

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF REVEREND DR. GERALD
SHARON

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable man of faith, a devoted community leader, and a dear friend, Reverend Dr. Gerald Sharon. Dr. Gerald Sharon is a rostered pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church and retired on August 12, 2024, from Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert, California. After 45 years of faithful ministry across numerous churches and denominations, Dr. Sharon leaves behind a legacy that has profoundly shaped countless lives.

When I think of his leadership, I'm reminded of how, in 2015, Southwest Church grew under his guidance to become one of the fastest-growing congregations in the Nation, a milestone recognized by Outreach Magazine and Lifeway Research. Additionally, Dr. Sharon traveled extensively preaching and training pastors across Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. He didn't achieve this by chance; he did it through his unwavering commitment to inclusion and his deeply rooted belief that every person deserves love and respect.

It was the good Reverend Gerald Sharon who baptized my wife, Monica, who dedicated my daughters in the church, and who has been a friend and a guide through life. His Kentucky roots gave us a unique bond over bourbon, but it was his courage and transparency that set him apart. His openness brought a sense of ease to those who confided in him, and his storytelling is legendary. Dr. Sharon has that rare gift to touch both hearts and minds, inspiring people to love God, follow Jesus, and lead better lives.

Due to his leadership skills and community involvement, he was invited to join the governing board of John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Indio, California, where he served as Chairman from 2018 to 2020. After completing a one-year term as Chairman Emeritus, he was asked to continue his role on the board. He also serves on the hospital's Bioethics Committee.

Dr. Sharon received his bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from Georgetown College in Kentucky. His master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees were earned at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

In addition to his numerous degrees and accolades, it is his kindness and dedication to everyone he encounters that truly defines him. And, alongside his beloved wife, Gesa, he has built a beautiful family. Together they have four children, three of whom are married, and five grandchildren.

For me, my family, and countless others, we thank Reverend Dr. Gerald Sharon for his years of unwavering service, friendship, and for being a true beacon of faith and compas-

sion. May his retirement be filled with joy and peace.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UCSF FRESNO EMERGENCY MEDICINE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary milestone: the 50th anniversary of the UCSF Fresno Emergency Medicine Residency Program.

Fifty years ago, visionary physicians recognized the urgent need for dedicated emergency care. They established one of the first Emergency Medicine residency programs in the United States, transforming the landscape of medical training and emergency response. As Dr. James Comes aptly noted, "They had the vision to start an Emergency Medicine program here, and it has made all the difference in the world for the community."

The UCSF Fresno Emergency Medicine residency program is now regarded as one of the most sought-after programs in the country, attracting top medical school graduates. Residents train at Community Regional Medical Center, one of California's busiest emergency departments, handling upwards of 350 patients a day. This high-volume environment equips residents with the skills necessary to excel in their future careers.

Over the past five decades, the program has pioneered numerous innovations, including the Parkmed program, which allows residents to serve as EMS directors in national parks, and the establishment of the Wilderness Medicine Fellowship—only the fourth of its kind in the Nation. These initiatives exemplify the program's commitment to advancing emergency medicine not just locally, but nationally.

In addition to its educational achievements, the program has made significant contributions to emergency medical services in Fresno County. Dr. Gene Kallsen, a former chief of the Department of Emergency Medicine, was instrumental in reforming ambulance services, ensuring faster response times and better patient care. His legacy, and that of many others, continues to shape the future of emergency care in our region.

Today, the UCSF Fresno Emergency Medicine residency program stands as a model of excellence in medical education and emergency response. It has evolved into a fully staffed program, ensuring that residents receive comprehensive training in various specialties while providing critical care to our community.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us recognize the dedicated faculty, residents, and leaders who have contributed to the program's success. Their commitment to training skilled clinicians who serve diverse and vulnerable

populations is a testament to the program's enduring impact.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in celebrating the UCSF Fresno Emergency Medicine residency program and its invaluable contributions to our community and to the field of emergency medicine.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: ROMEO ANGELINI

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration, that I recognize Romeo Angelini, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades, but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Romeo has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

From a young age, Romeo recognized the most valuable gift one can give is the gift of giving back. So, since his tenth birthday, he has chosen to forgo the usual birthday festivities and dedicate his special day to a cause greater than himself. Every year, Romeo organizes and hosts food drives and fundraisers to benefit the Family Service Association of Bucks County, turning his birthday into an opportunity to uplift his community. Through these efforts, he has helped FSABC better serve the 50,000 community members who turn to them in their times of need. Romeo's remarkable dedication and commitment to serving our community have not gone unnoticed. Last October, he was recognized with the prestigious Susan N. Altomari Champion for Youth Award—an honor reserved for those who have profoundly impacted the lives of others in Bucks County.

The impact of Romeo's work lies not only in the thousands of pounds of food he has helped collect but also in the poignant message it sends. It is a message of kindness, compassion, and the extraordinary power each of us holds to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Romeo Angelini that our communities thrive and our Nation grows stronger. His service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that

• 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.

one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today we honor Romeo Angelini not just for his remarkable deeds but for who he is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Romeo Angelini for his extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May his example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

RECOGNIZING LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS' 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lincoln Consolidated Schools of Augusta Township, Michigan on the occasion of their Centennial Celebration. Their steadfast commitment to the education of our area's youth over the last 100 years is worthy of commendation.

Dr. Marvin Pittman was a visionary educator in the early 1920's who believed in the strength and power of public education. The consolidation of thirteen one-room schools was voted for by the community on May 2, 1923, and in April 1924, the cornerstone of a new K–12 school was laid. This school was named Lincoln Consolidated School in connection between the equal education opportunity ideals of Abraham Lincoln and the goals of the district. Once welcoming 500 students in 1924, Lincoln now hosts a diverse student population of over 3,000.

Lincoln Consolidated Schools District is currently home to four elementary schools, one middle school, and one enlarged high school. Their commitment to developing students into high-achieving, inspired adults is exemplified through their partnership with Eastern Michigan University's Early College Alliance. At no cost, high school students are given the opportunity to experience higher education and earn college credits, opening their eyes to the possibilities after graduation. With a \$25 million bond passed in 2018, the district was able to improve facilities for athletics, fine arts, technology, and more. The Lincoln Athletic Building, with new fitness and multi-sport areas was opened in 2021 and showcases the district's dedication to community involvement by encouraging community members to also utilize the space.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the staff, students, and community that have made Lincoln Consolidated Schools a tremendous educational environment for the last century. Dr. Pittman would be proud of how they have continued to build upon his ideals for public education. I am excited to see the district foster and encourage this community's students for the next 100 years.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TROY FLOYD

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Patrolman Troy Floyd, who was killed in the line of duty on August 8, 2024.

A lifelong resident of Lincoln County, Mississippi, Troy graduated from Brookhaven High School in 1993. He started his career as a law enforcement officer in 1996, dedicating his life to protecting and serving the southern Mississippi community.

Troy spent his years in law enforcement as a Lincoln County jailer and deputy. Additionally, he was a certified agent with the Mississippi Department of Corrections and former assistant police chief of Wesson, Mississippi. He spent his career working to improve the state's law enforcement agencies by training officers through many programs. He also taught children the dangers of drugs and alcohol through the DARE Program and mentored underprivileged youth at Camp Shelby.

Troy lived a faithful life and served his community and family every day. He was dearly loved by many because of his kindhearted nature, loyalty, selflessness, and dedication to helping others.

Troy is survived by his wife, Sage Floyd, three children, four siblings, and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Mississippi Patrolman Troy Floyd's faith and service to his community is a shining example of what it means to be a public servant. I wish his family healing and strength during this difficult time.

HONORING THE LATE JERRY WOLOZ

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, a proud American and a proud New Yorker, Jerry Woloz had a profound impact on the lives of many in the fields of education and social services. He devoted his life to lifting up the most vulnerable among us and educating the next generation. For several decades, he served with distinction as a social studies teacher and dean in the NYC public school system, educating students about the critical importance of our democracy and inspiring them to be civically engaged and claim our democracy as their own. Education is the noblest profession. Jerry Woloz made it his life's work, and we are all better for it.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 54 years, Marilyn Woloz, and his two sons Michael and Jason, as well as his two beautiful grandchildren Gabriel and Olivia. The People's House is eternally grateful to Jerry Woloz for leaving behind a world better than the one he found.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO RITA LENTZ

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration, I recognize the late Rita Lentz, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Throughout her remarkable life, Rita embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

A lifelong Bristol Borough resident, Rita was a beacon of Bristol's small-town, neighborly compassion, known for her genuine acts of kindness that harkened back to a simpler time. A 1955 Bristol High School graduate, Rita went on to serve as the School Secretary at Warren-Snyder Elementary. Rita went to work committed to making a difference in the students' lives, instilling in them, and sharing the values of respect and love. As a lifelong parishioner at St. Ann Church, she was a woman of deep faith and a steadfast presence at mass, novenas, and all parish events. I looked forward to seeing Rita each year at the Annual St. Ann Carnival and Italian Festival, where she served as a volunteer since its inception over twenty-five years ago. No matter where or when, Rita always made the time to engage and make genuine connections with others. As a remarkable testament to her faith and compassion Rita made it a priority to attend and was a comforting presence at the funerals of generations of Bristolians. A lifetime of what may seem like simple acts of kindness has left an indelible and extraordinary mark on the Bristol Borough community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Rita that reminds us of the power of the human spirit. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, is testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Rita not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she was—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to the family of Rita Lentz for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rita, whose spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

HONORING DOUG WIGHT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doug Wight, who was named the 2024 Member of the Year by the Napa County Farm Bureau. Mr. Wight is being honored for his decades of outstanding contributions to our agricultural community in Napa County.

Mr. Wight is a fifth-generation farmer in the Napa Valley who graduated from St. Helena High School in 1968. He obtained a degree in Fruit Science from Cal Poly in 1973 before returning home to plant his first vineyard of Cabernet Sauvignon at his family's Lewelling Ranch in 1974. With Mr. Wight's extensive viticulture knowledge, he is upholding the 160-year tradition of continuous family farming on his family ranch. Today, Mr. Wight continues to farm and mentors the future farmers of his family.

In 1983, Mr. Wight started his business, Wight Vineyard Management, which has been in operation for over 40 years. The company manages 500 acres of vines across the Napa Valley. Over the course of his career, Mr. Wight has also been a longstanding member of the American Society of Oenologists and Viticulturists, one of the original members of Napa Valley Vineyard Technical Group (Vit Tech) and served on the board of directors of the Farm Supply and Grape Growers Association.

Mr. Wight also made great contributions beyond our agricultural community. As Chairman of the St. Helena High School Class of '68 Scholarship, Mr. Wight has helped ensure educational opportunities for our local students, supporting their growth and success. For 25 years, he has also served with pride on the St. Helena High School Football Chain Gang. Additionally, Mr. Wight was a founding member of the committee to reestablish the St. Helena High School FFA program, helping to revive and strengthen agricultural education programs in our region.

Mr. Speaker, Doug Wight has continued to uphold his family's legacy of humility, generosity, and community in Napa County agriculture. His award as Napa County Farm Bureau's Member of the Year recognizes the positive impact he has had in Napa County. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CELEBRATING PASTOR JERMAINE JOHNSTON'S DEDICATION TO HIS COMMUNITY
HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Pastor Jermaine Johnston of Ypsilanti, Michigan, on the 8th anniversary of his Founder's Day. Since 2016, his ministry "Berea City of Hope" has been a beacon of good will for the community and his work is worthy of commendation.

Pastor Johnston came to Ypsilanti as a young boy when his family relocated from

Brooklyn, New York. His path to the ministry is not all surprising, as he was often referred to as "the little preacher" by those who knew him. Raised by a single mother, Pastor Johnston grew up attending the St. James Church of God in Christ in Ypsilanti. He was a devoted church drummer for over 20 years, but despite everyone's expectations, he had no desire to preach.

After attending a transformational service at Burning Bush International Ministries, Pastor Johnston decided to heed the calling and dedicate his life to the church. Under the guidance of then Pastor Don W. Shelby, Jr., Pastor Johnston served as an armorbearer, observing, learning and growing spiritually. In 2008, he was licensed as a minister, and in 2010, he was ordained as an elder by Bishop John H. Sheard. His dedication to the ministry led to his appointment as an Assistant Pastor in 2015.

In the summer of 2016, Pastor Johnston brought the idea of having his own ministry to life, opening up the Berea City of Hope in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Together with his wife, Lena, the last eight years has seen Berea City of Hope truly become a bastion of hope for their community. This year, they will be hosting their 6th annual Back to School Fair, where they will be giving out free backpacks and school supplies to the neediest in the community. They also run a food pantry on the 3rd Saturday of each month, a summer literacy program, and a coat drive in the winter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the accomplishments of Pastor Jermaine Johnston and all of the good he has done for his community. It is leaders like Pastor Johnston that make our communities safer, stronger, and more prosperous. We thank him for his service, and are excited to see how his ministry continues to serve his community well into the future.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DONALD DUCKERING
HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life and incomparable spirit of Donald "Don" Webster Duckering, an inspiration and beloved member of his community.

Born in New York, Donald was the son of Lynn and Mae Duckering. He, along with his brother Verle, was raised in Santa Cruz, California, where their father was a prominent architect. Donald excelled in athletics during his youth, particularly in tennis, snow skiing, golf, and polo. His passion for aviation led him to earn a pilot's license at the age of 16. During high school, Donald's mechanical skills, particularly his work on fast cars, captivated the attention of Hilda, who would later become his devoted wife. Together, they shared a lifelong love for British Triumph sports cars, even participating in the Pebble Beach Sports Car Rallies with their sons, Dale and Lee.

Donald pursued higher education at the University of Washington, where he was an active member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He graduated with a bachelor of arts in transportation engineering and was commissioned as

an ensign through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program. A pivotal moment in Donald's life was his appointment to naval flight school in Pensacola, Florida, where he earned his wings as a naval aviator. After advanced training in Hutchinson, Kansas, Donald served as a patrol plane pilot commander, leading missions across various global locations.

A highlight of Donald's distinguished career was his selection to attend the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, where he earned a bachelor of science in meteorology. He subsequently served as chief meteorologist aboard the USS *Oriskany*, playing a key role in numerous missions in the Middle East.

In 1963, Donald retired from the Navy as a lieutenant commander and transitioned to a successful career with Atmospherics Incorporated in Fresno, California. Over nearly four decades, he held significant roles as a meteorologist, chief pilot, and vice president.

Donald's personal life was marked by a loving and enduring marriage to his wife, Hilda, lasting 72 years. They treasured their friendships at the Sunnyside Swim & Racquet Club and later at the Fort Washington Golf & Country Club. Donald's passion for the outdoors led to memorable family camping trips, high Sierra backpacking adventures, and a successful venture into international fly tying. He also shared a special bond with his daughter Judith, racing sailboats.

Donald is survived by his beloved wife Hilda; his children: Lee and his wife Debra, Dale and his wife Debbie, and daughter Judith and her husband Scott, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and other close relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lynn and Mae Duckering, his brother Verle, and other cherished family members.

In Don's passing, we celebrate a life that has left an indelible mark on the world and all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy will be remembered with respect and admiration by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Donald Duckering, a true pioneer, and adventurer.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TY FAHNER
HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Tyrone "Ty" Fahner of Northfield, Illinois, who passed away on September 16, 2024, at the age of 81.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Ty Fahner received a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, a law degree from Wayne State University, and a master's degree in criminal justice from the Northwestern School of Law. Ty's sharp legal mind and passion for public service led him to great accomplishments in both the public and private sectors.

Upon graduation, Ty began work in the private law practice for a short period of time before becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. In 1976, Ty joined Illinois Governor Jim Thompson's administration as Director of Law Enforcement,

focusing on Chicago government corruption and the reorganization of state law enforcement agencies. In 1980, Governor Thompson appointed Ty as the Illinois Attorney General. From 1980 until 1983, Ty proudly served the Illinois community, primarily investigating a sting of Tylenol poisonings across the state.

Ty later returned to private practice, serving as Co-Chairman of the prestigious Mayer Brown law firm from 1998 until 2001, and Chairman from 2001 until 2007. Ty also held positions as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the John G. Shedd Aquarium, Director at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Chairman of the Illinois Republican Party finance committee, and President of the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago. Ty was undoubtedly an impactful, dedicated figure within our Illinois community.

I want to offer my condolences to the Fahner family and then loved ones on the loss of a great man. Ty's leadership, commitment, and dedication have made a lasting impact on the Illinois community that will last for generations.

RECOGNIZING DEBORA
SCHEFFEL'S STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION COMMENDATION

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, State Board of Education member Debora Scheffel, representing the 4th Colorado District, deserves recognition for her outstanding service to Colorado's education system. Currently Dean of the School of Education at Colorado Christian University, Debora has succeeded in strengthening and improving our state's education in many ways throughout her career.

Debora is a published author in literacy, special education, and higher education assessment. Her professional affiliations include the International Neuropsychological Society, the International Dyslexia Association, and the Council for Exceptional Children. She previously served on the editorial board of Learning Disabilities Research and Practice and currently serves on the editorial board of Journal of the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition.

During her time on the State Board, Debora has been a strong advocate for data privacy and parental choice. She is passionate about quality public education, a range of available educational options, and knows the value of exemplary teachers, great school leaders, and parents who best know their children's educational needs and potential.

It is my distinct privilege as the United States Representative of the 4th District of Colorado to commend Debora for her success in improving Colorado's education system. Her dedication to Colorado students cannot be understated, and I encourage Debora to continue working to create the best education system possible for all the students of Colorado.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
AND YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE OF CORAL SPRINGS
COMMISSIONER JOY CARTER

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Coral Springs Commissioner Joy Carter, retiring after a decade of dedicated service to our community. Commissioner Carter's tenure has been marked by her unwavering commitment, passion for public service, and dedication to the wellbeing of the residents of Coral Springs.

Commissioner Carter was first elected to the Coral Springs Commission in 2014, and over the past 10 years, she has been a steadfast advocate for her constituents. Her commitment to the community has been evident in her efforts to enhance public safety, support economic development, and maintain the high quality of life that Coral Springs residents cherish. She has played a pivotal role in numerous initiatives that have strengthened the city and enriched the lives of those who call it home.

Throughout her tenure, Commissioner Carter demonstrated a unique ability to listen to the concerns of the residents, always putting the needs of the community first. Her approachability and genuine care for her constituents have made her a beloved figure in Coral Springs. Commissioner Carter has been a champion for community engagement, ensuring that all voices are heard and that the needs of residents are addressed in every decision made by the commission. Commissioner Carter has nearly 40 years of community service and volunteer support for many organizations across the city and Broward County. This year, the Florida League of Cities recently recognized her with the Home Rule Hero Award for her advocacy during the 2024 legislative session.

Commissioner Carter's leadership extended to her involvement in numerous projects focused on sustainability, infrastructure improvements, and public health. Her contributions to the local economy through supporting small businesses and economic initiatives left a lasting impact. Furthermore, her dedication to preserving the city's parks and recreational facilities has provided invaluable benefits to families and young people across Coral Springs.

As we celebrate Commissioner Carter's retirement from the Coral Springs Commission, we celebrate her achievements and the integrity and compassion she brought to her role. Her legacy will continue to inspire future leaders in Coral Springs and beyond. Her presence on the Coral Springs Commission will be greatly missed, but her impact will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Commissioner Joy Carter's well-deserved retirement and expressing our deepest gratitude for her many years of remarkable service. We wish Commissioner Carter and her family all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: LINDA SALLEY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration I recognize Linda Salley, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades, but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Linda has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In her role as President, Executive Director, and founding member of the African American Museum of Bucks County, Linda has made it her mission to enrich our community through her tireless work of preserving, illuminating, and celebrating Bucks County's rich African American history, culture, and legacy. A trailblazer and driving force of positive change, Linda's work and efforts have significantly impacted our community. Constituents like Linda strengthen the fabric of our district and prove that when driven by purpose, compassion, and a resolute sense of duty, one individual can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Linda that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, is testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Linda not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Linda that our communities thrive and our Nation grows stronger. Her actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. She embodies the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively, and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Linda Salley for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

HONORING JOHNNY WHITE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Johnny White, who was named the 2024 Agriculturist of the Year by the Napa County Farm Bureau. Mr. White is being recognized for his years of dedicated service and contributions to Napa County's agricultural community.

Mr. White's experience with farming began at a young age on a ranch in Chiles Valley where his family grew hay and raised cattle and sheep. Taking after his great-grandfather John Wooden, for whom Wooden's Valley in Napa County is named after, Mr. White has continued a legacy of earnest work as a fifth-generation farmer. Mr. White graduated from St. Helena High School and continued his education at Santa Rosa Junior College, ultimately discovering a passion for viticulture in the heart of wine country.

For 37 years, Mr. White has worked at Pina Vineyard Management, where he now acts as both Partner and President. Mr. White manages over 1,000 acres of vineyard and assists growers with another 1,000 acres for removal and preparation of vines every year.

In addition to his work in our wine community, Mr. White has served as a volunteer firefighter with the Pope Valley Fire Department and St. Helena Fire Department, where he retired as the Assistant Fire Chief after 25 years of service. In this capacity, Mr. White, alongside other brave individuals, aided in protecting land from the 2020 Lightning Complex fires in Pope Valley, creating protective rings around property lines with bulldozers to prevent the fire from progressing.

Over the years, Mr. White has dedicated countless hours to educating and supporting his hometown's youth in agriculture. Regularly aiding St. Helena High's FFA in agricultural education and working directly with the vine pruning team, Johnny has been a council member on the school's Ag Boosters and Ag Advisory boards.

Mr. Speaker, through decades of work as a leading figure in our agriculture community, educator for our youth, husband, father and friend, Johnny White has greatly improved life in our county and is highly deserving of the honor as Agriculturist of the Year from the Napa County Farm Bureau. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CARMEN ANTHONY EANNI**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy of Carmen Anthony Eanni, an extraordinary father, husband, attorney, and advocate.

Born on July 16, 1934, in Dover, New Jersey, Carmen was the sixth of seven children of Italian immigrants Serafino and Josephina Eanni. At the age of 12, he and his family moved from New Jersey to California, joining

relatives in the Hanford area to take advantage of the Golden State's ideal climate.

Carmen graduated from Hanford High in 1952 and went on to play fullback for Fresno City College. It was there that he met the love of his life, Rose Marie. After a three-year engagement, they married in Fresno in 1957 following his service in the 82nd Airborne Division and 77th Special Forces Group as a Green Beret during the Korean war.

He continued his education at San Francisco State University, earning a bachelor's degree in political science, and later obtained his juris doctorate from UC Hastings College of Law in 1963. After law school, Carmen returned to Fresno, working for 18 months as a Deputy District Attorney before entering private practice in 1966. Two years later, he became a shareholder at the Fresno law firm Miles, Sears & Eanni, APC.

For 54 years, Carmen dedicated himself to trial law, specializing in personal injury, product liability, and professional negligence. He was a member of the California State Bar, served on the Disciplinary Review Department of the State Bar Court from 1979 to 1984, and was active in the Fresno County Bar Association, California Trial Lawyers Association (serving as President of the Fresno Chapter from 1969 to 1971 and as Chairman of the Recognition of Experience Committee from 1979 to 1980), and the American Bar Association.

In 1968, Carmen was instrumental in founding what would become Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California, an organization that has positively impacted the lives of over 30,000 children across Fresno, Madera, Kings, and Tulare Counties. He also coached for the San Joaquin Memorial Catholic Youth Football Program, dedicating countless hours to mentoring young athletes and teaching them valuable life skills.

Carmen enjoyed golfing, exercising, cheering for Fresno State football, and tailgating with family and friends. Known for his vibrant sense of humor, he brought joy to those around him. He deeply cherished his faith community, lifelong friendships, family gatherings, and the delicious homemade Italian meals prepared by Rose Marie.

He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Rose Marie; daughter Nikki Helmer and her husband Jay; son John Eanni and his wife Kellie; grandsons Jonathan and Dylan Eanni; sister Anna Batti; in-laws; nieces; nephews; and many dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings: sisters Jennie Champi, Teresa Batti, and Mary Eanni, and brothers Alfonso and Joseph Eanni.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy of Carmen Anthony Eanni. Carmen will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ANAHEIM HALLOWEEN
PARADE**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Anaheim Halloween Parade, a beloved Orange County tradition.

This tradition predates the rise trick-or-treating as a Halloween staple. It was started by the local merchants' association to engage nearby children and families for some wholesome fun. For the very first parade, over 20,000 residents and neighbors from nearby towns lined the streets on October 31st, 1924, to watch the 45-minute nighttime Halloween Parade led by Grand Marshals and baseball superstars Babe Ruth and Walter Johnson.

Anaheim's Halloween Parade would quickly become one of the biggest seasonal celebrations in the Nation, attracting crowds of over 75,000 attendees. In the 1960s and 1970s, the parade was broadcast on live television to be shared around the Nation. As an Anaheim kid, I had the opportunity to participate in the parade with my Benjamin Franklin Elementary classmates. And even as Anaheim grew from a rural town full of orange groves into a popular tourist destination and one of the largest cities in Orange County, the annual Halloween traditions did not disappear.

In 2012—and because of the hard work and dedication of the volunteers, local businesses, and community members—the Anaheim Halloween Parade and Fall Festival were revitalized. To honor the tradition's long history, several beloved floats from previous decades were brought back to life, including the 1953 Flying Sasser and the 1951 Rocket Witch.

Today, the parade still highlights the fall season and Halloween—but it has also grown to reflect our evolving local community. The celebration now also recognizes Dia de los Muertos, an important Chicano celebration that has strong roots in Anaheim's neighborhoods.

I ask my colleagues to join my hometown community in celebrating a century of one of Orange County's most important traditions. The Anaheim Halloween Parade has brought families out to celebrate for the past 100 years—and I am sure that it will continue to bring our community together for 100 more.

RECOGNIZING THE COURAGEOUS
SERVICE OF DEPUTY GREGORY
MAY**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous service of Craig County Sheriff's Deputy Gregory May.

In September of 2024, Hurricane Helene ravaged much of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District. Craig County was one of many counties under severe distress from conditions created by Helene.

On September 27, Deputy May was called into action to respond to an emergency situation involving an injured person in the Sinking Creek area of Craig County. Despite facing heavy rains and high winds, Deputy May, along with Craig County Emergency Services and Fire Department personnel, attempted to execute a daring rescue mission.

While assisting in the rescue operation, Deputy May was struck by flying debris. This incident inflicted serious bodily injury, requiring him to receive immediate medical attention and care. He sustained a concussion, a broken jaw, and a severe laceration under his neck.

This emergency situation called for bravery and sacrifice. Deputy May answered that call in the face of this unprecedented hurricane, knowing full well that his life would be endangered.

Deputy May's outstanding service to the Craig County Sheriff's Office and the people of Craig County is commended by the Craig County Board of Supervisors, who value the "indispensable role of all law enforcement officers, firefighters, rescue squads, and medical responders" to protect their community.

Craig County first responders have a dedicated serviceman among their ranks. Deputy May's story is a model of sacrifice and service that inspires his colleagues and community.

As a locality of roughly 5,000 people in a mountainous area of Virginia, Craig County residents can be assured that their security and well-being are considered essential, thanks to first responders like Deputy May.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: LAYLA PECK

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration, I recognize Layla Peck, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Layla has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

As a first grader at St. Andrews Catholic Elementary School, after listening to the Monsignor from her Parish discuss the importance and impact of doing good deeds for others, Layla embarked on a mission to find the perfect gesture to honor her friend, World War II Navy Veteran Joseph Gagliardi. Layla enlisted the help of her teacher and classmates to make 100 handmade birthday cards and coordinated with the Newtown Township Police Department, Newtown Fire and Rescue, and Newtown Ambulance Squad to celebrate Joe's 100th birthday with a surprise parade. Despite her young age, Layla's call to service has strengthened the fabric of our district and proves that when driven by purpose, compassion, and a resolute sense of duty, one individual can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Layla that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor

Layla not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Layla for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRESNO INTERDENOMINATIONAL REFUGEE MINISTRIES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM) for its 30 years of impeccable service to the communities in search of safety and opportunity.

FIRM is a faith-based, nonprofit organization located in the Central Valley, dedicated to serving refugees and individuals seeking a fresh start and new opportunities.

Since its establishment in January 1994 through collaborations with various congregations, FIRM has assisted over 10,000 people from Southeast Asia, Africa, South America, and more than 22 other countries. Their involvement with Church World Service and commitment to refugee assistance began years before their official founding.

Today, FIRM supports over 60,000 residents in Fresno County, focusing on meeting their needs with a range of comprehensive programs in health, education, community building, and youth outreach. These initiatives provide essential resources and drive positive change, benefiting the community and future generations.

FIRM's exceptional service has been recognized with numerous awards, including the 'Outstanding Performance in Community Economic Development and Revitalization,' 'Outstanding Service and Leadership in the Community,' the 'Martin Luther King Community Service Award,' and the 'Vocational Excellence Award,' among other prestigious honors. Their impactful work continues to be supported and valued by the local community.

As we celebrate FIRM's 30th anniversary, I commend their leadership, dedication to the valley, and their role as a vital resource for those striving for a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries. Let us celebrate their legacy and their ongoing commitment to prioritizing the valley's refugees and providing them a safeguard in which they all call "home."

RECOGNIZING THE 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH REPUBLIC DAY AND THE TURKISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 101st Anniversary of Turkish Republic Day and the contributions of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan (TACAM) in strengthening the relationship between Türkiye and the United States. Their steadfast commitment to the improvement of the humanitarian and cultural welfare of the Turkish community both locally and internationally is worthy of commendation.

The founding of the Turkish Republic on October 29, 1923, symbolizes the immense resilience and determination of the Turkish people. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his beliefs in the importance of culture and humanity through the establishment of a progressive, democratic state are representative of the core values of modern-day Türkiye. On this 101st Anniversary of Türkiye Republic Day, we celebrate the continued peace and security of the region and the unified ties between Türkiye and the United States.

Since 1972, the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan has been dedicated to upholding the values of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in their work for Turkish-American communities. They have been a strong voice for the Turkish people, fostering and executing programs that have advanced economic, social, educational, and general welfare for Turkish communities. The leadership they have brought to the state of Michigan, especially its 6th Congressional District, has enriched our communities with Turkish culture, making Michigan a more inclusive and thriving state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the 101st Anniversary of Turkish Republic Day and the contributions of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan in Turkish-American communities. The strong ties between Türkiye and the United States are made possible by the remarkable work of Turkish-American organizations like TACAM and Michigan is proud to be a beneficiary of their efforts. I am excited to see the continued accomplishments of TACAM and Turkish-Americans in Michigan and abroad.

AUSTIN COLLINS' OUTSTANDING
HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, Colorado student Austin Collins from Wray, Colorado is a testament and great example of what driven, community focused students can offer this country. His achievement throughout his high school career in sports, academia, and extra-curricular activities have benefited not only him, but his entire community.

Austin has served in Wray High School's National Honor Society and Student Government, working alongside his peers to create a

strong community and experience for everyone. He has also excelled academically, holding a 4.0 GPA and impressive SAT score.

Athletically, Austin Collins has performed just as exceptionally, placing in national championships year after year in wrestling and earning Football First team All-Conference and All-State Honorable Mention.

In addition to all of this, Austin finds the time to be a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and his local church. He also volunteers as a coach in the Wray youth flag football and wrestling programs and the Wray Library Book Buddies program.

It is my distinct privilege as the United States Representative of the 4th District of Colorado to commend Austin for his hard work and dedication to excellence in every facet of his life. His service to the community of Wray, Colorado is an inspiration of what it means to be leader, and I encourage him to continue pursuing excellence in his future endeavors.

HONORING TAWNY TESCONI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tawny Tesconi, an esteemed member of our farming community, who has been named the 2024 Friend of Agriculture by the Napa County Farm Bureau. This recognition highlights her outstanding service in support of the Napa County agricultural community.

Ms. Tesconi was born in Santa Rosa, California, in 1961. Growing up on a small family farm in West Sonoma County, she expressed her love for agriculture through her involvement in Future Farmers of America and the 4-H Youth Development Program. Ms. Tesconi earned a degree in Agricultural Economics and Management from the University of California, Davis in 1983. She graduated from the Western Fairs Association Graduate Training Program in 1987. Ms. Tesconi spent the next three decades in fair management in Sonoma County. She continues to live on her family property in Western Sonoma County with her husband.

Throughout her career in Napa and Sonoma Counties, Ms. Tesconi committed herself to serving the community. She has served as a president and a board member of the Petaluma Rotary Club. Ms. Tesconi has also served on the board of the Friends of the Sonoma-Marin Fair. Since her retirement as a fair manager, Ms. Tesconi returned to leadership in her role as Interim Executive Director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau from 2017 to 2022. Most recently, she has played an important role in the Napa County farming community as Interim CEO of the Napa County Farm Bureau.

Her collaboration with others and passionate commitment to farming served the Napa County agricultural community well. Her contributions and dedication to agricultural causes has helped our farming communities to prosper.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Tesconi for her service to the Napa County Farm Bureau and her dedication to the farming community

throughout California. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO MATT DECESARE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration, I recognize Matt DeCesare, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Matt DeCesare has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In a remarkable display of heroism, what began as an ordinary day for Matt, turned into a miraculous and life-saving rescue mission, when a fellow Hatfield community member collapsed to the ground. Although some may have continued driving past, without hesitation, Matt knew he would do everything in his power to help his fellow community member. Matt pulled over to the side of the road, quickly called 911, and performed CPR until paramedics arrived, serving a vital role in saving a life. Constituents like Matt strengthen the fabric of our district and prove that when driven by purpose, compassion, and a resolute sense of duty, one individual can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Matt DeCesare that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Their service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Matt DeCesare not just for his remarkable deeds but for who he is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Matt DeCesare that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. His actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures, but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. He embodies the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively, and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Matt DeCesare for his extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May his example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make

our communities, country, and world a better place.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORRIS COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

HON. MIKE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 200th Anniversary of The Morris County Prosecutor's Office, an agency in New Jersey's Eleventh Congressional District, and its outstanding commitment to serving Morris County and improving the quality of life within the community. The Morris County Prosecutor's Office works to protect and uphold the laws of the State of New Jersey and keep our residents safe.

On December 20, 1824, George K. Drake was appointed the first Prosecutor of the Pleas for Morris County, making Morris County one of the first Prosecutor's offices to be established in New Jersey. Since its founding, The Morris County Prosecutor's Office has been dedicated to keeping Morris County safe and a great place to live, work, and raise a family. The Morris County Prosecutor's Office has been able to achieve their mission for two centuries by working with members of the Morris County community and law enforcement agencies.

The Morris County Prosecutor's Office is committed to justice, fairness, crime reduction, working with law enforcement, and attending to the needs of the public. The office leads and supervises chiefs of police and municipal prosecutors, ensuring that their mission is fulfilled throughout the county on a local level.

This year marks the bicentennial anniversary of The Morris County Prosecutor's Office, and I admire their dedication to protecting and serving Morris County. I am grateful for all of their effort and accomplishments that have kept Morris County residents safe and look forward to seeing their continued work.

RECOGNIZING PRIVATE ELIJAH STITES' COMMENDATION BY THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the important work of the Lima Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. On November 6, the chapter will rededicate a historical marker in honor of Private Elijah Stites, Lima's sole veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Elijah Stites was born in Essex, New Jersey, in 1758. During the American Revolution, he fought for the Essex County Militia, serving as color bearer at the Battle of Yorktown. In 1788, he and two of his brothers took part in an expedition along the Ohio River, helping to found the settlement of Columbia (modern-day Cincinnati). Later, he settled in Warren County with his wife, Rhoda, and their fourteen children.

Following his death in 1843, Stites was buried in Old Lima Cemetery in Allen County. Seventy years ago, the Lima DAR erected a plaque at the site of the cemetery recognizing him as the city's only Revolutionary War veteran. The organization will rededicate this plaque at a special ceremony on November 6.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I thank the women of Lima's DAR Chapter for putting together this rededication ceremony and for all they do to promote civic education. They are true examples of the DAR's high calling to "cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom."

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
EMORY F. LUCK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late Emory F. Luck, Ph.D., a remarkable individual whose life's journey was marked by resilience, unwavering determination, and a profound dedication to both education and sports. Emory Luck passed away at his home in Fresno, California on October 22, 2023, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire us all.

Born in 1926 in Danville, Virginia, Emory was raised in Washington, D.C., as the son of Ada and Winston Luck. Despite attending a segregated school system, he graduated from the academically renowned Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. His early years were a testament to his strength in the face of adversity, as he confronted racial barriers with a spirit of determination and a hunger for knowledge. Emory's journey took him to the University of Illinois on an athletic scholarship, a significant achievement. Unfortunately, racial discrimination of the time prevented him from pursuing basketball, his first love. Instead, he turned to football to maintain his scholarship. It was not long before Emory departed from the university, determined to follow a different path.

After serving his country during World War II, Emory joined the Harlem Clowns professional basketball team, where he spent nine years as a player, coach, and general manager. His exceptional skills and dedication shone as he played against teams throughout California, Oregon, and Washington, proving his talent on the court.

With a thirst for knowledge and a desire to make a difference, Emory returned to academia. He enrolled at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education. His commitment to education extended beyond his own studies, as he also taught in the Detroit public schools and worked for Eastern Airlines in customer relations. When the chance to work as an athlete counselor at the University of Illinois came his way, Emory eagerly accepted the opportunity. During this time, he demonstrated his devotion to the realms of both education and athletics. He committed himself to the pursuit of a Ph.D. in physical education and athletic administration, underlining his passion for excelling in sports and deepening his expertise in the field of physical education.

In 1969, Emory joined Northern Illinois University as an associate professor and assistant basketball coach. His career in coaching reached new heights in 1973 when he became head basketball coach, becoming only the second Black man to hold such a position at a Division I university in the United States. Although Emory stepped away from coaching and teaching for a brief period, his passion for sports and education led him back to Elgin Community College in Elgin, Illinois, where he served as an administrator and coach. In 1984, he was appointed athletic director, P.E. instructor, and golf coach at Fresno City College (FCC). Emory's impact at FCC extended beyond the realm of sports. For three years, he coached men's basketball and served as president of the Central Valley Conference. He later stepped down from the Athletic Director position but continued his dedicated service at FCC until his well-earned retirement in 2004.

Emory was not just an educator and coach; he was a devoted community member. He served on the board of the Fresno County E.O.C. for many years and retained a profound love for the game of golf and could often be found on the fairways of Fig Garden Golf Club. Emory is survived by Mary, his loving wife of 50 years, their beloved dog Annie, and his nieces and nephews who held a special place in his heart. His legacy lives on in the hearts of all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Emory F. Luck, Ph.D., an individual whose perseverance, commitment to education, and love for sports left an enduring mark. As we remember his lasting contributions, let us also be inspired by his legacy to continue fostering a world where determination, knowledge, and sportsmanship unite to create eternal change. May he rest in peace, knowing that his influence lives on in the countless lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HEROES: LINDA AND FRANK
KUEPPER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration I recognize Linda and Frank Kuepper, two of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. The Kueppers have embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

As the founders of the Autism Cares Foundation, Linda and Frank have not only served

our community but transformed the lives of those around them. Frank and Linda have dedicated their careers to providing and expanding access to resources for people with disabilities. What started with six activities in the first year has grown to over 1,600 activities, events, and programming, including numerous social and life skill-building events, holiday parties, family outings, art and sensory-focused programming, an incredible ACF Prom, and so much more. Today, their foundation has over 9,000 participants and, in addition to children and teens, has grown to support adults with autism as well. Linda and Frank have touched and bettered the lives of so many and continue to work tirelessly to expand their life-changing efforts.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Linda and Frank Kuepper that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Their service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Frank and Linda not just for their remarkable deeds, but for who they are—a true heroes, in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Linda and Frank Kuepper that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Their actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures, but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. They embody the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Linda and Frank Kuepper for their extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these exceptional individuals, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May their example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF KERN
ENERGY

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kern Energy as it celebrates 90 years of refining innovation and outstanding service to the Kern County community. Since its founding in 1934 as El Tejon Oil & Refining Co., Kern Energy has transformed from a modest operation into a cornerstone of the southern Central Valley, providing the clean, reliable transportation fuels that drive economic growth and connect communities across California.

Throughout its history, Kern Energy has embraced change while remaining a family-owned, independent refinery committed to meeting California's evolving energy needs. After changing its name to Douglas Oil Company in 1945, the refinery solidified its presence as Kern Oil & Refining Co. in 1971 and evolved into Kern Energy in 2022. Each transition of the company has been marked by new

achievements, pioneering new methods and technologies in sustainable energy and fuel production.

Notably, Kern Energy was just the second refinery in the United States to produce renewable diesel by co-processing biofeed, and it proudly became the first small refiner in California to blend biodiesel. Today, Kern Energy continues this legacy of excellence, serving as the only refiner between the Bay Area and Los Angeles producing gasoline and renewable diesel. As the number one transportation fuel supplier in Kern County, Kern Energy employs 200 full-time staff members, demonstrating its commitment to powering communities and supporting families. Their contributions to the Central Valley's economy and quality of life are truly invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kern Energy on 90 years of remarkable service and innovation. I look forward to witnessing their continued success as a leader in energy as they approach a century of being a vital part of our community's future.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND
RETIREMENT OF STEVE RED-
HEAD FROM THE CONGRES-
SIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself as Chairman and Ranking Member Joe Morelle of the Committee on House Administration to congratulate Congressional Research Service (CRS) Deputy Assistant Director Stephen Redhead on his retirement, and to thank him for his thirty-three years of dedicated service to Congress.

Mr. Redhead is a graduate of Cambridge University, where he received a bachelor's degree and a Master of Arts in Biology, and Aberdeen University, Scotland, where he received a Master of Science in Biology. Steve conducted predoctoral research in the Ecology and Evolution graduate program at SUNY Stony Brook. After moving to the Washington, D.C. area, he taught for 13 years in the Department of Biology, George Mason University. In 1980, he became a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) in honor of his service to the Society on the International Karakoram Expedition to mark the 150th anniversary of the RGS.

Steve joined CRS in 1991, and came to serve as a biomedical policy analyst, specializing in the health effects of tobacco and cell phones, among many other topics. He established himself as an invaluable resource for Congress as he helped to lead CRS's work on critical issues such as pandemic flu planning and response, health information technology, electronic health records, and telehealth, among many others. As an analyst, he authored an impressive portfolio of more than 500 products and memoranda for Congress.

Since 2017, Steve has served as Deputy Assistant Director of the Government & Finance Division. In that role, he has helped to hire and cultivate a workforce of more than 80 staff, provide painstaking and timely review of nearly 3,000 public and confidential written

products written by the division's workforce during his tenure, and steer the division through the COVID-19 pandemic and shifts in agency leadership. We understand Steve has committed himself to mentoring staff, new and established; he's known for demonstrating genuine interest in the work of his employees as well as their lives and obligations outside of the office.

CRS relies on civil servants like Steve, whose patience and kindness towards his employees is matched only by his focus on how best to serve Congress. Congress is better informed because of Steve's dedicated service, and we are grateful for his longtime commitment to the institution.

HONORING MR. JOHN WHITRIDGE
III

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Whitridge III, an esteemed member of the Napa community, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Napa County Landmarks. Mr. Whitridge is being recognized today for his outstanding service in developing Napa County Landmarks and preserving historic structures in our community.

Mr. Whitridge was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1937. After graduating from Yale University in 1960, he married Jean Maschal in 1961. The couple moved to Napa in 1969 after Mr. Whitridge earned a second degree from the University of Washington. He relocated to Napa to take a position as a city planner and remained for the rest of his life. He dedicated himself to the community, with a particular focus on historic preservation, until his death in 1997. He is survived by his three children Anne, John, and Catherine.

Throughout his life in Napa, Mr. Whitridge committed himself to serving the community. He founded Napa County Landmarks—now celebrating its fiftieth anniversary—and initiated the Napa Historic Resources Inventory. Additionally, he co-founded the Napa County Land Trust and played a key role in the restoration and preservation of the First National Bank on First Street, the Opera House on Main Street, the Napa County Hall of Records, and Churchill Manor.

His collaboration with others and passionate commitment to preserving our history for future generations solidify his place as a pillar of service in Napa County. His contributions and unwavering dedication to public causes have undeniably enriched our community and ensured that our history will be preserved for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Mr. John Whitridge III for his service to Napa County and his dedication to safeguarding our heritage. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
BEVERLY JEAN HUNTER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today, we gather to pay tribute to the late Tribal Chairperson Beverly Jean Hunter, a beloved and dedicated leader who made profound contributions to her Tribe, the greater Indigenous community of Central California, and the advancement of Indigenous people's rights.

Chairperson Hunter, who passed away on September 30, 2023, at the age of 75, served her Tribe, the Table Mountain Rancheria, with great distinction. She dedicated many years of her life to Tribal service, holding numerous leadership positions, including Tribal vice chairperson of the Table Mountain Rancheria Tribal Gaming Commission, chairperson of the Table Mountain Rancheria Pow-Wow Committee, and chairperson of the Table Mountain Rancheria Enrollment.

Beverly Hunter's commitment extended beyond her Tribe. She was a tireless advocate for the greater Indian community in Central California. She served as a board member of the California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (CRIHB) and was the board chair for the CRIHB Traditional Indian Health Committee. Her dedication was further evident in her founding and chairing of the Phil D. Hunter and Warren Lee Jones Scholarship Fund since 2012, providing educational opportunities for future generations.

Beverly Hunter's leadership was vital in numerous organizations. She held roles such as treasurer of the California Rural Indian Health Board, chair of the California Indian Legal Services, and served on the Title IV Parent Committee, the American Indian Health Women Association, and Central Valley Indian Health. Her involvement with Central Valley Indian Health began from its inception, highlighting her deep-rooted commitment to the betterment of Indian health services. In 2012, Chairperson Hunter took on the role of founding chairperson for the Central California Yokuts NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) Coalition. Alongside Tribal leadership from several Tribes, she advocated successfully for the return and reburial of ancestors and funerary objects held at UC Berkeley and the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Her work in this area helped to uphold the dignity and respect of Indigenous peoples heritage.

Beverly Hunter is preceded in death by her parents, Warren Lee Jones and Rosie Jones, her husband, Phil D. Hunter, as well as her sister Loretta Ann Jones, and her brothers Myron Jones, Lyle Jones, and Matthew Jones. She is survived by her sons, Craig Martinez and Mark Martinez, as well as sisters Charlene Jones, Bernadine Jones, Juanita Jones, and brother Lonnie Jones. Her legacy lives on through her family, nieces, nephews, and the many lives she touched during her lifetime.

Beverly's life was a shining example of unwavering dedication to her Tribe and the greater Indian community. Her contributions to the advancement of Native American rights, health, and education have left an indelible mark. She will be remembered with the deepest respect and gratitude for her extraordinary

leadership and service. As we offer our condolences to her family and Tribe, we honor and commemorate the life of Chairperson Beverly J. Hunter. Her legacy will continue to inspire and guide us in the ongoing pursuit of justice and recognition for Indigenous people.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Tribal Chairperson Beverly Jean Hunter. Her indomitable spirit, commitment to justice, and passion for the welfare of her community will remain an enduring source of inspiration. As we remember her invaluable contributions, may we honor her memory by continuing the vital work she began, striving for equality, education, and the preservation of Indigenous peoples heritage.

RECOGNIZING DECLAN CASSIDY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Declan Cassidy, an outstanding constituent from my district. Declan is guided by a sense to better his community and has always demonstrated his ability to overcome complex challenges and situations.

When Declan was just ten years old, he founded the initiative "Socks for The Streets". In 2023, his team provided over 29,000 socks to homeless individuals in the Southeastern Region of Pennsylvania. Since its founding in 2022, Socks for The Streets has evolved into an initiative that provides a variety of essential needs. Declan and his team would bring homemade meals to over 300 residents that are struggling each month, offer family support services and most importantly, regardless of their background, strive to create an environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

In his spare time, Declan continues to find ways to give back. He serves as the Youth Ambassador for Philadelphia Toys for Tots. Declan is also a proud member of the Bucks County 4-H program and a participant of the Swenson Arts and Technology High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) Program.

We are all incredibly proud for the positive impact Declan has on our community and wish him the best of luck in his bright future ahead.

HONORING RAOUL CUNNINGHAM
IN HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Raoul Cunningham, one of Kentucky's greatest civil rights leaders, who recently announced his retirement after two decades serving as President of the Louisville Branch of the NAACP. His extraordinary leadership in the fight for equal rights has etched an indelible mark on our community.

Raoul Cunningham's commitment to justice began early, when, at just 14 years old, he

joined the Louisville NAACP Youth Council in 1957. During his high school years, as college students across the South initiated sit-ins and protested segregation, Raoul was inspired to bring similar action to Louisville. With the relative dearth of Black colleges in Kentucky compared to the rest of the Deep South, Cunningham and his young peers convinced their local NAACP branch that high school students could advocate just as well as college students. By the end of the year, the NAACP Youth Council, alongside the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), began organizing protests in downtown Louisville.

Raoul Cunningham was among the first students arrested during these demonstrations, including at Stewart's Department Store, where customers of color were barred from the lunch counter. His arrest, the first of many, was a badge of honor for him. He famously said, "That jail ain't no big thing to any of us." For over two years, Cunningham and fellow students protested tirelessly after school, contributing to the passage of the first public accommodations law south of the Mason-Dixon Line. This achievement, which Cunningham considers his greatest, laid the groundwork for future civil rights fights.

After graduating high school, Cunningham attended Howard University, where his activism only grew stronger. He remained active in the NAACP through his college chapter, joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and founded Howard's first Young Democratic Club. Upon returning to Louisville, he managed the historic campaign that led to Georgia Davis Powers becoming the first African American and first woman elected to the Kentucky Senate. He continued his work in politics before rejoining the NAACP as a regional coordinator for the Voter Empowerment Program.

Through demonstrations, negotiations, economic boycotts, and voter participation efforts, Cunningham helped bring an end to segregation in Louisville. The city of Louisville decided to honor him by inducting him into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2003. The following year, he was elected President of the NAACP's Louisville Branch, where he has proudly served since. He was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award by the city of Louisville, an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from Simmons College of Kentucky, and has been President of the Kentucky State Conference of the NAACP and served on the Kentucky Advisory Committee for Help America Vote (HAVA).

Mr. Speaker, Raoul Cunningham's lifelong commitment to civil rights transformed our community and inspired generations. I ask that the House of Representatives join me in recognizing his contributions to our country and congratulating him on his retirement.

CONGRATULATING SISTER JUDITH
ANN ON 18 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE THIRD ORDER OF ST.
FRANCIS AND OSF HEALTHCARE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Sister Judith Ann Duvall for her 18

years of honorable service as the major superior of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis and as Chairperson of the OSF Healthcare system in Illinois.

Sister Judith Ann was born just outside of St. Louis, Missouri as the middle child in a modest Catholic family. She entered the convent in September of 1964 and then went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northern Illinois University, a master's degree in Catholic doctrine from St. John's University in New York City; and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and Administration from Bradley University. Since entering the convent, Sister Judith Ann has devoted her life to her vocation and the advancement of the mission of OSF.

During her time with OSF, Sister Judith Ann worked tirelessly in support of improving the healthcare system in Illinois. Under Sister Judith Ann's leadership, OSF experienced dramatic growth. The OSF Healthcare system grew from 6 hospitals to 16 hospitals across the state and has expanded its employment level from 13,000 to 25,000 employees.

In 2013, she helped Peoria welcome the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home which provides individuals facing chronic illness with compassionate and merciful caregivers during their journey to eternal life. Additionally, Sister Judith Ann worked to build a strong relationship between the Children's Hospital of Illinois and Easter Seals. This partnership and collaboration, stemming from Sister Judith Ann's work, has inspired innovation for children's healthcare across Central Illinois.

In recognition of her dedication to Catholic healthcare and leadership, Pope Benedict XVI granted Sister Judith Ann the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross in October of 2012. Additionally, Sister Judith Ann's incredible service and leadership to the Peoria area, through OSF Healthcare, earned her the Pere Marquette Award and the Edythe A. Cohen Business and Industry Award.

Sister Judith Ann's tireless work has greatly impacted the Peoria community and the state of Illinois. Her commitment to her vocation and service to others is truly inspiring. Congratulations to Sister Judith Ann on 18 years of service to the Third Order of St. Francis and to OSF Healthcare. We are grateful for her dedication to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEADERSHIP
OF COACH AMIR ABDUR-
RAHIM

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Amir Abdur-Rahim who inspired students and our Tampa Bay community with his sincerity, generosity and passion. As the vibrant Head Coach for the University of South Florida Men's Basketball team, Coach Abdul-Rahim set high moral standards for all and displayed an uncommon commitment to students, players and the entire USF Family.

Amir Abdur-Rahim grew up in Marietta, Georgia, and held his first head coach position at Kennesaw State University from 2019 before joining the Bulls family in 2023. Coach

Abdur-Rahim was credited with turning KSU's program into a record-breaking success. But it is not his incredible professional accomplishments that made him the great man he was. He was a servant leader with genuine care for those around him. He transformed not only records but also the hearts and minds of entire communities.

Coach Abdur-Rahim was immediately embraced by the USF family. When USF Vice President for Athletics Michael Kelly described Coach's impact on the team and university, Kelly said, "he connected this whole community." Around campus, Coach was known for picking up students' coffee tabs, personally greeting camped-out fans in front of the Yuengling Center, and dancing with the school band after home game wins. His spirit and joy were felt by the entire student body.

To his players, he was so much more. At the press conference following the team's historic first regular season conference championship, Coach Abdur-Rahim said, "It's just great to see growth in young people, man, when they start to see themselves as more than just basketball players, when they start to see themselves as men."

Following last year's historic season, Coach was unanimously voted American Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. Yet, he felt an individual accolade was unfitting. Coach changed the trophy engraving from "Coach of the Year" to "Staff of the Year." In all he did, Coach Abdur-Rahim found a way to serve those around him.

Above all else, Coach Abdur-Rahim loved his family. He is survived by his wife, Arianne, and their three children, Laila, Lana and Aydin. His legacy will live on through his family and all who had the privilege of sharing time with him on the basketball court.

Coach Abdur-Rahim used to say: "No record is going to tell you what impact you have on people around you." The impact Coach had on the USF community is immeasurable, and his optimism, devotion and servant leadership will continue to inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors across Tampa Bay, I sincerely thank Amir Abdur-Rahim for the joy and life he infused into our community. We are all eternally grateful.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF GARY
LEE BRUNO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a distinguished marine, successful businessman, philanthropist, and cherished family man, Gary Lee Bruno. Born on August 11, 1946, in Morgantown, West Virginia, Gary's life unfolded as an inspiring tapestry of service, resilience, and unwavering commitment.

At the age of 8, Gary and his family planted roots in Fresno, California, where he navigated the vibrant complexities of a large Italian family as the middle child of five boys. His academic journey, led him to Central High School and later to Fresno State University, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science. Concurrently, Gary embraced

a profound sense of duty, joining the Marine Corps while in college, earning his commission as an officer in July 1966.

Gary's steadfast commitment to service saw him proudly serving as a U.S. marine for nearly four years, including a tour in Vietnam as an artillery officer. His valor and dedication earned him accolades such as the Navy Commendation Medal (V for Valor), Combat Action Ribbon, and numerous other commendations. Retiring from the Marine Corps Reserve as a lieutenant colonel in 1986, Gary carried the pride of his military service throughout his life. While in the reserves, Gary served as the Headquarters and Support Commanding Officer and was well respected by fellow marines for his honorable leadership.

Returning to Fresno in 1972 with his wife and baby daughter, Cynthia, Gary, as a father, reveled in coaching his daughters' cross-country teams, participating in family activities, and instilling a love for adventure and shared experiences. In 1978, he founded G.L. Bruno Associates, Inc., focusing on real estate development and medical facility construction, making significant contributions to healthcare accessibility in the Central Valley.

Beyond his business endeavors, Gary was driven by a core belief in giving back. In 1996, he established the G.L. Bruno Family Foundation, channeling over \$2 million to support socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, with a particular emphasis on matters concerning women and children.

Gary lived life with fervor, finding joy in flying his airplane, playing golf, and savoring a good martini. His dignified demeanor, witty jokes, and a ready handkerchief became hallmarks of his presence. Even in the face of a courageous battle with Parkinson's disease, Gary's sense of humor endured.

Gary leaves behind a legacy of passion and generosity. Survived by his daughters, Cynthia Bruno Rafferty and Aimee Bogna, their families, and loyal dog Bailey, Gary's impact extends to his ex-wives, brothers, nieces, nephews, and cherished friends. In commemorating Gary Lee Bruno, we honor a life that blended duty, enterprise, and compassion—a life that will forever inspire those who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Gary Lee Bruno.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY "TONY"
VENDETTI

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Anthony "Tony" Vendetti. Tony is guided by a sense to better his community and has always demonstrated his ability to overcome complex challenges and situations.

As an accomplished scout from BSA Troop 82, Tony is no stranger to giving back to our community. He has contributed to several service projects, such as Adopt a Highway, Scouting For Food, and Wreaths Across America. He also continues to volunteer alongside his father at Harvest Ministries food pantry. Tony is also a member of Neshaminy

High School's Football Team as a defensive tackle and is a proud electrical engineering student at Bucks County Technical High School. After his graduation in 2025, Tony plans to join the United States Marine Corps while continuing his education to earn a degree in electrical engineering.

We are all incredibly proud for the positive impact Anthony has on our community and wish him the best of luck in his bright future ahead.

COMMEMORATING THE 43RD
ANNIVERSARY OF CARECEN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) Established in the District of Columbia as the Central American Refugee Center, CARECEN is celebrating its 43rd anniversary this month.

CARECEN was founded in 1981 to provide legal assistance to Central American refugees. Today, in addition to providing such assistance, CARECEN provides several services to D.C.'s Latino community, including citizenship classes, tenant organizing and legal services. CARECEN also advocates for refugees and immigrants from Central America on the federal level. Since the 1990s, CARECEN has advocated for granting Temporary Protected Status for nationals from Latin American countries.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing CARECEN for its contributions to D.C. and D.C.'s Latino community over the last 43 years.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF THE
LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT
CORPORATION OF HOUSTON

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an organization that has spent 35 years building a legacy of hope, resilience, and sustainable communities across the Houston area—the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Houston. Since 1989, LISC Houston has been more than a community builder; it's been a lifeline to countless families and neighborhoods, investing over \$592 million and leveraging \$1.5 billion to bring more than 11,000 affordable homes and over two million square feet of community spaces to life.

Think about that for a moment. Over three decades of building homes and hope—three decades of investing in people, families, and neighborhoods that are the bedrock of this great city. LISC Houston is grounded in the belief that everyone deserves a roof over their head and a vibrant community, a place where they can work, raise their children, and feel a sense of belonging.

Through its Financial Opportunity Centers and partnerships with local businesses,

LISC has helped thousands in our area find good-paying jobs, start businesses, and build brighter futures. When it comes to affordable housing, they haven't just built homes; they've built foundations—places where families feel rooted, children feel safe, and communities can grow and thrive. LISC stands alone in the Houston region as the organization that tackles every facet of affordable housing—from providing training and developing new housing to preserving existing homes, expanding access to homeownership, and leading post-disaster recovery efforts.

And LISC Houston's work is far from finished. As they look to the future, they're setting their sights on new challenges—focusing on digital literacy, place-based development, economic mobility, and climate resilience. They're supporting small businesses, including childcare providers, and empowering emerging housing developers. They're creating pathways to homeownership, lifting up families, and transforming communities with every project.

Mr. Speaker, LISC Houston's legacy reminds us that when we come together, we can build something lasting. It's a vision that speaks to the best of who we are—a belief in the power of community, in lifting each other up, and in making sure that everyone has a fair shot at a better future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating LISC's important milestone and their tremendous impact.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CLEMENTINE PUGH

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the life, legacy, and work of Clementine Pugh, a dear and distinguished friend of my predecessor, The Honorable Charles B. Rangel. As a strong believer in the power of knowledge, she demonstrated the importance of learning and expanding educational opportunities for women and African Americans throughout our great Nation.

On June 20, 2015, at Harlem's historic Riverside Church, family and community gathered to memorialize Clementine's life and contributions to opening our minds to the importance of culture, honesty, and knowledge. On April 11, 1925, Clementine was born to Alberta and Otho High in Raleigh, North Carolina. She attended Shaw University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She began her career as a psychiatric social worker, moving on to becoming a public school teacher and, eventually, a professor at Hunter and Lehman Colleges of the City University of New York.

After 20 years of service at Lehman College, she was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus of Education. She earned a Master of Social Work degree in 1949 from New York's Columbia University and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1982. For her teachings, she was awarded the prestigious title of Professor Emeritus of Education.

Clementine vividly strived for honesty and understanding. She made it her duty to present others with the awareness she ob-

tained. Her tireless effort to engage, enjoy, and educate people touched the hearts of every person she met. A woman ahead of her time, Clementine Pugh tackled the many realms of "isms" including racism, sexism and classism. Her life was devoted to acknowledging and improving how these systems affect African American people. With her remarkable resilience, my predecessor, The Honorable Charles B. Rangel, is proud to have called Clementine and her husband, G. Douglas Pugh, dear and very special friends.

I know that Clementine's legacy will live on for many years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me as we pay tribute to such a treasure to our community. I pledge to continue to carry out her tradition of provoking thought and feeling for all who have lost their way or simply need to be reminded of who we are, what we come from, and how we can overcome any obstacle.

HONORING THE CAREER OF OFFICER
GRACIELA SANTILLANO
JAMES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Graciela Santillano James for her service and dedication to the community's safety and prosperity.

Graciela graduated from Dos Palos High School in 1992 and earned her bachelor of arts degree from Saint Mary's College of California in 1996. She began her lifelong career after completing the California Highway Patrol Academy in September 2003. Initially serving in the San Jose area, she later transferred to Fresno. Her skills and teamwork were recognized, leading to her promotion to the Central Division Traffic Management Center in April 2009.

She quickly established herself as a respected member of our valley through her unwavering dedication and eagerness to grow. In May 2012, she was chosen for the Central Division El Protector Community Outreach Program, where she engages with the Hispanic community to share information about local events, such as townhall meetings, and to foster trust in law enforcement. She takes great pride in this initiative, describing it as a "service to California."

As a young girl, Graciela aspired to become a California Highway Patrol Officer. She remembers her parents consistently stressing the importance of education, and she was inspired by watching Spanish television with her father. From an early age, she resolutely decided that she wanted to be the "El Protector" of her community.

Her service extends beyond her job as she has demonstrated her involvement with numerous organizations such as El Concilio de Fresno—Cesar Chavez Concilio, who has built fundamental relationships for her programs, Mexican Consulate of both Fresno and Atlanta, Proteus, Inc., the Latino Rotary—Fresno, Holy Cross Center for Women, U.S. Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration and numerous schools in both Madera and Fresno Counties.

Officer Santillano James has been recognized for her extensive accomplishments

among which include holding office as vice-president and scholarship coordinator for the Latino Peace Officers Association—Fresno Chapter, where she is committed to their mission of "honoring family, education, and community through service and mentorship." Additionally, she was appointed vice-chair for Centro La Familia Advocacy Services and recognized as an Outstanding Board Member for her commitment.

Today, we bid farewell and thank Officer Graciela for her service and going above and beyond for her community. Despite her career coming to an end, she continues to represent the Hispanic community as a bilingual and bicultural officer and aims to motivate individuals. As we honor the career of Officer Graciela Santillano James, I commend her for her advocacy and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the career of Officer Graciela Santillano James. Let us celebrate her diligence and devotion to the safety of others and educating her community.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP
POLICE CHIEF DAVID METTIN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Chief David Mettin, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Chief Mettin has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In his role as Plumstead Township Police Chief, David Mettin has not only served our community but transformed the lives of those around him. Throughout his remarkable 37-year career, his efforts and contributions have played a pivotal role in safeguarding our community and nurturing the next generation of law enforcement professionals, in which he instills a commitment to upholding excellence. Constituents like Chief Mettin strengthen the fabric of our district and prove that when driven by purpose, compassion, and a resolute sense of duty, one individual can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Chief Mettin that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Their service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor

Chief Mettin not just for their remarkable deeds, but for who he is—a true hero, in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Chief Mettin that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. His actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures, but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. He embodies the timeless American values of resilience, generosity and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively, and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Chief Mettin for his extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May his example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

IN PRAISE OF THE IDF'S TRIUMPH
OVER TERROR

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the majority of Americans who feel as I do, I commend the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) for ridding the world of one of its most wretched war criminals, Yahya Sinwar.

As the mastermind of October 7th, the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust, Sinwar orchestrated the murder, maiming, mutilation, rape, torture, and abduction of Israelis as well as Americans. The IDF's triumph over Sinwar's reign of terror sends a resounding message to the rest of the world. The fate of the Middle East no longer belongs to the antisemitic wars of the past. It belongs to the Abrahamic peace of the future, a peace forged in the crucible of Israel's formidable fighting force.

The heroes of the IDF have shown Israel to be one of the few liberal democracies willing to fight for liberal democracy and one of the few Western nations willing to fight for Western civilization. May God Bless the IDF. Am Yisrael Chai (The People of Israel Live).

CONGRATULATING THE LA
DODGERS AND FREDDIE FREEMAN

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Los Angeles Dodgers for bringing home their eighth World Series title. I am especially proud of first baseman Freddie Freeman, a California-45 native from Fountain Valley, for representing Orange County so well on the national stage and bringing home the World Series MVP award.

Freddie has shown remarkable perseverance in overcoming personal and professional trials, and this tremendous accomplishment is a testament to his work ethic and drive to succeed.

A true Orange County hero, Freddie and this Dodgers team have excelled at the highest level and added to the rich baseball tradition of Southern California. I'm so proud of them for their accomplishments and can not wait to see more championships in the years to come.

HONORING GIUSEPPE ANOIA'S
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to recognize Mr. Giuseppe Anoa as he approaches his 90th birthday this November.

Born November 19, 1934, Mr. Anoa has been a constituent of Maryland's First Congressional District since he immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1961. He received a degree in civil engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 1970 and worked for Baltimore City for 17 years until his retirement in 2000. Mr. Anoa has been happily married to Phillis, nee D'Adamo, for over 32 years.

It is a distinct privilege to recognize Mr. Anoa on his upcoming 90th birthday and celebrate this wonderful milestone. On behalf of Maryland's First Congressional District, I wish Mr. Anoa a very happy birthday.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LOAVES & FISHES
COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of Loaves & Fishes Community Services, one of the largest food pantries in Illinois. Founded in 1984 by a group of compassionate members of St. Raphael Catholic Church, this organization began as a small food pantry in a church closet, serving just eight families. Today, 40 years later, Loaves & Fishes provides assistance to over 10,000 individuals each week, including residents of DuPage, Kane, Kendall, and Will Counties.

The success of Loaves & Fishes can be attributed to the collaboration of its dedicated staff and more than 1,000 volunteers, who range from teenagers to seniors nearing 90 years old. Their commitment has been instrumental in ensuring the prosperity of countless families. The extensive volunteer hours contributed over the years have allowed Loaves & Fishes to scale its operations, enabling efficient and cost-effective service at facilities such as the Frank J. Rus & Donald S. Toy Food Market & Resource Center.

Over the years, Loaves & Fishes has expanded its mission beyond addressing food insecurity to include programs that promote self-sufficiency. These initiatives include offering emergency assistance for rent and utilities, help with public benefits, vehicle donations, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), employment readiness support, and the Moving

Up program—a 20-session intensive course designed to help clients identify and overcome barriers to progress.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have Loaves & Fishes Community Services in my district, actively working to alleviate hunger and support our community. I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Mike Havala, the current President and CEO of Loaves & Fishes, along with all the dedicated members of this organization. May it continue to be a beacon of service for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP
POLICE DEPARTMENT LIEUTENANT
KENNETH MELLUS

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Lt. Kenneth Mellus, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles of accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Lt. Mellus has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

For the past thirty-eight years, Lt. Mellus has tirelessly served and protected our community here in Bucks County. Lt. Mellus began his career with the Middletown Township Police Department in 1985, first as a patrol officer before serving eight years as a K-9 handler alongside his faithful partner, K-9 Snowball. Following his promotion to Sergeant in 1995, he was instrumental in the development and implementation of several outstanding and successful community policing initiatives, including the Citizens Police Academy, Neshaminy School District's Adopt-a-Cop program, child fingerprinting/ID programs, K-9 demonstrations, and a series of Crime Prevention seminars. In 2011, he was promoted to Lieutenant and continued to be a driving force of innovation and positive change within the department. His efforts and contributions towards enhancing and improving the department's IT infrastructure resulted in nearly all the technology MTPD utilizes today. From dash cameras and departmental training to a records management and scheduling system, Lt. Mellus's vision and leadership were pivotal in revolutionizing the department's technological landscape and ensuring MTPD had the necessary tools to serve and protect our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Lt. Mellus that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. His actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand

gestures, but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. He embodies the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively, and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Lt. Mellus for his extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to

come. May his example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.