

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on September 25, 2024, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on September 25 answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude:

Michael Ahasic, William Scott Allison, John W. Banbury, Rolland Beaudry, Joseph Blackwell, Ronald C. Bliss, Ernest Boone, Michael P. Bracken, William L. Brzostowski, Gary L. Buehre, Charlie H. Burley, Michael M. Clemente, Frank Cogswell, Philip J. Collins, William Cousins, Dennis R. Cowger, David Thomas Crocker, George J. Curtin, Kenneth R. Dearing, Thomas Dilley, Edward Duglow, Dennis Duszynski, Conrad Dybala, Ronald E. Eddings, Donald Ehrhart, James Erwin, James Farley, Harvey Ferguson, Jr., James J. Fitzgerald, Wade Fleming, Carl W. Fredrickson, Raymond Frigo, Thomas J. Frigo, Francis Garrett, Donald Girouard, Michael Grant, Cornell Gray, Michael H. Green, Scott Russell Gustafson, Larry M. Hakes, Ricky Hanaway, Catherine Hannon, William C. Harper, Jack Phillip Harris, Donald Hawver, Richard Hayman, Edward M. Heery, Donald Hendrick, John Horwath, Ronald Hudson, Dennis Ray Humphrey, Ronald L. Hunter, Adolf Janke, James A. Johnson, William E. Johnson, III, William Josma, Richard J. Kappel, Charles P. Keonon, Bruce Klein, Francis Kleine, Edward Kopeshke, Ronald D. Lehman, Jerome Lewicki, Alvin Lively, Sonny W. London, William Lord, Paul Lyczak, Raymond J. Machowski, Jr., Louis Marohn, Thomas O. Mason, Dennis C. Maxwell, Charles Mayton, Robert McMahon, John R. Mercado, Freddie Moffett, James C. Morrison, David Andrew Neff, Gust Nudi, Thomas P. O'Neill, Ronald L. Olson, David Joseph Prawdzik, Daniel G. Prezembel, John Prochaska, Johnston F. Rehling, James C. Roberts, Robert Cruz Rodarte, Adam Rose, Richard Sachs, Bernadette Sinner, Anthony

J. Santerelli, Craig Alan Schilling, Laurel Schilling, James Schlegel, Stephen E. Schmidt, John J. Schoeps, Marvin Schufeldt, Dennis L. Schultz, George Seaberry, Robert Frank Shervino, Roy Slowinski, Michael Steurer, John K. Stoeckert, Joseph Sullivan, Donald Taylor, Robert Thompson, Henry Trenkle, Michael Valdez, Douglas Voight, George Walker, Ronald G. Walton, Gene Allen Weisbecker, Arthur Wettergren, Ivan White, Dennis Wiecek, James M. Wiedemann, and Dennis J. Wilhelm.

### RECOGNIZING DR. QAUMANIQ SUUQIINA

### HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Qaumaniq Suuqiina, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Dr. Qaumaniq Suuqiina—psychologist, teacher, First Nations leader, wife, mother and grandmother—is consciously aware that her actions today will affect those that come after her. She has spent more than 40 years helping individuals recover from all forms of addiction serving as director of a counseling center specializing in the treatment of addictions, co-dependency, sexual abuse and domestic violence.

For the last 27 years, she and her husband, Dr. Iglahliq Suuqiina, have worked as First Nations' leaders and bridgebuilders to bring reconciliation between races and genders, using protocol and honor as a tool for healing and understanding. They have partnered with Jewish people and educated non-Jewish individuals and people groups about the blessings of building relationships with the Jews, and Israel's right to occupy the land of Israel as indigenous people. They are committed to the fight against antisemitism.

Qaumaniq is a certified expressive arts therapist and is a graduate of the Expressive Arts Training Institute. She has a Doctorate in Biblical Counseling from the United Graduate College and Seminary International. She is a published author, trained dancer and musician.

As a follower of Jesus Christ, she strives to be honorable in her work and personal life believing that honor is the language of heaven.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

### RECOGNIZING COLONEL JIMMIE W. HANES, JR., USAF, RETIRED WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USAF Colonel Jimmie W. Hanes,

Jr., of Crawford, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His continuous efforts in supporting concepts of sacrifice and devotion showcase exceptional integrity.

Born and raised in Enon, Ohio, Colonel Hanes demonstrated leadership from an early age, excelling academically, athletically, and socially. This innate drive to lead never diminished; even during his military career, he remained actively involved in community initiatives whenever possible.

During his distinguished military service, Colonel Hanes flew 107 combat missions, including 100 over North Vietnam. He spent many years in the Strategic Air Command, serving both as a B-52 crewmember and in key staff positions such as Deputy Director for Bomber Operations at SAC Headquarters and U.S. Defense/Air Attaché to the Sultanate of Oman. Whether building schools in Oman or engaging with local boards and committees as Commander of Wurtsmith Air Force Base, he consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the communities he served. His leadership at Wurtsmith contributed to the base being considered a finalist for USAF Base of the Year.

Colonel Hanes's exemplary military career earned him numerous decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two devices, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with nine devices, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two devices, and the Distinguished Presidential Unit Citation.

After retiring in 1992 following nearly 30 years of active service, Colonel Hanes continued his dedication to public service. He remained in Michigan, working as a City Administrator and City Manager, impacting thousands of constituents daily. His innovative leadership in these roles earned him two Michigan Municipal League Outstanding Achievement Awards and other accolades. Later, he moved to Waco, Texas, where he has served as the Director of Waco Regional Airport since 2000, a position that keeps him actively engaged in the local community.

Colonel Hanes holds leadership positions in numerous organizations. Notable roles include Chairman of the Board at Lutheran Sunset Ministries, President of the North Bosque Water Supply Company, President of the Heart of Texas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, President of Ridgewood Country Club, and Chairman of the Veterans One-Stop Advisory Board. He has also served on the boards of the Waco Downtown Rotary, McLennan County United Way, American Red Cross Heart of Texas Chapter, Baylor Lady Bears "Tip Off Club," and the Baylor Bears Foundation.

Throughout his life, Colonel Hanes has dedicated himself to serving others—during his youth, his military career, and his civilian life. His unwavering commitment to his fellow citizens embodies the highest American values.

• 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.

It is with great honor that I award retired USAF Colonel Jimmie W. Hanes, Jr. with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE HONORABLE ALGENON L. MARBLEY

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the distinguished service of the Honorable Algenon L. Marbley from my district, who has served the Southern District of Ohio since 1997, after his appointment by President Clinton and unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

In 2019, the Judge became the first African American from the segregated South to serve as Chief District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. Under his leadership, the Court remained one of the Nation's most productive, even through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2023, the District was ranked in the top 15 most productive federal district courts. His dedication to justice is unparalleled.

As Chief Judge Marbley celebrates his 70th birthday and concludes his tenure, I extend my deepest gratitude for his service and friendship and wish him continued success in his next chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALAPAHA COLORED SCHOOL

**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Alapaha Colored School in Alapaha, Georgia, on November 8, 2024.

Built in 1924, the Alapaha Colored School is one of the last surviving wood-framed schools that served the black population in and around Berrien County, Georgia. Alapaha Colored School was founded by Mr. Nathan Bridges, a former slave who moved to Alapaha around 1880, and Mr. Brutus Shipman, who was raised by Bridges.

This school was in operation from 1924 until 1953, when a modern school was constructed for African American children. The school accommodated eleven grades while only having four classrooms. The school board later used the building for summer GED classes for WWII veterans who could not finish school before the war.

In 2002, after the restoration efforts of Alapaha's former Mayor, James Boone, and several former school students, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, it is a museum for everyone to visit and learn about this important piece of African American history in our district.

This school is a testament to its founders' commitment to educating African American children in Georgia's Eighth Congressional

District. I join the Town of Alapaha in recognizing and celebrating the historic achievements of this establishment.

HONORING STEVE MONTENEGRO

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Arizona State Representative Steve Montenegro from Legislative District 29, covering the West Valley in the Phoenix-metro area.

Representative Montenegro is the Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, and a member of the Government and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. He has earned the Hero of the Taxpayer and the Friend of the Family awards for his voting record throughout his tenure in the Arizona Legislature.

Representative Montenegro is a strong conservative, who has supported many bills to strengthen the state's economy, defend life, secure the border, and safeguard the Second Amendment.

Arizona's 8th Congressional District is thankful for Representative Montenegro's endeavors on behalf of his district and our state.

RECOGNIZING MACY PETTY

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Macy Petty, who was named a 2024 Young Christian Woman of Distinction.

Macy Petty is the legislative strategist at Concerned Women for America. In this role, she advocates for biblical values and constitutional principles in public policy. She graduated from Lee University with a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration with minors in business administration, communication arts, and pre-law.

While playing NCAA volleyball at Lee, Macy joined CWA as a women's sports spokeswoman, advocating for sex-based protections at the state and federal level. A platform was created to defend truth through her experience playing against a male athlete on a girls' volleyball team. Her experience has given her the opportunity to speak across the country about the dangers of gender ideology.

Macy is published in news outlets, including Fox News, the Daily Caller and Washington Examiner. She is regularly interviewed on national media outlets, such as Fox News, Fox Business, and Newsmax.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this young woman of distinction.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF JAMES DAVIDSON HALLOWELL

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary spirit and life of James Davidson Hallowell; a great son, husband, father, businessman, philanthropist, and community leader.

On July 25, 1933, James was born to Dennis and Doretta (Johnson) Hallowell in Brawley, California. Just one year after his birth, James and his family relocated to Clovis. He graduated from Clovis High School and later pursued higher education at Fresno State. He graduated from Fresno State with a degree in marketing in 1955. James devoted much of his youth to helping at his family's dealership, and after graduation he chose to work full-time at, Hallowell Chevrolet. He later married his high school sweetheart Coralein "Coke" Smith on Valentine's Day in 1957 and began leading the family business in 1965. He was a talented businessman and by the end of his tenure the dealership had generated over \$65 million in sales.

James's work as a philanthropist and community leader was rightfully recognized as he attained many well-deserved accolades throughout his life. From 1969 to 2000, Mr. Hallowell received the Sid Craig School of Business Alumni and Friends Award, the Fresno Junior Chamber of Commerce Award as Fresno's Outstanding Young Man, Time Magazine's Quality Dealer Award, the Leon S. Peters award, the AFP Outstanding Philanthropist Award, and along with Coke he won the Excellence in Business Hall of Fame Award. Finally, he was honored with Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters from Fresno State.

His love for life was reflected in his passion for cycling and biking across Europe along with his community activities. James was a charter member of the Fresno Business Council reflecting his commitment as a businessman who wanted to serve by tackling issues in the community. In 1995 James and Coke made a five-year pledge of \$100,000 to Fresno State. He was on the board of the Fresno Philharmonic and the Fresno Art Museum. Mr. Hallowell had a seat on Community Medical Center's Board of Directors. James cared deeply about the community which is perfectly illustrated by his and Coke's donation of a conservation easement on their 700-acre cattle ranch for the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.

In James's passing, we celebrate a life that left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on through his family; wife Coke, daughters Joell and Elise, and grandchildren, Taylor, and Alden Moir. May we draw inspiration from James's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of James Davidson Hallowell.

CELEBRATING HENRY PELAK'S  
100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor my constituent, Mr. Henry Pelak, who turned 100 years old on July 24th of this year. Mr. Pelak has dedicated his life to our country, his family, and Michiganders.

Pelak was born in the summer of 1924 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After high school, he proudly served our country in the United States Navy. Once he completed his training with amphibious naval vessels in Virginia and Florida, Pelak was assigned to be a motor machinist on a naval landing craft and deployed to Europe.

During World War II, Pelak was stationed in England to prepare for the Normandy Invasion. On June 6, 1944, he was on one of the first boats to hit Omaha Beach on D-Day in Nazi-occupied France. His bravery contributed to the successful deployment of troops during the first wave of the Allied Invasion, where he landed military and naval combat demolition units to clear the way for incoming infantry. After the invasion, Pelak was reassigned to a unit in Bremerhaven, Germany, and reenlisted for two more years.

I am so proud to honor Henry Pelak, not only for reaching this incredible milestone, but also for his unwavering service to our Nation. His life stands as a shining example of true courage, resilience, and patriotism.

As we celebrate Mr. Pelak's 100th birthday, I want to express my deepest gratitude for his tremendous service to West Michigan and the United States. May he have a happy, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF KEVIN  
SPROUL

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to extend my personal congratulations and to honor and recognize a dedicated public servant and community leader, Sheriff Kevin Sproul, on the occasion of his retirement as Sheriff of Dougherty County, Georgia. The community will gather in Albany, Georgia on September 28, 2024, to celebrate his retirement after 42 years of service at the Dougherty County Sheriffs Office.

A resident of Dougherty County since he was 7 years of age, Sheriff Sproul graduated from Albany High School, received an associate's degree in Social Work from Darton College, and a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from LaGrange College at Albany. He also earned the Master Level 5 Gang Expert Certificate in 2007 from the National Gang Crime Research Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Sheriff Sproul started his career at the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office on September 8, 1982. For over four decades, he has worked in virtually every one of its divi-

sions, including jail operations, protecting our roadways, and mentoring the community's young people. Sheriff Sproul understands that fighting crime and ensuring public safety starts with educating our students on character and instilling within them the values they need to be good citizen leaders. Over the course of his career in law enforcement, he has taught over 16,300 students in partnership with the Dougherty County School System.

In 2008, Mr. Sproul launched his campaign for Sheriff with the spirit of service and justice held close to his heart. He is now finishing his fourth term as Dougherty County's top law enforcement official, a position he has utilized to increase the efficiency of his agency, improve the quality of life for inmates, and make Dougherty County a safer place to live and conduct business.

As Sheriff, Sproul made a point to engage with and collaborate with leaders from across the state in order to improve public safety for all. He is a member of Georgia Gang Investigators Association (G.G.I.A.) and has served on the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) National Training Team. He has also served on the Stop the Violence Board, Regional Police Academy Board in Tifton, GA, and the GBI Regional Drug Task Force Board, as well as the Albany Civil Rights Board and the SOWEGA Council on Aging Board.

Sheriff Sproul has contributed so much to his community and accomplished so much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the Grace of God, and the love and support of his wife of 41 years, Vicki, their three children, and one granddaughter.

George Washington Carver once said "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Sheriff Kevin Sproul has embodied the spirit of that quote throughout his career and his community is stronger and more secure thanks to his unwavering leadership.

On a personal note, I am blessed to call Sheriff Sproul my friend, and it has been a pleasure working with him during my time in elective office. Kevin never told me just what I wanted to hear; he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will always cherish the fidelity of his friendship and the timbre of his character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Sheriff Kevin Sproul upon the occasion of his retirement. We wish him and his family all the best as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING THE LANSING  
ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to honor and celebrate the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs. As the association prepares to merge with the Eastside

Community Action Center, I want to reflect on its incredible impact and decades-long service to the Lansing community.

Since its founding in 1945, this historic organization, originally known as the Lansing Association of Colored Women's Clubs, has served as a pillar of social, cultural, and economic empowerment, particularly for Black women in Lansing.

Founded through the efforts of Dr. Rose T. Brunson, Mrs. Gertrude Lee, and Mrs. Ina B. Majors, the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs began with a vision to address the needs of local residents. Their determination led them to secure initial funding, which enabled the group to open their original clubhouse. The organization later moved to its present location in 1969, which has since been recognized as a historic site by the Michigan Historical Commission.

The association's legacy is intertwined with the very fabric of Lansing, and its impact can be felt across generations. From its early work establishing a nursery to its many decades of providing a clubhouse where Black organizations could meet and host activities, the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs has been instrumental in advancing opportunities for the Black community.

In response to recent fundraising efforts, the organization will merge this year with the Eastside Community Action Center. This merger will allow the association to continue its programming and contribute to broader initiatives that include youth activities, housing programs, and financial literacy education—initiatives that will carry forward the spirit of the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs.

This upcoming transition marks the end of an era for the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs, but it is also an opportunity to celebrate the organization for striving to form necessary partnerships in its efforts to continue fulfilling its purpose. The clubhouse, a place of significance for the Black community, will continue to serve as a space where important work will take place. Though the name of the organization may no longer stand alone, the values and commitment of the women who built it will continue to inspire new efforts to improve the lives of others.

As we reflect on the association's remarkable history, let us celebrate the generations of women who fostered peace, harmony, and higher standards of living for Lansing residents. It is with deep appreciation that I recognize the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs and its incredible legacy here in the official record of the United States House of Representatives. May its mission continue to guide and uplift the community for years to come.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT  
JOSEPH JESSE ROBERT, USAF,  
RETIRED, WITH A CONGRES-  
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-  
TION

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present retired USAF Staff Sergeant Joseph Jesse Robert, of Mart, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His lifelong

dedication to honoring the values of service and sacrifice exemplifies what it truly means to be a patriot.

Raised in West, Texas, Joseph Robert signed his delayed enlistment forms in December 1977, before graduating high school in the spring of 1978. He attended IT training at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois and graduated from the Aerospace Ground Support Technician School before reporting to Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. In 1979, Joseph underwent advanced training on the MVP 116A Generator and became the only service member to receive a letter of certification as an engineer from Consolidated Diesel Company of Connecticut.

In October 1979, Joseph was deployed to South Korea, where his service qualified him for the South Korean Defense Medal. He was also awarded Airman of the Quarter for his branch in 1980 and became the inaugural Tactical Air Command 552nd AWACS Airman Maintenance Professional of the Year. Joseph's tour ended in August 1982. He began working to repair ground support equipment in 1986 but was laid off in July 1991 after suffering an injury that ended his service career.

Joseph's civilian service began soon after. After working through his recovery, he became a volunteer First Responder for the Prairie Hill Volunteer Fire Department and Mart Emergency Medical Service, where he earned his EMT Basic certification. In 2009, Joseph faced another medical setback when he suffered a stroke, again affecting his ability to serve in active capacities. However, his desire to serve his community remained strong. In 2012, he became an MVPN volunteer with the Veterans One Stop in Waco, and from 2014 to 2017, he administered the Mexia Peer Support Center. He has held several leadership positions at the local VFW Post 4964 in Mexia, including Adjutant, Senior Vice, Quartermaster, and Commander, and he currently serves as the Service Officer for American Legion Post 288. Joseph also works with Veterans Partners of Texas, where he helps clothe, feed, and assist veterans daily.

Joseph's military and civilian service career has been long and impactful, earning him numerous awards, including the Army Service Ribbon, Marksman Qualification Badge (M-16), Maintenance Professional of the Year, Male MVPN Volunteer of the Year, Veteran Volunteer of the Year, and a certificate of appreciation as a Veteran of Foreign Wars. Joseph served his country in the Air Force and returned home to serve his community, continually seeking to offer his services in any capacity he can.

I am pleased to award retired USAF Staff Sergeant Joseph Jesse Robert with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRED HEART  
COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself and Representatives ANNA ESHOO, RO KHANNA, and JIMMY PANETTA to recognize Sacred Heart Community Services

Agency for 60 years of working to create a community free from poverty by creating hope, opportunity, and action.

Sacred Heart Community Services Agency was founded in 1964 by Louise Benson, someone I knew as a faith-filled person who committed her time and energy to the wellbeing of the poor. Today Sacred Heart delivers essential safety net services to individuals and families in need. The organization has evolved into a respected and innovative provider of programs that assist families with achieving lifelong economic self-sufficiency and impressive grassroots organizing that addresses the root causes and consequences of poverty.

For 60 years, Sacred Heart has stood with integrity and served with compassion to empower individuals and families to reach better lives. We celebrate their many accomplishments and wish them continued success.

HONORING THE 2024 HERZOG FOUNDATION  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
FROM IOWA

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate an exceptional educator, Julie Pickard, on being named the 2024 Herzog Foundation's Teacher of the Year. Representing the great state of Iowa, Julie's dedication to the academic and spiritual growth of her students exemplifies the values of Christian education. Her work is a shining example of the impact one teacher can have on shaping future generations, not only through the curriculum but through faith and character.

Julie has spent her career ensuring that students receive a well-rounded education, rooted in both knowledge and integrity. Her passion for teaching, coupled with her unwavering commitment to serving her community, makes her truly deserving of this national recognition. This prestigious award speaks to the respect and admiration she has earned from her colleagues, students, and the wider educational community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to commend Julie Pickard for her incredible accomplishments. On behalf of the people of Iowa, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and wish her continued success in shaping young minds and hearts for years to come.

RECOGNIZING SAM SORBO

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sam Sorbo, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Sam Sorbo is an education freedom advocate. After an award-winning Hollywood film career as an actor, producer, and writer of "Just Let Go," "Let There be Light," and "Left Behind." Sam stepped back from her Hollywood career to homeschool her three small

children, when she realized there is more to education than the school system accomplishes or addresses.

Sam scripted and produced "School's Out with Sam Sorbo" for EpochTV and currently hosts "The Sam Sorbo Show" daily on Patriot.TV and as a podcast. Seeking to emancipate families from modern schooling, Sam wrote and produced "The Playbook for Home Learning," a 15-video training with a workbook for parents.

Fluent in five languages, Sam speaks internationally on how to "Educate . . . differently."

She has written several books including books on education, "They're YOUR Kids" and "Teach from Love." "Words for Warriors" addresses the dangerous shifts in our vernacular and "True Faith," was written in collaboration with her husband, Kevin Sorbo. Remarking on the lack of Biblical study in our government's schools, Sam notes, "How can anyone claim to educate while ignoring the most important book in the history of the world?"

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

HONORING BUILDING SAFETY  
MONTH

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark Building Safety Month 2024 and to recognize the more than 60,000 members of the International Code Council (ICC)—including the more than 8,300 in California—who have dedicated their livelihoods to ensuring public safety throughout the built environment.

Building Safety Month is sponsored each and every May by the International Code Council and its partners, with a shared goal of reminding the public about why buildings are safe, resilient, efficient, and livable.

The Code Council—celebrating its thirtieth anniversary this year—brings together local, state, and federal government stakeholders, as well as those from the private sector every three years to develop model codes and standards that protect the occupants of the buildings in which we live, work, and play. Those codes and standards are then adopted, implemented, and enforced year-round at varying levels of government across the nation. Building safety officials, the fire service, architects, engineers, builders, and other skilled tradespeople all use these codes and standards to ensure the safe construction and maintenance of buildings.

This is particularly important in California, a state that faces numerous natural hazards: atmospheric rivers, wildfires, riverine floods, mudslides, record snowfalls, extreme heat, and earthquakes. Often, depending on the time of year, the buildings in which we spend our time are at risk from multiple natural threats.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking International Code Council Board for their enduring commitment to safe construction, and in particular, ICC Board President Stuart Tom; ICC Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims; the

Code Council's elected leadership; and its more 60,000 Members and staff as they commemorate Building Safety Month 2024 and work to raise public awareness to the importance of building safety across our Nation.

THANKING SUSAN M. KOZUBSKI  
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. BRYAN STEIL**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Ranking Member Morelle and myself, please join me in congratulating Susan M. Kozubski who is retiring after 21 years of service to the People's House and with more than 30 years of overall federal service. Susan currently serves as the Assistant Chief Administrative Director for Finance and Administration in the Office of Inspector General.

Ms. Kozubski began her service in 1984 working for the European Special Activities Area of the Department of the Air Force in Germany. During her time in Germany, Susan also worked in the 18th Military Intelligence Battalion of the Army, was the executive secretary to the Battalion Commander of the 6–40th Armor Battalion, Berlin Brigade, U.S. Army Berlin, and the executive secretary to the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Berlin.

Susan returned to the United States in 1993, started working in the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and then as the executive secretary for the Director of the Non-Developmental Airlift Aircraft System Program Office. For her work in the Program Office, she was awarded the Air Force Award of Excellence in Acquisition Management.

Ms. Kozubski joined the House Inspector General's Office in 2000 as the administrative assistant. She advanced into higher-level positions in the Office as the secretary, executive secretary, and administrative director. Susan worked on several special projects, including representing the Office on the House Officers' and IG's Human Resources Task Force.

In 2007, Ms. Kozubski returned to Europe and worked for the U.S. Embassies in Poland and Montenegro. In Warsaw, Susan worked in the Visa Fraud section as a consular associate. During that time, she exposed a visa fraud ring operating between New York and Belarus, earning her the State Department's Benjamin Franklin Award. In Montenegro, she was the Community Liaison Officer, helping acclimatize new embassy staff and their families with aspects of living in the host country.

Susan returned to the United States in 2010 and re-joined the House Inspector General's Office in 2010 as the Assistant Director for Finance and Administration. During this time, she worked on several projects and implemented programs and procedures to increase efficiencies in the administrative functions and operations. For example, she led the team to revise the Performance Management Program, led the team that developed the first Succession Planning Program, and chaired the House Officers' and IG's Human Resource Task Force several times. Notably, Susan is the first, and currently only person to be awarded the Employee Excellence Award twice, first in 2019 and again in 2023.

Congratulations and thanks to Ms. Susan M. Kozubski for her dedication and leadership serving our Nation for over 30 years.

RECOGNIZING DENTON'S INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Denton IOOF Cemetery and the Ribbon Cutting ceremony denoting a long-overdue correction to the property's deed, formally eliminating the prohibition for the burial of Black individuals in the cemetery. This is a significant and important day for the Denton community in formally acknowledging the rights and worth of all community members, regardless of race.

I would like to thank Mayor Gerard Hudspeth for raising the issue so the City of Denton could do the necessary research and legal work to eliminate the codified restrictions in the deed's provisions. Denton county has a rich African American history, which serves as an important cornerstone for the flourishing and prosperity community we recognize today.

The elimination of this restriction aligns the IOOF Cemetery's stated value of "elevating mankind's character" with Denton's shared commitment in honoring the innate human value of its citizens and ensures that all cemetery visitors and their loved ones are recognized as equal in both practice and in code. I am honored to recognize this ribbon cutting ceremony.

CONGRATULATING PARALYMPIAN  
CHRIS HAMMER

**HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Chris Hammer for winning a gold medal at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

At 38 years old, Chris Hammer dedicated over half his life to achieving his Paralympic dreams. He began his athletic journey at a young age, where he quickly discovered a passion for long-distance running. In 2004, Chris began his collegiate career at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in West Michigan. There, he earned five All-American honors—once in cross country and four times in steeplechase. In 2022, he was inducted into GVSU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Following his success at GVSU, Chris joined the 2012 U.S. Paralympic Team in London, competing in the 1500-meter, marathon, and 800-meter track events. He then competed in the PT4 paratriathlon at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and the PST5 paratriathlon at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games, finishing fourth in both events.

In Paris, Chris finished the men's PTS5 paratriathlon in just 58 minutes and 44 seconds, winning the gold medal for his outstanding performance. We are honored that Chris called the great state of Michigan home for so many years, and applaud his commitment, drive, and persistence throughout his athletic career.

Mr. Speaker, once more I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Chris

Hammer's first gold medal victory. I congratulate Chris on his well-earned success, and hope he finds some time to celebrate this incredible feat alongside his teammates, family, and community.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL LUIS JESUS LOPEZ, USMC, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USMC Corporal Luis Jesus Lopez, of Waco, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His dedication to his Country and fellow men serves as a template for American Exceptionalism.

Born and raised in Texas, Luis Lopez answered the call to serve by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in February 1969, during the escalating conflict of the Vietnam War. Throughout his four years of active duty, he was deployed to Vietnam, where he faced the perils of enemy fire on the battlefield with unwavering courage. In one particularly harrowing encounter, Corporal Lopez and his squad came under intense attack. Amid the chaos, he exhibited extraordinary bravery and selflessness. Alongside a corpsman and another Marine, he worked tirelessly to load two radiomen onto a helicopter, shielding them from lifethreatening enemy fire. One of the radiomen had already made the ultimate sacrifice, but Corporal Lopez upheld the sacred duty to never leave a fallen comrade behind. His actions that day not only saved lives but also exemplified the highest ideals of honor and brotherhood.

Corporal Lopez's distinguished service is reflected in the numerous awards and honors he has received, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Rifle Sharpshooter Badge. In his civilian life, Luis Lopez has remained a pillar of his community. He is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Marine Corps League, and the American Legion in Waco. Through these organizations and his personal efforts, he consistently strives to support and assist his fellow veterans. His unwavering commitment to service extends beyond official capacities, making him an invaluable member of the community who continues to enrich the lives of others. Even in retirement, Corporal Lopez has dedicated himself to serving others, just as he did during his military career. His ongoing contributions to his fellow veterans and his community stand as a testament to his character and the values he embodies. It is with profound honor and respect that I award retired USMC Corporal Luis Jesus Lopez with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING DR. LINDA SMITH

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Linda Smith, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Dr. Linda Smith is the executive vice president for the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB). She previously served as president of the D. James Kennedy Center for Christian Statesmanship, executive vice president and chief operating officer for NRB, chief of the office of public affairs for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and chief of staff for the U.S. Parole Commission.

As chief of public affairs, Linda oversaw congressional, media, and public relations for the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons. At the U.S. Parole Commission, she served as chief analyst for the National Appellate Board and other positions before assuming the role as chief of staff, overseeing this multi-mission agency, responsible for the release and re-arrest of federal offenders.

She is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, including the Myrl E. Alexander Award from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons, which recognizes the development of new techniques in correctional programs and implementation of new and innovative procedures. She also received the Victims of Crime Award from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia for her work with crime victims.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT ISAAKO FA'ATOESE MALOTUMAU

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Isaako Fa'atoese Malotumau, as we mark the 10th anniversary of his passing. Isaako Malotumau was born on October 18, 1950, in Aoa, American Samoa. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 9, 1970, and completed basic and infantry training at Fort Ord, California, by November 1970. His first assignment was as a rifleman in South Vietnam from December 1970 to April 1971, followed by service with the Rangers until he was captured on April 24, 1971. After 704 days as a POW, he was released on March 27, 1973. He served in various roles, including Test Supervisor at Fort Ord and Redeye Team Chief in West Germany, until his honorable discharge on June 26, 1978. Isaako died on September 10, 2014, and was buried in Tacoma, Washington.

His Bronze Star Medal citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Executive Order 11046, 24th August, 1962, takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal to Specialist Fourth Class Isaako Fa'atoese

Malotumau. United States Army, for meritorious achievement as a Prisoner of War while engaged in operations against an opposing armed force in North Vietnam during the period of February 1971 to May 1972. In an atmosphere of enemy harassment and brutal treatment, he continued to establish and maintain communications through unusual and ingenious methods, which resulted in American and Allied prisoners presenting a posture of increased resistance to the enemy's wishes and at the same time improving prisoner morale. His loyalty, diligence and devotion to duty were in keeping with highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Ssg Malotumau was a Pastor of the New Life Samoan Assembly of God, Tacoma, WA with over 2 decades of ministry. He is survived by his lovely wife of 40 years, Pr. Talatalaga Finau Mikaele—Malotumau, whom he married on April 27, 1974. They had 6 children and 9 grandchildren at the time of his passing. We honor his legacy and thank him and his family for their public service that continues to benefit the Pacific Islander community to this day.

HONORING NEW JERSEY'S SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S HOMETOWN HEROES

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hometown heroes, first responders and law enforcement, who keep us safe every day. In recognition of National Police Week in May, my office put out a call for nominations for the first NJ-07 Law Enforcement Hometown Heroes initiative. Twenty-two law enforcement professionals from across New Jersey's 7th Congressional District were nominated by their chiefs and supervisors for the outstanding work they do every day. It is my honor to play a small role in recognizing their efforts as a token of appreciation for the difficult and often thankless task of keeping our communities safe. I will always support these men and women in blue, and I look forward to welcoming each of these hometown heroes to a ceremony in October to formally recognize them in-person. In recognition of their bravery and commitment, I would like to include in the RECORD the names of these twenty-two Hometown Heroes:

Officer Alyse Brown, Sparta Township Police Department, Staff Sergeant Brent Hawkswell, New Jersey State Police, Officer Connor Strohm, Readington Township Police Department, Sergeant Daniel Kern, Hopatcong Police Department, Lieutenant Donald Sretenovic, New Providence Police Department, Lieutenant Douglas Baylor, Phillipsburg Police Department, Detective Elizabeth Savnik, Westfield Police Department, Corporal Gretchen Malone, Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office, Officer Jarren Mann, Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office, Officer Jessica Gutsick, High Bridge Police Department, Officer John M. Simonetti Jr., Mount Olive Police Department, Captain Jonathan Rachel, Springfield Police Department, Captain Michael Jackson, Mountaintop Police Department, Captain Miguel Acabou, Clark Police Department, Officer Nicholas J. Villa, Raritan Township Police De-

partment, Patrolman Peter Zabita, Hopatcong Police Department, Corporal Ryan Kamieniencki, Far Hills Police Department, Captain Scott Rayack, Rahway Police Department, Lieutenant Thomas Polito, Bedminster Township Police Department, Sergeant Timothy Richard, Bernardsville Police Department, Sergeant Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department, and Officer Vincent Conti, Scotch Plains Police Department.

We are grateful for the commitment and sacrifice they make every single day.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DONN FURMAN

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life and incomparable spirit of Donn Furman; a passionate environmental advocate whose legacy lives on in the natural world around us and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Born in 1950 in Dinuba, California to Duane and Patricia Furman, Donn went on to become a force and advocate of nature. Raised amidst the stunning backdrop of the Fresno/Madera area, Donn's love of learning led him to earn his bachelor's degree in philosophy and minor in economics at California State University, Fresno before doing graduate work in philosophy at the University of Washington, Seattle. His knowledge and deep love of nature laid the foundation for his remarkable life dedicated to preserving the diverse landscape of California.

Donn's passion for the preservation of nature was fostered by his love of rivers, fly fishing with his buddies around the world, hiking, all things water, and simply being outdoors. Donn embodied the essence of California's landscape as he dedicated himself to environmental advocacy. In 1985, he became the Executive Director of the Committee to Save the Kings River which worked to protect the river from a proposal to build a dam. The community of supporters including fly fishermen, campers, and legislators united in support. Two years after Donn's appointment, federal wild and scenic designation and protection for 92 miles of the river was established.

After his success in protecting the Kings River, Donn went on to spearhead the San Joaquin River Committee where he promoted recreational and educational use of the river, lobbied governmental agencies and legislators, and expanded membership. His work coalesced into the formation of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, a nonprofit public benefit corporation and treasured piece of the Central Valley that has spread joy and appreciation of the land to all who have had the pleasure to visit. As Executive Director, he established a Board of Directors and coordinated the development of a conceptual plan, educational programs, fundraising, and membership.

Wherever Donn went, his love of learning and advocacy followed. He earned his JD from San Joaquin College of Law where he then specialized in environmental, water, and land use law. As a Deputy City Attorney in San Francisco, he represented the SF Public

Utilities Commission where he addressed the Endangered Species Act, Hetch Hetchy water and power, Bay-Delta issues, and Tuolumne and San Joaquin River water supply issues. Donn later took part in founding the Sierra Foothill Conservancy which acquires, protects, and preserves historical rangeland for educational and recreational use.

Donn's love of life was not confined to his commendable service. He was an avid reader, writer, poet, musician, gardener, loyal friend, naturalist, and traveler. Wherever there were trails to explore, Donn hiked them with his family and friends.

In Donn's passing, we celebrate a life that embraced adventure, challenged the status quo, and left an indelible mark on the world and all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on in his family: his wife of 38 years, Cynthia, son Nicholas, brother Douglas, sister Debora, and nieces Kate and Nicole and mother Patricia. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn the loss of this remarkable Californian. May we draw inspiration from Donn Furman's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Donn Furman, a catalyst of change and beloved friend to the Central Valley.

BUILDING CHIPS IN AMERICA ACT  
OF 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 23, 2024*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 2228 the Building Chips in America Act.

It is really unfortunate that this bill was added to the schedule at the last minute, with no consultation with the committees of jurisdiction, at least on the Minority side. Republicans promised us the most open House in history, but instead now officially preside over the most closed House in our Nation's history.

I say this, because this bill is the poster child of something that needs further review. I'll note here that this bill hasn't received a single hearing in the House of Representatives.

And this is a bad bill. This bill would eliminate NEPA environmental reviews from semiconductor projects funded under the Chips and Science Act.

This issue is personal to me. My home county, Santa Clara County, is the heart of Silicon Valley. It is also the largest collection of superfund sites in the nation. Most of those sites were tied to semiconductor or microelectronics manufacturing. While most of these toxic sites have since been remediated, the legacy of this pollution remains in the contaminated groundwater in many places in Silicon Valley.

Moreover, there was a human toll from the use of toxic chemicals in chips manufacturing. Some workers at factories developed health problems. Stillborn babies, infant deformities, and disease were also tied to exposure.

In California, we learned lessons from the past semiconductor manufacturing in Silicon Valley. We should be learning from this legacy

and ensuring we don't repeat it. NEPA reviews are a vitally important tool in this regard.

When Congress passed the Chips and Science Act, we rightly decided that the trade imbalance in semiconductor manufacturing was an issue of economic and national security. As a result, we gave companies in this sector unprecedented amounts of taxpayer money. That money comes from regular people, like nurses, firefighters, custodians, and the like. We should require, at a minimum, that when we take these people's money and give it to corporations, the government will review the environmental impacts of these activities.

Furthermore, NEPA reviews provide an avenue for public participation in this process. I think we owe it to the hardworking taxpayers of America to provide them with this process.

The last thing I'll say about this is that it is unnecessary. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo herself said as much at a hearing this summer when she stated: "[w]e are on track to complete the environmental review for all these companies before we issue the award." The NEPA process is not slowing down the Chips awards.

So, I am deeply disappointed we are here today considering this ill-advised and unnecessary legislation. There really is no good reason anyone should support this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote against S. 2228.

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW  
OVER THE DEATH OF ALEXANDER MICHEL ODEH

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexander Odeh and his legacy, as well as remember the tragedy that shocked Orange County and claimed Mr. Odeh's life.

A Palestinian-American and the Southern California Regional Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Mr. Odeh spent much of his life working to support Arab-American civil liberties. Mr. Odeh was a published poet and lecturer at Coastline College and California State University, Fullerton. He was known to impart knowledge, compassion, and guidance to his many students.

On October 11, 1985, Mr. Odeh was the victim of a domestic terror attack as he entered the ADC office in Santa Ana. A scholar, activist, husband, and father of three daughters was taken far too soon by an egregious act of domestic violence.

To this day, almost 39 years after the bombing that claimed Mr. Odeh's life, those responsible have yet to face justice. He worked tirelessly to unite Christians, Muslims, and Jews in Southern California. Despite hatred and threat of harm, Mr. Odeh was not deterred and remained steadfast in his efforts to build bridges. He is survived by his wife, Norma Odeh, and his three daughters, Helena, Samya, and Susan.

Mr. Odeh lived a life of strength, perseverance, and dedication. Today, I am introducing a resolution to acknowledge Mr. Odeh's tragic passing and celebrate his impact on our Orange County community. I urge my colleagues

to honor Alexander Odeh's memory and legacy by supporting this resolution.

RECOGNIZING DR. ANDREA  
RAMIREZ

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Andrea Ramirez, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Dr. Andrea Ramirez MBA, PhD builds bridges between cultural worlds creating ethnic harmony. Her career has spanned across public service, executive search and the non-profit sector. Her expertise in conflict resolution and cultural intelligence served her well in the White House as a policy advisor, director of Hispanic Outreach, and special assistant to the President. Dr. Ramirez led White House initiatives based at the U.S. Department of Education, including the Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative and the White House Initiative for Hispanics in Educational Excellence.

Prior to her government service, Dr. Ramirez served as executive director of the Faith and Education Coalition of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC). She currently serves as a trustee for Dallas Baptist University, sits on the NHCLC's Executive Committee and is an Open Education Resources Advisory board member for Texas Education Agency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Navy veteran, prolific author, and life-long servant leader—the 39th President of the United States and Georgia peanut farmer, Mr. Jimmy Carter. President Carter's 100th birthday falls on October 1, 2024, and a celebration of his storied life and service will take place that evening in his hometown of Plains, Georgia.

In 1945, President Carter and the love of his life, Rosalynn, began dating and they married on July 7, 1946, at a ceremony in Plains. Following the death of his father, James Earl Carter, Sr. in 1953, the Carters and their three sons returned to Plains from the U.S. Naval Academy as Jimmy was then tasked with running the family peanut farm. Soon after, he was elected to the Sumter County School Board, eventually becoming its chairman. In 1962, he was elected to the Georgia State Senate where he continued to support racial integration and voting rights for African Americans. Senator Carter began his successful campaign for Georgia Governor in 1970, serving as Governor from 1971 to 1975.

Prior to moving back to Plains from the Governor's residence, Governor Carter had already announced his intention to run for President of the United States in the 1976 election. In November of 1976, Jimmy Carter became President-elect of the United States and the first Georgian to win the highest office in the land. As President, Jimmy Carter showed great success in international affairs, delivering the Camp David Accords, Panama Canal treaties, SALT II treaty, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. He also delivered on his domestic agenda, signing legislation to establish the U.S. Department of Education, expanding the Head Start program, successfully making America less dependent on foreign energy, and protecting millions of acres of public lands for future generations.

Following President Carter's loss in the 1980 Presidential Election, the Carter family returned to home to Plains where they continued to make a positive impact on both their local community and the world. Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter continued their ministry of service after their time in the White House with the same vigor and urgency, becoming heavily involved in Habitat for Humanity. The Carters' work with Habitat drew national attention through the annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project, which helped the upstart non-profit organization grow and construct thousands of new homes for low and middle-income families. In 1982, Jimmy and Rosalynn founded the Carter Center, a nonprofit human rights organization, which has since become famous for its work to eradicate disease, strengthen democracies, and alleviate human suffering all around the world.

In 1999, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter were jointly awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor by President Bill Clinton. And in 2002, President Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development.

Together, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter rose to great heights, supporting and cherishing one another along the way as they served the world around them. From the Plains Peanut Festival to the Governor's Mansion, to the White House, and to communities around the globe, they always remained grounded, and Plains remained home in their hearts.

Mr. Speaker. I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in celebrating the amazing accomplishments of Jimmy Carter and commemorating his 100th year on this earth.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN ROBERT NOLEN ROCHELL, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USA Captain Robert Nolen Rochell, of Woodway, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commenda-

tion. His unwavering commitment to his fellow man in some of the darkest days of human history make him inexplicably worthy of our respect, admiration, and thanks.

Born in Marlin, Texas, Robert "Bob" N. Rochell made the courageous decision to leave high school at the age of 17 to enlist in the United States Army during World War II. Stationed at Dachau, Germany—site of profound historical significance as a former Nazi concentration camp—he served with distinction as a World War II veteran.

Bob's commitment to service extended beyond World War II. As the Vietnam War loomed and the need for Field Artillery Officers grew, he applied to and was accepted into the United States Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, graduating 13th out of 125 in Class 8-65. He further demonstrated his dedication by attending Airborne School and serving a brief assignment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Six months later, he began his first tour in Vietnam as a forward observer and air observer in the Central Highlands. Near the end of this tour, he served as Executive Officer of the 155mm howitzer battery airlifted into combat—Battery A, 1st Battalion, 20th Field Artillery—which became the second most decorated Artillery Battalion of the Vietnam War. After returning from his first tour, Bob was assigned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, as an instructor at the Officer Candidate School. He was subsequently called back for a second tour in Vietnam, where he served as Commanding Officer of Service, Headquarters, and Alpha Batteries. Captain Rochell retired from active duty on September 1, 1975.

His distinguished military career is reflected in the numerous decorations he received: the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Good Conduct Medal with Clasp (Bronze, four loops), the Army Occupation Medal (Germany), the National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Star and one Bronze Star, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Parachutist Badge.

Captain Rochell's dedication to service continued long after his military career. He served as the national president of the Society of the Fifth Infantry Division and as president of the Heart of Texas Chapter of The Retired Officers Association (TROA), a predecessor of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). He is a life member of the 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery Association (Hard Chargers), where he served on the board as First Vice President. Additionally, he is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Fifth Division Association, the U.S. Field Artillery Association, and the Disabled American Veterans.

Robert was married to the late Elizabeth Leggett for over 40 years, sharing a life grounded in mutual support and community service. Today, he remains an active member of his community and continues to contribute to the Heart of Texas Military Officers Association of America.

It is my honor to award retired USA Captain Robert Nolen Rochell a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His lifelong commitment to his country and community exemplifies the highest standards of service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING OLYMPIAN AARON CUMMINGS

### HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Aaron Cummings, for his outstanding performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Originally from Muskegon, Aaron represented West Michigan on the world stage as an athlete on the U.S. Men's Rugby Sevens Team. Aaron has dedicated his time and energy to becoming one of the foremost rugby players in our country.

Growing up in West Michigan, Aaron began his rugby career at Grand Haven High School. He then attended Davenport University in Kent County, Michigan, and helped the Davenport Panthers finish fourth in the 2016 and 2017 USA College Sevens National Championship. Kicking off his professional rugby career, Aaron won the 2021 Club Sevens National Championship with the Chicago Lions and joined the USA Men's Sevens Residency in Chula Vista. In early 2022, he entered the world stage at the HSB World Rugby Sevens Debut in Malaga, Spain, and was later named to the Rugby World Cup Sevens 2022 squad in Cape Town, South Africa.

This year, Aaron joined the 2024 U.S. Men's Rugby Sevens Team at the Paris Olympics, where he and his teammates finished eighth.

Mr. Speaker, once more I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Aaron Cummings for his commitment to sportsmanship, his tenacity, and his athleticism. I congratulate Mr. Cummings and thank him for being such a wonderful representative of West Michigan.

REMEMBERING SUSAN ASHNER

### HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a dear friend, Susan Ashner, who recently passed away. As the founder and board chair of Beit Ruth, Susan worked tirelessly to create a safe haven for at-risk girls in Israel and break the cycle of generational violence. Susan's compassion and unwavering dedication touched so many lives and had an immeasurable positive impact on each girl she worked with. Her unparalleled legacy of kindness and leadership lives on through her husband, Michael, their children Samuel, Jessica, Julia, and Leo, and their loving family. I am honored to have counted such an extraordinary person as a friend.

HONORING MAYOR WILLIAM A. BLONIGAN

### HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor William A. Blonigan, who will



be retiring after an impressive 44-year tenure with the City of Robbinsdale. I wish to acknowledge his tireless efforts in the expansion of housing opportunities, his commitment to the public good, his stewardship of critical infrastructure initiatives, and his overall devotion to the city he serves.

Mayor Blonigan's service to Robbinsdale began in 1980, when he was first elected to the City Council. As his city manager wrote, "He has not left the dais since." After 10 consecutive terms as a City Council member, he ran to serve as the city's Mayor, winning the support of his constituents through active communication, strong relationships, and a desire to find common ground on the issues that impact Robbinsdale residents.

Over the last 44 years, Mayor Blonigan has been a steady hand in some of the most consequential initiatives in the city's history. He helped build new facilities for the Police Department and Fire Department in 1993 to ensure residents received a high quality of service from their public safety agencies. He drove historic investment in parks throughout the city, including the redevelopment of Robbinsdale's largest park, Lakeview Terrace Park, that included a playground, ball fields, walking paths, and access to Crystal Lake. He supported a new water filtration system for Crystal Lake that resulted in over 40,000 pounds of litter and pollution being removed. Most recently, he oversaw the construction of a new water treatment plant that went online in 2023 and a new water tower that went into service earlier this year. He prioritized an aggressive approach to caring for the city's 100+ year old infrastructure while ensuring residents were not overburdened by property taxes.

Mayor Blonigan's tenure is also defined by significant expansion of housing opportunities and successful economic development initiatives. He built strong relationships with inter-governmental committees, private entities, small businesses, and developers to drive this important work. During his time as Mayor, Robbinsdale saw multiple unused schools and dilapidated buildings redeveloped into housing, as well as the construction of multiple new market-rate apartment complexes and hundreds of new single-family homes supported by the city's Economic Development Authority. He encouraged an expansion of North Memorial Hospital—one of the largest hospitals in the state—and a full-service grocery store down the street from it. He coordinated investment in Robbinsdale's historic downtown, ensuring it is vibrant for future generations.

At the heart of Mayor Blonigan's service is his unwavering commitment to the public good. In 2011, the City created a Domestic Partner Registry to recognize same-sex partnerships in advance of statewide marriage legalization in 2012. He was a supporter of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives long before they became common practice in municipal governments. He led nearby cities in creating a process to remove racial covenants from their land and home titles to help us heal from generations of racist redlining. He joined cities across the state in declaring a climate emergency, leading to the creation of Robbinsdale's Energy Action Plan to help the city and its residents fight the climate crisis.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor and thank Mayor Blonigan for his service to the City of Robbinsdale. His leadership should be an example to all public servants.

RECOGNIZING ABBY JOHNSON

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abby Johnson, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Abby Johnson is a strong advocate for life from the womb to the tomb and beyond. She went to work for Planned Parenthood believing she would be helping women. After working her way up from volunteer to director of one of their facilities, and even winning Planned Parenthood's employee of the year award, Abby had a surprising change of heart after witnessing a live ultrasound guided abortion procedure. It became clear in that moment that abortion did not provide the freedom she had promised so many women in those counseling rooms. Abortion only caused harm, destruction and devastation. Upon that realization, Abby left her job in the abortion industry and has been sharing her experiences ever since.

Her story was chronicled in a best-selling book titled, "Unplanned," which was later turned into a major motion picture with the same name. She has written several other books, including "The Walls Are Still Talking" and "Fierce Mercy."

Abby is the CEO of two successful pro-life non-profits and hosts her own podcast, "Politely Rude." One of her ministries, "And Then There Were None," has helped almost 700 abortion workers leave the abortion industry and come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

HONORING ELIZABETH BROWNE

**HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Browne for her dedicated service to the health and wellbeing of her neighbors in and around Waltham, Massachusetts.

Ms. Browne has been a pillar of our community. She began working with Charles River Community Health in 2003 and has spent the past fifteen years serving as its Executive Director and CEO.

For over two decades, she has devoted her time, talents, and energy to the staff and patients of Charles River Community Health.

Founded in 1974, Charles River Community Health is a vital resource to the people of Allston-Brighton, Waltham, and surrounding areas. They are focused on delivering comprehensive, integrated, and equitable primary health care for a diverse group of individuals and families.

Under her leadership, Charles River Community Health expanded its physical space, grew its dedicated staff, and strengthened its capacity to deliver high-quality service to more patients—ensuring continuity of care at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Browne has dedicated her life to community-based care and has worked diligently to increase access and improve health outcomes for families in Waltham and across the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Liz for her career of service to the Commonwealth and wish her the best in her next chapter.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WALTER MILLER LAVENDER, USN, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USN Senior Chief Petty Officer Walter Miller Lavender, of Lorena, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His remarkable accomplishments reflect a life dedicated not only to the greater good but also to his community and his country, exemplifying the values that define true patriotism.

Walter began his journey at Cisco Junior College on a football scholarship and gained recognition as an award-winning boxer. He later transferred to Midwestern State University but chose in 1961 to enlist in the United States Navy, answering a higher call to serve.

Trained as a medic, he was first stationed in Guam, where he honed his medical skills and survived the devastating Super Typhoon Karen in 1962. His resilience and commitment were further demonstrated during two tours in Vietnam. In 1965, as a Combat Medic with the 7th Marines near Quy Nhon, he provided critical care to wounded soldiers under fire. In 1970, aboard the helicopter carrier USS *Iwo Jima*, he was responsible for evacuating casualties, ensuring that injured service members received timely medical attention.

Walter also served aboard the USS *Dewey* and the USS *Ward*, showcasing versatility and leadership across multiple assignments. After over 22 years of distinguished service, he retired in 1983 as a Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman from the Marine Corps Reserve in Waco, Texas.

His exemplary service is reflected in the numerous decorations he received: the Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, five Good Conduct Awards, the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross, and the Seventh Fleet "Shell Back" Recognition aboard the USS *Dewey*.

Following his military career, Walter continued to serve his community as a Radiologic Technologist in local hospitals until his retirement in 2014. He also served as a Municipal Court Judge in the 1980s, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to public service.

Today, he remains actively involved as the treasurer of the Heart of Texas Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 1012 and serves as a health and wellness advisor and PTSD mentor at the Waco Veterans One-Stop and the Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network.

His dedication to supporting fellow veterans and their families highlights his belief in service beyond self.

Those who know Walter describe him as embodying the values of duty, honor, and country. His selfless commitment to helping others continues to inspire all who meet him.

To honor his sacrifice and service, I am pleased to award retired USN Senior Chief Petty Officer Walter Miller Lavender with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

INTRODUCTION OF FILIPINO  
AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH RESOLUTION

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, since 2019, and as the Member of Congress with the most Filipino Americans of any U.S. House district nationwide, I have been honored to co-lead an annual resolution recognizing October as Filipino American History Month. I have joined many colleagues in doing so in order to recognize and celebrate the great contributions of Filipino Americans to our country, in government and law, music and entertainment, sports, business and countless other ventures.

The first recorded arrival of Filipinos in the continental United States took place on October 18, 1587, when the “Luzones Indios” came ashore from the Manila-built galleon *Nuestra Senora de Esperanza* in Morro Bay, California. This was followed by the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo, Louisiana in 1763. Since those early beginnings, our Filipino American community has grown to approximately 4.4 million citizens and is the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States. Many of the early Filipino immigrants were young men who came to the United States, most to Hawaii, California, Washington and Alaska, seeking a better life.

This first generation of Filipino immigrants are commonly referred to as the Manong generation (Ilocano for first-born male). They worked mostly physically demanding jobs in tough conditions for very little pay. Over the years, they fought against discrimination, found a way forward, became respected members of their communities, and made a better future for themselves and their future generations. The several generations since have thrived upon that foundation.

The history of the Fil-Am community in Hawaii is particularly rich and echoes the national story. In 1906, the first fifteen sakada contract laborers arrived in Honolulu from the Philippines aboard the SS *Doric*, marking the first sustained immigration into our country and the humble beginnings of Fil-Ams in Hawaii. These first immigrants, those that followed and the subsequent generations eventually became trailblazers in politics and government, the military, business and entrepreneurship, journalism, popular culture, music and the arts and more.

Our resolution honors the tremendous and increasing contribution of Filipinos Americans to our country in all areas including music, dance, literature, education, health care, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion,

politics, government, science, technology, the fine arts and other fields. To name just a few as examples, again from my Hawaii:

Domingo Los Banos was Hawaii's first Filipino American school principal and a loyal veteran of the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment that fought in the Philippines during World War II.

Carolina Dizon Wong broke a glass ceiling when she obtained an M.D. degree and became the first Filipino American to start a medical practice in Hawaii in 1952.

Peter Aduja became the first Fil-Am elected to public office in the United States when he was elected to the Hawaii Territorial House of Representatives in 1954.

Larry Ramos became the first Filipino and Asian-American to win a Grammy Award playing the banjo for the New Christy Minstrels in 1963.

Ines Cayaban was the first Filipino American graduate of the School of Public Health, Nursing and Social Work at the University of Hawaii. She received the prestigious Jefferson Award in 1986 for her service.

In 1994, Ben Cayetano was elected the Governor of Hawaii, becoming the first Filipino American governor of a state in our union.

In 2019, Roy Macaraeg became the first Fil-Am to become a general officer in the history of Hawaii's citizen soldier ranks.

In Hawaii, we also regularly honor the over 250,000 Filipinos nationwide who answered the call to protect and defend America and the Philippines in the Pacific theater. In 2016, President Obama signed into law the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act to bestow Congress's highest honor upon those veterans. With my colleagues in the House, I have introduced our Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, which seeks to reunite World War II Filipino soldiers with their children, so that we can honor those living in our community who fought to protect the free and open Indo-Pacific that we have today.

Each and all of these lives of achievement are but a small sampling of a broader community that has achieved so much and contributed so much to the rich fabric of our country. And the story of Filipino Americans is still in its early chapters.

It is fully appropriate that we again honor our Filipino American community whose story is a quintessentially American story.

CONGRATULATING CITY OF HOPE  
ON BEING NAMED A TOP 5 HOSPITAL  
FOR CANCER CARE

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate City of Hope's National Medical Center in Duarte, California on being recognized as one of the nation's top 5 hospitals for cancer care by the U.S. News & World Report's 2024–2025 rankings. In the same report, the center was also rated as high performing in six cancer procedures: lung cancer surgery, colon cancer surgery, prostate cancer surgery, gynecologic cancer surgery, gastroenterology and GI cancer surgery, and in the treatment of leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

City of Hope is the only freestanding National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehen-

sive Cancer Center in California that is not affiliated with a university. Their system in California includes the Duarte campus, a new cancer center in Orange County, and clinical locations across Southern California, along with cancer treatment centers and outpatient facilities in the Atlanta, Chicago, and Phoenix areas. City of Hope continues to be a national leader and innovator in a range of complex cancer types and innovative technologies, and because of them, hundreds of thousands of lives continue to be saved through these advances.

I know firsthand of the dedication and devotion that City of Hope is committed to offering all who are in need, particularly to those from traditionally underserved communities. It has been a trusted institution in Southern California, offering superior care to the community for many decades.

I congratulate City of Hope and all its staff on this well-deserved national recognition by U.S. World News & Reports, and I wish them continued success.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF  
DOMINGA BUSTAMANTE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dominga Bustamante, an integral and cherished figure in the San Joaquin Valley. Dominga's journey began when her family migrated to California in her early childhood so they could work in agriculture. After settling in Dinuba, she went on to graduate from Dinuba Unified School District and met her high school sweetheart, Cruz Bustamante Jr., along the way.

Together, they moved to San Joaquin, California where the newlywed Mrs. Bustamante recognized the pressing needs of her new community. This prompted her to join AmeriCorps and serve as a VISTA volunteer so she could help families obtain their much-needed Social Security benefits. Dominga then stayed the path of serving others by becoming a CSO Organizer. From driving the elderly to their appointments to interacting with local and county officials, she remained dedicated to ensuring the citizens of San Joaquin and neighboring communities received fair and equitable rights.

Recognizing her passion for advocacy, Dominga diversified her efforts across various roles throughout the community including law enforcement interdiction advocate, bilingual instructional aide, certificated health provider, and social and political advocate. She supported the youth by serving as a teen anxiety first responder and advisor for the San Joaquin Teen Club.

She also became known for going above and beyond to welcome new Hindu and Sikh families to the community as an unofficial “Welcome Host.” In recognition of these efforts and more, California Latina Leaders in Action honored Mrs. Bustamante with the prestigious “Lifetime Achievement Award” in 2002.

In addition to serving her community, Dominga also honored her faith as a beloved Catechism teacher for over 30 years. The Diocese of Fresno eventually acknowledged her

service with the “Bishop’s Catechist Appreciation Certificate”, recognizing her as a faithful minister of God’s Word.

During her retirement years, Dominga continued educating and volunteering at organizations such as the Central California Food Bank. She treasured her time with family and always opened her home for family gatherings on holidays and birthdays. She became an accomplished seamstress and quilter and created beautiful handmade blankets for each of her 13 grandchildren.

Mrs. Bustamante is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Cruz Bustamante Jr. She is survived by her six children, Cruz, Belinda, Dorothy, Ron, Andrew and Naomi and 13 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

In Dominga’s passing, we celebrate a life that embraced adventure, embodied generosity and left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know her. Let us express our deepest gratitude for her immeasurable contributions to her community in the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in commemorating the selfless life of Mrs. Dominga Bustamante. May her life’s journey be an inspiration to us all.

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RECOGNIZING SUE Z. McGRAY

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sue McGray, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Sue Z. McGray, the president of Christian Women in Media teaches women that it’s never too late for hope. Sue has experienced personal triumph over low self-esteem, co-dependency, a broken marriage, and domestic violence and today serves as a mentor for Morning Star Sanctuary, a Christian safe place for women and children. Her personal life experiences have given her the insight to author a book titled “Becoming Visible: Letting Go of the Things that Hide Your True Beauty,” written to help and encourage women to become overcomers.

Sue’s exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to empowering women through faith is expressed through her support and mentoring of women helping them overcome challenges to pursue their God-inspired dreams and goals.

Sue is a sought-after Christian women’s conference speaker and teacher and an entrepreneur who has built a successful business that has reached the pinnacle of her industry. Sue has authored another book titled “Life Changing Encounters and Divine Appointments,” a study of biblical encounters that continue to inspire people in the 21st Century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

CONGRATULATING OLYMPIAN  
EVAN MEDELL

**HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Evan Medell, for his exceptional performance in para-taekwondo at the 2024 Paris Paralympics. Evan proudly represented West Michigan on the world stage, displaying his exceptional talent and perseverance as one of the world’s foremost para-taekwondo athletes.

Growing up in Grand Haven, Evan began his athletic journey at the Lakeshore Taekwondo Academy when he was just 12 years old. Throughout his career, Evan excelled in numerous international events, including winning gold at the 2023 Parapan American Games in Chile. When para-taekwondo made its Paralympic debut at the 2020 Tokyo Games, Evan became the first American to secure a bronze medal. Furthermore, he was the youngest athlete in history to compete in a para-taekwondo world championship. As an athlete competing with Brachial Plexus Palsy, a paralysis that impacts the nerves in the arm and hands, Evan is an inspiration to all West Michiganders who have dreams of competing at the Olympic level.

This year, Evan joined the 2024 U.S. Men’s Taekwondo Team at the Paris Paralympics, where he secured a bronze medal for our country.

Mr. Speaker, once more, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Evan Medell for his commitment to sportsmanship, his perseverance, and his outstanding athleticism. I congratulate Mr. Medell and thank him for being such an admirable representative of West Michigan.

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RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST DONALD GENE JOHNSON, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USA Specialist Donald Gene Johnson, of Groesbeck, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His pledge to champion values of support and sacrifice exemplifies American patriotism.

Born in Texas, Donald received his draft notice in October 1965 and joined the Army to serve during the Vietnam War. He underwent basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado, before being deployed to the front lines in Vietnam. While overseas, he carried out critical operations vital to his unit’s success, such as establishing forward base camps and managing supply runs. His efforts were essential in maintaining the operational effectiveness of his fellow soldiers under challenging and often perilous conditions.

One fateful night, while stationed at a listening post outside the perimeter, Donald and three other soldiers were struck by a mortar round. Despite being severely injured, he re-

mained composed and took actions that saved lives under extreme adversity. For his extraordinary courage and selflessness in the face of danger, he was awarded the Purple Heart, a testament to his bravery and dedication.

After returning to Texas, Donald channeled his entrepreneurial spirit into building a successful Pepperidge Farm franchise in Houston. Upon selling the business, he returned to Limestone County to operate a cattle ranch, applying the same dedication and hard work that characterized his military service. His commitment to his community remained strong; he drove a school bus for the Groesbeck Independent School District, serving as an inspirational mentor to many young people. Additionally, he worked as a jailer at the Limestone County Jail, where he continued to positively influence lives through his mentorship.

Specialist Johnson’s military honors include the Purple Heart, the Sharpshooter (Rifle) qualification, the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. These accolades reflect his commitment to excellence and the sacrifices he made during his service.

Donald is part of a remarkable family legacy of service; his four brothers—Charles, Foy, Edwin, and Cecil—also served in the military, each risking their lives for their country. This collective dedication underscores their character and commitment to the Nation.

I am honored to award retired USA Specialist Donald Gene Johnson with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His life of service and dedication embodies the spirit of American patriotism, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to his country and community.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF  
MITCHELL MEISNER

**HON. HALEY M. STEVENS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the honorable life of my dear friend, Mitchell Meisner, a passionate legal professional and civil rights activist. Mr. Meisner, in his over 60 years of work, advocated for the original civil rights bills, volunteered his time to support aspiring lawyers, and protected vulnerable individuals by offering pro bono legal services.

Mr. Meisner was born in Washington, D.C. and was raised to value civil service. His parents exemplified these principles, as his father served as an attorney at the Department of Commerce, and his mother was as a teacher who also worked at NOAA and in the White House under President Jimmy Carter. I had the good fortune of seeing his childhood home in Bethesda, Maryland, with his only daughter, Amy, and am inspired by their story. Mr. Meisner carried on his parents’ legacy, achieving a bachelor’s, master’s, and Doctor of Philosophy degree in political science. He then took his passion to Michigan, where he received his Juris Doctor degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Throughout his educational career, Mr. Meisner was incredibly active in national politics and the Civil Rights Movement. He bore

witness to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech and found joy in sharing his stories of the famed 1963 March on Washington. When President John F. Kennedy visited Amherst College, where Mr. Meisner was working towards his bachelor's degree, he led a student-protest calling for a civil rights bill.

As a legal professional, Mr. Meisner often donated his time as a volunteer judge in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, providing free legal representation to those who needed it, and serving as a mentor and a teacher. He was dedicated to giving back to the community and considered it a privilege to mentor young law students.

Mitchell Meisner passed away on June 20, 2024, after an admirable battle with pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his incredible wife, Marica, who resides in their longtime home in Huntington Woods; his brother, Jon; his three children, Jesse, Geoff, and Amy; and his seven grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored, on his 81st birthday, to recognize the life and service of Mitchell Meisner, who dedicated his work to uplifting the voices of those most in need. Please join me in celebrating this wonderful individual whom I miss dearly and was proud to call a friend.

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HONORING MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF AND CONDEMNING ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP

**HON. BRIAN J. MAST**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the September 15, 2024 attempt on Former President Trump's life and to honor the Martin County Sheriff's Office for their bravery in apprehending the would-be assassin.

The attempt on Former President Trump's life was a cowardly act aimed at the very heart of our Republic. We are nearly a month away from an election where tens of millions of people will decide the next commander-in-chief.

Yet, this would-be assassin was selfish enough, deluded enough, and cowardly enough to try and rob us of that opportunity. But in that moment of darkness, courage blazed through.

The heroes of the Martin County Sheriff's Office acted with incredible speed and bravery, risking their lives to apprehend the would-be assassin before he could harm others. Their valor turned a potential national tragedy into a story of triumph over evil.

Let's honor these men and women for their valor. They stand as a beacon of what it means to protect and serve.

Let's also reaffirm that political violence has no place in our discourse. We should always stand united in the face of those who seek to divide us.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE DEARING RAILROAD CAR

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Dearing Railroad Car on the occasion of its 100th Birthday. As one of the few remaining 100-year-old railroad cars still in operation in the United States, the Dearing Railroad Car holds a unique and significant place in Georgia's and in our nation's history. The Dearing's 100th anniversary takes place on October 18, 2024, and a celebration of its life will be held in Cordele, Georgia.

Initially called "Thompson" the Pullman shops began manufacturing The Dearing in 1924, finishing the car in 1925. The Dearing remains one of the last of its time to still be in operation in the United States.

Over the years, The Dearing has run trips on several different railroads as both a sleeper and office car. In 2006, the car was purchased by Columbus, Georgia residents Nelson and Borden McGahee who are still its current owners.

The Dearing spent eight years traversing the United States on Amtrak, allowing passengers to journey across the country and through time when they stepped through the car. In 2020, The Dearing joined the SAM Shortline and continues to contribute to local economies and communities. The SAM Shortline has a multi-million-dollar economic impact in Southwest Georgia, boosting the tourism needed to support our small towns in the area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, in celebrating the 100th Birthday of The Dearing Railroad Car and honoring the history of American railroads, which were so important to Georgia's growth and rich history and culture.

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RECOGNIZING HARRIS FAULKNER

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harris Faulkner, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Harris Faulkner is a six-time Emmy award-winning news anchor who believes that faith in God, still moves mountains. She began her rise in TV news reporting at WNCT-TV (CBS 9) in Greenville, North Carolina and after several career moves she joined FOX News Channel in 2005 where she currently helms two top-rated daily daytime programs "The Faulkner Focus" and "Outnumbered."

Throughout her tenure at the network, Faulkner has played integral roles in FNC's election coverage, hosted numerous primetime specials, interviewed many notable figures and covered global news events.

As a result of her excellence in broadcast journalism and serving as the only Black woman to anchor two back-to-back cable

news programs, Faulkner has received many notable awards including being named to WORTH Magazine's "Groundbreakers" list, honoring 50 influential women worldwide for breaking barriers in their industries. In 2021, Variety's New York Women's Impact Report honored Faulkner. And at the National Press Club she was named the Multicultural Media and Correspondents Association's Broadcast Journalist of the Year.

Faulkner is a speaker, author, and philanthropist. Her 2023 FOX News Books title "Faith Still Moves Mountains," became number one on the New York Times bestseller's list. She penned the national bestseller "9 Rules of Engagement: A Military Brat's Guide to Life and Success" in 2018.

Faulkner actively raises awareness and funds for numerous organizations offering immediate and ongoing support to the U.S. Military forces and their families. Additionally, she's dedicated to intensifying research around childhood diseases. In 1998, Harris Faulkner received the Amelia Earhart Pioneering Lifetime Achievement Award for her humanitarian efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this inspiring woman of distinction.

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HONORING THE LEGACY OF STEPHEN W. SCHILLING

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary spirit and life of Stephen W. Schilling: a great son, husband, father, advocate, and community leader.

Bill and Ruth Schilling gave birth to Stephen on Thanksgiving Day, 1946, in San Francisco, California. He graduated Marin Catholic High School in 1964. In 1969, he graduated from California State University-Chico majoring in businesses. He also pursued his graduated studies in Public Administration. President Kennedy's call to public duty inspired him to join the United States Peace Corps, where he served in Venezuela from 1971 to 1973. Schilling took over the clinic at a difficult time, as it was on the verge of bankruptcy and was about to be closed down by financial and regulatory officials.

After a few years, he was promoted to Clinica Sierra Vista's CEO. His tremendous work, combined with an amazing staff, allowed the clinic to flourish and become one of the largest varied and clinically trained health and human services nonprofits in the country. Clinica Sierra Vista's operations has had a good impact on the lives of many different communities, including farmworker and senior populations, rural villages, unhoused persons, the urban poor, and those without insurance.

Steve spent nearly 45 years, and his transformative leadership can be seen in the growth of the clinic, going from a dozen employees to twelve hundred; from two hundred thousand dollars to one hundred twenty million dollars per year and from an operation housed in a trailer to more than 70 service locations throughout three counties in Central California serving thousands of people every day.

His joy for life was mirrored in his interests, which included gardening in his yard, sports,

fishing, hunting, and travel, as well as community activities. Steve was a founding member of the Rotary Club of Bakersfield. He was also a member of several community organizations, including the Human Relations Commission, the Children's Network, nine chambers of commerce, and numerous other organizations, demonstrating his commitment to serving by staying informed about the needs of the valley's many vulnerable populations.

In Steve's passing, we celebrate a life that left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on in his family; wife Deidre, children Christina, Mari, Sheridan, John, and grandchildren Sofia and Vivienne. May we draw inspiration from Steve's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Stephen W. Schilling.

OCTOBER 7

### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poem submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and is a reflection of his views:

OCTOBER 7

October 7

First anniversary for an old-new pogrom  
With Holocaust dimensions  
In a land deserving Shalom's program  
While pursued by ghastly ghosts  
It seeks to overcome  
Under the blazing sun that rarely forgives  
But dares not forget,  
Watching over challenged tender  
Saplings of renewed faith restored  
To a promising ancient home,  
Fledglings of hope sans the  
Threatening clouds raining  
Death for too long,  
To remove fences obstructing  
The view of hands touching hands,  
Hearts joining hearts,  
Buried dreams in the  
Sands of time and trouble,  
To yet resurface to quench  
The thirst of the conflicted  
Children of Yitzchak and Yishmael  
Who will learn to drink from  
The same to-be-recovered well  
That once brought life to  
Now a deserted tent.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. Kazakhstan's only born rabbi, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors and spent his early childhood in transit and DP Camps in Austria and Germany. He grew up in Haifa, Israel.

HONORING TOM RAFFIO FOR RECEIVING THE WALTER R. PETERSON AWARD

### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Tom Raffio on receiving the Walter R.

Peterson Award for Education and Public Service. The Walter R. Peterson Award for Education and Public Service is presented to an individual whose contributions best exemplify the late governor's values of public service and dedication to higher education.

As a passionate civic leader, Tom's community leadership spans across numerous New Hampshire organizations that support local education initiatives, youth programs, health causes, and the arts. Tom believes in the importance of access and affordability to quality post-secondary education for all New Hampshire residents.

Under Tom's leadership, the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation is committed to improving oral health care accessibility and education. This Foundation supports oral health programs each year throughout New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. It also addresses the shortage of dentists in under-served communities by raising funding for medicine scholarships and dental education loan repayment programs. In New Hampshire, one of the dental health education programs serves adult clients with disabilities, many of whom encounter oral health challenges. Further expanding its community impact under Tom's leadership, it has grown to include numerous local community partners to join this philanthropic mission.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to extend my gratitude to Tom Raffio for his exceptional commitment to serving New Hampshire. We thank Tom for his leadership and contributions to advance health equity and the overall wellness of our local communities. His work has enriched so many lives and is an inspiration for us all to join together and improve the lives of our community members.

RECOGNIZING DAVID MARSHALL

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Battalion Chief David Marshall of Cañon City for reaching his well-earned retirement after a 46-year career with the Cañon City Area Fire Protection District.

Chief Marshall began his career as a volunteer firefighter with the Cañon City Volunteer Fire Department in 1978. Since the 1980s, he has served as leader of the District's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division. David led EMS trainings for over 30 years at Pueblo Community College, where he taught and mentored the majority of EMS professionals serving in Fremont County today. Many of them have since gone on to lead their own EMS programs across the state. In his time leading the EMS division of the Cañon City Fire Protection District, David enhanced the EMT training to more advanced certifications, including Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Paramedic level providers. His work and effort elevated the level of care provided to his community.

Chief Marshall's legacy of bringing access to emergency services and trainings to rural communities will live on across Colorado through the generations of EMS providers he mentored. His strong, dependable leadership sets an example for all Coloradans, and his

teachings will forever have an impact on Fremont County.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Battalion Chief Marshall on his retirement and to thank him for his contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAROLD EUGENE RAFUSE, USAF, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Harold Eugene Rafuse, of Crawford, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His persistent efforts in fostering beliefs of sacrifice and respect reflect his value as a leader during service and in retirement.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse devoted nearly 20 years to active duty in the United States Air Force serving with distinction in a variety of critical roles. As an airborne Forward Air Controller and close air support combat fighter pilot, he flew the North American T-28D Trojan aircraft in Southeast Asia as a Raven Pilot, providing vital support to ground forces. He also piloted the RC-135 aircraft, conducting high-altitude photographic and electronic reconnaissance missions in Eastern and Southeast Asia, significantly contributing to our national security efforts.

Later in his career, he was selected for the newly established United States Air Force Space Operations Command, where he served as a space operations and surveillance commander. His leadership in this emerging field showcased his adaptability and commitment to advancing our Nation's capabilities in space.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse's 20 years of active service are complemented by his extensive experience in aviation, aerospace, scientific research, engineering, technology, education, senior program management, information resource management, and administration. He held influential positions across the Department of Defense, multiple federal intelligence agencies, and various civilian educational and business institutions. Notably, he served as a science and technology advisor to the Office of President Ronald Reagan, a testament to his expertise and the trust placed in him at the highest levels of government.

By the time of his retirement, his exceptional achievements had earned him numerous titles and certifications, including Senior Pilot in the Air Force, Senior Space Operations Commander, Space Surveillance and Mission Assessment Expert, Command Missileer, Master Acquisition Manager (Department of Defense Level III certified), and Master Instructor.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force

Longevity Service Ribbon with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Small Arms Expert Marksman-Ribbon (Pistol), and the Air Force Training Ribbon. These honors reflect his dedication, skill, and the high esteem in which he is held by his peers and superiors.

Following his distinguished military career, Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse has been deeply involved in community service and education. He co-founded the Baylor University School of Engineering and Computer Science and has served on its Board of Advocates for over 25 years, influencing the education of countless students. He has also been a member of the Baylor University Air Institute's Board of Advisors for over five years, contributing his expertise to the advancement of aviation education.

Currently, he chairs the Board of Texas State Technical College, where he has served for over 25 years, demonstrating his long-term commitment to technical education and workforce development. Additionally, he is a member and former president of the Heart of Texas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, where he has served on the educational scholarship selection committee for over 25 years, supporting the next generation of leaders. These are just a few examples of the many organizations where Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse has made significant contributions as a member and leader.

It is with great honor and respect that I present retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Harold Eugene Rafuse with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas. His exemplary service to our Nation and continued contributions to his community stand as an inspiration to us all.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE SAN PABLO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANSION ACT

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act." I thank U.S. Senator ALEX PADILLA (D-CA) for sponsoring the companion legislation and my colleagues, Congressmen JARED HUFFMAN (D-CA) and MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) for cosponsoring my bill.

The San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge is one of California's treasured places, protecting more than 24,390 acres of tidal marshes and wetlands in the north San Francisco Bay Area. As part of the Pacific Flyway, the National Wildlife Refuge provides critical habitat for endangered species and migratory birds.

The "San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act" would add approximately 5,658 acres of adjacent baylands owned by the State of California and the nonprofit Sonoma Land Trust to the National Wildlife Refuge's boundary. This expansion would increase the National Wildlife Refuge's acreage by more than 23 percent, supporting President Biden's "America the Beautiful" National Conservation Goal to protect and conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030 and Governor Newsom's similar conservation goal for the State of California.

Conserving California's special places has been a lifelong passion throughout my tenure in the State Legislature, as Deputy Secretary of the Interior to President Clinton, and now as a Member of Congress representing Solano County. San Pablo Bay is one of those special places. This bill will help to restore the saltmarshes in San Pablo Bay for future generations and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for Bay Area residents and visitors alike.

Importantly, this bill does not infringe upon state interests or individual property owners and prevents the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from using eminent domain to acquire properties within the expanded boundaries. Instead, the bill directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to only acquire land within the newly extended boundary from willing sale or donation. Furthermore, the bill encourages the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to engage in cooperative management with state agencies to better manage the National Wildlife Refuge and nearby state conservation lands within the San Pablo Bay watershed.

This bill is inspired by the tireless efforts of the late U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and the late Congressman Don Edwards (D-CA) to restore and conserve the Bay Area's saltmarshes and wetlands. Thanks to their leadership and steadfast work, the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in the South Bay now encompasses over 30,000 acres of habitat for millions of migratory birds and endangered species. It is an honor to continue Senator Feinstein and Congressman Edwards' legacy of protecting and restoring resilient bayland ecosystems that benefit both wildlife, people, and our planet.

The "San Pablo National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act" takes a critical step toward preserving the Bay Area's ecological diversity and ensuring the resilience of our communities as we continue fighting the climate crisis. I thank the hundreds of Bay Area residents and Californians who participated in the public comment period on my draft bill announced in September 2023. Their thoughtful comments and overwhelming support made this a stronger bill.

My colleagues and I are honored to introduce this bill to help restore vital ecosystems and improve the north Bay's climate resiliency by preserving one of California's special places for future generations. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join us in cosponsoring this bill.

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RECOGNIZING CHANDRA CHEESEBOROUGH

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chandra Cheeseborough, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Chandra Cheeseborough is an example of a world record breaking Olympic Champion with a successful coaching career after receiving one of the first ever Title IX scholarships given to deserving female athletes.

Chandra broke onto the international track scene at age 16, winning two gold medals at

the 1975 Pan American Games, taking the 200 meters in an American record time of 22.77 seconds. In 1976, she set the World junior record at 11.13 seconds, placing second at the U.S. Olympic trials, then placing sixth in that event at the Montreal Olympic games.

Chandra graduated from Jean Ribault High School in Jacksonville, Florida in 1977, where she set the still standing NFHS national high school records in both the 100-yard and 220-yard dashes. She attended Tennessee State, where she was a member of national championship teams that set world indoor records. She qualified for the 1980 U.S. Olympic team but was unable to compete due to the Summer Olympics boycott. She won the national indoor 200-yard dash in 1979, 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Chandra's breakthrough year in the 400-meter race came in 1984, when she set two American records in the event, then placing second in the Los Angeles Olympics in a career best of 49.05, the No. 10 performer of all time. She made history at the 1984 games when she became the first woman to win gold medals in both relays, which were held less than an hour apart.

In 1999 she was named head coach of both men and women's track and cross-country teams leading her Tigerbells to 6 Ohio Valley Conference Championships. She also served as assistant coach for the 2008 Beijing Olympics hurdles and sprints.

Her faith in Christ has been a beacon of hope and strength to her student athletes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this inspiring woman of distinction.

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RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND LEGACY OF JUDGE SARA J. SMOLENSKI

**HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of my constituent, the Honorable Sara J. Smolenski, who is retiring from the Kent County 63rd District Court after 34 years of outstanding public service. As a trailblazer in our West Michigan community, Judge Smolenski has dedicated her professional life to serving the people of Kent County.

Judge Smolenski served as a private attorney and an assistant city attorney in Grand Rapids prior to her judgeship. She was first elected to the court in 1990 and served as Chief Justice for over a quarter century, from 1996 to 2023. Throughout her life, she has supported local organizations such as the Hospice of Michigan, Kent County Literacy Council, RAVE (Resources Against Violent Encounters) to Women of West Michigan, and the Young Women's Christian Association. Her incredible service to our community has not gone unnoticed, receiving awards from organizations such as the American Red Cross and Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

In 2016, Judge Smolenski became the first elected official to enter a same-sex marriage in Kent County when she married her partner of 27 years. She remains a role model for women and LGBTQ+ people in Michigan's

Third District, and I am honored to celebrate her today.

Mr. Speaker, once more I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Judge Sara J. Smolenski for her commitment to public service, justice, and the people of Kent County. I hope her retirement is restful and filled with joy.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA ON HIS SERVICE AND RETIREMENT

**HON. JILL N. TOKUDA**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major General Kenneth S. Hara, the Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii, on his retirement from the Hawaii National Guard after a celebrated 40 years of service to our state and our nation.

As Hawaii's adjutant general, Major General Hara serves as commander of the Hawaii National Guard and the director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. In those roles, he has led the state's response to some of the most challenging and complex emergencies in Hawaii's history. In March 2020, just a few months after Major General Hara became the adjutant general, Governor Josh Green asked him to serve as the state's incident commander for the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to his leadership, Hawaii's response to the pandemic was among the most successful in the country.

Over the course of his career, Major General Hara also served as the dual status commander of Joint Task Force-50 in response to the Kilauea eruption and Hurricane Lane in 2018 and as commander of Task Force KOA after the 2006 Hawaii Island earthquake. And as a First Lieutenant over thirty years ago, he played a key role in supporting the state's response to Hurricane Iniki in 1992.

But what I will most remember Major General Hara for is his role in leading the state's response to the August 2023 wildfires on Maui and supporting their recovery. As the freshman representative for Hawaii's Second Congressional District that spans all eight of our islands, I am grateful to Major General Hara for his work in coordinating the state's response to this unprecedented disaster in our state's history alongside our local and federal partners.

Throughout his career in the National Guard, Major General Hara deployed three times. In 2005, he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as commander of the 299th Infantry's 2nd Battalion. In 2008, he deployed to Kuwait as deputy commander of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Then, in 2012, this time as commander of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, he deployed to Kandahar in Afghanistan.

His many awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Aviator Badge, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Major General Hara's career continued a legacy of service that began with his late fa-

ther, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hara. Alongside his three brothers, Major General Hara has ensured that the Hara name is synonymous with service to our state and the nation.

This career dedicated to service has also been a family commitment, and I would be remiss if I did not also thank Major General Hara's wife Myoung and his children Kristin, Julia, Nichole, Justin, and Alicia. Their support and sacrifice made his success possible for all of us.

As he and his entire family transition to a new chapter, I proudly join them in celebrating a tremendous career that will continue to inspire and motivate future generations of leaders. But even more importantly, I wish them all the best in enjoying a well-earned retirement.

Mahalo to Ken for all that he has done and given to Hawaii and our country.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT DONALD LYNN McDONALD, USMC, RETIRED WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USMC Staff Sergeant Donald Lynn McDonald of Groesbeck, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His dedication to veteran's causes in retirement reflects the ideals of our Country's core values.

Born in Mexia, Texas, Donald McDonald answered the call to serve by joining the United States Marine Corps in the 1970s. Over more than six years of active duty, he demonstrated exceptional commitment and skill. Serving as an Electric Systems Technician, he began his active service in 1971 in Beaufort, South Carolina. His exemplary performance earned him the M-14 Marksman Classification, the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and a Letter of Appreciation, highlighting his professionalism and dedication to duty.

Upon his honorable discharge, Staff Sergeant McDonald continued his legacy of service within Limestone County. He became an active member of the Limestone County History Committee, where he focused on locating individuals in cemeteries and assisting families in finding their lost relatives. His efforts have provided closure and solace to many families, underscoring his compassion and commitment to his community.

Currently, he serves as the Limestone County Veteran Service Officer. In this role, he has achieved accreditation and has been instrumental in assisting numerous veterans throughout the community. His tireless work ensures that veterans and their families receive the benefits and support they have rightfully earned. Donald's unwavering dedication reflects a deep respect for the sacrifices of his fellow service members and a genuine desire to enhance their quality of life.

This nomination is not only a tribute to Donald's profound commitment to his fellow citizens but also a recognition of the entire Veterans of Foreign Wars community in Limestone County. His selfless dedication em-

bodies the highest ideals of service and citizenship.

I am honored to award retired USMC Staff Sergeant Donald Lynn McDonald with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CELEBRATING RIDGWAY, PA BICENTENNIAL YEAR

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ridgway, Pennsylvania's Bicentennial year.

In 1817, Philadelphian shipping merchant Jacob Ridgway purchased 120,000 acres of land in Northwest Pennsylvania.

Forty thousand of these acres would officially become Elk County on April 18, 1843 with Ridgway as the county seat.

According to historians, the town of Ridgway was established in 1824 when one of Mr. Ridgway's nephews, James Gillis, convinced Ridgway that his land, which was filled with an abundance of lumber, could become a lucrative business opportunity.

In the past two hundred years, Ridgway has evolved into a thriving community where the lumber industry continues to flourish.

Ridgway is home to the Ridgway Chainsaw Carving Rendezvous.

What began as a shared passion of family and friends enthusiastic about wood carving has grown into the largest chainsaw carving gathering of its kind, attracting visitors from across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, Ridgway, PA, is home to a vibrant community, and I hope you will join me in wishing Ridgway a happy 200th-year celebration.

RECOGNIZING PAMELA EVETTE

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Lt. Governor Pamela Evette, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Pamela Evette, the 93rd Lieutenant Governor, and the first female Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina, demonstrates God's love for families and children. She has worked to support early childhood education, school reading programs, school choice, and South Carolina non-profits. Pamela is also a staunch supporter of parental rights, the military, and law enforcement knowing the importance of a safe environment for the future of our country and the next generation.

An entrepreneur and businesswoman, Pamela has received numerous accolades, including the ATHENA Leadership Award and the Enterprising Woman of the Year Award. Since taking office in 2019, Pamela has been laser-focused on utilizing her professional background to highlight South Carolina's thriving small business ecosystem, attract new business to the state, and promote innovative public-private partnerships. To help highlight and protect South Carolina's natural resources,

Pamela created the Grab-A-Bag South Carolina annual statewide litter clean up initiative in partnership with Palmetto Pride. She also joined the SC7 Expedition to raise awareness for floodwater prevention.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this inspiring woman of distinction.

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CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE  
AND CONTINUED LEADERSHIP  
AND SERVICE OF MR. SCOTT  
BIELER

**HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2024*

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable and continued leadership and service of Mr. Scott Bieler.

As the President and CEO of West Herr, Scott leads the largest privately-owned automotive group in New York State, and one of the biggest in the United States. All told, there are over 3,000 employees across 39 locations in Erie, Niagara, Monroe, and Ontario counties, with new expansions and locations always on the horizon.

Scott has continued to go above and beyond, and while he is known as generous—

few know the extent of his philanthropy throughout the community. Scott is actively involved and supports many charitable and community initiatives, including the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation, Visit Buffalo Niagara, and Daemen University.

On Thursday, September 26th, Mr. Scott Bieler will be honored at Buffalo Niagara Partnership's Second Annual Economic Development Summit, where he will receive the 2024 Industry Leader Award. On behalf of Western New York, I am proud to congratulate my friend on his many accomplishments, and I join him in celebrating this well-deserved award.

I therefore ask that this legislative body now join me in celebrating Mr. Bieler's accomplishments, along with his continued dedication to leadership and community service.

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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 Com-

mittee—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 information, 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, September 26, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 13

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Matthew Kaplan, of Maryland, to be Federal Co-chairperson of the Great Lakes Authority, and 43 General Services Administration resolutions.

SD-406