

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MARYVILLE ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it was my pleasure to visit the Maryville Addiction Treatment Center in Vineland, South Jersey, and to congratulate them on 75 years of service in New Jersey. Founded in Williamstown, Maryville has been serving the community since 1949 when Father Bennett Conway established the institute to help alcoholic men achieve sobriety. Over the years, it has evolved into a comprehensive organization with four separate campuses across New Jersey, providing assistance to individuals and families struggling with addiction. Maryville opened its first outpatient clinic in 1979, followed by the Vineland office. Just recently, they also acquired the Burlington County 54-bed residential facility, now known as the Post House at Maryville. They offer a variety of services, including withdrawal management, residential treatment, medication-assisted treatment, and outpatient care. Maryville also has a treatment continuum for individuals dealing with multiple mental health conditions, provided by licensed counselors and Advanced Practice Nurses. Maryville's commitment to healing is a true asset to South Jersey, and I am proud to support their work. God bless Maryville Integrated Care, and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING NANCY NEVERS

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional public servant, Nancy Nevers, who has dedicated twenty years of service to Macomb Township as an elected trustee. Born on September 17, 1941, in Detroit, Michigan, Nancy's journey has been one marked by a deep commitment to her community and a passion for public service. She attended Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School in Detroit before her family relocated to Dearborn Heights, where she completed her high school education. Nancy went on to further her education at Central Michigan University where she studied business administration. She also received further education from Michigan State University through the citizen planner program.

In 1962, Nancy married Larry Nevers, and together they raised a daughter, Kelly. Today, Nancy is the exceptionally proud and devoted grandmother to Madeleine Bingham, a role that brings her immense joy and fulfillment.

A resident of Macomb Township for the past twenty-four years, Nancy has been an elected

member of the Macomb Township Board of Trustees since 2004. Over the years, she has shown an unwavering dedication to the welfare of her community, contributing her time and talents to a variety of causes and initiatives. Nancy has served as an active member of both the Friends of Macomb Township Foundation and the Kiwanis Club, where she helped raise funds to support scholarships for deserving youth, assisted foster children, and contributed to many other charitable endeavors.

Among her many contributions, one of the most significant is Nancy's leadership in the creation and dedication of a public memorial to first responders and military veterans on the grounds of the Macomb Township Hall. This memorial stands as a tribute to the brave individuals who serve our nation and our community.

Throughout her tenure, Trustee Nevers has been instrumental in guiding Macomb Township through both internal and external challenges with grace, wisdom, and a steadfast commitment to progress. She has played a key role in the expansion of the Township's recreation amenities, roadways, and sidewalks, ensuring that Macomb Township remains a vibrant, accessible, and safe community. Additionally, her work in enhancing public safety resources has been vital to improving the quality of life for all residents.

Beyond her public service, Nancy is a big Elvis Presley fan and enjoys gardening, interior decorating, and design. These personal interests reflect her creative spirit and love for making her surroundings beautiful.

Trustee Nevers' contributions to Macomb Township and her dedication to improving the lives of those around her have made a lasting impact. Her legacy of service, compassion, and leadership will undoubtedly continue to inspire the community for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Nancy Nevers for her remarkable achievements and expressing our gratitude for her unwavering service to Macomb Township.

RECOGNIZING JOHN DEFOORE, SR. FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John DeFoore, Sr. At 105 years old, Mr. DeFoore is one of the oldest living graduates of Mississippi College. Born on June 12, 1919, Mr. DeFoore left his home at 17 years old to work with a construction crew. When he finished high school, Mr. DeFoore hitchhiked to Clinton, Mississippi, to enroll at Mississippi College. Mr. DeFoore knew the importance of gaining a good education and thought the best place would be Mississippi College. While at Mississippi College, Mr.

DeFoore milked cows to pay for his room and tuition. Mr. DeFoore was an atheist when he entered Mississippi College, but he accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior while a student and became an ordained Baptist minister in 1941.

While in college, Mr. DeFoore joined a National Guard band to keep up his musical skills and gain a school scholarship. Shortly after, the band was inducted into the federal service, and Mr. DeFoore was sent for one-year training at Camp Landing, Florida. What started out as a one-year training turned into seven years after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Mr. DeFoore was promoted from Private-First Class to Second Lieutenant during his service and received the Bronze Cross for service "above and beyond" during an amphibious landing on Morotai Island, Indonesia.

After his service, Mr. DeFoore returned to Mississippi College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1947. Mr. DeFoore went on to earn his Master of Theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Since graduating, Mr. DeFoore has continued to invest both in his alma mater, Mississippi College, and in Mississippi. His family still lives in the state, but Mr. DeFoore has retired to Texas.

I am proud to recognize Mr. John DeFoore, Sr. and his service to our country. Stories like Mr. DeFoore's remind us of the value of the American Dream, the significance of living a life of one's calling, and leaving a legacy of service.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE FRANK HORNSTEIN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legend and a force in Minnesota government—Representative Frank Hornstein. After an impressive 22-year tenure in the Minnesota House, Representative Hornstein is wrapping up his service in the Legislature. I ask you all to join me in recognizing the contributions of this accomplished legislator, devoted organizer, and dear friend.

Representative Hornstein first came to Minnesota to attend Macalester College, majoring in environmental studies. After graduate school, he worked as a community organizer and advocate for environmental issues. He was then appointed to the Metropolitan Council, beginning what would be a long and impressive tenure driving forward an equitable transportation system, environmental justice, and human rights in the Twin Cities and across the state.

Throughout his time in the Minnesota Legislature, Representative Hornstein has been a force for progressive transportation and transit policy. He moved forward major investments in light rail, bus rapid transit, and commuter

• 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.

rail, expanding our transit network to serve thousands of new riders. He advanced legislation to limit speed limits in residential areas, reduce distracted driving, and expand the use of electric buses and vehicles. He also secured major investments in bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Our transportation system is ultimately a reflection of our values and Representative Hornstein has devoted his career to making a transportation system that has a place for all Minnesotans, regardless of their income, zip code, or immigration status. His leadership and movement-building culminated in a “transformative transportation bill that was 20 years in the making,” as he wrote about his departure from the Minnesota House.

Beyond his work on transportation and transit, Representative Hornstein has been a leader on broader environmental justice initiatives—advancing work to reduce food waste and its corresponding climate impacts, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions across the economy, and moving toward a zero-waste society. He has also been a steadfast advocate for human rights for all, leading work to address hate crimes and requiring Holocaust curriculum in all public K–12 schools.

Wherever Representative Hornstein’s future leads him, I know that he will be making the world a better place for every single one of us. His tenure in the House will be remembered for years to come, and I am proud that future generations of Minnesotans will grow up with the benefits of his hard work. Please help me congratulate Representative Frank Hornstein on his retirement from the Minnesota House.

RECOGNIZING OMICRON KAPPA KAPPA CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC. FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENT WEEK AND HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Omicron Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. for its Achievement Week and Honorees.

Since 1925, Achievement Week has been an annual, internationally mandated program of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Omega Psi Phi’s Achievement Week is observed in November of each year and is designed to seek out and give due recognition to those individuals at the local and international levels who have made a noteworthy contribution toward improving the quality of life for Black Americans. Chapters celebrate their communities and engage the public through exhibits, activities, meetings and forums in schools, churches, and public halls.

The fraternity’s 2024 International Achievement Week is from November 10, 2024, to November 17, 2024. This year’s Achievement Week theme is “Omega Men Building a Better Society with Friendship as the Foundation.”

The Omicron Kappa Kappa (OKK) Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. received its graduate chapter charter on December 14, 1996, and serves primarily the Fairfax, Herndon, and Reston, VA areas.

The fraternity’s Annual Achievement Week Awards Luncheon serves as an opportunity to

recognize our youth and members of the community for their contributions to the chapter and the community over the past year. This year’s Achievement Week Awards Luncheon serves as a fundraiser in support of OKK Chapter’s charitable and community outreach. OKK awards recipients include:

OKK Founders’ Trailblazer Award: Dr. Gregory Washington, President, George Mason University

OKK Basileus Award for Excellence in Media: Curtis Symonds, President and Co-Founder, HBCU Go

OKK Young Man of the Year Award: Heman Bekele, TIME Magazine Kid of the Year Annual High School Essay Contest Winners: Solomon Broiles, Battlefield HS; Gabrielle Jackson, John Champe HS; Gordon “LJ” Person, Centerville HS; David Ransom, South County HS.

Dr. Ernest Everett Just Award for Excellence in Microbiology: Shumvobi Mitra, Langley HS

Dr. Oscar J. Cooper, M.D. Award for Excellence in Biomedical and Health Sciences: Sampurna Chakravorty, Chantilly HS

Dr. Edgar A. Love Award for Excellence in Biomedical Engineering: Aneesh Mandapati, South Lakes HS

Professor Frank Coleman Award for Excellence in Physics and Astronomy: Emmy Leong, George C. Marshall HS

Charles Vernon Smith Award for Excellence in Computer Science and Mathematics: Manav Gagvani, Thomas Jefferson HS

Brigadier General (Brother) Charles Young Military Leadership Award: Staff Sergeant (Brother) Tres Savage, Virginia National Guard

Citizen of the Year Award: Stacey Seay, Pastoral Assistant, First Baptist Church of Vienna

Founders’ Lifetime Achievement Award: Brother LTC (Ret) Earl Smith, Jr.

Superior Service Award: Brother Gerald Hamilton (Co-Awardee) Brother James Daniels (Co-Awardee)

Omega Man of the Year Award: Brother Keith Evans

Service Pins: Brother Eddie L. Colter, 35 Years of Service; Brother Steve Lewis, 40 Years of Service; Brother George Johnson, 65 Years of Service; Brother Luther Williams, 70 years of Service.

Lastly, the OKK Foundation, Inc. will recognize Brother George Johnson, Immediate Past President, for his years of leadership and service as President from 2009 to 2024.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the men of Omega Psi Phi Inc. and the honorees for this year’s Achievement Week.

COMMEMORATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the establishment of the Frelinghuysen Township Volunteer Fire Company in Frelinghuysen, NJ.

The establishment of this fire company in 2022 marked the creation of the first all-volunteer company in the State of New Jersey in almost 30 years. As an advocate for local law enforcement in New Jersey, I recognize the Frelinghuysen Volunteer Fire Company as a testament to the hard-working people who tirelessly dedicate themselves to making our communities safer. The volunteers at the Frelinghuysen Fire Company dedicate their time to strengthening community relationships and providing high-quality emergency response services to all of Frelinghuysen Township. As we celebrate and honor this remarkable all-volunteer fire company, I have full confidence and trust that its volunteers will continue to serve with pride and distinction, striving to make a lasting difference in their community.

RECOGNIZING MRS. SYLVIA CHAVEZ

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Mr. FONG, to honor Mrs. Sylvia Chavez as she is named 2024 Cattlewoman of the Year by the Kern County Cattlewomen’s Association.

Mrs. Chavez was born on February 21, 1943, and is a third-generation native of Kern County. From a young age, she has been deeply involved in the livestock industry, spending her youth competing in county fairs and attending brandings with her parents. At just six years old, Mrs. Chavez won her first horse show at the Kern County Fair. After graduating from South High School in 1961, she continued her education at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Chavez has used her passion for livestock and cattle for meaningful service to her community. After her family relocated to Rosedale in 1968, she became involved in the 4–H agriculture program, volunteering her time to empower youth to explore their interests in livestock. She was instrumental in introducing the 4–H and Future Farmers of America Horse Show to the Kern County Fair, creating hands-on learning experiences for local youth. In 1978, she began working at a resort in Bear Valley Springs to manage the Equestrian Center and was proud to hire many young Central Valley residents interested in the horse business.

Mrs. Chavez’s career has spanned three different ranches. She first joined her husband, Fred in 1978 to work on a large ranch in the panhandle of Idaho. The couple later moved to Oregon where she helped manage a 50,000-acre ranch with 2,000 cattle. They then returned to California to manage Cattani Ranch by Caliente Creek. In addition to ranching, Mrs. Chavez has served her community by working for the California Correctional Institution. Mrs. Chavez is the proud mother of three children—Julie Ann, John, and Megan, and grandmother to five. After her retirement, Mrs. Chavez became deeply involved with the Kern County Cattlewomen’s Association, serving on the board and dedicating countless hours to the association’s events. She is a longtime member of the Kern Sierra Unit of

Backcountry Horsemen of California, where she has served as president.

Through her many years of work and service, Mrs. Chavez's impact has been immense. Since 1962, the Kern County Cattlewomen's Association has named a Cattlewoman of the Year, celebrating the hard work, sacrifice, and dedication that an individual has made for the success of the Kern County cattle industry. As this year's recipient, Mrs. Chavez is recognized for her tremendous impact on the Kern County community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Sylvia Chavez for being named the 2024 Kern County Cattlewoman of the Year, and thank her for her contributions to the Kern County community and cattle industry.

HONORING ADITI MUTHUKUMAR

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aditi Muthukumar of Westminster, Colorado for earning the Rookie of the Year Award in the 2024 Congressional App Challenge.

Aditi built an interactive app called SafeSpace, which provides young people with mental and behavioral health resources and uses a trained machine learning model to help give advice on symptoms and share resources.

Aditi spent countless hours and used many tools to develop her app and advance her STEM education.

I congratulate Aditi Muthukumar for her success in the Congressional App Challenge. I am certain she will exhibit the same dedication and character in her future accomplishments. I am excited to see all she will accomplish.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRY GORINO

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Henry Gorino, who left a profound impact on Western New York's restaurant industry and the region as a whole. Mr. Gorino, a legendary restaurateur and a beloved figure, was a visionary behind some of Western New York's most iconic and flavorful establishments.

As the force behind restaurants such as Oliver's, Siena, 800 Maple, Rocco's Pizza, and JT's, Mr. Gorino had been in the restaurant industry for nearly thirty years. Throughout his tenure, he mentored some of the region's most well-known chefs and provided a space for friends and family to gather for great food and conversation. Henry's ability to lovingly push aspiring chefs and owners to the next level was an example of why his legacy will live on in the hospitality industry of our region.

Henry Gorino's legacy is not just in his culinary achievements but in the countless lives

he touched with his kindness, generosity, and unwavering support. He truly embodied the spirit of community, showing us all what it means to give oneself toward the betterment and nourishment of others. His love and dedication to service will forever be an inspiration to us all.

Today, as we commemorate the life and legacy of Henry Gorino, let us remember him not only for his outstanding service and compassion but also for his dedication to continuously uplifting others. While he may no longer be with us in body, his spirit lives on in the community he cherished so deeply.

HONORING VINELAND FIRE CHIEF LOU A. TRAMONTANA, JR.

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor retiring Vineland Fire Chief Lou A. Tramontana, Jr. Lou is a city official, local businessman, and dedicated volunteer who has served as the Chief of the Vineland Fire Department since 2017. He has had a passion for firefighting for many years, beginning his service 37 years ago when he joined the New Jersey State Forest Fire Service, where he is still the District Warden. In 1992, Lou joined the City of Vineland Fire Department, becoming a career firefighter two years later and achieving the rank of Captain in 2006. He earned countless New Jersey fire certifications, including Fire Official, Officer, and Investigator, as well as becoming a Level 2 Instructor with an FAA Drone Pilot License. Lou was also recognized as Fireman of the Year, served as president of the Vineland Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association, and raised over \$200,000 for burn victims. In addition to his firefighting duties, Lou serves as the president of the board of the Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA, a position he has held for 11 years. Lou credits his wife, Lisa, and his two stepchildren, D.J. and Carli, along with his longtime friend Brandon, as the people who have made his life complete. I thank Lou for his many years of dedicated service to Vineland. God bless Lou, and God bless our United States of America.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NEIL MIDDLETON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Neil Middleton for his distinguished and award-winning career in journalism, as a long-time trusted news broadcaster and Vice President of WYMT-TV, a CBS affiliate in Hazard, Kentucky.

Broadcasting from the heart of Kentucky's Appalachian region, the station's call letters stand for, "We're Your Mountain Television." It's much more than an acronym. It's the station's mission. WYMT-TV has become synonymous with the very region it serves, thanks in-large-part to the leadership and journalistic

integrity of Neil Middleton, and those who blazed a trail for news coverage and weather alerts in one of the most rural areas of the United States. In an expansive region, separated by mountainous terrain, national media outlets have only made their way to Appalachia after major disasters, while others have blistered our communities by dredging up negative stereotypes that have misrepresented our beloved hometowns that are filled with hard-working, innovative and extremely talented people. As both well-known and unknown reporters from the around the country have breezed in and out of our region for 15-seconds of fame, it is WYMT that has earned the trust of southern and eastern Kentuckians since the station first signed on the air in 1985. They have not only provided life-saving weather alerts during catastrophic floods and tornado outbreaks, but they have followed their news coverage with fundraising telethons, using the power of the airwaves to collect vital donations to help our communities recover in the wake of disaster. WYMT has also built a reputation for holding local, state and federal leaders accountable in the public eye, while not only providing critical news to the region in every newscast, but also celebrating our victories in regional development and success. Thanks to their central location in the region, mountain student athletes have had an exclusive highlight reel on the station's Sports Overtime program, swelling up pride through every rural county for student athletes who get little notoriety elsewhere. In fact, that's where Neil Middleton started his broadcast television news career in 1987, driving across the mountains from Harlan County every day to cover news and sports in southeastern Kentucky for WYMT and WKYT-TV in Lexington, Kentucky.

Starting out as a radio DJ in high school, Neil worked his way up the ranks as a broadcaster, eventually taking over the helm of WYMT as Vice President and General Manager. Under his leadership, WYMT achieved record-breaking growth in advertising sales, expanded newscasts for news, sports and weather, developed new digital media assets, and earned countless accolades, including regional Emmy awards. The Associated Press has also recognized Neil's personal excellence in journalism with numerous awards throughout his career. His same passion and work for the region has also been recognized by the Kentucky National Guard, local Chambers of Commerce and many others.

Over the last four decades, Neil's passion to serve Kentucky's Appalachian region has reached far beyond the news desk. He has served as a board member for several organizations in the region, including the Center for Rural Development, One East Kentucky, Alice Lloyd College, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, East Kentucky Leadership Foundation, the Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky and the Kentucky Associated Press, among others.

As Neil closes this chapter of his career at WYMT, I want to express my deepest gratitude for his unwavering commitment and loyalty to Kentucky's Appalachian region. With every breath, he has advocated for growth and development in the mountains, understanding the value of every investment here, and likewise, the pain of every opportunity sent away from Central Appalachia. It has been an honor to work in tandem with Neil on many projects, including a hard-fought battle to add WYMT to satellite broadcasts in select

areas to ensure local people have access to news and weather alerts close to home. Neil should take great pride in his efforts to make southern and eastern Kentucky a better place to live.

CONGRATULATING STEVEN R.
SCHNEIDER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steven R. Schneider, who is retiring after 30 years of dedicated service as Village President of Almont, Michigan. His unwavering dedication and exceptional leadership have profoundly impacted our community.

Born in Detroit in 1943, Steve's roots are firmly planted in the rich history of this vibrant city. As a first-generation American, he embodies the spirit of resilience, having been raised by parents who were Austrian immigrants fleeing the horrors of World War II in search of a better life.

Steve married the love of his life, Sylvia, in 1985, and together they shared nearly three decades of love, joy, and partnership. Their bond was one of mutual respect and admiration, and they raised a beautiful family in the process. Steve is a proud father to his son, Steven C. Schneider, and a loving grandfather to his two cherished grandchildren, Theodore and Alexander. His role as a father and grandfather is a source of immense pride and joy, and he has always been there with sage advice, quiet support, and endless love.

Steve graduated from Henry Ford High School and pursued higher education at Wayne State University, where he studied history and psychology. His commitment to learning culminated in a Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School in 1967. Steve then began his legal career, notably participating in the landmark Algiers Motel case. He defended clients, including Reverend C.L. Franklin, and served on the Macomb County Law Enforcement Commission, impacting justice in our community. His legal acumen and dedication to justice extended beyond the courtroom. Whether representing the Lapeer County Sheriff's Department in legal matters, educating law enforcement officers through his service on the Macomb County Law Enforcement Commission, or serving as a founding board member of the Lapeer County Community Foundation, his contributions have left a lasting mark on the community.

Steve's passion for nurturing future generations led him to teach moot court at Almont High School, where he inspired and helped young people explore their own potential in the field of law. Today, he continues to be an active member of the community, always staying connected and involved in the betterment of the Village he loves.

Steve was first appointed to the Village Council on April 4, 1995, and was elected President on March 17, 1998. During his tenure, he played a pivotal role in critical initiatives, including resolving issues at the Almont Wastewater Treatment Plant, ensuring compliance with sanitary overflow regulations for the well-being of our citizens and environment.

He contributed to the establishment of the Drakeshire Estates subdivision, fostering com-

munity growth. In 2007, he championed the replacement of the 93-year-old water tower, ensuring reliable water service. His leadership led to the reconstruction of the Cherry Street Bridge, enhancing community accessibility. In 2012, Steve implemented new administrative programs that improved operational efficiency and transparency. He advocated for a new water pumping station in 2016, prioritizing safety for essential services. His commitment to infrastructure was evident in the East Saint Clair lift station project and the authorization of a new police department building in 2018.

Steve's dedication to employee safety included advocating for essential equipment, such as the DPW leaf machine. He supported the transition to remote water meter readings, enhancing productivity. As an ex-officio member of the DDA Board and Planning Commission, he guided his town's growth.

Steve's conviction that public service can make a meaningful difference has greatly influenced both his career and personal life. For Steve, politics is not just about governance; it's about people—understanding their needs, advocating for fairness, and enacting meaningful change. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Steven Schneider on his retirement. His career in public service is one that we should all be grateful for.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
SUELLEN FRIED

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of SuEllen Fried. A shining example of a public servant, SuEllen made the lives of everyone around her brighter, particularly those who often went unseen.

SuEllen began dancing in the St. Louis Muny Opera when she was 17. Later, she received her master's degree in dance therapy and creative arts from Park University. While she had not planned a career in dance therapy, her desire to spread joy to others naturally led her to that vocation. One day she was asked if she would come to Osawatomie State Hospital to give cha-cha lessons to psychiatric patients there. At the time of the initial request, she didn't know how to cha-cha, but she ensured she led a class that was joyful and treated each participant with dignity. The class turned out to be a polestar moment in SuEllen's life, and she spent the following 17 years working at the hospital as a dance therapist and became the 100th person registered to do so nationwide.

SuEllen was also passionate about protecting children. She wrote or co-authored seven books on bullying and spoke at schools in 37 states to raise awareness at a time when bullying was an issue that received little attention. She also started the first state chapter of the organization that would later become Prevent Child Abuse America and served on the organization's board.

It was through her work with children that SuEllen became involved with the justice system. In 1978, she received a newsletter that said that 80 percent of individuals who were incarcerated for lifetime sentences at the Lan-

sing Correctional Facility in Lansing, Kansas, had been abused as children. As a result, she had a series of conversations with the authors of the newsletter, which ultimately led to the 400-page Blue Book on the causes and results of violence. In 1982, that book became the centerpiece of the organization she co-founded. Reaching Out From Within, a program led by justice-involved individuals to empower and heal each other. That program has now been adopted into every state prison in Kansas.

The last time SuEllen left her home before her death, it was to say farewell to her friends in the Lansing Correctional Facility.

SuEllen received a variety of honors throughout her life, including serving on President Richard Nixon's task force on mental health, being named as one of President George H. W. Bush's 1000 Points of Light, and receiving the American Red Cross Humanitarian Award.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of SuEllen Fried. She was a tireless advocate for the voiceless, a star whose light will forever be shining.

CONGRATULATING MR. CLIFTON
MCNEILL, JR. ON BEING IN-
DUCTED INTO THE NORTH CARO-
LINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
HALL OF FAME

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Clifton McNeill, Jr. on being inducted into the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Hall of Fame. This is a momentous achievement that highlights a lifetime pursuit of agricultural excellence.

Our state has a long and proud farming tradition. I know I speak for our region and entire state when I say thank you to our hard-working farmers, specifically Mr. McNeill, for his dedication to putting food on the table in North Carolina and around our country. From peanuts to sweet potatoes, and in Mr. McNeill's case, strawberries, tomatoes, potatoes and more. North Carolina farmers generate some of the highest quality produce in the world, and we are thrilled to recognize Mr. McNeill for his continuation of that tradition.

This achievement comes alongside many others for Mr. McNeill. He served as chairman of the Cumberland County Soil and Water Board of Supervisors, chairman of Area VII, on the Joint Planning Board and the South River Electric Membership Board of Directors. These are just a few of the many things I am proud of him for, and grateful we have dedicated leaders and farmers in our state.

Again, congratulations to Mr. McNeill on this incredible achievement. He should feel immense pride in all that he has accomplished, and we look forward to celebrating his continued success.

HONORING JOHN PATRICK
MCGAHAN

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my dear friend, John Patrick McGahan, in recognition of his retirement as the leader, CEO and guiding light of Gavin Foundation. Gavin Foundation has been a sanctuary and source of refuge, comfort and rebirth for so many individuals in Massachusetts suffering from the disease of addiction.

And it is my honor to bring to the floor this evening the gratitude of thousands of families from my District and beyond who are grateful beyond words for John McGahan's service to the Massachusetts recovery community over the past 31 years.

John McGahan was born in Concord, New Hampshire on April 3, 1961, to Thomas and Viola McGahan but it was not until 1991, in what can now be seen as divine providence, that John traveled from New Hampshire to South Boston in search of sobriety. And like many before him seeking that help, he found his way to the doors of the Gavin House.

John was a resident of Gavin House for 6 months and it was here that many believe John found his calling and placed him on a path that not only changed his life, but one day at a time helped change the lives of thousands.

Understanding the change sobriety had made in his own life, John McGahan developed a relentless passion for helping others to obtain sobriety. John volunteered and then took a job at Gavin House in 1992. In 1999, in the midst of a teen suicide cluster, John helped to establish and operate the Cushing House for boys—the state's first residential recovery home for adolescent boys. John was a driving force behind the Total Immersion Program (TIP), an alternative to incarceration for those struggling with addiction. Building on the success of the Cushing House for boys, in 2006 John helped create the Cushing House for girls, the only female adolescent recovery home in the state.

In 2007, John was appointed CEO of the Gavin Foundation. John committed himself completely to the mission of the foundation—"the restoration of dignity" for those suffering from addiction. He ensured that every individual could receive the care they needed and had access to sobriety tools and support. John learned and utilized all the elements of funding, education, and advocacy, and combined these key concepts to create the thriving Gavin Foundation recovery network we know today.

Under John's leadership, the Gavin Foundation grew from an initial 25 employees with a \$2 million dollar budget to over 240 employees and a \$27 million dollar budget—serving over 10,000 individuals each year. Throughout his tenure, John had a unique ability to foresee changes and prepare the organization for the future. It was John who made the decision to utilize electronic medical records systems in the houses, an innovative and rare initiative for recovery homes. John always had his eye on the ever-changing recovery landscape and prepared the organization for anticipated challenges and growth. In 2008, the Charlestown

Recovery Home became a part of the Gavin Foundation. In 2015, the Hamilton House recovery home joined the Gavin family and with the courageous assistance of Mayor Tom Koch, Gavin Quincy was established the same year, offering a 64-bed intensive detox and clinical stabilization program.

Most recently, in response to a longtime goal of the Gavin Foundation board, and with the generous support of Jack and Eileen Connors and others, John launched a capital campaign to fund and then open Eileen's House, the organization's first recovery home for adult women.

In addition to his work with Gavin, John has been a trusted advisor to leadership at every level of government. His excellent judgment, advice and counsel has been instrumental in advancing addiction recovery policies at the federal, state and local levels. He has given his time and talent to numerous boards, committees and commissions across the state.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a person in this chamber who hasn't suffered in some way the incredible loss and grief associated with addiction. The heartbreak has been shared across our Nation. John McGahan is one of those rare individuals who has walked in a dark place but has used that experience to shine a light for others to follow. He has dedicated his life to help others lift themselves out of the clutch of addiction and share in the blessings of sobriety and recovery. His life has been an extraordinary example. He is a humble leader who is admired, respected and indeed loved.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss indeed if I failed to acknowledge that John Patrick McGahan has the great good fortune to have the unconditional love and support of his wife Anne and his sons Will and Sean. He has had their love at every step of his life journey.

John Patrick McGahan's legacy is one of relentless compassion in service to the Massachusetts recovery community, the cities of Boston and Quincy and to his family. It is my distinct privilege to take the floor of the House today to join the Gavin Foundation, Mr. McGahan's family and his many friends in recognizing his retirement, and to thank him for his incredible service on behalf of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

I thank John McGahan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANNETTE
PERKINS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Annette Perkins, who passed away on July 26, 2024.

Raised in Portsmouth, Virginia, Ms. Perkins determined her life's work should be focused on education. She worked as a teacher and administrator for Montgomery County Public Schools for many years.

At various points, Ms. Perkins was principal of Christiansburg Middle School, assistant principal of Christiansburg High School, and a history and government teacher at Christiansburg and Blacksburg High Schools.

Her interest in advancing the goals of Montgomery County Public Schools went beyond her service as a teacher.

Starting in 1991, Ms. Perkins was appointed to the Montgomery County School Board. As a member of the school board, she continued to monitor and assess the educational growth of children and teenagers in the county.

Following her tenure with the Montgomery County School Board, county residents elected Ms. Perkins to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors in 1997. She served in her supervisor role for nearly twenty years.

Important projects came together under Ms. Perkins' watch, including the construction of the new Auburn High School and Blacksburg High School. Montgomery County recognizes her instrumental role in having a 9.25-acre portion of undeveloped property donated to the Town of Blacksburg for a public park known as the Meadow.

During her service in both bodies, she served as chairwoman.

A woman of strong faith, Ms. Perkins contributed time as a Sunday school teacher to Blacksburg Christian Church, where she also served on various committees.

Ms. Perkins was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby H. Perkins.

Montgomery County parents placed enormous trust in Ms. Perkins to be a voice for their kids and their education.

I worked with Ms. Perkins during my years representing Montgomery County in the Virginia House of Delegates, and she was a fierce advocate for the programs that she believed in.

Ms. Perkins will be remembered by her colleagues and students as a dedicated educator who enhanced educational experiences and cared deeply for her community.

RECOGNIZING TOM TROXLER FOR
HIS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
RANKIN COUNTY

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Tom Troxler for his 32 years of service to Rankin First Economic Development Authority and congratulate him on his retirement. Tom has put decades of his time, energy, and resources into Rankin First, making it a key component for economic development across the region and state. Tom has identified and capitalized on many economic development opportunities over the years that have improved Rankin County and the entire state of Mississippi.

Tom's legacy of promoting economic development and improving the lives of his fellow Mississippians will benefit us for decades to come. I am thankful for the opportunity to recognize Tom and his work for our community.

CONGRATULATING VINELAND
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB ON
THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland County on 20 years of outstanding

service to children and teenagers in Vineland. Their mission is to empower disadvantaged youth to reach their full potential as successful, kind, and respectful adults and the Vineland chapter serves nearly 260 young people through its various programs. They are committed to providing a world class experience that ensures every child who walks through their doors can achieve success. With their mentorship, they expect every member to graduate from high school with a solid plan, good character, exceptional citizenship, and a commitment to a healthy lifestyle. The Boys & Girls Club recognizes that helping kids succeed requires more than just a single approach. It takes compassionate mentors, a safe environment, and quality programs that encourage youth to excel academically and lead productive lives, ensuring that every child has a bright and promising future. For two decades, the Vineland Boys and Girls Club has gone above and beyond to guarantee that all kids have a fantastic future, and I thank them for their efforts. God bless the Vineland Boys and Girls Club, and God Bless our United States of America.

HONORING MAYOR JIM ADAMS

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career and significant contributions of Mayor Jim Adams, who will be retiring as Crystal's Mayor after an extraordinary 25 years of service to the City of Crystal. I wish to thank Mayor Jim Adams for his enduring legacy of service and his lasting contributions to the city he serves.

Starting in 1999, Mayor Adams worked as a firefighter from the West Metro Fire-Rescue District, serving and protecting his neighbors in that role for 15 years. In 2012, he ran for Mayor and won the support of his constituents by putting the needs of all Crystal's residents first. His leadership was defined by four shared goals: having strong, safe neighborhoods, having a thriving business community, having sound financial policies, and being welcoming and inclusive.

Over the past 12 years, Mayor Adams has made great strides for the city, with a focus on good stewardship of the city's infrastructure. He has helped lead the efforts to improve key city parks, including Becker Park, Bassett Creek Park, and the Crystal Aquatics Center—enhancing recreational opportunities and quality of life for Crystal's residents. Mayor Adams helped build a new Police Department and the Public Works Facility while investing in street maintenance, implementing effective long-term planning to enhance Crystal's community assets. Throughout his tenure, Mayor Adams has prioritized an ambitious plan to make Crystal debt-free by 2033. Under his leadership, the city has made significant progress in reducing its debt while making long-term plans for maintenance and investments of city infrastructure.

Mayor Adams also played a pivotal role in keeping Crystal vibrant and affordable for residents. He collaborated directly with small businesses to help make their lives easier, helping to drive Crystal's retail vacancy rate below 5

percent. He advanced regulatory reform and zoning changes to spur new housing developments, leading to 330 more units of housing across the city.

For the past 12 years, Mayor Jim Adams has been deeply committed to improving the lives of his constituents. Residents of Crystal will benefit from his hard work for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Jim Adams for his exceptional service and to wish him well on whatever his future holds.

RECOGNIZING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE McLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th Anniversary of the McLean Citizens Association (MCA). The MCA provides a forum where residents of the greater McLean area can address local issues and advocate for solutions that serve the interests and values of the community.

The McLean Citizens Association was founded in 1914 as the McLean School and Civic League, driven by the needs of a local school. When Franklin Sherman Elementary School, which consolidated oneroom schools in the area, opened that year, it lacked basic supplies. The League rallied to raise money to furnish a school auditorium, buy library books, help pave local roads, and further aid the community. This community effort led to a tradition that is continued to this day: McLean Day.

Eight years later, the citizens of McLean were faced with another challenge, and the group's civic leaders helped launch the McLean Volunteer Fire Department and negotiated with Alexandria Power Co. to bring electricity to McLean. The power company brought a line from Falls Church and created a distribution center around a decade later. The station has since undergone upgrades and is still serving the people of McLean.

In 1953, the League was reincorporated as the McLean Citizens Association. In the years since they have been instrumental in shaping the McLean community that we know today. The MCA helped launch the McLean Community Center, steered county funds to create McLean Central Park, and they helped advocate for the creation of a park that became Scotts Run Nature Preserve.

In addition to their work shaping the physical community of McLean, the MCA has worked to instill a commitment to service in the residents of McLean. The MCA created a committee in 1970 to preserve trees that later turned into the nonprofit McLean Trees Foundation in 2004, and they formed the nonprofit McLean Community Foundation in 1978 to provide philanthropic grants for community projects. The McLean Community Foundation gave its first grant in 1981 to the McLean Volunteer Fire Department and has given more than \$2 million in grants to nonprofits in McLean over the past 43 years.

Today, the MCA continues to study issues and advocate for positions, send representa-

tives to task forces, host candidate debates, forums, and town halls, and collaborates with elected officials and staff at all levels of government to accomplish its goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the McLean Citizens Association's incredible milestone. Their advocacy and their commitment to community and volunteerism helps make McLean one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family. I thank them for everything they have done for the McLean community over the past 110 years.

HONORING JUDGE RICHARD MEYER

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Judge Richard Meyer of Calhoun County, who passed away on November 18, 2024, at the age of 74. A man of integrity, Judge Meyer's impact on his family, community, and South Texas is a testament to a life well-lived.

Judge Meyer was a proud third-generation Calhoun County resident. His early years were spent exploring the natural beauty of Lavaca Bay alongside his father, instilling in him a deep appreciation for the land and its people. A dedicated farmer and rancher, Judge Meyer was widely recognized for his success, earning accolades from the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce in 1988 and being named Calhoun County's Man of the Year in 2015.

Yet it was his sense of duty and desire to serve his neighbors that led him to public office. In January 2019, Judge Meyer began his tenure as County Judge, bringing the same tenacity and work ethic to governance that had defined his earlier endeavors. As a champion for economic development, he worked tirelessly to ensure that Calhoun County remained a vibrant and prosperous community. His passion for building connections and supporting growth reflected his commitment to serving others.

Despite his many accomplishments, Judge Meyer's greatest joy was his family. He was a devoted husband to Jackie, his wife of 49 years, a loving father to their two children, Ty and Leslie, and a proud grandfather to nine grandchildren. His family was the heart of his life, and his love for them was evident to all who knew him.

Judge Meyer was a man of compassion, generosity, and faith. His legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched and the enduring contributions he made to his community. As we remember him, let us be inspired by his dedication, humility, and unwavering service to others.

May God bless the Meyer family and bring them comfort during this time.

HONORING MR. JUSTIN COLE

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Representative VALADAO, to honor Mr.

Justin Cole of Delano, California for being named 2024 Kern County Cattleman of the Year.

Mr. Justin Sol Cole was born on February 21, 1970, into a family with a rich heritage in Kern County. Mr. Cole's family was one of the early pioneer families who settled in the area roughly 139 years ago—four generations before Mr. Cole. He was raised alongside his sister Stephanie and three brothers A. Sterling III, Bud, and his late brother Christopher. Today, Mr. Cole continues to raise cattle and advance his family's proud legacy within our community.

With his family heritage in mind, Mr. Cole has gained a close connection to the land of Kern, especially the community of Delano. Mr. Cole is also a skilled cattleman, raising cattle by starting work on his family's cattle business at an early age. This dedication followed him to school as Mr. Cole became immersed in cattle competitions at Delano High School, earning the Angus Steer title at the Cow Palace competition alongside other competitive events and becoming a proud member of the Future Farmers of America. Mr. Cole also took part in a 4-H program, where he raised cattle for several years.

In 1996, Mr. Cole married Diane (Rodriguez) Cole at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Delano, and the couple now has three daughters—Shelby, Kelly, and Sierra. Diane's father-in-law, Jose Rodriguez, introduced Mr. Cole to the world of trucking through his first trucking job, where Mr. Cole helped Jose transport wine grapes to local wineries. This led Mr. Cole to launch his own livestock transportation business, which he still operates today. Such a background, blending entrepreneurship and family, is a pillar of Kern County's strength and pride, and will only continue to be advanced through cattlemen like Mr. Cole.

While Mr. Cole cherishes his livestock transportation and ranching business, above all else, he treasures his family and those in the ranching community. For decades, neighbors and friends of Mr. Cole, who rightly honor him with this award, witnessed the selflessness and duty of care he holds for his rangeland, animal welfare, helping his friends and neighbors who might need a hand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Justin Cole for being named 2024 Kern County Cattleman of the Year, and thank him for his contributions to the Kern County community and cattle industry.

COMMENDING DAVID ZIMMERMAN
ON 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
TAZEWELL COUNTY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize David Zimmerman for his decades of service to the Central Illinois community. Zimmerman served on the Tazewell County Board for 27 years and was the chairman of the board for the last 16 years.

Zimmerman graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Political Science and began his service to the Tazewell County Board in 1997. Before becoming chairman,

Zimmerman held many responsibilities as a board member including Finance, HR, Insurance Review, and Land Use Chair. During his tenure on the Board, Zimmerman positively influenced the lives of his constituents by improving the well-being of Tazewell County.

Outside of his work on the Tazewell County Board, Zimmerman has served the people of Central Illinois through different public service roles. Examples include the Greater Peoria Economic Development Commission Executive Board, United Counties Council of Illinois Vice-President, Tazewell County and Peoria Salvation Army Board Member, and Berean Prison Ministry Board Member, among others. A strong leader within the Central Illinois community, Zimmerman was also recognized in the Peoria Magazine through their "40 Leaders Under 40" award.

David Zimmerman's decades long efforts have left a lasting impact on the Greater Peoria community and the state of Illinois. His commitment to our community is truly inspiring and I wish him the best in all future endeavors.

HONORING SPECIALIST JOSHUA
SMITH AS VETERAN OF THE
MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Specialist Joshua Smith, a distinguished veteran of the Michigan Army National Guard. Raised in Caro, Michigan, he graduated from Caro High School. Josh demonstrated his commitment to service by joining the Army National Guard in 2018. He underwent rigorous training, completing Basic Training at Fort Benning and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, specializing as an 88M Motor Transport Operator. He was assigned to the 237th Brigade Support Battalion in Bay City.

Josh deployed to Syria from 2022 to 2023, where he served with honor and distinction. During his deployment, his duties included operating a 10k SkyTrak, loading C-130 aircraft, and recovering essential equipment and supplies from airdrops. His efforts were vital to the logistical support of his unit and other forces stationed in the region. In the challenging environment of an active combat zone, Josh excelled as a member of the fuel crew, ensuring that every generator on the base was fully fueled through dedicated shifts. His contributions were crucial to maintaining operational readiness and supporting his fellow service members.

Notably, Josh was present during a rocket attack on March 23, 2023, when 15 122mm rockets were fired from Iraq at Rumalyn Landing Zone in Syria. Thanks to his leadership and quick response, there were no injuries or damage to equipment during this hostile incident. Josh's actions during this time earned him the Combat Action Badge, a testament to his bravery and professionalism.

Additionally, Josh had the unique opportunity to train with special forces during his premobilization at Fort Bliss, further enhancing his skills and readiness.

Specialist Josh Smith exemplifies the dedication, resilience, and selflessness that we

honor in our armed forces. I commend him for his service and commitment to our Nation.

HONORING AL SALGADO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Al Salgado, who for the last 32 years has served the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), helping to grow the Texas economy "One Business at a Time."

Established in 1979, America's Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) have grown to include approximately 1,000 service centers and more than 5,000 professional business advisors who provide personalized and confidential assistance to small business owners. For twelve years, Mr. Salgado served on the ASBDC board, serving as board chair for two terms. Mr. Salgado also served on the Baldrige, TX-based ASBDC Accreditation Committee for 15 years. Through this work, Mr. Salgado continuously improved the national network and supported entrepreneurs across the country.

Before retirement, Mr. Salgado continued his commitment to helping small businesses reach their full potential as Executive Director of the Texas South-West SBDC Network at the University of Texas at San Antonio. For more than 20 years, the Texas South-West SBDC Network has provided business consulting at every stage of business development, helping small businesses increase capacity and reach their full potential. In 2023 alone, the Network's effort saved over 31,000 jobs and created some 10,400 jobs. Moreover, companies affiliated with the Network generated approximately \$635 million in new sales and \$72 million in tax revenue. Mr. Salgado's impact across the region during his tenure is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to express my gratitude to Al Salgado, a man who helped transform my city of San Antonio and state of Texas for the better.

RECOGNIZING MELINDA FLEMING
FOR HER LIFE OF SERVICE

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. McCLINTOCK. I rise today to recognize Melinda Franca Fleming, a pillar of the Sonora community.

Melinda was born on the Hoopa Indian Reservation in Northern California and grew up in a small town called Waterford. In her early adult life, she worked to balance part-time jobs and family obligations with her college work, earning an associate degree from Columbia College and later graduating Summa Cum Laude from Stanislaus State. Melinda pursued a substitute teaching job prior to earning her teaching credential from the University of the Pacific.

As a full-time teacher, Melinda became quickly involved in her school community where she taught English, reading, journalism,

speech, yearbook, and newspaper. She was such a positive force that she was twice recognized as teacher of the year.

Melinda would later leave teaching to spend more time with her family, which now includes her husband Ken and their three children, nine grandchildren, and great-grandchild.

Melinda soon continued her community service as Executive Director of the Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment (TuCARE), a non-profit promoting good stewardship of public lands. By hosting educational lands tours with regional leaders and annual conferences on forest health, Melinda has had an incalculable impact not only on local forestry, but on informing long-term policies needed to save our forests, communities, and local economies for posterity. Due to her twenty years of service, TuCARE has been recognized as a non-profit of the year, a testament to her influence and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Melinda Fleming spent her life serving her community. Whether educating and mentoring our youth or advising senior policymakers, Melinda's passion to better those around her embodies her true character as a model citizen. We are better for her service, and we know that even in retirement she will continue to serve through the shining example that is her legacy.

HONORING JACK MAZZEO,
HAMMONTON SONS OF ITALY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Jack Mazzeo from Hammonton, who owns and operates Mazzeo Studio, the oldest photography studio in New Jersey. Since 1946, this family business has built a legacy of excellence in photography. Jack has continued on his father's tradition, creating beautiful portraits, while also training his daughter, Deanna, to carry on the tradition. He has taught his daughter well, as she specializes in capturing images of babies and children. Jack's work has been recognized worldwide, competing with other professionals from around the globe, and earning him the prestigious title of Master of Photography. Many of his award-winning photographs have been showcased at Professional Photographers Conventions in New York, Chicago, New Orleans, and even as far away as South Korea. Jack is one of the world's finest photographers, and I am proud to say he is from my district. God bless Jack, and God bless our United States of America.

RECOGNIZING NOLAN KEATING

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nolan Keating of Golden, Colorado for winning Best in Show in the 2024 Congressional App Challenge.

Nolan built an interactive app called The Swelling Dark, which is an immersive 3D sur-

vivor horror game with advanced graphics that serves as a metaphor for dealing with mental health.

Nolan spent countless hours and used many tools to develop his app and advance his STEM education.

I congratulate Nolan Keating for his success in the Congressional App Challenge. I am certain he will exhibit the same dedication and character in his future accomplishments. I am excited to see all he will accomplish.

RECOGNIZING MR. DAVID HODGE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Hodge for his dedicated service to the Tulare County community and to congratulate him on his retirement from Tulare Western High School. Mr. Hodge attended the College of the Sequoias before earning his Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education from Fresno State University. During his time at Fresno State, he was a member of the Water Polo team and served as captain of the Swim team his senior year. Mr. Hodge's career in education and passion for student success began in 1993, when he joined Tulare Western High School. Six years later, he received the Staff Yearbook Dedication, recognizing his dedication as an educator and the meaningful connections he made with students. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Hodge has taken on many important roles at Tulare Western, including physical education teacher and head coach of the Varsity Boys Water Polo and Swim teams. In 2020, he was appointed Department Chair of the Physical Education Department. For over thirty years, Mr. Hodge has had a profound impact on students at Tulare Western High School. As both a teacher and a coach, he has dedicated himself to developing the character and leadership skills of all his students. He is known by colleagues as a strong leader and mentor who always puts his students first. Mr. Hodge has received numerous awards throughout his career, including Visalia Times Delta Swim Coach of the Year in 2015 and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Central Section Division 3 Swim and Water Polo Coach of the Year in 2019. This year, he is nominated for the CIF State Model Coach Award, which recognizes coaches who demonstrate a longstanding commitment to fostering students' potential. One of his greatest accomplishments is the success of his sons, Austin and Daven, both of whom attended Tulare Western and played key roles in the water polo team's championship victory during their time as students. It is because of the commitment of educators like Mr. Hodge that students in the Central Valley community thrive, and I want to thank Mr. Hodge for creating an environment that helps our youth become the best they can be. His dedication to the students at Tulare Western High School is a true testament to his character, and I am confident that his leadership will have a lasting impact on the Tulare Western community for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mr. David Hodge for his decades of service to the Cen-

tral Valley and wishing him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING JOHN BROWNE ON HIS
50TH ANNIVERSARY AS A VOL-
UNTEER FIREFIGHTER

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Browne, an extraordinary individual from Mountainside, New Jersey, as he celebrates his 50th anniversary as a volunteer firefighter with the Mountainside Fire Department. Since joining the department in February 1974, John has responded to no less than 60 percent of fire calls each year during his 50-year tenure—more than any other volunteer firefighter in the history of the department. He has been described as the type of first responder you can always count on to be there, serving in every capacity, including line officer, lieutenant, captain, deputy chief, assistant chief, and even as fire chief on three separate occasions. In his free time, John continues to educate and serve his community by volunteering to help lead free public tours of the John J. Harvey Fireboat Museum and Education Center in New York Harbor. John's dedication and commitment to the community of Mountainside have been immeasurable, and I thank him for his incredible contributions to New Jersey's 7th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF GOOD SHEPHERD HOUS-
ING & FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Good Shepherd Housing (GSH) on their 50th anniversary of dedicated service to Fairfax County, Virginia, and to the thousands of individuals and families whose lives have been transformed by their efforts.

For half a century, Good Shepherd has been a cornerstone in our community, providing safe, stable housing and vital support services to those at risk of homelessness or struggling to remain in their homes due to rising housing costs. Their work has unlocked doors to brighter futures for countless individuals and families, and they remain a beacon of hope for those facing housing insecurity.

Good Shepherd is more than just a provider of affordable housing—it is a catalyst for self-sufficiency and community resilience. Through a unique approach that focuses on the purchase and transformation of properties into affordable housing, GSH has not only provided shelter but has built a foundation for personal growth and long-term success. By offering a comprehensive suite of support services—including case management, financial education, and referrals to specialized assistance—GSH helps families and individuals chart a path to stability, independence, and empowerment.

Each year, GSH manages the needs of over 1,000 families and individuals, helping them overcome obstacles and build a better future. With a small but dedicated team—just 9 full-time staff, 3 part-time staff, and over 40 volunteers—Good Shepherd Housing has managed to accomplish extraordinary things. The work they do, however, is made possible not only by their staff but by the unwavering commitment of their board members, volunteers, and the community that supports them.

As we celebrate Good Shepherd Housing's remarkable 50-year legacy, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has played a part in this incredible work—past and present board members, staff, volunteers, and all the partners who have worked hand-in-hand with GSH to strengthen our community. I would also like to recognize the outstanding leadership of Executive Director Genee Hayes and Deputy Executive Director Candice Bennett. Their dedication and vision have been integral to the organization's growth and success, earning well deserved recognition from the Washington Post, Leadership Fairfax, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Their collective impact serves as a reminder that when we invest in affordable housing and support services, we unlock the potential for families to thrive, not just survive.

Good Shepherd Housing is a true example of how innovative approaches and community partnerships can make a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most. The organization's case management team works individually with residents to set personal goals, pursue education, and improve financial literacy, helping to break the cycle of poverty and create lasting change.

As we look to the future, I have no doubt that Good Shepherd Housing will continue to be a leader in providing affordable housing solutions and support services in our community. Their work is a testament to the power of compassion, collaboration, and commitment to social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Good Shepherd Housing on their 50th anniversary and in expressing our thanks for their tireless dedication to Fairfax County, Virginia.

HONORING MAYOR KATHI HEMKEN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Kathi Hemken as she concludes 16 years of service leading the City of New Hope. Throughout her time as Mayor, residents have come to know her as a devoted advocate for their well-being, a thoughtful steward of the public good, and a relentless driver of housing and economic development.

Mayor Hemken began her career with the city on the New Hope Planning Commission in 1997. After two years as Chair, she won her first term as Mayor in 2008. She wasted no time in getting to work on behalf of her constituents and fostering a culture of appreciation, respect, and excellence among the staff at City Hall.

Over the past 14 years, New Hope has undergone a remarkable resurgence of new

housing and business. The city's property tax base has grown by over a billion dollars, a surge of 73 percent—an impressive amount of growth that would not have been possible without Mayor Hemken's leadership. They've added nearly 500 new apartment units, 127 single family homes, and through the Scattered Site Housing Program, 30 new or rehabilitated single-family homes. These developments include workforce housing, assisted living, deeply affordable housing, and luxury housing—a diversity that serves all residents of New Hope. The City Center underwent a transformative multi-phase redevelopment, introducing an aquatic park, a performance center, a new City Hall, an upgraded police station, and essential businesses like a Hy-Vee grocery store, resulting in over \$15 million in local improvements and the creation of 400 jobs.

Always accessible, Mayor Hemken builds strong relationships with constituents and city staff, promotes open dialogue on complex issues, and fosters an environment of growth and appreciation within the community. A strong supporter of small businesses, she was even featured on "The Colbert Show." When a small business highlighted on the show required assistance, she connected with the owner and provided essential resources to help them navigate the challenges that arose from their sudden fame and increased demand.

Beyond economic development, Mayor Hemken demonstrates her passion for promoting literacy by collecting and distributing books for local children and engaging with students through reading programs. She has served on countless boards and committees, including the Regional Council of Mayors, the Northwest YMCA, League of Women Voters, and more. Each winter, she personally bakes hundreds of cookies and packages them up with a personal note of appreciation to each and every city employee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our profound gratitude to New Hope Mayor Kathi Hemken for her hard work and dedication. She has led the City Council, City staff, board and commission members, and most importantly, the New Hope community through unprecedented challenges and reshaped the city. There is no question that New Hope will benefit from her thoughtful stewardship for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING MANNSDALE UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL DISTINCTION

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mannsdale Upper Elementary School for its National Blue Ribbon School distinction. Since 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools for academic achievements and efforts to close the educational gap within communities. The program aims to showcase schools that demonstrate the importance of ensuring all students can achieve high academic standards. This award is among the highest national honors given to

schools across the United States. This year, only 256 schools received recognition, and Mannsdale Upper Elementary is among the top schools, not only in Mississippi but also nationwide. I am proud to see Mannsdale Upper Elementary honored with this prestigious award.

I want to thank Dr. Nicole Cockrell, Principal of Mannsdale Upper Elementary, Assistant Principal Mrs. Holly Jones, and Madison County School District Superintendent Ted Poore for their dedicated work in fostering such a high-achieving learning environment.

I extend my gratitude to the teachers and leaders in Madison County and across Mississippi for their unwavering and selfless dedication to helping students learn, grow, and strive for continuous improvement.

RECOGNIZING THE LEONARD & SARAH BELL FARM IN UNIONVILLE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Leonard and Sarah Bell Farm in Unionville, Michigan, which has been named the Farm of the Year by the Michigan Centennial Farm Association for 2024. This prestigious recognition honors farms that exemplify exceptional qualities in five key areas: longevity, stewardship, historic preservation, community involvement, and organizational membership and promotional activity.

The Bell family's 76-acre farm, now owned and operated by David and Phyllis Bell, is an enduring testament to Michigan's agricultural heritage. The farm's origins trace back to 1919, when Leonard and Sarah Bell established the farm as part of their contribution to the agricultural development of Tuscola County. Leonard, a descendant of some of the county's earliest families, cultivated a variety of crops, including wheat, corn, navy beans, oats, and hay, supporting both his livestock and the local economy.

In the decades since its founding, the farm has remained in the Bell family for six generations, with David and Phyllis continuing the proud legacy of sustainable farming. Under their stewardship, the farm grows a diverse range of crops—sugar beets, corn, navy beans, soybeans, and wheat—carefully rotated each year to maintain soil health and productivity.

The Bell farm has also earned several prestigious environmental and historical designations, including a federal Certificate of Farm War Service during World War II, a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat, a Monarch Waystation, and a Certified Butterfly Garden. These efforts not only preserve Michigan's natural beauty but also demonstrate the Bell family's deep commitment to environmental stewardship and biodiversity.

Beyond their agricultural achievements, the Bell family has been active in their local community, participating in farm organizations and sharing their story to promote the importance of preserving Michigan's farming history. Their farm is a living example of the values that the Michigan Centennial Farm Association seeks to honor each year.

It is also worth noting that the next generation of Bells, including great-grandchildren, continue to take part in the farm's daily operations. Whether helping with the animals, or assisting with planting and harvesting, their involvement in the farm ensures that this important piece of Michigan history will continue to thrive for many years to come.

On behalf of my colleagues, I extend heartfelt congratulations to David and Phyllis Bell and their family for being named the Farm of the Year by the Michigan Centennial Farm Association. Their dedication to preserving Michigan's agricultural heritage and fostering a sense of community through farming serves as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING EAST GREENWICH
TOWNSHIP MAYOR DALE ARCHER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Mayor Dale Archer of East Greenwich Township, who has dedicated many years of

service to our community, including 11 years as mayor. Under his leadership, East Greenwich has flourished with strong fiscal management and innovative solutions for local governance. He improved the township's finances by implementing a five-year plan with policies that allowed him to manage the community effectively, resulting in the second-lowest tax rate in Gloucester County. Because of his guidance, East Greenwich received the Innovative Government Award from the League of Municipalities for its shared fire department service with Paulsboro. The remarkable progress East Greenwich has made since Mayor Archer took office led to the town being recognized as the Best Small Town in New Jersey by South Jersey Magazine. In addition to his commitment to his community, Mayor Archer served the world's finest fighting force, the United States Marine Corps, and has been a long-time member of both the Veteran of Foreign Wars and the Marine Corps League. I thank Mayor Dale Archer, for his dedicated service to East Greenwich and our country, and I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish in the future. God bless Mayor Dale Archer, and God bless the United States of America.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.