

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL'S PEACE WALL MURAL

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gilbert High School in Anaheim, California, for its collaboration with CITYarts' 50 States of Peace initiative to create a Peace Wall mural to be displayed on campus.

For the last 35 years, CITYarts has engaged students, art teachers, and professional artists to spread the message of peace through artistic expression in all 50 states of our nation. The Gilbert High School mural does just that.

The message, "Respecting the Rights of Others is Peace," is interwoven with brilliant imagery and colors that fill a wall located at the campus entrance. This welcoming piece of art and powerful message of peace now greets students and staff who enter the campus each school day and is seen by the hundreds of community members who visit the school's food pantry and resource center.

The Gilbert High School mural was commissioned to represent the State of California and was selected as number two in the 2024 CITYarts 50 States of Peace initiative. Gilbert High students worked with art teacher Janelle Frese and artist Jamie Kough throughout the creative process. After engaging in research, investigation, and collaboration around the idea of peace, the students created a design with imagery that was also inspired by discussions on social justice and participation in ethnic studies classes, art and music workshops, and school-wide civic engagement activities.

I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating this cohort of student artists, as well as their teachers and mentors, for elevating their imaginations and creative talents into a piece of art that is literally art for peace.

RECOGNIZING NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP'S LISA RUSSO

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional constituent from my district, Lisa Russo. Since she was a child, she was driven to serve her country in the military. And she did just that and joined the United States Navy from 1986 through 1992 as a Communications and Electronics Technician.

Lisa continued her civic service as the Administration Executive Assistant to the Northampton Township Manager since 2007. Lisa played an integral role in implementing and maintaining the Patriots Flag Program. She ensured the respectful transfer of 92 flags,

representing 92 residents honored under the Patriots Flag Program during the Global War on Terrorism from 2003 to 2021, to the display's new home in Northampton Township Library.

In addition, her substantial contributions were instrumental in creating awareness of the issues faced by Veterans, Active-Duty Service Members and their families, providing support to countless lives in our community. I am beyond proud of and exceptionally grateful for Lisa's service to our great nation and community. Her dedication to this country as a Navy Veteran demonstrates the highest commitment to the values that make America the beacon of liberty to the world. I am truly impressed by her determination to achieve so much and employ all her talents in service of others.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO GABRIEL GRIESS

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel Griess. After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Gabriel Griess was deployed to Afghanistan as a C-130 Cargo Aircraft Navigator in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Anaconda. His heroic service included evacuating critically injured troops, destroying Al Qaeda strongholds, flying in critical supplies, and providing air support to ground troops. He continued to serve in leadership and command positions with numerous worldwide deployments and tours of duty, journeying to over 40 countries. His valiant service earned him the Legion of Merit in 2013 and Air Mobility Command Company Grade Officer of the Year in 2003.

After 24 years, Lieutenant Colonel Griess retired from the U.S. Air Force and moved his family to Grapevine. Inspired by the quality of care and commitment of U.S. aero-medical evacuation teams while deployed, as well as the incredible healthcare professionals who treated his daughter's pediatric epilepsy, Mr. Griess founded Excel Medical Staffing and MedForceX, LLC, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses that provide contingent clinical staffing services across the country. He has been active in our community, serving on multiple city boards, coaching youth lacrosse, and integrating charity work into his company's referral program.

I'd like to thank Mr. Griess for going above and beyond to serve our North Texas community and our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD COLLINS

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ron Collins, Councilmember for the City of San Carlos, upon his retirement after 13 years of dedicated service to the city.

Ron Collins began his career of public service in San Mateo County in 1972, two years after he graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he earned his bachelor's degree in history. For seven years, he served as a public-school teacher and administrator in Half Moon Bay, and obtained a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from San Francisco State University. He then transitioned to the private sector undertaking a career in insurance, where he remained until his retirement in 2022. Ron was elected to the City Council of San Carlos in November 2011 and served in this position until December 2024. During his tenure, which included two stretches as Mayor, Ron undertook countless initiatives that have greatly improved the lives of San Carlos' residents.

Ron and his wife, Gayle, have lived in San Carlos for most of their lives. In addition to raising two children in the city, Ron has done much to improve the lives of children and families. This includes protecting children's safety by banning smoking in multi-family housing and banning the sale of flavored tobacco that particularly affect teenage populations. Ron additionally has sought to improve parents' access to childcare in San Carlos through passing a Child Care Development Impact Fee, which requires nonresidential developers to include childcare spaces on their sites, and approving a Childcare Grant Program designed to support local childcare operators in expanding their access to childcare.

During his time as a Councilmember, Ron also made significant improvements to make San Carlos more accessible from both an income and transportation standpoint. He supported the 2023-2031 San Carlos Housing Element, which aims to create a total of 1,164 new units of housing for low-income families and approved numerous other significant affordable housing developments. Ron also supported the San Carlos Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, aiming to make San Carlos a place where people can freely and safely navigate across the city's streets.

Ron has worked to plan for the future of San Carlos and has also sought to enhance the city in the present. Ron supported multiple sustainability initiatives to adapt San Carlos in the face of the threat of climate change, from beginning to transition San Carlos' fleet of Public Works vehicles to an EV platform, to adopting a disposable foodware ordinance. Ron has strengthened San Carlos' economic standing by overseeing the completion of

• 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.

projects such as the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and the Landmark Hotel. During his tenure, San Carlos updated and preserved many of the city's community facilities such as the San Carlos Library, the Youth Center, and the Adult Community Center. In doing so, Ron has provided San Carlos' residents with comprehensive spaces to congregate and enjoy the city's public resources.

Ron's impressive record as a Councilmember reflects his deep, longstanding commitment to improve the lives of San Carlos' residents. Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ron Collins for his years of service on the San Carlos City Council, commending him for his immense dedication towards the community he served, and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE DELAVAN
GRIDER COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable history and accomplishments of the Delavan Grider Community Center. Established in 2001, under the bold vision of passionate block club leaders, the Delavan Grider Community Center has evolved into a space where neighbors of all ages come together to share experiences and build lasting bonds that strengthen our community.

The Delavan Grider Community Center is a resource in our community—offering diverse programming for all ages, including youth and seniors, Girl Scouts, after-school programs, and summer activities. The programming offered by the Delavan Grider Community Center has empowered countless individuals, providing a safe environment where they can discover new skills, forge lifelong friendships, and grow in ways they never imagined.

The Delavan Grider Community Center is a beautiful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together with a shared purpose, as well as a reminder that there is always something and somewhere for everyone. This Center is not just a thriving hub in the heart of our community, but also a vital part of the fabric that makes the East Side of Buffalo strong, connected, and resilient.

Today, as we look back at all that the Delavan Grider Community Center has achieved, it is important to reflect on the many ways this center has enriched the lives of so many through its past accomplishments and the exciting future that lies ahead. Please join me in celebrating the Delavan Grider Community Center—may it continue to grow, inspire, and strengthen the power of community.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF
TEXAS' 26TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall and recognize the recipients of a special annual salute to honor local Veterans of the 26th Congressional District of Texas. Starting in 2005, I have had the privilege of honoring distinguished Veterans of my district with Texas' 26th Congressional District Veteran Commendation.

Our nation's Veterans have selflessly and honorably served our country and preserved our freedoms. It is because of their service that we enjoy all the liberties we are afforded. These brave men and women deserve our thanks and praise.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to publicly recognize eighty-six Veterans over the past two decades and honor their service through the presentation of the Congressional Veteran Commendation (CVC) at the annual "Salute Our Veterans" luncheon sponsored by the Highland Village Business Association (HVBA) and the City of Highland Village, Texas.

At this patriotic event each year, in addition to the announcement of the CVC recipients, each Veteran in attendance is afforded the opportunity to give their name and branch of service along with a highlight of their military service. With an annual attendance of over 250, the HVBA graciously covers the cost of the luncheon for attending Veterans and their guest.

As I retire from the U.S. House of Representatives, allow me to announce the five recipients of the 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation and add their names to the illustrious list of prior recipients.

2024

Thomas Balmer (Sergeant—U.S. Army), Carrollton
Kasey Brown (Sergeant—U.S. Marine Corps), Justin
Frank Dixon (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps), Flower Mound
Christopher Garner (Specialist—U.S. Army National Guard), Gainesville
John Miller (Captain—U.S. Army), Frisco

2023

Mary Garcia (Major—U.S. Air Force) of Lewisville
Timothy Qualls (Staff Sergeant—U.S. Air Force) of Savannah
David Seals, Jr. (Captain—U.S. Army) of Frisco
Melvin Sumrall (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps) of Denton

2022

James Brown (U.S. Marine Corps—Corporal), Sanger
Jere Delano (U.S. Air Force—SSGT), Denton
Lena Jackson-Lynch (U.S. Air Force—MSGT), Denton
Daniel Joseph (U.S. Army—Corporal), Lake Dallas
John Mulholland II (U.S. Navy—Petty Officer 2nd Class), Justin

2021

Carolyn Bradford (Specialist—U.S. Army), North Richland Hills

Richard Crossley, Jr. (Lt. Col.—U.S. Army), Flower Mound
Karl Monger (Captain—U.S. Army), Trophy Club
Michael Shasteen (Petty Officer Fourth Class—U.S. Navy), Frisco
Ron Trees (Lt. Col.—U.S. Air Force), Little Elm

2020

Paul Bastaich (Senior Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Oak Point
Richard Cook (Lieutenant—U.S. Navy), Double Oak
Jacob Schick (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps), Frisco
Dennis Sheridan (Captain—U.S. Army), Trophy Club
Danny Weakley (Master Sergeant—U.S. Army), Little Elm

2019

Sharon Balsley (Lt. Colonel—U.S. Army), Corinth
Carlos Gallardo (Captain—U.S. Air Force), Frisco
Tom Kim (Lt. Commander—U.S. Navy), Highland Village
Robert Kohankie II (Lt. Commander—U.S. Navy), Flower Mound
James Trombley (Sergeant—U.S. Marine Corps), Frisco

2018

Virgil Aldag (Specialist 4th Class—U.S. Army), Denton
Lewis Duckwall II (Gunnery Sergeant—U.S. Marine Corps), Lake Dallas
Robert Lessard (Sergeant First Class—U.S. Army), Aubrey
Christopher Martin (Colonel—U.S. Army), Argyle
Gustav Wittschack (Sergeant First Class—U.S. Army), Cross Roads

2017

Paul Farrar (Staff Sergeant—U.S. Army), Denton
Donald Graves (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps), Fort Worth
Paul Perez Jr. (Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Flower Mound
Donald Phillips (Chief Petty Officer—U.S. Navy), Denton
Johnnie Yellock II (Staff Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Lantana

2016

Roberta DuTeil (Lieutenant Junior Grade—U.S. Navy), Bartonville
William "Bill" Lawrence (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Highland Village
Virginia "Ginger" Simonson (Lieutenant Colonel—U.S. Army), Highland Village
Clinton Turner (Corporal—U.S. Army), Denton
Charles "Chuck" Wright (1st Lieutenant—U.S. Marine Corps), Frisco

2015

Jack Bailey (Major—U.S. Army/Commander—U.S. Navy), Flower Mound
Forrest Beadle (Captain—U.S. Army), Denton
Doug Brown (Chief Warrant Officer—U.S. Army), Flower Mound
Andre "Frenchy" Rheault (Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Denton
Gary Steele (Senior Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Denton

2014

Charles Correll (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Denton
Peter Lane (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Denton
Jack Milligan (Lieutenant Colonel—U.S. Army), Highland Village
Pat Smith (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Denton
William Splichal (Chief Warrant Officer 4—U.S. Army), Trophy Club

2013

Gilbert Brown (Sergeant—U.S. Army), Lewisville
 Jerry Galler (Storekeeper 3rd Class—U.S. Navy), Highland Village
 James Rosengren (Major—U.S. Army), Flower Mound

2012

Robert Baird (Lieutenant Colonel—U.S. Army), Lantana
 Victor Durrance (Sergeant—U.S. Army Air Force), Gainesville
 Andrew Fortunato (Lieutenant Colonel—U.S. Marine Corps), Keller
 Joe Gray (Colonel—U.S. Army), North Richland Hills
 Mugg Pawless (Private First Class—U.S. Army), Gainesville

2011

Gary Alexander (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps), Gainesville
 Julius Fambry (1st Sergeant—U.S. Army), The Colony
 Donald Langa (Lieutenant Commander—U.S. Navy), Denton
 Joe M. Leonard, Jr. (Captain—U.S. Army), Gainesville
 Leroy M. Williamson, Sr. (1st Lieutenant—U.S. Army/Air Force), Denton

2010

Major Lee Roy Keith, (U.S. Marine Corps), Denton
 Sergeant Arlen Ray Mayfield, Jr., (U.S. Army), Lewisville
 Master Sergeant Guy Northrup, (U.S. Marine Corps), Lewisville
 Colonel Larry Patterson, (U.S. Army), Highland Village
 Major Richard Stewart, (U.S. Army/U.S. Air Force), Denton

2009

Corporal Arthur F. Berg (U.S. Army), Lewisville
 Colonel Ernest L. Isbell (U.S. Army, Ret.), Highland Village
 Captain Hank Scheible (U.S. Air Force, Ret.), Denton

2008

Staff Sergeant Mark H. Graunke, Jr. (U.S. Marine Corps), Denton
 Commander Robert Heid (U.S. Navy, Ret.), Flower Mound
 Sergeant Donald W. Pettigrew (U.S. Marine Corps), Gainesville
 Colonel Walter W. Pine (U.S. Army/U.S. Air Force, Ret.), Keller
 Major Earl L. Russell, III (U.S. Army/Army Reserve, Ret.), Gainesville

2007

Lt. Col. Walter Dyer (U.S. Air Force, Ret.), Highland Village
 Col Susanne Hechinger (U.S. Air Force, TX ANG, Ret.), Flower Mound
 Col James P. Mariades (U.S. Marine Corps, Ret.), Copper Canyon
 Lt. Col. Edward “Red” Weir (U.S. Air Corps/Air Forces, U.S. Air Force, Ret.), Denton
 Capt William B. Springfield (U.S. Marine Corps, Ret.), Flower Mound

2006

Sgt. Maj. Thomas Blagg (U.S. Marine Corps, Ret.), Denton
 Mr. Woodrow Wilson Burch, Jr., (U.S. Army/U.S. Air Force), Denton
 Lt. Col. Ivan N. Glasscock (U.S. Air Force, Ret.), Denton

2005

Mr. Johnnie Bulen (U.S. Army), Lewisville
 Lt. Gen. Charles R. Hamm, (U.S. Air Force, Ret.), Argyle
 Mr. Reby Cary (Radioman First Class—U.S. Coast Guard), Fort Worth

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
 DAVID BIGGS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of David Biggs as he retires from his role as City Manager of Orinda.

David has brought a deep understanding of urban development to his work as City Manager of Orinda. After earning a degree in political science from California State University, Fullerton, he went on to earn his MBA from University of California Irvine. For the last ten years of his career, David has served as city manager of two cities in the East Bay, first in Hercules starting in 2014 and later in Orinda, beginning in 2021. During his time as City Manager of Orinda, he has worked tirelessly to serve our community, from his role in making Juneteenth an official holiday to his work to enhance Orinda's downtown area. David's hard work has helped to increase quality of life and foster a vibrant community throughout the city.

Further, David has been a leader in improving Orinda's roads, helping to improve connectivity throughout the city. He was instrumental in the continuation of this long-term project, which began in 2012, and his efforts improved the city's Pavement Condition Index (PCI) score from one of the lowest in the region to the second highest in the Bay Area. In recognition of his service, David was also awarded the 2020 Local Government Service Award by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), an accolade he certainly earned for his years of dedicated service to the people of Orinda and the East Bay.

Please join me in congratulating David Biggs on his well-deserved retirement after years of outstanding public service.

CELEBRATING METRA COMMUTER
 RAILROAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Metra Commuter Railroad as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Whereas, for the past 40 years, Metra has dedicated itself to providing my constituents and other Illinoisans with reliable, affordable transportation options to connect them to greater Chicagoland;

Whereas, on February 15, 2022, Metra approved its second strategic plan, My Metra, Our Future. While the name indicates a transportation plan, the motto My Metra also illustrates the ethos of the agency;

Whereas, Metra is not solely a transportation provider. It is an essential and reliable service that is there when you need it. To get you and your loved ones' home, and everywhere else, safely and comfortably. It is about meeting its riders' expectations and understanding their values and priorities for the region;

Whereas, My Metra was adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic—to ensure that trains kept running. Metra provided valuable services to essential workers in the healthcare field and other sectors who didn't have the option to work from home or take leave. Metra's own employees are part of this group of essential workers who proved that Metra is a source of continuity and connection, and a vital cog in economic and social life in Illinois; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I ROBIN L. KELLY, SERVING AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, RECOGNIZE the public servants who work for Metra while it celebrates its 40th anniversary and continues to serve our community.

HONORING DEPUTY ADJUTANT
 GENERAL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 WARREN PERRY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of New Hampshire's Deputy Adjutant General, Warren Perry, who is retiring later this year. For nine years, Warren has diligently served New Hampshire's Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services. In his role, he has played a key part in connecting military officials with the needs of New Hampshire and ensuring our veterans are receiving the support that they need.

Warren served our country for 28 years in the United States Army, and for that we are incredibly thankful. He is a veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom where he fought to keep the United States safe from foreign threats. In service to his fellow Granite Staters, when he returned home, Warren went on to serve as the State Inspector General for the New Hampshire National Guard.

Beyond national security, Warren has tirelessly served our communities on a local level. As Deputy Adjutant General, Warren has worked to strengthen the New Hampshire Veteran-Friendly Business Program and increase veterans' employment with our local businesses as they return from combat.

As a decorated soldier, Warren has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and many other distinguished honors. As a community leader, Warren has aided our veterans in their employment efforts. And as a proud member of a military family, Warren knows the meaning of service and has always strived to give back to his community. Warren has dedicated his life to the security of our Nation and the betterment of our communities.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Deputy Adjutant General Warren Perry for his service and wish him a happy retirement. I wish Warren and his family all the best in the years to come.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO ASHLEY BURNETT

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Southlake resident Ashley Burnett. Last year, Ashley found out her father, Todd, was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a progressive and fatal neuromuscular disease. Ashley has been working to raise awareness and funds for ALS research ever since. Over the summer, which marked the 10-year anniversary of the original ice bucket challenge to raise money for ALS research, Ashley hosted her own ice bucket challenge at Hawaiian Falls Waterpark in honor of her dad.

In Ashley's own words, "With a disease that is full of the unknown and often feels so hopeless, raising money through this event gives my family back a little bit of that hope." Through her efforts, Ashley is helping those living with ALS, and their loved ones; tackle the physical, emotional, and financial toll that comes from the devastating disease. Her challenge raised over \$15,000 for ALS research.

I'd like to thank Ashley for her efforts to support those living with ALS. She is an inspiration to North Texans and a beacon of hope to those suffering from the disease.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE
FRIENDS UNIVERSITY SINGING
QUAKERS

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Friends University Singing Quakers for a century of vocal excellence.

The Singing Quakers have proven to be a premier choral group that has taken their talents across the country, including our nation's capital, and even around the world. They have entertained Kansans locally with annual home concerts, Christmas candlelight concerts and Symphony of Spring.

The many men and women who have performed with this prestigious group should be commended for their incredible talent, dedication to musical greatness, camaraderie and character. The Friends University Singing Quakers represent their institution and our region well.

I also want to recognize the phenomenal leadership of the Singing Quakers' directors, including current director Dr. Rayvon T.J. Moore, recent director Dr. Mark Bartel and longtime director Dr. Cecil Riney. They have elevated choral music in Kansas and are well-respected far beyond the Sunflower State.

As they gather this weekend to celebrate and perform, I want to thank the alumni and current performers of the Friends University Singing Quakers for providing our region with exceptional choral music for 100 years.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY CONFERENCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax County History Commission on the occasion of the 20th Annual Fairfax County History Conference.

Since 1969, the Fairfax County History Commission has worked to identify, document, record and preserve the history of our region. There are few areas in the country that are as rich in history as our area is. The History Conference provides an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year while recognizing our neighbors who have made significant contributions to preserving and promoting our local history. Through the dedicated efforts of the History Commission and its many volunteers, we are assured that our history will not be lost and will be available for future generations.

This year, a number of dedicated individuals are being honored for their commitment to the preservation and education of history. I am proud to include in the Record their names:

Dr. Glenn Fatzinger received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his career as a distinguished historian and educator.

Tom Shoop received the Nan Netherton Award for his book, *ILDA*, that brings to life the stories and history of a small, interracial enterprising village in Fairfax County.

Etta Wilson, Rita Colbelt, Linneall Naylor, and Rondia Prescott with Jenee Lindner received the Cultural Engagement Heritage Award for their book, *Black Communities of Fairfax — A History*, that serves as an anthology of Fairfax County's rich Black Heritage.

Gibran Parvez received the Edith Moore Sprouse Award for the creation of his website, *Heritage Dulles*, that is an interactive online map and historical essay allowing readers to explore the area within and around Dulles Airport over multiple time periods.

Dr. Krystyn Moon, Kristin Neun, Dr. Matt Bakker, and Janine Dewitt received the Beth Mitchell Award for their website, *Documenting Exclusion & Resilience*, that examines the racial dynamics among property owners in Northern Virginia and Fairfax County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating all the honorees and thanking the Fairfax County History Commission for the important work they do for the Northern Virginia community.

HONORING WARREN COUNTY'S
BICENTENNIAL

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor historic Warren County, which is celebrating its bicentennial anniversary this fall. Warren County was incorporated in November of 1824 through an act of the New Jersey State Legislature, which named the new county after the renowned Revolu-

tionary War hero, Dr. Joseph Warren. At the time of her founding, a sum of almost \$10,000 was raised to build a county courthouse that is still in use to this day.

Warren County has historically been an important locus of transportation and commerce. In the 1650s, Dutch settlers built a road to carry mined copper in the region across colony lines to New York. Today, "Old Mine Road" is a popular visitor attraction for both New Jersey residents and tourists from across the country. Through the 19th century, Warren County expanded in commercial importance, hosting a large part of the Morris Canal, which connected the New Jersey and Pennsylvania countryside to metropolitan markets on the eastern seaboard. Phillipsburg, New Jersey, also became a major hub for five major railroads.

The County also has a long history of industriousness and prosperity. In the 1830s, furnaces in Oxford, New Jersey, became the first in the Nation to use the hot blast process, while a Phillipsburg furnace was one of the first to employ the Bessemer process. Phillipsburg was also home to the first commercially successful diesel-electric train engines. In the 20th century, a heavy manufacturing plant in Phillipsburg provided critical machinery for the Allied World War II victory. Today, Warren County remains the leading manufacturing county among the 21 counties of New Jersey.

Agriculture has long been a staple of Warren County's prosperity and health. Warren County feeds New Jerseyans as the top producing County of milk, dairy, cattle, feed corn, and eggs. The county's proud tradition of family-owned farms continues to provide quality fresh produce to residents across New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

It is my honor to congratulate the communities of Warren County on their bicentennial celebration, as it continues to be a pillar of New Jersey and American agriculture, industry, and history.

CELEBRATING JACKIE RAILY
AND HER YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE TO WYNMOOR AND THE
CITY OF COCONUT CREEK

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jackie Railey of Coconut Creek, Florida, for her many years of dedicated service to the Wynmoor community and the broader Coconut Creek area. Jackie's commitment to public service has greatly enriched the lives of her neighbors, and her continued leadership has strengthened the entire community.

In addition to her longstanding contributions to Wynmoor, Jackie Railey has served as a Coconut Creek City Commissioner, where her dedication to the public good has made a profound difference in the lives of our residents. Throughout her tenure on the City Commission, Jackie has been an advocate for responsible governance, fostering transparency and responsiveness to the needs of the people. Her role as a commissioner has been marked by her focus on community engagement, environmental sustainability, and maintaining Coconut Creek's high quality of life.

Jackie is the President of the Wynmoor Community Council, President and Council Representative for Martinique III Village Condominium Association, and Special Events Vice President of the Wynmoor Golf Association. Jackie's service to Wynmoor spans many years, during which she has taken on a wide range of roles, from advocating for improved amenities and recreational spaces to leading social programs that bring residents together. Her initiatives have fostered a sense of unity within the community and have enriched the lives of all who call Wynmoor home. As a City Commissioner and a devoted community volunteer, Jackie has shown exceptional leadership, integrity, and commitment to her constituents. Her legacy of service is an inspiration to all who work alongside her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Jackie Railey's invaluable contributions to the community. Her years of service as a City Commissioner and community leader have left an indelible mark, and we are deeply grateful for her unwavering dedication. I thank Jackie Railey for her exceptional commitment to our community and look forward to the lasting impact of her work.

HONORING VIETNAM WAR
VETERAN RICH ALLEN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Rich Allen, a distinguished military veteran and the longest tenured employee at Lansing Community College. Rich Allen's life exemplifies dedication to both education and service. His story is one of unwavering commitment to his country and to higher education.

Born on June 11, 1945 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Rich moved with his family to Michigan in the 1950s. He grew up in Michigan and graduated from Chelsea High School in 1963. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cleary University, Rich chose to enlist in the U.S. Army in 1967 during the height of the Vietnam War. He served with the Army Security Agency, a predecessor of today's National Security Agency, which was tasked with electronic intelligence and warfare. Agency operators played a critical role in intercepting and decoding enemy radio transmissions to provide vital intelligence to American forces.

As a Morse Intercept Operator, Rich underwent rigorous training, mastering Morse code. In 1968, he was deployed to Vietnam stationed at the 303rd Radio Research Battalion, an undercover unit for Army Security Agency operators. Rich performed critical tasks such as tracking enemy radio transmissions and triangulating positions to support military operations. His work, which often included helicopter reconnaissance to gather frontline intelligence, was crucial to the war effort, coordinating intelligence that informed artillery and airstrikes.

Rich's distinguished service earned him numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal, all recognizing his technical expertise and steadfast commitment.

After his honorable discharge in 1971, Rich returned to Michigan and enrolled at Lansing

Community College, marking the beginning of a 50-year career. While pursuing a degree in computer programming, he began as a student programmer in 1973 and soon transitioned to a full-time position in the Information Technology Department, where he helped advance the college's technological capabilities. From writing code on punch cards and using early computer systems to developing the college's first online system in 1975, his work laid the foundation for modern IT practices at Lansing Community College.

Over his tenure spanning more than five decades, Rich Allen has served under seven college presidents and held various job titles, adapting to each new wave of technology. His expertise and collaborative spirit has helped countless colleagues, earning him deep respect within the Lansing community.

Rich's legacy is marked not only by his military service and professional accomplishments but also by his dedication to his family. He finds joy in spending time with his son and grandchildren, fishing, camping, and gardening—a testament to living a well-rounded life. It is with profound respect and gratitude that I recognize his service.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GOODWIN

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Goodwin, Councilmember and current Mayor of the Town of Colma, upon his retirement after 35 years of serving the public.

Mr. Goodwin was born in a small community near Denver, Colorado, in 1960. His love of the outdoors and passion for serving others led him to begin his career as a National Park Service law enforcement ranger. For 27 years, Mr. Goodwin worked in National Parks across the continental United States, traveling from the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, to Mount Rainier in Washington State, to the Everglades in Florida, and finally to Golden Gate National Recreation Area in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mr. Goodwin's extensive career as a National Park Service ranger is emblematic of his commitment to helping others. He put his life on the line numerous times, saving many others in the process as well as nearly losing his own from two devastating lightning strikes. Mr. Goodwin endured the physical and mental costs of the dangers of his career, including a decade-long battle with post-traumatic stress disorder. However, with the help of his family and friends, Mr. Goodwin persevered, seeking treatment at the West Coast Post Trauma Retreat and continuing his mission to help others. He later documented many of his unforgettable stories in his memoir "Echoes of the Badge: Stories from a National Park Service Career" where he poignantly shared the joys and tribulations of his 27 years as a ranger.

In 2016, after retiring from the National Park Service, Mr. Goodwin decided to continue his career of public service by successfully running for an elected seat on Town of Colma City Council. Referred to as the "City of Souls," this small community just south of San Francisco is unique in that much of its land is dominated by cemeteries—the population of

the dead is speculated to outnumber the living by a ratio of one thousand to one. During his tenure as a councilmember, Mr. Goodwin embarked on numerous initiatives to cultivate the vitality of the town. He pushed for increased multi-cultural recreation events, supported public art projects, championed flag-raising to honor the diversity of the town's residents, and offered his unwavering support for local businesses. He additionally welcomed Colma's Veteran's Village with open arms, providing 65 units of housing for formerly homeless veterans and their families. Mr. Goodwin served as Mayor of Colma in 2020, where he worked tirelessly to protect his constituents and the town's local businesses during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024, he again took office as Mayor, serving the town on the 100th anniversary of the town's incorporation.

Mr. Goodwin has also demonstrated exemplary community service outside of his official leadership positions in Colma. He has volunteered and raised thousands of dollars for various mental illness and veteran support organizations, including the Wounded Warrior Project, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and for 9/11 survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the extraordinary service to the public that John Goodwin has presented over his 35-year career. All of the lives that he has touched are better off through his dedication and commitment.

CONGRATULATING ENVISION DALLAS ON A NEW FACILITY IN FARMERS BRANCH

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Envision Dallas on the grand opening of its new facility in Farmers Branch, Texas. Envision Dallas has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to our community and dedicated countless hours to the development of a state-of-the-art facility that will serve as a beacon of hope, opportunity, and empowerment for many North Texans.

The transformation of the long-abandoned AT&T call center in Farmers Branch is nothing short of remarkable. This building, which had stood vacant for over a decade, has now been revitalized into a hub of economic growth and empowerment. The project has not only breathed new life into this space, but it has also created over 100 jobs for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, providing them with meaningful employment through the AbilityOne program. This level of investment and impact is precisely the kind of initiative that strengthens our communities.

In addition to its direct contributions to economic development, Envision Dallas plays a critical role in supporting our national defense. Through its work as a key AbilityOne provider, Envision Dallas supplies essential items such as battle dress uniforms, office supplies, presentation binders, printing support, and eyeglass cases to our military. This commitment underscores its vital role in supporting those who ensure our national security every day.

Envision Dallas also extends its impact closer to home by directly supporting the State of

Texas through its provision of essential safety gear to our road and highway workers through the Texas Workforce Commission and food products to the Texas prison system. Beyond its contributions to defense and state operations, Envision Dallas offers an array of essential services that will benefit countless families in North Texas. The Cathy G. Hudson Envision Child Development Center will nurture our youngest learners, ensuring children of all abilities have the foundation they need to succeed. The Perot Welcome Center will serve as a vital resource for families and individuals seeking support. The newly established Envision Vision and Rehabilitation Clinic will provide cutting-edge care to those with vision impairments, while the William L. Hudson Workforce Innovation Center will empower individuals who are blind or visually impaired to gain the skills and confidence necessary to excel in today's workforce.

Envision Dallas is setting a powerful example of what it means to truly invest in people, infrastructure, and the future of our community. This transformative facility will no doubt have a positive impact on North Texas for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FRED
POWELL

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable constituent from my district, Fred Powell, as he approaches his 103rd birthday in May 2025. With over a century of life experiences, Fred's journey is one of service, dedication, and community that deserves recognition.

After his honorable discharge from the Army, Fred joined the family business, Powell's Electric Shop, which was founded in 1922

by his father and great-uncle. What began as a small appliance store on York Road in Hatboro grew over the decades into a full-service electrical company serving Bucks and Montgomery counties. Fred took the reins of the business in the 1950s, working alongside his father until he eventually purchased the business and expanded it further.

Fred's dedication to Powell's Electric Shop laid the foundation for the company's success, and in 1990, after nearly 40 years of leadership, he passed the torch to his son Doug, continuing the Powell family legacy into its third generation. Today, Powell's Electric Shop remains a trusted family-owned business, with Doug at the helm, continuing to provide excellent service to the community.

In his retirement, Fred enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren. He remains an active member of his community, attending resident meetings and participating in social events at The Manor at York Town. Fred also stays connected with friends and neighbors through various programs and classes at the Manor.

As we celebrate Fred Powell's incredible life over 100 years, we honor his service to our country, his contributions to the success of his family business, and his unwavering commitment to his community. Fred's legacy is one of hard work, dedication, and an enduring love for his family and friends. We are deeply grateful for his many contributions and wish him continued health and happiness in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING LA PURISIMA
CATHOLIC CHURCH'S 100-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize La Purisima Catholic Church, a pil-

lar of our community that has served parishioners in the City of Orange for the last century.

Established in 1924 on Center Street as La Purisima Mission, the church opened through the generous donation of Mr. Remedios Mares and originally served local residents and seasonal workers from Mexico. In October of 1957, La Purisima Mission came under the spiritual caretaking of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, who oversaw the mission's growth partly due to the influx of new residents to the area from Orange's burgeoning aerospace industry. This period also saw an expansion of services provided to local residents, including the first "Fiestas" beginning in 1958 and the parochial school opened by Sisters of the Company of Mary in 1964.

In 1962, La Purisima's "old church" building was constructed. It was in this building where La Purisima was granted Parish status on May 8, 1964, by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. La Purisima would join the newly formed Diocese of Orange on June 18, 1976.

The growth of Vietnamese and Hispanic American communities in and around the parish of La Purisima led to some of the first trilingual liturgies in the Diocese of Orange. Due to the popularity of the trilingual liturgies and the growth of the community at La Purisima, parishioners received permission in 1999 to begin efforts to build a larger church building that remains in use today, dedicated on June 4, 2005, by Bishop Tod Brown.

This year the La Purisima Catholic Church celebrates its 100th anniversary, a testament to its commitment to service in the community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing La Purisima Catholic Church's 100 years of service to the residents of the City of Orange, and in wishing them a bright future of faith and service.