassing, integrated community where residents could live, work, play, learn and pray among a natural forested and preserved environment.

Beginning with the modest purchase in 1964 of 2,800 acres from the Grogan Cochran Lumber Company, over the next decade Mr. Mitchell would invest in an additional 17,455 acres as a start to the master planned community. The first public school opened in 1971, and The Woodlands celebrated its grand opening with the opening of the Village of Grogan's Mill on October 19, 1974.

A master planned community far ahead of its time, Mr. Mitchell created in The Woodlands a thoughtful and diverse living experience that balanced the spirit of neighborhood life with business and innovation, all nestled within a grounded natural setting.

Over its five decades, The Woodlands has grown to include nine residential villages, The Woodlands Town Center, Hughes Landing and the Woodlands Waterway, the community's nexus of business and entertainment. The Woodlands boasts some of the highest ranked schools in the greater Houston region, award-winning medical and wellness centers, and places of worship of virtually every denomination. Today, approximately, 2,668 businesses, including the headquarters of major corporations, are based in The Woodlands.

The Woodlands has become an economic juggernaut in the Greater Southeast Texas area led by the development of The Woodlands Town Center. Spanning 1,000 acres, the urban core features premier office and retail space, a plethora of world class dining and entertainment options, hotels, healthcare and residences, all within a walkable environment. Economic development has been key to the success of The Woodlands generating commercial growth that has contributed to sustaining a low tax rate for residents while preserving the exceptional amenities that distinguish The Woodlands from many urban cores.

Likewise, the 151 parks, over 220 miles of hiking and bike trails, pools, public art, water sport destinations and signature golf courses highlight the community's natural surroundings. And yet, with all the community offers, the forest remains. Over the years, nearly one million seedlings have been given away at Arbor Day festivals and planted to enrich the community's forested beauty. Today, almost 8,000 of 28,500 total acres, remains open space.

This dedication to the natural environment was a priority in the development of The Woodlands. Parks have been planned and developed hand-in-hand with residential development. Families can enjoy a park within a 10-minute walk. In fact, The Woodlands was de-

signed to be park plentiful, boasting one park per 815 residents, placing the community 200 percent above the national average for parks per resident, according to the National Recreation and Parks Association.

George Mitchell strategically planned The Woodlands with a focus on residential development first, laying the groundwork and support for a robust commercial destination aimed to create a central hub that would enhance the overall community experience and attract businesses, residents and visitors. Since its founding, The Woodlands has emerged from a fledgling outpost of the Greater Houston area to a thriving community ranked the No. 1 Community to Live in America in 2021 and 2022. As The Woodlands celebrates five decades of diversity, innovation and community pride, we all look forward to its even more promising future.

In recognition of the 50th Anniversary, The Woodlands community will come together for a week of events culminating in a community wide celebration on October 19th. I congratulate The Woodlands on its 50th Anniversary and wish its residents a safe and joyous celebration on this momentous occasion.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER STATE SENATOR PRISCILLA DUNN

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of a beloved educator and public servant, former Alabama State Senator Priscilla Ann Proffitt Dunn, who passed away on September 17, 2024, at the age of 80.

Senator Dunn was born on October 8, 1943, to Johnnie A. Proffitt and Mary Ella Walker in Margret, Alabama. She attended J.S. Abrams High School, where she made a name for herself as the captain of the Cheer Leader Squad and the first Ms. Abrams High.

Upon graduating from J.S. Abrams High School with Honors in the Class of 1961, Senator Dunn continued her educational journey at Alabama State University, where she received a bachelor's degree in education, and the University of Montevallo where she earned her master's degree in education.

With a lifelong passion for education, Senator Dunn worked in the Public School System of Alabama for 30 years where she poured into the children of her community. Known for her kindness and generosity, she often personally paid for school supplies that many of her underserved students could not afford.

In 1998, motivated by the pursuit of justice and an abiding love for the people of her community, Senator Dunn sought public office, bringing her immense talents to the Alabama State Legislature where she represented the Bessemer and Jefferson County area for nearly a quarter century. She began her political career in the Alabama House, where she represented the 56th District from 1998 to 2009. She later represented District 19 in the Alabama State Senate, serving from 2009 until her retirement in 2022. Her 24-year tenure was marked by compassionate and powerful

advocacy on the issues of education, women's and children's rights, and combating the epidemic of homelessness.

Senator Dunn spent her life giving back to her community. She served in a leadership capacity on numerous organizations, including President of the Concerned Citizens of Bessemer Cut-Off, Coordinator for the Jefferson County Democratic Conference, Board Member for the Bessemer Civic Center, President of the Humanistic Challengers Federated Club, Secretary of Girls, Inc. of Central Alabama, Board Member of the Jefferson/Shelby Counties American Cancer Society Advisory Board and Board Member for the State Democratic Executive Committee and many more.

Having accepted Christ into her life at a young age, Senator Dunn was a devoted servant of God who led by example and always practiced what she preached. She was an instructor for the Jefferson County Congress of Christian Education and a Trustee and Sunday school teacher for her home church, the Shady Grove Baptist Church.

Senator Dunn is survived by her beloved husband, the Honorable Grover Dunn; her daughter, the Honorable Karen Dunn Burks (Eric Burks—deceased), her brother, Herman L. Lumzy; two grandsons, Grover Blake Burks and Frederick Brock Burks; nephews, Herman Lumzy (Jasmine), Mario Lumzy (Rhonda); her niece, Tameeka Lumzy Todd (Jeremiah) and a host of relatives and friends.

On a personal note, I was blessed to have known Senator Dunn and her wonderful family. As Alabama's first Black Congresswoman, I stand on the shoulders of amazing leaders like Senator Dunn who opened the doors for me and many others. She was a grand dame whose footsteps we as Black women elected officials in Alabama are blessed to follow.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of State Senator Priscilla Dunn and her decades of exemplary service to the State of Alabama and our Nation.

HONORING AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S DAY

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA), based in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and to celebrate American Business Women's Day.

ABWA's Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter held its first meeting on May 22, 2019. Since then, the organization has provided opportunities for local business leaders to network and learn from one another. Through their work to recognize the rich contributions of women in business, members have brought together businesswomen from various fields and highlighted their voices at the local and national level.

I thank the Fredericksburg Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter for their unwavering commitment to fostering growth and excellence, spotlighting the role of local businesswomen in growing Virginia's economy, and

empowering women in our communities. I am proud to join them and their sister chapters across our country in celebrating 75 years of the ABWA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fredericksburg Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter for their remarkable achievements and their commitment to empowering women in business. Their dedication exemplifies the spirit of progress and excellence we celebrate on American Business Women's Day.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRFAX COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), a nonprofit organization that has provided direct advocacy and support to abused and neglected children in Fairfax County's child welfare system. Since its establishment, Fairfax CASA has made an immeasurable impact on the lives of these children.

Fairfax CASA plays a crucial role by vetting, training, and supervising community volunteers who are appointed by the Fairfax County Juvenile Domestic Relations District Court to represent the best interests of children in open abuse and neglect cases. Over the last 35 years, the organization has trained nearly 1,900 volunteers, serving almost 9,000 children since its inception in 1989.

The vision to bring CASA to Fairfax County began with Judge Jane Delbridge, who recognized the need for neutral, dedicated advocates in her courtroom. After attending a 1985 conference for judges and district attorneys, Judge Delbridge worked alongside Fairfax attorney Carole Coile, as well as former Director of Court Services Vince Pichcano and other court professionals, to launch the program. Fairfax CASA officially opened its doors in 1989, and its first child abuse case was assigned to a Court Appointed Special Advocate on January 17 of that year.

Since then, Fairfax CASA has continued to grow, both in scope and in the number of children it serves. From its first year, when 37 community members volunteered and 80 children were served, to today, where the program assists an average of 350 children annually, Fairfax CASA has remained a vital resource for the community. In the most recent fiscal year, Fairfax CASA served 395 children from 230 families.

Over the course of its 35-year history, Fairfax CASA volunteers have submitted over 10,000 comprehensive reports to the Court, ensuring that judges are equipped with the information necessary to make decisions in the

best interests of the children. These reports are an essential component of the advocacy process, shining a light on the circumstances that might otherwise go unheard in the judicial system.

Fairfax CASA's success is not just measured in the number of cases handled but in the lasting difference it has made in the lives of thousands of children. The program's deep commitment to direct advocacy, as well as its push for systemic change, has earned it the respect and admiration of the entire child welfare community.

As Fairfax CASA celebrates 35 years of service, we are reminded of the immense value of its mission. Until the day comes when no child in Fairfax County needs the services of a Court Appointed Special Advocate, Fairfax CASA will continue to stand as a pillar of hope and protection for the children who need it most.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Fairfax CASA for 35 years of outstanding service and advocacy, and for its unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable members of our community.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER OF DALE INGRAM

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Dale Ingram of Van Alstyne, Texas. Detective Ingram has dedicated himself to faithfully serving and protecting our community.

Since 1978, Detective Ingram has served as a law enforcement officer in North Texas. Throughout his 45 years in uniform, he has worked as a patrol officer, warrant officer, detective, and as a member of the North Texas Child Abuse Task Force. Currently, Detective Ingram works for the Van Alstyne Police Department. In his career, he has diligently fought to protect our children from harm and ensure our communities are safe. In May, Detective Ingram was tragically diagnosed with a late stage brain tumor, which has affected his quality of life. Despite this diagnosis, he has tirelessly fought to spend as much time with his family as possible.

When Detective Ingram's children went through his old files and keepsakes, they found that he had received countless exemplary reviews from superiors and commendations for his selfless service as a law enforcement officer. Some weren't written down, as they involved his actions in protecting the lives of children who did not have a voice. For decades, he has served North Texas with great pride and honor, unafraid of those who wish to do harm. Outside of the uniform, Detective Ingram is a loving husband, father, and grandfather to thirteen grandchildren. I am confident

that he will fully triumph in the battle against cancer, and I wish him a complete recovery so that he may spend many more years with his family.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Detective Ingram's extensive public service and dedication to the people of North Texas. May God Bless him.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL STEINBARGER

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mark the passing of a dear friend. On May 14, Michael Steinbarger of Edinburgh, Indiana sadly left this world.

Michael was a native of my hometown of Columbus, Indiana and married his wife, Anngie, in 1982. From that point on, they shared their lives together on a farm in Edinburg, where they raised two daughters, Hayley Clark and Michelle Tobias.

Michael was an active servant of his community, proudly serving with the Shelby County Farm Bureau Board, Shelby County 4-H, Flat Rock Volunteer Fire Department, and was a member of the St. George Lutheran Church.

I am especially thankful for Michael and Anngie's wise counsel and service as it relates to my Sixth District Agriculture Advisory Board.

My heart goes out to Anngie, their two children, and their families.

All who knew Michael were better for having known him, and he will be greatly missed.

HONORING DONNA RHODES

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I would like to recognize Donna Rhodes, president of the Sun City Grand Republican Club.

Donna has distinguished herself by providing exceptional service to the residents of Sun City Grand, Arizona. As president of the club, Donna has been an advocate for educating members on the civic engagement process and how to interact with elected officials. The efforts of Donna and the Sun City Grand Republican Club have been pivotal to the success of elected officials and candidates in the Phoenix West Valley.

I am thankful for Donna's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to the 8th Congressional District and the State of Arizona.