

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SUPERVISOR NICK
MICHELI

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service career of Sutter County Supervisor Nick Micheli.

Nick is a third generation Sutter County resident and farmer. The Micheli family roots in Sutter County go back to when the family first started farming in Live Oak in the 1920's.

Nick's early education was in Sutter and Yuba County where he attended Sutter Union High School, and then Yuba College. Nick would further his education at the University of Phoenix, where he majored in Business Management and received an Associate's Degree in Business Fundamentals.

Nick would take over the family farm, Micheli Enterprises Inc., at the age of 20, after his father passed away. Nick continues to serve as the Manager and Owner of the farming operation and as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Lomo Receiving Co. in Live Oak.

Nick would also serve as a Board Member of the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau and California Dried Plum Board. In these organizations, Nick served on the Government Affairs and Management Committee.

Nick proudly serves as a local ambassador to Shriner Children's Hospital and is a 32nd Degree Free Mason who chairs the bicycle program for local elementary schools.

Nick and his wife, Sasha, have a daughter named Violet.

We thank Supervisor Nick Micheli for his years of service advocating for the agricultural industry while on the Sutter County Board of Supervisors. We wish him all the best in his career.

HONORING SAN FRANCISCO VA
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Representative Kevin Mullin and Representative Jared Huffman to honor the San Francisco VA Health Care System (SFVAHCS) in celebration of its ninety years of providing high quality medical care and services to our country's veterans.

Conceived of by the newly consolidated Veterans Administration in 1931, San Francisco VA Medical Center opened its doors on the aptly chosen date of November 11, 1934. Located at historic Fort Miley in San Francisco, the original medical center remains the flagship of the California Bay Area's veterans health care system. Over the last nine dec-

ades, the hospital and staff have served thousands of veterans. In 2023, SFVAHCS provided care to 94,594 veterans with a combined 870,693 outpatient visits and 3,203 inpatient admissions.

Now as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), SFVAHCS continues to operate the medical center, manages a 120-bed community living center and oversees nine outpatient clinics across its service territory. Those clinics are located in downtown San Francisco, Clearlake, Eureka, Oakland, San Bruno, Santa Rosa, and Ukiah. The health care system is supported by an incredible staff of more than three thousand employees and three hundred volunteers.

For over sixty years, SFVAHCS has partnered with the University of California, San Francisco's School of Medicine to train physicians. Many generations of medical professionals that now support our country's greater health care system learned from the highly skilled clinicians at SFVAHCS. Moreover, the health care system boasts the largest competitively funded research program in the VA which is driving cutting edge health care innovations and technologies. These programs are a benefit to all Americans.

SFVAHCS' commitment to high quality health care does not go unnoticed. In 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services received a 4-star rating for overall quality and a Silver Level Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation from the American College of Emergency Physicians. In 2024, two outstanding SFVAHCS employees were recognized: Dr. Cynthia Delgado as one of TIME100's most influential people in health and Dr. Bruce Ovbiagele with the W Lester Henry Award for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by the American College of Physicians.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that the San Francisco VA Health Care System is a critical resource for the veterans of California's Bay Area. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

HONORING ALVIN ROYSE

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Councilmember Alvin L. Royse, fondly known as "Al," for his decades of exemplary service to his community, his profession, and his family. As Councilmember Royse completes his third term on the Hillsborough City Council, it is appropriate to reflect on his remarkable legacy of leadership and dedication.

Al was born in 1950 in the Peace Garden State of North Dakota as one of five children in his household. He began his career of service to the public by serving two terms in the North Dakota Legislative Assembly, where he championed key issues such as the Equal

Rights Amendment. He was later inducted into the University of North Dakota School of Accounting Hall of Fame and was awarded the University of North Dakota Sioux Award for Distinguished Achievement and Leadership.

He served as Mayor of Hillsborough in 2021 and 2022, bringing his deep expertise and collaborative spirit to the role. Al has served as Public Works Commissioner since 2021, after serving as Finance Commissioner from 2013 to 2020. His tenure on the Council has been marked by his steadfast advocacy for fiscal responsibility and sustainable infrastructure development.

Beyond his contributions to local government, Al's impact extends to national service. A retired Senior Partner with Deloitte & Touche LLP, he distinguished himself as Global and U.S. National Managing Partner for Tax Industries, among other leadership roles. A Certified Public Accountant and attorney, Al has also lent his expertise as a consultant to businesses and a lecturer on global economics, corporate ethics, and leadership development.

Al's contributions to nonprofit organizations are equally significant. He is a past National Chairman of both the American Heart Association and Voices for Healthy Kids. His work for these organizations earned him numerous accolades, including the 2021 Gold Heart Award and the 2024 Morgan Stark Memorial Award from the American Heart Association. Locally, he has supported education, youth sports, and civic organizations, serving as a leader for groups such as the Hillsborough Schools Foundation, Boy Scouts, and Peninsula Family Service.

A proud resident of Hillsborough since 1985, Al raised his children, Matthew and Jennifer, in the community. Al's role as a father, grandfather, and active participant in his children's lives has been a source of immense pride. An avid skier, tennis player, and history enthusiast, Al is looking forward to spending more time with his grandchildren, traveling, and pursuing his love of reading following his time on the Hillsborough City Council. Al's tenure is a testament to his unwavering commitment to public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Councilmember Alvin L. Royse for his decades of extraordinary service and his enduring commitment to making his community and our Nation a better place. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of leaders.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 477 and YEA on Roll Call No. 478.

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO MAHMOUD OTHMAN
ATTA

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Mahmoud Othman Atta a highly-respected leader in the Muslim and interfaith community, veteran, husband, father and grandfather. Mr. Mahmoud Othman Atta was born on June 22, 1936, and he died on November 10, 2016, at the age of 80.

Mr. Atta was born in the Palestinian territories in El-Bireh, Palestine and moved to Milwaukee at age 16 with his dual-citizen father. He graduated from West Division High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attended two years of technical college and was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving as a medic. After his military service Mr. Atta returned to the Palestinian territories, where he married his wife, Intisar and had two children. He later returned to Milwaukee with his family in the mid-1960s.

He is regarded as the Milwaukee area's first de-facto imam, leading prayers and religious services in homes, though he never held the title full time. Local Muslims hailed from various homelands, speaking different languages and Mr. Atta bridged those divides through communal worship. He organized classes to teach Arabic, the language of the Qur'an so that everyone would be able to pray and read the Holy Book together.

Mahmoud Othman Atta was one of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee's seven founding members. Mr. Atta guided Milwaukee's Muslim community and the Islamic Society of Milwaukee in the 1970's, when an estimated 200 Muslims lived in the city. He helped lead fundraising for the purchase of its main center on the city's south side and served on the society's first board of trustees, a position he held for about a decade.

Mahmoud Othman Atta was a natural leader. He saw the value in reaching across racial and religious lines, joining interfaith organizations and Muslim-Christian dialogue groups. He was respected for his character and his knowledge. Mr. Atta would open his home to a stranger, realizing how it felt like to be alone without family, so he always had a soft spot in his heart for students or individuals who were coming from overseas.

Mr. Atta worked as an engine technician at Briggs & Stratton for about 25 years, retiring in 1990 after suffering his first stroke. Mr. Atta had been in declining health in recent years and suffered a stroke while he and his wife spent several months in the Palestinian areas. He returned to the Palestinian territories every year or two, where his large family is well-known. About 1,000 people there have attended visitations spread over three days, after his death.

Mahmoud Othman Atta is survived by his wife Intisar; 2 sons Othman and Ihsan; 2 daughters Janan and Bayan; and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Milwaukee has experienced a profound loss with the passing of Mahmoud Othman Atta. He had an attachment to Milwaukee, and he loved the Midwestern lifestyle. Today, I thank him and his family for their immeasurable achievements. I mourn his loss and I salute his legacy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. GLEN
TATE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the life of Dr. Glen Tate. He passed away this year after a long life spent advocating for the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas.

Born in February 1948 in Corpus Christi, Texas, Dr. Tate's childhood was spent on a small farm near Victoria, and quickly moved to Devine. Here, his love for all animals, but especially horses and cattle, was born.

Dr. Tate took this love and turned it into a career. In 1973, after graduating from Texas A&M, Tate received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and opened two practices, with one in Alberta, Canada, and the other in Lytle, Texas.

Beyond his business successes, Dr. Tate was also renowned for his heifers. His Brangus heifers were frequently the highest selling in many special replacement female sales.

An avid rodeo fan, Dr. Tate traveled across this continent to watch the sport and spend time with his treasured friends in team roping.

Dr. Tate was especially dedicated to the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas, where he served on the ICA Board of Directors and chaired the committee on animal health and safety.

He was also an active member of the South Central Texas ICA chapter and served on their board. In 2019, he was awarded the South Central Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association Trailblazer Award at the annual ICA convention.

Dr. Tate is survived by his wife of 55 years Diana and 3 children, Justin, Jennifer and Gaylyn. Glen especially loved family time with his 6 grandchildren—Lane, Bradley, Tyler, Taryn, Dalton and Josie, as well as 3 great grandchildren—Cohen, Stevie Lynn and Lottie Jane.

HONORING ALISA MCAVOY

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Alisa McAvoy, School Board Trustee for the Redwood City School District, upon her retirement after 17 years of dedication and advocacy for public education.

Alisa was born in Oxnard, California in 1963. She moved to Northern California where she attended Stanford University to pursue her Bachelor and Master's degrees in Civil/Environmental Engineering with an energy planning emphasis and graduated in 1987.

Alisa's commitment to protecting the environment has been illustrated by her time working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Dedicated to pollution prevention and agriculture sustainability, she worked as an engineer and manager overseeing hazardous waste management projects across several states.

Alisa's journey into educational advocacy began in 2007, when she was elected to the Redwood City School District Board of Trustees. During her years on the Board, Alisa served as Board President and Vice President three times. Additionally, she has participated on numerous District committees including Policy, Wellness, Call to Action, School Choice Programmatic, Local Control Accountability, Superintendent's Advisory, Feasibility Study, and Community Outreach. The length and depth of knowledge and experience acquired through active participation in Board committees deepened her commitment and tireless advocacy for education.

As a school board trustee, Alisa has engaged extensively with community members, parents, staff, teachers, and elected officials to foster collaboration to ensure a high caliber and meaningful public education for all students. Her leadership includes chairing initiatives and successfully advancing multiple Redwood City School District ballot measures, securing over \$500 million to support facility upgrades, capital projects, ongoing operations, and educational programs.

Alisa has devoted numerous volunteer hours at school events across San Mateo County, and in the schools, helping with math, art, field trips, special events, science and more. Alisa has always advocated for education, especially for adequate and consistent funding with community partners, parents, elected officials, state and federal officials and non-profits and community groups.

With a passion for service, Alisa, has served on various boards including Little Hands, Carlmont Parents Nursery School, Clifford School Parent Teacher Organization, Redwood City Education Foundation, North Star Site Council, Family Connections, and the Family Connections Authors Night, Emerald Lake Country Club, Redwood City Woman's Club, League of Women Voters, San Mateo County iZone Leadership Team and Policy, and San Mateo County Community Choice Energy Advisory Committee.

Because of exemplary service in public education, Alisa has been recognized for her achievements, receiving Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award in 2011 from Family Connections, the Golden Oak Service Award from the California State Parent Teacher Association, and the 17th District Parent Teacher Association in 2020. For her decades of service to the San Mateo County education community as a Redwood City School District Trustee, Alisa was recognized with the 2024 J. Russell Kent Award.

When Alisa is not advocating for public education, she enjoys bicycling, hiking, enjoying nature, cooking, attending musicals and concerts, and spending quality time with family and friends. She resides in Redwood City with her husband, Neil McAvoy, and has two daughters Marissa and Clara.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary service to public education that Alisa McAvoy has demonstrated over the past 17 years. All the families that she has impacted through her advocacy are better off because of her determination to improve student education outcomes.

HONORING SUPERVISOR DON
BLASER

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the dedicated career and public service of Yuba County Supervisor Don Blaser.

Don was born and raised in the Yuba-Sutter region. He proudly attended Sutter Union High School where he would meet his future wife and childhood sweetheart, Lavina. Don and Lavina were married in 1968. Upon graduating, Don would attend college at the University of California, Davis earning a degree in Agricultural Business.

Don would use his degree to help on his family's farming business in Sutter County for many years. Don would then go on to work with the Yuba City Steel Products Company, where he would work for the next 30 years.

Don and his family would visit Hawaii and become inspired by a local coffee shop known as "Badass Coffee from Hawaii". Don's son Adam and wife would later open their own coffee shop in Roseville known as "Bad Ass Coffee". Soon after Don and his wife would purchase The Brick Coffee House Café in Marysville. This venture would initially need a major overhaul and clean-up; while starting as only a local coffee shop, it would expand to become a thriving place to visit with great food and desserts and be known for their great catering service. The café would stay as a family business for the next 20 years.

Don was elected to the Yuba County Board of Supervisors in 2021, where he represented District Two. During Don's tenure on the Board, he would additionally serve on many other governmental organizations, working to represent the rural interests of Yuba County. Don has served on the Area on Aging Area 4, California State Association of Counties (CSAC), North Central Counties Consortium (NCCC), and many others. Don also served as Chairman of the Yuba County Board of Supervisors in the year of 2024.

Don and Lavina have been married for 56 years and have two children, Adam and Kricia, and four grandchildren.

We thank Supervisor Don Blaser for his term of service on the Yuba County Board of Supervisors and commitment to the citizens of Yuba County. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING 50 YEARS OF WESLEY
HOUSING

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Wesley Housing as they mark 50 years of service to our community. I am incredibly appreciative of the vision, dedication, and tireless work that the team at Wesley Housing does to address the critical need for affordable housing in Northern Virginia.

Wesley Housing was established by Virginia Peters in 1974 in response to a community-led poverty study that revealed the lack of viable

housing solutions for many families. Since its inception it has cemented itself as an independent nonprofit committed to changing lives through access to safe and affordable rental housing units.

From its groundbreaking in 1979 with the first property in Fairfax County, Wesley Housing has grown into one of the mid-Atlantic region's largest and most respected providers of affordable housing. To date, the organization has developed or acquired 2,915 units across 40 properties, positively impacting the lives of over 25,000 individuals and families. But Wesley Housing's influence extends far beyond the walls of its buildings. Through collaborative partnerships and a holistic approach to resident support, the organization empowers families to build better lives, break the cycle of poverty, and overcome deep-seated racial inequities.

Wesley Housing's commitment to excellence and its transformative work in the region have earned the organization numerous accolades over the years. In 2022, the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) named Wesley Housing "Nonprofit Developer of the Year" for the third time, recognizing the organization's ongoing contributions to affordable housing. Other prestigious honors include the SatisFacts' Resident Superior Award, which Wesley Housing has won seven consecutive years due to exceptional ratings from residents, and recognition from Affordable Housing Finance, which ranked Wesley Housing among the "Top 50 Affordable Housing Developers" in 2021.

I am honored to celebrate Wesley Housing's important milestone and want to express my deepest gratitude to the entire team, its partners, and the countless individuals who have benefited from its life-changing work. Wesley Housing's continued success is a testament to the power of community-driven solutions and its unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those who need it most.

HONORING THE PHILADELPHIA
TRIBUNE'S 140TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor The Philadelphia Tribune, the Nation's oldest continuously published newspaper serving the African American community, as it proudly celebrates its 140th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1884 by Christopher James Perry Sr., The Philadelphia Tribune has been a steadfast voice, uplifting and amplifying the stories, struggles, and triumphs of African Americans in Philadelphia and beyond. From its humble beginnings as The Weekly Tribune, a one-page publication, the newspaper has grown into an esteemed institution, documenting pivotal moments in our Nation's history and reflecting the rich tapestry of African American life and culture.

Under the visionary leadership of figures such as Eugene Washington Rhodes, who championed civil rights and community empowerment, and Robert W. Bogle, its current President and CEO, the Tribune has expanded its reach and impact. Through its publications, special editions, and community

events, The Philadelphia Tribune has celebrated Black history, fostered civic engagement, and highlighted the achievements of African Americans in the Greater Philadelphia region.

Over its 140 years, the Tribune has garnered numerous accolades for its excellence in journalism and public service, including the A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award for Outstanding Journalism and the "Russward Award" for Best Newspaper in America. These honors underscore the Tribune's commitment to truth, equity, and advocacy.

The legacy of The Philadelphia Tribune is not just about chronicling the past; it is about empowering the present and shaping the future. As it continues to serve as a vital platform for African American voices, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Philadelphia Tribune on this historic milestone and in celebrating its enduring contributions to our society.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF WINIFRED WHITE

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Winifred White.

Winifred was born on December 10, 1924, to Thomas and Frances Marsh at Mercy Hospital in Bakersfield, California. Born the middle child between her two sisters, Wilma and Georgia, Winifred attended Emerson Junior High School followed by Kern County Union High School, which is known today as Bakersfield High School. Even back in those early years, Winifred recalls the societal and technological milestones she felt in her life and the community around her, like when her family discarded their ice box to buy their first refrigerator after her father quit the Union Ice Company. With her sisters, Winifred brought life to the emerging Bakersfield community, attending performances, ice skating, and enjoying ice cream sodas at Dewar's Candy Shop.

Following her graduation from high school, Winifred attended summer school at a junior college in the Pasadena area, where she found a lifelong passion for bookkeeping. She soon met her first husband, Jim Bolin, with whom they had a daughter, Marcia. Winifred later met Vince Bittleston, an Air Force officer stationed at Minter Field, and the couple would soon be engaged. They would bring a son into the world in 1946—Lawrence Thomas Bittleston—and a second son in 1947—Allan Lee Bittleston. Vince flew planes in World War II and the couple would share a love of aviation and travel for their entire lives. In 1947, the couple launched a crop-dusting business where Winifred managed the bookkeeping, bills, and inventory, and Vince handled sales and flew the planes. Two years later, with the crop-dusting business growing, the couple built a three-bedroom house together and owned their first washer and dryer. To spend more time as a family, Winifred and Vince later moved to a home in Buttonwillow and bought their three children a horse.

Finding herself in a new town, Winifred became involved nearly in every local community

organization. She served as Secretary of Lady Lions, President of the local Parent Teacher Association, Vice President of the local American Legion Post, and Den Mother of the Cub Scouts. Winifred is the first woman to have been nominated to run for mayor of Buttonwillow. While the race was unsuccessful, Winifred would go on to serve on the staff of several mayors.

Vince sadly passed away in October of 1991, following nearly 46 years of marriage. Winifred later remarried Cliff White, a longtime friend and the builder of her Buttonwillow home. As both were previously widowed, it marked a new beginning of their future journey together as a loving couple.

Winifred White is the proud mother of three, grandmother of seven, great-grandmother of eight, and great-great-grandmother of two. Through marriage and love, Winifred has herself become a beloved matriarch and a beloved member of our community. Kern County is blessed with Winifred and other women like her, who serve as a model for community involvement and the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mrs. Winifred White, an amazing woman who has grown with Kern and helped our community thrive.

HONORING ALICIA AGUIRRE

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Alicia Aguirre, Councilmember for the City of Redwood City, upon the conclusion of her 19 years of service to our community.

Alicia is the daughter of immigrant parents from Mexico, first generation to graduate from college, and proud mother of two young men with three grandchildren. She holds an M.A. from Eastern Michigan University and has done Doctoral studies in Social Anthropology at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. She was a Fulbright Exchange Professor in Argentina.

A 36-year resident of Redwood City, Alicia arrived in 1988 concurrent with her employment as a Professor at C nada College in the English as a Second Language (ESL) and Spanish Departments. She currently serves as the ESL Department's Coordinator. She was also a former Visiting Dean at the Sequoia Union High School District as Director of English Learners. Her passion for education is evident in her volunteer and community activities that have empowered others to achieve. She served for six years as a Trustee, with one year as President, of the Redwood City Elementary School Board before her appointment to the City Council. She served as a Trustee for Notre Dame De Namur University in Belmont, on the Mt. Carmel and Garfield Charter School Boards, and as Board Member for the Redwood City Library Foundation.

Alicia was appointed to the City Council of Redwood City in January 2005 and was elected in November 2005, and re-elected in 2007, and 2011, 2015, and 2020 for a total of 19 years, amongst the longest-tenured City Councilmembers in San Mateo County. She

has served as both Vice Mayor and then Mayor from 2011–2013 and is the first Latina Mayor in the history of Redwood City.

As an engaged community leader, Alicia has served on various local boards and committees in several capacities including Service League of San Mateo County, Redwood City International, Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, Redwood City-San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce and its Leadership Program Committee, Latino Leadership Council of San Mateo County, and Latino Community Council of Redwood City. And in her capacity as a Redwood City Councilmember, Alicia represented the City and community on the State-wide Latino Caucus Executive Board, the Latino Political Action Committee, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the San Mateo County City/County Association of Governments, and the Peninsula Division of the League of California Cities.

Because of her numerous contributions, Alicia has been recognized for her accomplishments with many awards including being named California's Assembly District 21, Woman of the Year in 2012 by Assemblyman Rich Gordon, being inducted into the Chamber San Mateo County's Hall of Fame, receiving the Ohtli Award and medal by the Mexican Government for her support of the Mexican community abroad, and being honored for her contributions towards affordable housing with the Housing Hall of Fame award.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Alicia focused on keeping residents and business owners informed about County and State health orders, safely providing city services and funding for emergency rental assistance, and ensuring local hospitals were prepared for an evolving disease. Alicia also worked tirelessly during the pandemic to sustain Redwood City's local economy by supporting small business emergency grant programs, allowing safe business operations outdoors, advocating for childcare providers and promoting safe return to work for local companies to encourage workers to shop and dine again in Redwood City.

With improving housing access as one her primary policy goals, Alicia supported housing for all income levels, especially affordable housing for vulnerable groups like seniors, veterans and the homeless, and missing middle housing for young families and new residents. Alicia played an integral role in assisting the unhoused population through her work with LifeMoves, which strives to end homelessness by providing interim housing, supportive services, and building collaborative partnerships. She encouraged new housing in Downtown Redwood City near transit, jobs and walkable businesses. She was mindful about carefully balancing neighborhood preservation with private property rights regarding upgrades like ADU's and home additions. She supported Safe Routes to Schools and prioritized traffic safety on major thoroughfares by creating more opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclists to safely use closed streets through Slow Street Programs.

Alicia is a respected and admired regional leader focused on issues of social equity and immigrant rights, affordable housing, transportation, and economic empowerment for all socio-economic residents of Redwood City and in our community. Alicia Aguirre's hallmark is her diligent work, her deep compassion, and her profound connection with every

segment of our community. Her thoughtful approach, building bridges, and mentoring the next generation of leaders has been transformative and serves as model for others to emulate. The effectiveness of a leader can be judged by their lasting impact. By that measure, Alicia has excelled as she leaves Redwood City in a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues please join me in congratulating Alicia Aguirre for an exemplary record of service to Redwood City, commending her for her tireless dedication of time and talent, and wishing her all the best in the years ahead.

HONORING POSTMASTER JULIANA BURNS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juliana Burns, an esteemed member of our Napa community, as she retires from 37 years of service with the United States Postal Service.

Postmaster Burns began her career as a letter carrier in Vallejo and Napa before advancing to serve as a postal customer service supervisor in multiple cities. She also worked as a postal instructor in Oakland, Maryland, and Oklahoma.

Postmaster Burns later managed Consumer and Industry Affairs at the Postal Headquarters in Washington, D.C. During this period of her career, she participated in a national roundtable on the development of new postal vehicles. Postmaster Burns was also instrumental in establishing postal customer call centers in New Jersey, Michigan, and Los Angeles. Additionally, she demonstrated her commitment to accountability by conducting financial audits under the direction of the Office of the Inspector General.

As Postmaster in St. Helena, Napa, and now Oakville, Postmaster Burns exhibited strong leadership. Following the Napa earthquake and devastating wildfires, she ensured uninterrupted mail service and introduced free P.O. Box delivery for residents who lost their homes, a lifeline to many rebuilding their lives.

The role of a postmaster requires meticulous organization, clear communication, and the ability to adapt under pressure. Postmaster Burns has consistently embodied these traits, guiding her teams with grace, and fostering trust and reliability among postal employees and the community she served. Her ability to lead through challenges while prioritizing the needs of others is a hallmark of her career.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Postmaster Burns has been a beacon of inspiration within our community. In 1983, she proudly held the title of Miss Napa County, a testament to her grace and charisma. She is affectionately known by many as their "Favorite Postmaster," a reflection of the respect and admiration she has earned in our community.

Postmaster Burns resides in Oakville with her husband, Steve. She is the proud mother of three adult children, Jordan, Samuel, and Addison, and is the loving grandmother of five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Postmaster Burns for her dedicated service to our community and

her lasting contributions to the United States Postal Service. I thank her for her tireless dedication and wish her the very best in her well-earned retirement.

HONORING SUPERVISOR GARY J.
EVANS

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the courageous public service career and rural advocacy of Colusa County Supervisor Gary Evans.

Gary is a fourth-generation life-long resident of Colusa County growing up in the Stonyford-Lodoga area. Gary proudly attended Maxwell High School graduating in 1973. Upon graduating, Gary would work for the United States

Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service in Fire Management for 12 years. He would then go on to open and manage a small sawmill, logging and contracting business in Colusa County for many years.

Gary decided to run for the Colusa County Board of Supervisors in 2004 earning his first term on the Board, since then he has been re-elected four times serving 20 years on the Board. As Supervisor, Gary would stand as a staunch defender of the Constitution and the Civil Rights of local citizens, businesses, schools, churches, and organizations. Additionally, Supervisor Evans served as Chairman of the Colusa County Board of Supervisors during the years of 2009, 2012, 2017, 2018, 2021 and 2024.

Gary has played a pivotal role in bringing the Sites Reservoir Project to reality and has made a point to see the project to completion which would help provide the larger region

and agricultural community with the essential water it needs.

Over the years, Supervisor Evans fought directly for the residents of Colusa County. During the statewide Stay at Home Order in the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, Supervisor Evans moved to allow those who choose to reopen for business and recreation to do so as they saw fit. This action would save many local businesses and allow for a quicker recovery.

Gary's leadership on the Board has proved instrumental as he personally introduced and coordinated a variety of projects in Colusa County that have included County, State, Federal agencies, and numerous private landowners working towards common goals with a positive. "we're all in this together" attitude.

We thank Supervisor Gary Evans for his twenty years of service on the Colusa County Board of Supervisors and commitment to the citizens of Colusa County. We wish him all the best in his retirement.