

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CELEBRATING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF GWENDOLYN NAVY

#### HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the 80th birthday of Mrs. Gwendolyn Navy. Mrs. Navy is a shining example of resilience, dedication, and love. A woman whose life story is a testament to her strength of character and deep commitment to family and community.

Born on December 6, 1944 in Mobile, Alabama, Gwendolyn Navy grew up under the guidance and love of her parents, Melvin and Edna Wells. At eighteen, she moved north to Buffalo, New York, where she would build a life that exemplifies hard work and service.

For ten years, Mrs. Navy worked at Fisher-Price, contributing to the joy of countless children through her role on the assembly line and toy making. She then devoted twenty-seven years of service to the State of New York as a Corrections Officer at the Attica Correctional Facility, where she upheld her duties with strength and integrity.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Mrs. Navy's greatest pride is her family. She is the beloved mother of two children, Gerard Navy and Felicia Williams. Her legacy extends to six grandchildren and one great-grandchild, who are undoubtedly inspired by her wisdom and love. Mrs. Navy was married eighteen years to her late husband, Walter Navy, whose memory she cherishes deeply.

Mrs. Navy is known for her many talents including her culinary expertise. Her collard greens, okra, peach cobbler, and sweet potato pie are legendary within her family and community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Gwendolyn Navy, a woman with poise and resilience to her beloved family and community. On this milestone birthday, we celebrate her extraordinary life, her legacy, and the profound impact she has made on who knows her.

### HONORING BRANDON HORNE

#### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Brandon Horne, my intern who served with distinction in my office and dedicated his time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Brandon, a proud alumnus of Southern University, brought his background and passion for creating meaningful change to my office. He was a member of the Student Government Association serving as President and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. His commitment to improving trans-

portation and infrastructure across South Florida was evident in his diligent support of my work on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

One of Brandon's greatest strengths is building bridges and fostering collaboration. His dedication to empowering others and uplifting underrepresented voices has left a lasting impression on our team and the communities we serve.

His next chapter will undoubtedly be marked by his continued success and impactful work in public service.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Brandon Horne for his drive and dedication to public service.

### CONGRATULATING INDIAN VALLEY BRAVES FOOTBALL ON FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

#### HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, The Honorable TROY BALDERSON, to congratulate the Indian Valley Braves on their victory over the Sandusky Perkins Pirates in the 2024 Ohio High School Athletic Association Division IV Football State Championship.

Attendance topped 7,000 in Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium that Saturday night, December 7, 2024. Amidst freezing and rainy conditions, the Perkins Pirates scored first to lead 7-0. The Braves responded with a touchdown but missed the extra point making the game 7-6. On the following kickoff, Sandusky Perkins fumbled, and Indian Valley recovered. They capitalized by driving down the field for a touchdown and successfully executed a two-point conversion pulling ahead 14-7. This back-and-forth battle characterized the game as neither team punted all night.

Heading into the fourth quarter, Indian Valley trailed Sandusky Perkins 36-29. The Braves drove back down the field and scored their fifth rushing touchdown of the game making the score 36-35. They took a risk by trying for a two-point conversion and were successful. The Braves' defense held strong and forced a turnover with just over four minutes of regulation left to play. They ran out the clock to clench the win with the final score reading 37-36.

This Division IV state final was historic as it marked the Braves' first football state championship in school history as well as the first for a Tuscarawas County school. The team finished with an overall record of 16-0 in the regular season and 5-0 in conference.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Indian Valley Braves' players, coaches, staff, families, and friends as we cel-

brate this victory of an undefeated season and a state championship title. Go Braves.

### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REV. DR. WILLIAM R. SAUNDERS

#### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the remarkable life and legacy of Rev. Dr. William R. Saunders, a trailblazer who broke barriers as the first Black full-time chaplain in a correctional institution in the United States. His steadfast commitment to faith and community left a profound impact on Michigan and beyond.

Born in Selma, North Carolina in 1917, William Saunders dedicated his life to ministry and service. He earned a Bachelor of Theology degree from Lynchburg Theological Seminary and College in Virginia, pursued further studies at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, and was later awarded an honorary doctorate from Temple University in Illinois.

He became a minister of the gospel and was ordained in 1941 by the late Doctor A.B. Johnson, Superintendent of Missions of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. In 1948, he made his way to Michigan, where he served as Assistant Minister of Second Baptist Church in Detroit. It was during this period of his life, in 1952, that he married his beloved wife, Mary E. Debnam.

Two years later, in April 1950, Rev. Saunders made history when he was appointed Chaplain of the State Prison of Southern Michigan. His tenure spanned 34 years, working under eight wardens and alongside twelve other chaplains before retiring in 1985. In a role defined by his compassion and resolve, Chaplain Saunders ministered to incarcerated individuals, offering guidance, spiritual support, and hope for renewal.

Rev. Saunders' influence extended far beyond the prison walls. He founded and pastored Southside Baptist Church in Jackson, Michigan, and held leadership roles with numerous community organizations. He served as President of Family Service, President of Potential Developmental Homes, Inc., and Board Member of the Inner City Child Day Care Center. A committed civic leader, he was an active member of the NAACP, Civitan International, and the Jackson County Ministerial Association, where he served as Treasurer. His dedication to public service earned him recognition from President Gerald Ford for his contributions as a member of the United States Draft Board.

A passionate advocate for youth and education, Rev. Saunders supported the Boy Scouts of America and served on the Jackson Public School Advisory Committee, where he helped empower generations of young leaders.

• 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.

Rev. Saunders' decades of tireless efforts to uplift others exemplified his compassion, integrity, and dedication to service. Though he passed away in 1987, his values live on through his three children, Theresa, William, and Anne (Percy Brown), as well as his two grandchildren, Jason and Haile.

It is with deep respect and gratitude that I celebrate the life of the Rev. Dr. William R. Saunders and recognize his legacy. May his example continue to inspire those who seek to serve others and foster positive change in our communities.

HONORING DEPUTY JIM LAU

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with sorrow and gratitude that I rise today to honor the life of Deputy Charles James "Jim" Lau for his service to our country and community as a security officer at the Macon County Courthouse in Western North Carolina. Jim drowned in the floodwaters of Hurricane Helene and was found dead on September 28.

Jim lived a life dedicated to public service in every role he undertook. Jim served in the U.S. Air Force, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant and fighting in the Vietnam War, before beginning his successful career in law enforcement.

As a member of the Volusia County Sheriff's Office in Florida, Jim spent over 20 years working as a deputy, working primarily in the Major Case and Crime Scene units and pioneered a crime scene program which trained hundreds of deputies.

Jim was described by the Sheriff's Office as a hard worker, dependable and was well-liked. After full retirement from the police force in 2005, Jim moved with his then wife Millie to Franklin, North Carolina to be closer to family; Millie died in 2007 after a battle with breast cancer.

Even in his retirement, Jim felt called to serve others and chose to serve his community as a volunteer with REACH of Macon County, a domestic violence, rape crisis, and human trafficking center, and as a security officer at the Macon County Courthouse.

On Friday, September 27, Jim showed up to work to serve the people of Macon County amidst the devastation of Hurricane Helene, with the worst storm conditions Western North Carolina has seen in recorded history. Jim was reported missing after he failed to return from lunch and his body was found in his truck, still trapped in the floodwater, the following day.

Jim was known as a family man and loved nothing more than being a grandfather. Jim leaves behind his wife, Judie; children, Kimberly, Destiny, Cameron, Brittany and Tyler; and many grandchildren and extended relatives.

After decades of working to protect others, Jim made the world a better and safer place, and I thank him for his lifetime of public service. I offer my deepest condolences to the Lau family and will continue to keep them in my thoughts and prayers.

CELEBRATING DIWALI IN CARY,  
NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. WILEY NICKEL**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the celebration of the Diwali Festival in Cary, North Carolina, my home and part of North Carolina's 13th Congressional District.

This year's Diwali Festival was made to happen thanks to the great work of the Cary Town Council. The event is being hosted in commemoration of Cary's Diwali Proclamation, which will be presented to Manoj Pandya, the President of the Hindu Society of North Carolina.

It is also important that I recognize Councilwoman Sarika Bansal of the Town of Cary, for her efforts in organizing this event. Councilwoman Bansal is the first ever Indian-American woman to serve on the Cary Town Council. Councilwoman Bansal ran on the platform that including more voices and citizen engagement would help us to make investments in the town of Cary that will benefit many generations to come. She understands the importance of diversity and uplifting those voices.

North Carolina is a place of abundance, where diverse communities and their traditions contribute to the prosperity of our great state. Specifically, the Indian-American and Hindu communities make great and important contributions to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of North Carolina.

From business and technology to education and healthcare, our Hindu neighbors continue to make a lasting impact on our state. The tradition of Diwali is a testament to the strength that comes from our community's diversity.

Diwali is a time that holds immense significance and marks the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. It is a time to come together with friends and family to enjoy dancing and delicious food. It is also a holiday of hope; an important opportunity to reflect on the importance of light, particularly in times of great darkness and social discord. Diwali stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of resilience and optimism that unites us as a community and a Nation.

I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in reminding our communities and ourselves to shine our light in darkness, to fight for peace, for justice, and for understanding, even as powerful forces work to sow hate and division. In North Carolina y'all means all.

May we all dedicate ourselves to the beauty of diversity, and pursuit of a brighter future for everyone.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SISTER  
BERNADETTE KENNY

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Sister Bernadette Kenny, who passed away on December 7, 2024.

"Sister Bernie" came into the world on December 8, 1938. She was born in Boston,

Massachusetts, and raised in Massachusetts. Her Catholic faith and interest in caring for others resulted in her joining the Medical Missionaries of Mary at age 19. She went to study nursing at Ireland's Lady of Lourdes Hospital.

After completing her training as a nurse and midwife, she served several missions in Africa, which included stints in Tanzania, Ethiopia and the Central African Republic.

In 1978, Sister Kenny moved to Southwest Virginia. Soon thereafter, she founded the Health Wagon in Norton, Virginia.

Southwest Virginia is a sprawling rural area, and access to health care services has always been a challenge for the local communities. For many people, it takes hours of driving to simply reach a hospital.

Sister Kenny founded the Health Wagon to address this challenge head on. The Health Wagon consisted of a Volkswagen Beetle filled with medical tools and supplies. Sister Kenny traveled in her Beetle throughout the coalfields region to meet the health care needs of the local communities.

She administered services to struggling residents free of charge in her quest to heal their bodies as well as heal their souls. She underscored the emotional aspects to health care, saying "in most health care the emotional part is ignored." She added: "health care is social; it's a way of identifying what's inside a person."

Thanks to Sister Kenny's support, the Remote Area Medical (RAM) project, a popular and overwhelmingly successful venture that delivers free health care to various underserved communities in America, has hosted clinics in Southwest Virginia.

Because of Sister Kenny's strong leadership and fierce advocacy, the Health Wagon has sustained operations to this very day. The group takes pride in providing compassionate, quality health care to the medically underserved people in the mountains of Appalachia.

The indispensable endeavor to deliver vital health care to Appalachian communities, including the region's coal miners, would not have been so emphasized today if it were not for Sister Kenny. I join the people of Southwest Virginia and all of Appalachia in mourning her loss, but the lasting impact she had on the region will forever be cherished.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JEF-  
FERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCILMAN  
RON SMITH

**HON. MIKIE SHERRILL**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Councilman Ron Smith, who will retire at the end of this month after years of dedicated service to Jefferson Township.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Seton Hall University and a Master's Degree in Supervision and Administration from Kean University, Councilman Smith embarked on a career as a School Business Administrator. Over his career, he has worked for Essex County Vocational Schools and as an Interim School Business Administrator for numerous school districts,

most recently the Kearny Board of Education. Currently, he is the President and Educational Management Consultant with HRS Management Services.

In addition to serving as an adjunct faculty member at Kean University and Seton Hall University, Councilman Smith was an Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance at Kean University and an aide to New Jersey State Senator Robert Martin. Prior to being elected as a Councilman in 2017, he was a member of the Piscataway Board of Adjustment, the Jefferson Township Planning Board, and served as the President of the Jefferson Township Board of Education. Additionally, he currently serves as a Chairman of the Lake Hopatcong Commission.

A U.S. Army veteran, Councilman Smith received an honorable discharge after serving from 1954 to 1956. His dedication to his community and country is reflected in his civic activities and professional memberships, including leadership roles with the Association of School Business Officials International and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials.

Councilman Smith's lifelong dedication to service and leadership has left an indelible mark on the community.

I want to express my gratitude to Councilman Smith for his decades of service and for the countless ways he has enriched the lives of others, and I wish him the best for a well-earned and restful retirement.

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HONORING ANDRE PIERRE

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Andre Pierre, my former intern who served with distinction and dedicated his time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District. Andre is currently a student at Florida International University, where he focuses on International Business and serves as the Vice-President of the Real Estate Club. I am proud to highlight Andre's remarkable contributions, particularly in foreign policy and Haiti. His work in this area has been instrumental in shaping policy discussions and providing valuable insights into the complex challenges facing Haiti. In my office, Andre has shown great dedication, immersing himself in the legislative process, especially in transportation and infrastructure. He has also worked closely with the Caucus on the Commission of the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, demonstrating his commitment to addressing critical issues impacting communities. Andre has emerged as a true leader on the Hill, uniting individuals from diverse backgrounds to foster a more inclusive and collaborative culture.

I wish Andre all the best as he continues his academic journey, which I am certain will be filled with success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Andre for his commitment and service.

HONORING THE BREVARD HIGH SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Brevard High School boys' cross-country team for winning the 2A state championship. This is the Brevard "Blue Devils" second 2A state championship in a row and third in the last four years, solidifying their dominant status as a dynasty.

The Brevard High School girls' cross-country team placed 7th at the state cross country meet.

Congratulations to the Blue Devils. Their continued success is a testament to countless hours of training, hard work, and a genuine passion for running.

They have made Western North Carolina proud.

May the future bring many more years of success as we continue to celebrate the legacy of your exceptional cross-country program.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes due to recovery from a hip replacement surgery after sustaining an injury during a bipartisan Congressional delegation trip to Luxembourg to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 516.

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HONORING ROBERT SENA

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Robert Sena, my intern who served with distinction in my office and dedicated his time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Robert, a graduate of Rollins College, brought his background and enthusiasm for communications and civic engagement. His service in my office has been instrumental to the constituents of Florida's 24th Congressional District as well as the state of Florida. Robert's hard work and dedication were highlighted in his outstanding skills for sharing the functions of the federal government with a wide audience.

I applaud Robert's passion for civic involvement and his plan to educate the youth on the importance of local-level government.

Robert leaves a legacy of hard work and dedication. I do not doubt that the next step in his journey will be filled with continued success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Sena for his commitment and service.

HONORING MAJOR MICHELLE QUINTERO

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor Major Michelle Quintero of the Madison County Sheriff's Office who was killed as Hurricane Helene hit Western North Carolina on September 27.

As director of operations at the Madison County Detention Center, which includes Madison Juvenile Detention Center, Michelle was known for her positive influence on inmates and as a source of comfort and strength for young people.

Michelle's family and friends described her as a second mother to juvenile inmates, employees, and members of her community, even bringing juvenile inmates Christmas presents, making sure no one felt left out. On the morning of Friday, September 27, in the midst of Helene's destruction, Michelle thought only of serving others and attempted to get to work from her home in Yancey County.

Michelle was quickly surrounded by the rising flood waters after going outside to enter her car and became caught in the current; Michelle's neighbor, Chris Robinson, jumped into the flood water and made attempts to save Michelle's life but she was fatally injured by the falling trees and waves of debris in the water. Michelle was 48 years old. Michelle made a lasting impact on the law enforcement community and on those who were lucky enough to know her.

The Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety posthumously awarded Michelle the Raising the Bar award, for her lifetime of public service and going above and beyond to help create better outcomes for incarcerated youth.

Michelle spent nearly 18 years working at the sheriff's office and came from a family dedicated to public service. Michelle leaves behind the love of her life and husband, Isaac Quintero; daughter, Ashlyn Quintero; son, Isaac Quintero; and many extended family members.

I thank Michelle for her contributions to Western North Carolina and for the positive influence and safe environment she provided for youth in her care.

I offer my deepest condolences to the Quintero family. I will continue to keep them and their loved ones in my thoughts and prayers. Michelle will be remembered for her lifetime of service and in every life she touched.

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RECOGNIZING MARK R. BAKER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mark R. Baker, who is retiring after more than a decade of distinguished service as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

Mark's leadership in support of the general aviation community has been invaluable to hundreds of thousands of pilots and aircraft owners and the endeavors they support through flight. His unwavering commitment to promoting and protecting the freedom to fly—a freedom truly unique to the United States—has helped facilitate the wide range of general aviation flight missions, including business, disaster relief, philanthropy, and personal transportation.

Mark has been the most impactful leader in AOPA's 85-year history, serving as a tireless and effective advocate for general aviation. He has consistently provided legislators and regulators with valuable insights on important issues such as medical certification reform, strengthening our national network of airports, aviation and education career opportunities for youth, advancing flight deck technology, ensuring fair and transparent pricing for pilots, and improving aviation safety. Among the important legislation he has helped shape is the very first general aviation title in an FAA reauthorization bill, setting an important precedent for the future.

Mark's passion for aviation began as a child growing up in Minnesota, when he and his younger brothers, Scott and Jim, rode their bicycles to the local airport to watch airplanes and take penny-a-pound airplane rides. He took a ground school class in high school and earned his private pilot certificate soon after. Flight instructor Waldo Anderson, who is now 90 years old and still flying, mentored and inspired Mark as he worked to earn additional pilot certificates and ratings.

As a teenager just starting college, Mark found additional mentors in his employers, Knox Lumber founders Don DeCoster, Larry Platt, and Mel Maurer. The World War II veterans quickly recognized Mark's strong work ethic, which he learned from parents Ralph and Bev. Taking him under their wing, the trio soon taught Mark the ins and outs of retail lumber, laying the groundwork for his future business success in the home improvement industry.

After leaving Knox, Mark held leadership roles with Payless Cashways, Scotty's, and Home Base before joining Home Depot in that company's formative years. While at Home Depot, Mark held numerous executive positions, including Chief Operating Officer, and continued to build deep and lasting relationships throughout the home improvement vendor and real estate communities, helping to drive large-scale growth for his company and the industry. He even used his flying skills, and both personal and business aircraft, to help identify locations for hundreds of new stores nationwide.

Mark has held numerous other influential positions, including Chief Operating Officer at Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, President and Chief Executive Officer at outdoor outfitter Gander Mountain, and Chief Executive Officer at Orchard Supply Hardware.

Recognizing the important role of mentors in his own life, Mark has generously mentored hundreds of pilots, providing access to aircraft, instructors, and opportunities to fly, as well as sharing the wisdom he has gained in more than 10,000 hours at the controls. In that same spirit, he launched the You Can Fly program at AOPA, which has so far provided free aviation STEM curriculum to more than 100,000 high school students nationwide.

Mark's commitment to creating opportunities for young people is matched only by his commitment to his family, including his wife JoAnn; his four children, Lindsay, Kristine, Shannon, and Andrew; his sons-in-law Pete and Alex; and his eight grandchildren.

As Mark prepares to retire from AOPA, I wish him well in all his endeavors and thank him for his service to the aviation community and the Nation. I am confident he will continue to mentor the next generation of aviators as a passionate and influential advocate for GA.

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HONORING PINYI WANG

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Pinyi Wang, my fellow who served with distinction in my office and dedicated her time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Pinyi is currently working on her Ph.D. in the Educational Leadership and Policy program at the University of Florida. I am proud to say that Pinyi has shown great dedication and passion for education and has devoted her time in my office to advance education policy forward.

It was obvious that Pinyi was ready to meet the challenge of contributing to the field of education. Her commitment to closing the opportunity gap across race, ethnicity, and gender became apparent when her work in addressing the inequalities found in the use of Artificial Intelligence in educational spaces. Furthermore, she has contributed significantly to moving my One School, One Nurse Act along the legislative process.

Pinyi's intellect, kindness, and hard work will always be remembered. I wish Pinyi all the best as she continues her doctoral studies in education equity and equality both domestically and internationally. I am certain that the next step in her journey will be filled with much success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pinyi Wang for her commitment and service.

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HONORING ASHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS INDIVIDUAL CROSS COUNTRY

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Haskin and Sofi Alexander, the boys and girls individual cross country winners of North Carolina's 4A state championship race, both belonging to Asheville High School.

Asheville High senior Michael Haskin ran his second fastest time of the season in a neck and neck race to win the boys individual 4A championship.

In the girls individual 4A race, junior Sofi Alexander took home first place for the Ashe-

ville High Cougars. Sofi is the first Cougar to win a girls cross country state championship.

Both runners, Michael and Sofi, won their races by less than two seconds, a testament to the determination of both athletes and the highly competitive fields.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, congratulations to Michael and Sofi.

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HIGHLIGHTING THE CAREER OF SYLVIA GÓMEZ

**HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and contributions of Puerto Rican broadcast journalist and news anchor Sylvia Gómez, after a career spanning over fifty years.

Sylvia Gómez was a pioneer in broadcast journalism in Puerto Rico, starting in this field at a time when the opportunities for women had barely begun to become available. She was able to find valuable mentors among seasoned figures and prove herself in the field and on the air, soon establishing herself in reporting, interviewing, and anchoring as part of the news teams in the San Juan media market.

She has since been a constant presence in Puerto Rico TV screens, starting in public television and making her way through our major news outlets becoming an anchorwoman and a lead investigative reporter, eventually leading to a 44-year career at Telemundo WKAQ-TV.

Her reporting on environmental issues helped set the standard for such coverage and earned her numerous recognitions inside and outside the industry, with over 15 awards from press organizations, including a Silver Circle Emmy awarded by the Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 2022.

I also want to highlight her principled fight against age discrimination by media employers, an issue that disproportionately impacts women in this field. Her stand on this subject bore witness to her integrity, strength and courage, and will certainly lead to a better workplace for many in the future. She has been an example to be followed, showing how one can and should continue fighting for your rights and the rights of others.

Sylvia is now moving on to enjoy a different stage of her life. I know she will continue to be a valuable member of Puerto Rico's community, and today I applaud her outstanding work, thank her for her commitment to what she saw as right and true to keep us informed, and wish her all the best moving forward.

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HONORING DELANEY JANE CALLAHAN

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Delaney Jane Callahan, my intern who has served with

distinction in my office and dedicated their time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

A Florida native, Delaney, arrived at my office determined to make a difference in the American legislative landscape. During her time here, she has advanced my agendas significantly, whether by drafting speeches and press releases, organizing press events, or conducting policy research. Her passion for public service and government is unparalleled, and she exemplifies the qualities of a dedicated public servant.

Delaney is currently a student at the University of Colorado Boulder where she focuses on Journalism and Political Science. She also serves on CU Bold's Student Government Association as Strategic Communications and Public Relations Chair. In addition, Delaney is the Vice President of her Panhellenic sorority. Delaney has also followed her academic interests by studying abroad in Paris, France, where she served as a strategic communications intern for the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service Bureau.

Throughout Delaney's time in my office, I've observed that Delaney is deeply committed to journalism expertise to enhance the reach and influence of my office to as many constituents as possible. I am confident that she will continue to use her voice and talents to uplift underserved communities and champion important causes.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Delaney Jane Callahan for her commitment and service.

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HONORING SWAIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Swain County High School girls cross country team on their fourth consecutive North Carolina 1A girls cross country state championship title.

The Maroon Devils girls went above and beyond this season by posting their best score yet out of their four straight championships.

Additionally, Swain County senior, Arizona Blankenship, won her second individual 1A cross country title.

Once again, congratulations to the Swain County High School girls cross country team. Their streak of success is a testament to the dedication and passion of their runners and the exceptional culture of their program.

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HONORING THE MICHIGAN BLACK CAUCUS OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a cornerstone of leadership, collaboration, and advocacy in Michigan since its

founding in 2004. For two decades, the Caucus has provided a forum for local elected officials to network, mentor, and support one another, fostering stronger and connected communities throughout Michigan.

First organized in March 2004 during the Michigan Municipal League Conference in Lansing, the Caucus began with 45 Black local elected officials before officially becoming an affiliate of the Michigan Municipal League later that year. The organization has grown in scope and impact under the leadership of its Presidents—Clara Shephard of Muskegon, Lois Allen-Richardson of Ypsilanti, and its current President, Brenda F. Moore of Saginaw. Together, these leaders have guided the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials in its mission to amplify the voices of African American municipal officials and promote equitable governance across the state.

Through leadership development, data-informed policy, and its committees, the Caucus ensures that the needs of Michigan's diverse communities are heard and addressed. Its collaboration with state partners as well as national organizations has advanced policies that improve outcomes and representation for the African-American community. Additionally, its scholarships for high school students help ensure that the next generation of leaders has the tools they need to succeed in higher education.

The Caucus also serves as an important resource for its members, offering workshops, regional conferences, and a network of officials who share ideas and solutions to challenges faced by local governments. Through these efforts, it strengthens Michigan's cities, towns, and villages, empowering local governments to deliver meaningful progress and opportunity to their residents.

The Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials exemplifies the power of collaboration and shared purpose. By fostering equity, supporting emerging leaders, and advocating for policies that uplift the communities they serve, the Caucus has left an indelible mark on Michigan and beyond.

It is with great respect and gratitude that I ask that we recognize the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials for its contributions and its role in shaping a more inclusive and prosperous future. May it continue to lead and inspire for many more years to come.

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CELEBRATING SHERIFF STEVE KEMPKER'S RETIREMENT

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Sheriff Steve Kempker on his retirement following 44 years of outstanding service to Ottawa County. Sheriff Kempker has been a sworn officer of the law for over four decades, protecting the citizens of West Michigan, and I thank him for his courageous service in the line of duty.

Sheriff Kempker began his law enforcement career in 1980 with the City of Holland Police Department before joining the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office in 1989. Throughout his career, Sheriff Kempker served the county in a variety

of roles, including Road Patrol Sergeant, Operations & Services Lieutenant, Captain, and Undersheriff. In 2016, Steve Kempker was elected as the 33rd Sheriff of Ottawa County.

In addition to his storied career as an officer, Sheriff Kempker has been a part of several law enforcement organizations and was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder and reappointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the State of Michigan Mental Health Diversion Council. He also served on the Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Board under the President's Office of Drug Control and Policy.

Sheriff Kempker has been an outstanding public servant for the people of Ottawa County for over 40 years. I am honored to call Steve a friend and wish him the best in his well-earned retirement. His impact on our community will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Sheriff Steve Kempker for his decades of exceptional service to Ottawa County. I wish him the best as he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

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HONORING DANIEL CASTRO BONILLA

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Daniel Castro Bonilla, my fellow who served with distinction in my office and dedicated his time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Daniel, a proud Honduran American from Miami, FL, graduated from Bowdoin College with a degree in Asian Studies. His commitment to bridging cultural and linguistic divides is exemplified by his experiences studying in China under the Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship and conducting research with the Middlebury program. Furthermore, Daniel served four impactful years with the Fulbright Program in Taiwan, where he collaborated with schools nationwide to enhance educational opportunities.

Daniel served as a research analyst for Miami-Dade County policymakers, whose work is instrumental in developing data-driven policy solutions. Daniel has demonstrated a profound commitment to public service in my office, showcasing his analytical skills and international perspective to benefit our constituents. His work has been particularly impactful in fostering meaningful conversations around current events in Haiti, using his international relations expertise to help me navigate these unprecedented times. His insights have been invaluable in supporting friends and families in foreign countries during these challenging circumstances.

Daniel is a current Rangel fellow and will work for the State Department. I wish Daniel all the best as he transitions into his graduate studies in foreign service. I do not doubt that the next step in his journey will be filled with continued success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Daniel Castro Bonilla for his commitment and service.

HONORING WEST HENDERSON  
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the West Henderson High School girls volleyball team for winning the North Carolina 3A volleyball championship game.

This is the Falcons' sixth volleyball championship and first since 2008.

The West Henderson girls persevered through the challenges brought by Hurricane Helene, which interrupted their season for two weeks as many of the players were without power and water.

On and off the court, the West Henderson girls battled all season long to finish with an impressive 26 and 2 record and the championship title.

Congratulations to the West Henderson High School Girls Volleyball team, they have made all of Western North Carolina proud.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF OFFICER  
JACOB ANDREW CANDANOZA

**HON. LANCE GOODEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Officer Jacob Andrew Candanoza of the Terrell Police Department, who lost his life in the line of duty on December 8, 2024.

Officer Candanoza embodied the highest ideals of courage and commitment in his service to the Terrell community. On December 8, during a routine traffic stop, Officer Candanoza made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and serve.

Officer Candanoza dedicated his life to the protection of our Nation as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps between 2014 and 2019. Following his military service, he worked with the Dallas Sheriff's Office as a courtesy patrol technician. After being sworn in as an officer with the Terrell Police Department in July 2024, Officer Candanoza quickly earned the respect of his colleagues and community for his professionalism and compassion. His sacrifice is a solemn reminder of the debt of gratitude we owe to all who serve on the thin blue line.

My deepest condolences go out to Officer Candanoza's family, friends, and fellow officers during this profoundly difficult time. May his memory serve as a beacon of courage and a reminder of the dedication of our law enforcement community.

HONORING MIA RODRIGUEZ

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Mia Rodriguez, my intern who served with distinction in

my office and dedicated her time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Mia is currently a student at Florida International University where her focus is on International Relations and Political Science. She also has served with distinction on FIU's Student Government Association as Chief Justice. I am proud to say that Mia has shown great dedication and has devoted her time in my office to diving deep into the legislative process, particularly when it comes to foreign affairs and trade policy.

Mia's eagerness to learn and excel will always be remembered. I wish Mia all the best as she continues her academic journey of which I am certain will be filled with much success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mia Rodriguez for her commitment and service.

HONORING POLK COUNTY HIGH  
SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Polk County High School girls volleyball team for winning the North Carolina 1A volleyball championship game with a score of 3-0.

This is the Wolverine girls' second consecutive 1A volleyball championship title.

Making their championship win all the more impressive, the team did not have practices or games for a period of 19 days during the middle of their season due to Hurricane Helene.

Congratulations to the Polk County High School girls volleyball team. I commend their work ethic, fortitude, and determination that resulted in an outstanding season.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
COMMISSIONER ANTONIO WIL-  
LIAMS OF WAYNE COUNTY,  
NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. WILEY NICKEL**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring the service of Commissioner Antonio Williams.

Whereas Commissioner Antonio Williams continues to advocate for the creation of the Wayne County Homeless Committee to combat homelessness in Wayne County.

Whereas Commissioner Williams accomplished the approval of digital libraries in District 2, which in turn brought more support to the Summer Youth Employment Program that he started.

Whereas the commissioners approved resolutions authorizing the spending of national opioid settlement funds, which will bring needed relief to communities impacted by the opioid epidemic in Wayne County. These funds support every aspect of the effort to combat addiction, from early intervention to re-

covery support services and the treatment of incarcerated people.

Whereas the commissioners' progress on public service infrastructure, from the Northern Wayne County Library, to Fremont Elementary school, adds to the quality of life in Wayne County and contributes to the delivery of essential support for all constituents.

Whereas the increased allocation for public schools in this year's budget, including expansion of the School Resource Officer program is critical to ensuring safe and accessible public education.

I, WILEY NICKEL, Congressman of the 13th District of North Carolina, am honored to recognize the incredible service of Commissioner Antonio Williams of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Williams' efforts to improve citizens' lives through public service is laudable, and his impact on community is immeasurable. I Thank Commissioner Williams for his devoted attention to Wayne County and contributions to the strength of our state.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 AAA STARS  
OF LIFE

**HON. CLIFF BENTZ**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the emergency medical services (EMS) profession who dedicate their lives to providing often lifesaving medical care and transport services to patients as well as entire communities. These health care professionals are on the frontlines of providing vital emergency 9-1-1 and interfacility ambulance services.

Every year, the dispatch of an ambulance is the first response to millions of medical emergencies. Often, the survival of a patient is enhanced by the prompt medical attention provided by paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) prior to the arrival at an emergency department. As a result of the selfless acts of these courageous and devoted professions, the lives of thousands of Americans are saved each year. While these professionals do not expect to receive recognition for their work, they deserve our outmost gratitude.

I would like to highlight a very special group of EMS professionals or "Stars of Life" who were honored this by the American Ambulance Association. These Stars of Life are meeting with their members of Congress this week and I strongly encourage my colleagues to take the time to chat with these exceptional individuals.

The American Ambulance Association honors each year those paramedics, emergency medical technicians, dispatchers and other ambulance service personnel who exemplify what is best about the EMS field. The American Ambulance Association has appropriately designated these individuals as "Stars of Life". Past Stars of Life have included paramedics and EMTs who were part of evacuation and response efforts to natural disasters, acts of terrorism and public health emergencies. Members of this year's Stars of Life program are no different and were involved with exceptional acts such as delivering and saving a baby born pulseless during transport to a hospital and extracting a patient involved in a fiery

car crash and then providing critical medical care.

Of equal importance, this program also pays tribute to those ambulance service personnel whose heroic acts or community service activities may not have made the news, but were just as meaningful to the people they aided.

They are truly America's health care safety net.

I am especially proud of the five Stars of Life from Oregon being recognized this year who serve Oregonians with pride. They are Aubree Arneson, Jorge Garcia, Jason Hodges, Don Marr and Joe Scott. I had the opportunity to meet with Jorge Garcia with Umpqua Valley

Ambulance from Roseburg, Oregon today and can tell you he is a first-class EMS professional who deeply cares about his community and his patients.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names, organizations and hometowns of the 2024 American Ambulance Association Stars of Life honorees.

Names	Company	Location Display
Frank Alba	American Medical Response	Kansas City, KS
Johan Alvarado	Air Evac Lifeteam	Laredo, TX
Aubree Arneson	Cal-Ore Life Flight	Brookings, OR
Adam Aronberg	Northwell Health System Center for EMS	Norwalk, CT
Glenn Armony	Hartford HealthCare EMS Network	Meriden, CT
Robyn Asher	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Oak Ridge, TN
Krystal Barboza	Hall Ambulance Service	Bakersfield, CA
Keone Bareng	Life EMS Ambulance	Grand Rapids, MI
Henry Barsh	American Medical Response	Philadelphia, PA
John Basile	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Highland, IN
Jason Baum	Falck	Orange, CA
Alec Belau	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Phoenix, AZ
Antoine Berenger	Rural Metro Fire	Tempe, AZ
Samantha Blackwell	Acadian Ambulance	Lafayette, LA
Cornelius Brady	VMSC Emergency Medical Services	Lansdale, PA
Spencer Brittain	Life EMS	Enid, OK
Gregg Bulman	Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance	Dorchester, IA
Jade Calvin	Bell Ambulance, Inc	Waukesha, WI
Jeremiah Capps	Superior Mobile Health	Converse, TX
Josh Cavaness	EagleMed	Chanute, KS
Emily Chandler	American Medical Response	Duxbury, MA
Cassandra Clark	Medix Ambulance Service Inc	Vancouver, WA
Eric Constantine	Medic Ambulance Service Inc	Santa Rosa, CA
Jason Cooke	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Darlington, SC
Bernard Cote	Rescue Inc	Newfane, VT
Janiece Cox	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Valparaiso, IN
Brandi Crist	Metropolitan EMS	Bigelow, AR
Andrew Davalos	American Medical Response	Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Dwight Derby	Advanced Life Systems, Inc	Selah, WA
Michael Dobrosky	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Genoa, OH
Dianna Drake	Hartford HealthCare EMS Network	Meriden, CT
Nate Dutt	Sanford Ambulance	Fargo, ND
Amie Ebarb	Southern Oklahoma Ambulance Service	Ardmore, OK
Riggs Egoff	American Medical Response	Hampton, VA
Yahya Elshawarbi	Falck	Orange, CA
Steve Emery	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Indianapolis, IN
Aidan Enders	Mohawk Ambulance Service	Delanson, NY
Juencio Estrada	Air Evac Lifeteam	Laredo, TX
William Fisher	Air Evac Lifeteam	Walnut Ridge, AR
Jason Florence	American Medical Response	Overbrook, KS
Eric Foell	Regional Ambulance Service, Inc	Rutland, VT
Robert Ford	Lifenet Inc	Stillwater, OK
John Frierson	Lifenet Inc	Wake Village, TX
Jorge Garcia	Umpqua Valley Ambulance	Roseburg, OR
Hope Garrison	Lifenet Inc	Royal, AR
Craig Gesterling	Sunstar Paramedics	St. Petersburg, FL
Taylor Gibson	Mayo Clinic Ambulance Service	Rochester, MN
Jacob Gilmore	Mohawk Ambulance Service	Burnt Hills, NY
Wayne Gooding	Emergent Health Partners	Jackson, MI
Jessup Grogan	Metropolitan EMS	Little Rock, AR
Kenneth Guzman	Northwell Health System Center for EMS	Farmingville, NY
Diamond Hall	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service of Illinois	Oak Park, IL
Morgan Halliburton	Pro Med Ambulance	Maynard, AR
Scotland Hamlin	American Medical Response	Orlando, FL
Kayleen Harding	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Fort Washakie, WY
Josh Harrington	Sunstar Paramedics	Tampa, FL
John Hathaway	Spirit Medical Transport, LLC	Greenville, OH
Robert Hatzikonstantis	Armstrong Ambulance Service	Arlington, MA
William Helm, Jr.	REMSA Health	Reno, NV
Jason Henry	Rural Metro Fire	Mesa, AZ
Kylend Hetherington	Medstar Ambulance	Auburn, MI
Jon Hibbard	Action Ambulance Service, Inc	Tuftonboro, NH
Timothy Hinchcliff	Burholme Emergency Medical Services	Philadelphia, PA
Jason Hodges	American Medical Response	Wilsonville, OR
Royce Hsiung	Lakes Region EMS	North Branch, MN
Alan Hughry	Medic Ambulance Service Inc	Vallejo, CA
Kristen Hunter	Action Ambulance Service, Inc	Southboro, MA
Heather James	American Medical Response	Hogansville, GA
Lillie Jamison	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Nesbit, MS
Steve Jaskot	Emergent Health Partners	Chelsea, MI
Brian Keith	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Oshkosh, WI
David Kingdon	American Medical Response	Wailuku, HI
Alissa Krisher	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	New London, WI
Daniel Laguna	REACH	North Salt Lake, UT
Matthew Lambert	Lifeguard Ambulance Service	Florence, AL
Carla Landrum	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Buchanan, GA

Names	Company	Location Display
Miki Leslie	American Medical Response	White Swan, WA
William Loftus-Rooney	Cataldo Ambulance Service, Inc	Holyoke, MA
George Lombardo	Superior Mobile Health	Kirby, TX
Patti Ludvig McCartney	Life EMS Ambulance	Portage, MI
Eric Lumpkin	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Dacula, GA
Don Marr	Bay City Ambulance	Coos Bay, OR
James Martin	Pafford EMS	Tulsa, OK
Maurice Matthews	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Berkley, MI
Amanda McQuistian	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Hampton, VA
Alyssa Meier	Life Line Ambulance	Prescott, AZ
Eli Melamed	Life Line Ambulance	Prescott Valley, AZ
Shelly Miller	Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte, NC
Loren Mitchell	Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance	Waterloo, IA
Michael Mitchell	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Yorkville, IL
Kevin Moore	Cataldo Ambulance Service, Inc	Newburyport, MA
Amber Munch	East Baton Rouge Parish EMS	Baton Rouge, LA
Scott Munoz	Missoula Emergency Services	Frenchtown, MT
Adam Mysona	Falck	Aurora, CO
Philip Neff	Falck	La Palma, CA
Shellaine Novak	PatientCare EMS	Sioux Falls, SD
Stacy Omdahl	LifeCare EMS	Roseau, MN
Megan Overbeck	Abbott EMS	Decatur, IL
Michael Penna	American Medical Response	Grand Terrace, CA
Lori Peterson	Medstar Ambulance	Shelby Twp, MI
Jon Jakob Peterson	Sanford Ambulance	Fargo, ND
Emily Robillard	East Baton Rouge Parish EMS	New Roads, LA
Kevin Rochford	American Medical Response	Temple, TX
Brian Rogers	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Ontario, OH
Daniel Schaefer	Metro-Area Ambulance Service	Mandan, ND
Madison Schatzer	McClain-Grady County EMS	Moore, OK
Mark Schiltz	Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance	Caledonia, MN
Ryan Schott	Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte, NC
Joe Scott	Medix Ambulance Service Inc	Warrenton, OR
Allison Sharp	East Baton Rouge Parish EMS	Baton Rouge, LA
Faith Shuff	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Oxford, GA
Nicole Silver	Northwell Health System Center for EMS	Staten Island, NY
Dale Simmons	Mercy Ambulance Service, Inc	Savannah, GA
Lance Smeal	American Medical Response	Lockport, NY
Chad Smith	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Mohawk, NY
Robin Smith	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Nashville, TN
Thomas Smith	EMSA	Claremore, OK
Raquel Soto	American Medical Response	Newington, CT
Jason Southard	American Medical Response	Tucson, AZ
Allen Steele	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Darlington, SC
Savannah Steele Welch	Acadian Ambulance	West Monroe, LA
Ambrose Stevens	American Medical Response	Redding, CA
Dalton Stewart	Pafford EMS	Boyle, MS
Sam Swanson	Hall Ambulance Service	Bakersfield, CA
Jessicah Sweet	Monticello Ambulance Service	Monticello, AR
Sam Sye	Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance	Mindoro, WI
Keri Taylor	EMSA	Oklahoma City, OK
Nikki Taylor	Metropolitan EMS	North Little Rock, AR
Heather Teague	Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte, NC
Shane Terry	Air Evac Lifeteam	Snyder, TX
Chris Thomason	Pro Med Ambulance	El Dorado, AR
Cynthia Torkelson	Gundersen Tri-State	Monona, IA
Richelle Treece	REACT EMS	Shawnee, OK
David Trimberger	Pafford EMS	Edmond, OK
Cheryl VanSeters	Life EMS Ambulance	Grand Rapids, MI
Andrew Clei Varela	American Medical Response	Keyes, CA
Lucie Walters	AirMed International	Foley, AL
Nicole Warren	Air Evac Lifeteam	Osceola, AR
Andrew Watson	EMSA	Oklahoma City, OK
Paul Winter	Hartford HealthCare EMS Network	Shelton, CT
Amy Wollenburg	Mayo Clinic Ambulance Service	Austin, MN
Haywad Yusufzai	Armstrong Ambulance Service	Arlington, MA
Ronnie Zermeno	Pafford EMS	Sherwood, AR

HONORING GENESIS SANTIAGO

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Genesis Santiago, who has made an exceptional contribution to my office during her time as a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Fellow. Genesis has served with distinction in my of-

fice and dedicated her time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Genesis holds an impressive academic background, earning three undergraduate degrees from the University of South Florida in History, Secondary Social Studies Education, and Classics and a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University. Genesis demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep commitment to advancing education equity during her fellowship. Her extensive experience as a teacher brought a wealth of knowledge that greatly enhanced our education policy efforts. Genesis immersed herself in the

legislative process, consistently delivering high-quality briefing memos and policy recommendations.

In addition to her policy work in higher education, Genesis played a key role in drafting bills and collaborating with several organizations to move our legislative priorities forward. Her ability to articulate complex ideas through Op-eds and legislative writing further underscored her dedication to the issues we care deeply about. She also took on a leadership role with the fellows and interns, assigning meaningful projects and ensuring each team



member had a valuable and enriching congressional experience.

Genesis's attention to detail, collaborative spirit, and positive attitude have made a lasting impression in my office. As her fellowship concludes, I commend her for her unwavering dedication and commitment to education policy. I do not doubt that Genesis will continue to excel and make significant contributions to the field, and I wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Genesis for her commitment and service.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JEFFERSON  
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT JAY DUNHAM

**HON. MIKIE SHERRILL**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Council President Jay Dunham, who will retire at the end of this month after an extraordinary 14 years of faithful and dedicated service as a councilman in Jefferson Township.

Council President Dunham's commitment to public service is rooted in a distinguished career that spans multiple industries and an unwavering dedication to his community. For 33 years, he worked for Verizon, and he later served as the manager of the Mount Paul Retreat Center in Jefferson prior to its sale, where he was in charge of a complex that included a 68-room main building, a large lake, a dam, and a cemetery.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Council President Dunham has continued to advocate tirelessly for his fellow servicemembers. He is a past commander and current quartermaster for VFW Post 564, as well as a past commander and current chaplain of American Legion Post 423. His leadership in these roles reflects his enduring dedication to his fellow servicemembers who answered our Nation's call to service.

He has been an active member of the Milton First Aid Squad, the Jefferson Township Historical Society, and the St. Thomas Church finance committee. Additionally, he is a founding member of the Jefferson Township Veterans' Memorial Committee and has contributed his time to civic organizations such as Jefferson Highlights and the Jefferson Arts Committee.

Council President Dunham's lifelong dedication to service and his leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our community has left an indelible mark on Jefferson Township.

I want to express my gratitude to Council President Dunham for his decades of service and for the countless ways he has enriched the lives of others, and I wish him the best for a well-earned and restful retirement.

HONORING DAWSON CONNELL

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dawson Connell, for his work as an intern serving in my D.C. office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions he has made to the office this fall.

Dawson is from Waxhaw, North Carolina, and is currently a getting his Master's in Political Science at American University. Dawson is a graduate of Mars Hill University in western North Carolina and majored in History with both Pre-Law Studies and Political Science minors. Dawson was on the varsity baseball team at Mars Hill and is an impressive golfer.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th congressional district. Dawson was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation with his positive attitude and impressive work ethic.

It was a pleasure to work with Dawson, and I am so proud to have such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office. Dawson exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Dawson on this successful completion of his internship, and thank him on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina.

HONORING KENNETH CARTER FOR  
HIS WORK WITH THE ORANGE  
COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Kenneth Carter was born and raised in Miami, Florida, by his loving Christian parents, who were both very involved in his hometown church. Their example instilled in him to serve others in whatever capacity was needed.

Mr. Carter graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in criminology in 1987. He married his wife in 1988 and has three sons.

For the past 27 years, Mr. Carter has worked for the Orange County Supervisor of Elections in various roles. He's organized mock student elections at various elementary and middle schools to teach the importance of voting to younger generations. He's also served as a poll worker for the Orange County community, making sure the voting process goes smoothly for residents.

Mr. Carter is recognized for his dedication to voters in Orange County. His dedication has not only impacted thousands, but also inspired his wife and two of his sons to follow in his footsteps.

Mr. Carter looks forward to serving the community year after year and can't wait to continue his efforts for years to come.

HONORING CHRISTIAN HOLLOWELL

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary service of Christian Hollowell, who was my Director of Operations, and was instrumental in advancing the mission and goals of our office and serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Christian's journey in operations and management brought invaluable expertise to our team. From day one, Christian demonstrated an unwavering commitment to efficiency, innovation, and collaboration. As my former Director of Operations, she navigated complex challenges with grace and determination, streamlining processes, enhancing productivity, and fostering a culture of teamwork and excellence. Her strategic insights and leadership were pivotal in driving my office's success and achieving our legislative and community objectives.

Beyond her professional achievements, Christian's integrity, humility, and compassion have touched the lives of everyone in my office. Her ability to inspire and uplift others and her genuine dedication to public service reflects her character and values.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Christian Hollowell for her outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to public service.

HONORING BATTALION CHIEF  
TONY R. GARRISON

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Battalion Chief Tony R. Garrison who was killed in the line of duty on September 27 when Tropical Storm Helene hit Western North Carolina. Tony was a native of Western North Carolina and by every account, Tony was a great man.

Known for his outgoing personality and compassionate nature, Tony enjoyed woodworking, fishing, and most of all, spending time with his family. Tony leaves behind the love of his life and wife of 28 years, Mary Chantelle Garrison, his daughter Hannah, and his son Dylan.

I would like to extend my appreciation for the work he accomplished during his time with the U.S. Forest Service, as a volunteer with the Garren Creek Fire Department, member of the Buncombe County Task Force, and as an instructor at A-B Tech in Asheville. Tony dedicated his life to serving others and protecting his neighbors.

As a Battalion Chief with the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department, Tony was used to running towards danger when others would run away. Friday, September 27 was a day of confusion and destruction in Western North Carolina.

Helene made landfall Thursday night and by Friday morning millions of people were left

without cell service, power, or any way to contact the outside world as trees fell and landslides washed away their houses, neighbors, and family members.

Tony's community of Fairview saw historic levels of flooding and suffered from catastrophic damage. During the confusion, Tony did what he was trained to do and what he spent his life doing—helping save others. While Tony worked with his nephew Brandon Ruppe to rescue neighbors during a landslide, a second landslide occurred and both Tony and Brandon tragically passed away from their injuries.

I offer my deepest condolences to the Garrison family. I will continue to keep them and their loved ones in my thoughts and prayers. Tony is a hero and will be remembered for his lifetime of service.

RECOGNIZING THE MO BETTER  
JAGUARS

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the Mo Better Jaguars of Brownsville, Brooklyn, who capped off an undefeated season by overcoming their opponent 13–7 in the national Pop Warner Super Bowl in Orlando. Truly, these exceptional young men have defied all the odds and proven precisely what Brooklyn is capable of.

While the team's skill, cohesion, and passion were never in question throughout their sensational season, when challenges brought

upon by high travel costs arose that would have prevented the Jaguars from competing for the D2 Title, their community stepped in. Through their support, the team succeeded in raising the funds they needed to reach the championship game, where they ultimately prevailed.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to every player, coach, family, and fan whose collective efforts led the Mo Better Jaguars to their well-deserved victory. Our community is incredibly proud of their achievements and their dedication, and we look forward to watching their athletic careers continue as they reach new and exciting triumphs.

HONORING SHANELLE ANIMLEYI63

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Shanelle Animley, an intern in my office who served the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District with distinction,

Shanelle, currently a rising senior at South County High School, has brought her willingness to learn and her open-mindedness to public service. In particular, her commitment to creating a more equitable and inclusive environment for international students is evident. Her diligent support of mental health for South Floridians is also impressive.

One of Shanelle's greatest strengths is her positivity and maturity, which allowed her to tackle the demanding work of serving the constituents of Florida's 24th Congressional District with skill and ease. Shanelle has con-

cluded her internship in my office, and she leaves a legacy of excellence and service. Her next chapter will undoubtedly be marked by her continued success and impactful work.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Shanelle Animley for her drive and dedication to the office and beyond.

RECOGNIZING POLLY'S PANCAKE  
PARLOR

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a small business in my district that is an important part of the Sugar Hill community: Polly's Pancake Parlor.

Since it was opened in 1938 by Willfred and Pauline "Polly" Taylor, Polly's pancakes has served up some of the lightest, fluffiest pancakes in New England, attracting visitors from across the Nation. Beyond serving excellent food, Polly's helped popularize maple syrup as a sweetener, contributing to the success of New Hampshire's world-renowned maple syrup industry.

What truly makes Polly's standout is the generous hospitality. When you visit Polly's, you're treated like a member of the family. That is why I have relished the opportunity to bring my family and friends to Polly's both before and during my time in Congress. Polly's is an important part of the fabric of the White Mountains community, and I am proud to recognize this outstanding business.