

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN KIDNEY FUND'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Kidney Fund (AKF) for its outstanding leadership in the fight against kidney disease. AKF is located in Rockville, in Maryland's 8th District, and I am proud to be AKF's Representative in Congress. This year marks the organization's 50th anniversary and I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing AKF's five decades of work.

AKF was founded in 1971 by a group of people who came together to help pay for a neighbor's lifesaving dialysis treatment, and in the 50 years since, AKF has become a well-known and widely-respected charitable organization that is dedicated to meeting the needs of people affected by kidney disease. AKF is the nation's leading independent nonprofit advocating on behalf of the 37 million Americans with kidney disease. AKF's vision is a world without kidney disease—but until then, AKF will do everything in its power to ensure that every kidney patient has access to health care, and that every person at risk for kidney disease has the knowledge and resources to help prevent it.

AKF notes that it touches more lives than any other kidney organization, with programs of prevention, early detection, and direct financial assistance that enable the nation's low-income dialysis and transplant patients to access lifesaving medical care, disease management support, clinical research, innovation and advocacy resources. The American Kidney Fund plays a leading role in educating and informing the American people about kidney disease, raising public awareness about the fact that many cases of kidney disease are preventable, and spreading the message that when it is detected early, kidney disease can often be managed and its progression slowed.

Recognizing that advanced kidney disease disproportionately affects minority populations, AKF and its 16,000 Ambassadors have been longtime advocates for these patients and their communities. One area of focus for the organization has been to educate the public about the importance of increasing the participation of minority populations in clinical trials, which are critical to developing better treatments for conditions like kidney disease. Minority populations have historically been underrepresented in these trials, and AKF is dedicated to changing that.

AKF also assists low-income dialysis patients and people who have recently received a kidney transplant, providing financial assistance through Safety Net Grants, Disaster Relief Grants, Health Insurance Premium Program Grants and Coronavirus Emergency Grants. AKF has worked to address longstanding health disparities in the United States and advance health equity so that all of us are as healthy as possible.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of AKF's 50th anniversary, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the American Kidney Fund's unsurpassed leadership in the fight to end kidney disease.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL KAREEM M. NIKOUI

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hero and true American patriot, Norco resident and Marine Corps Lance Corporal Kareem M. Nikoui. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to our country on August 26, 2021, as the result of a terror attack in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Through his actions, Lance Corporal Nikoui has evoked pride in his community for many years. He was passionate about the martial art of jiu jitsu and won multiple medals at competitions throughout the region. As a student at Norco High School, Lance Corporal Nikoui joined the Air Force JROTC. He volunteered for Norco's Pearl Harbor anniversary as well as POW events. According to his fellow JROTC cadet Gabrielle Murray, "He was a leader . . . he always tried to help out those in need."

After graduating from high school in 2019, Lance Corporal Nikoui joined the Marine Corps, where he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines unit stationed at Camp Pendleton. When he was afforded leave, he often returned home to Norco. Eager to share a home-cooked meal and the comforts of home with his fellow Marines, Lance Corporal Nikoui invited many of them to tag along for the short trip to Norco where his parents happily hosted. His father said his son loved his Marine Corps family.

The compassion of Lance Corporal Nikoui once again shined bright during the final days of his life. Thrust into a chaotic and dangerous mission, he performed his duties with courage and empathy for people desperate for refuge and freedom. In addition to providing safe passage for Americans, our partners, and Afghans, Lance Corporal Nikoui sought to comfort children in distress by giving them candy. Through his deeds, he embodied the "no better friend" motto of the unit he served so faithfully until his last breath.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country, we realize that this history is comprised of men and women just like Lance Corporal Nikoui, who bravely fought for the ideals of liberty and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day the Nikoui family learned of their son and brother's death was surely the hardest day

they have ever faced, and our thoughts, prayers, and deepest condolences go out to them. His sacrifice is forever etched in our nation's great history of freedom triumphing over oppression. Lance Corporal Nikoui's family has given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one, and we hope they know that the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made will never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING REV. DR. MELVIN L. GRIMES ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVING AS A MINISTER

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes for celebrating 50 years as a Pastor and Minister.

Melvin Grimes is the Pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church as well as Executive Director of Churches United of the Quad City Area. Churches United serves hundreds of thousands of local residents each year by bringing together an ecumenical coalition of Quad City area churches to help feed the hungry, offer emergency assistance to those in crisis; and provide transitional housing for women and children victims of domestic violence or human trafficking. By growing this church and its programs to help the needy, Melvin has made a profound impact in the Quad Cities communities throughout the years, and I commend him for his service not only as a pastor and leader, but also as a community member who cares deeply about other people.

It is because of strong community leaders such as Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes for his 50 years of service to the community and the church.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATOR DENNIS VIRTUOSO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of Niagara County Legislator Dennis Virtuoso. Dennis is a dedicated public servant who is retiring after 30 years of service and 15 terms in the Niagara County Legislature.

Dennis is one of just two members to serve three decades in the Niagara County Legislature. As a longtime Democratic Caucus leader, he spent much of his time in office serving in

• 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.

both majority and minority leadership. During the early 2000s, Dennis spent four years as Majority Leader and the last 16 years as Minority Leader.

Throughout his tenure, Dennis vowed to keep the Niagara County Legislature transparent and honest. When he first ran for office, he promised that he would never vote for a property tax increase. Thirty years later, Dennis has kept this promise.

Dennis sponsored several resolutions during his time on the Niagara County Legislature. Most notable was a resolution, that passed, allowing Niagara County residents to speak before the Legislature; previous policy did not allow residents to have a voice. He also sponsored a resolution that put in place an Animal Abuse Registry that requires registration for anyone convicted of animal cruelty. The registry now serves as a model for the rest of New York State. Additionally, Dennis sponsored resolutions to reserve parking spaces for Purple Heart recipients.

Of his many accomplishments, Dennis is most proud of his speech before Congress in the late 1970s. At the time, he was the president of United States Steel Workers of America Local 12256. Dennis's testimony led to immediate action by President Jimmy Carter ordering NIOSH and OSHA to help the 500 employees at the Hyde Park/Bloody Run Landfill in Niagara Falls who were suffering from cancer and blood-related diseases due to chemical exposure. The workers were able to obtain necessary medical testing and landfill was subsequently closed.

While serving as County Legislator, Dennis also worked full-time as a Niagara Falls building inspector, eventually becoming the city's director of inspections. His true passion though, is working for the people of Niagara County.

Dennis is the son of Carmella and the late Armand Virtuoso, a two-time Purple Heart recipient and World War II veteran. He and his wife, Gina Virtuoso, have two sons and a daughter. Dennis is a Navy Seal, Vincent works at the Niagara Falls Water Plant, and Gina is a nurse.

Dennis is passionate work over the past 30 years gave the people of Niagara County a voice in government. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to recognize Legislator Dennis Virtuoso's well-deserved retirement from the Niagara County Legislature. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dennis for his leadership and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCTAVIO
"CHATO" VILLALOBOS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude and admiration that I rise today to celebrate Kansas City Police Officer Octavio "Chato" Villalobos. The son of Mexican immigrants, Chato has made it his life's mission to serve and protect the people of Kansas City, Missouri while working tirelessly to ensure that communities of color are treated fairly and justly by our country's criminal justice system. In light of the protests that swept across our nation last summer, it is per-

haps more important than ever before to recognize police officers like Chato, whose selfless service is rooted in love and compassion for the people he protects.

Born in Torrance, California and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, Chato takes great pride in belonging to Kansas City's thriving Mexican-American community. Known by others for his thoughtful nature, Chato has always understood that identifying as a Mexican-American police officer comes not only with immense pride, but with a profound sense of purpose and responsibility as well. Communities of color, including the Latino community, have faced racism, prejudice, and discrimination here in the United States for generations, and the injustices to which the Chicano community has been subjected are far too many to count. Chato knows this history well, but rather than letting it discourage him or dampen his spirits, he has used it as a constant source of motivation to make Kansas City a better place to call home, regardless of one's skin color or national origin.

Treating others the way he wishes to be treated, Chato has made significant strides towards building trust between Kansas City's police department and the Latino community it serves. Having worn the blue uniform for many years now, Chato understands that simply offering dignity and respect to the faces he meets while on patrol goes a long way toward creating a safer city where all people are treated fairly under the law. While negative stories capture headlines and screen time, Chato has lent a helping hand to the people of Kansas City any time the opportunity has arisen ever since the first time he donned the badge, and his compassionate nature has made him beloved throughout the city.

Beyond his work as a police officer, Chato has served as a mentor to boys on the path to manhood, instilling values into our young people that will ensure their success down the road. Chato has advocated passionately on behalf of DACA, and regularly volunteers with organizations aimed at uplifting the Latino community. A committed father, Chato makes sure to teach his children about their Mexican heritage by taking them to local Chicano and Latino art festivals and celebrations, believing firmly that appreciating one's genealogy helps build a sense of personal identity while giving us the strength to face the challenges of life. And in May of 2016, Chato's heartfelt poem "Brown Eyes in Blues" was read aloud to an audience in Kansas City by Juan Felipe Herrera, our nation's first Latino Poet Laureate.

Madam Speaker, the impact that Octavio "Chato" Villalobos has made on the Kansas City community is greater than any speech of mine can encapsulate. As we enter Hispanic Heritage Month, let us take time to recognize public servants like Chato who work every day to make sure the United States is living up to its founding principles of liberty and justice for all.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE
13 U.S. TROOPS WHO GAVE THEIR
LIVES HELPING OTHERS TO
FREEDOM

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, August 26, 2021, as the U.S. military was working to airlift thousands out of Afghanistan amid chaos at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, terrorists murdered more than 180 people including 13 members of the U.S. military there to assist American citizens seeking to come home.

Ten of those 13 U.S. troops were from a single unit at Camp Pendleton in San Diego County, just outside my district. Nine of them were Marines, part of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment. The tenth was a Navy corpsman attached to that unit. Their stories are now part of the long and valiant history of Camp Pendleton and the 2/1 battalion, known as "The Professionals."

The battalion saw combat at Guadalcanal and Okinawa in World War II and fought in Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq as well. It helped run a temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for thousands of Vietnamese refugees following the fall of Saigon in 1975.

In the days since the devastating news of last week's terrorist attack, the local community has embraced the families whose loved ones paid the ultimate price, creating a memorial of flowers and American flags outside Camp Pendleton's main gate in Oceanside.

Five of the marines were only 20 years old, and all but one were under 25. Four were from California.

They died doing an honorable job in an honorable way. As the official Pentagon announcement described it, they were "supporting non-combatant evacuation operations." In other words, they were helping innocent civilians make it home safely.

In devotion to their country, they were willing to risk their own homecoming to secure a safe homecoming for others. That's selfless service. That's a meaningful life. Their families can be proud of how they lived their brief lives.

While words seem powerless to ease the grief of loved ones suffering such a profound loss, I pray that their families can find some small comfort that a grateful nation honors the service and mourns the loss of these American heroes:

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover: 31, of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo: 25, of Lawrence, Massachusetts. Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee: 23, of Sacramento, California.

Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez: 22, of Indio, California.

Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan W. Page: 23, of Omaha, Nebraska.

Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez: 22, of Logansport, Indiana.

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza: 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas.

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz: 20, of St. Charles, Missouri.

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. Mccollum: 20, of Jackson, Wyoming.

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola: 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, California.

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui: 20, of Norco, California.

Navy Hospitalman Maxton W. Soviak: 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio.

Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss: 23, of Corryton, Tennessee.

More than just names on a list, they were each an individual hero who will be missed. The following is some of what has been reported about each of them and their loved ones, according to CBS News:

NAVY CORPSMAN MAXTON "MAX" W. SOVIAK, 22, OF BERLIN HEIGHTS, OHIO

Corpsman Maxton "Max" W. Soviak played football at Edison High School before graduating in 2017.

"As a football player he was full tilt 100 miles an hour, fearless, which leads you to understand, you know, where he was and what maybe happened," Jim Hall, head football coach at Edison, told CBS Cleveland, Ohio, affiliate WOIO-TV.

"It didn't seem real," Hall said. "It still really doesn't, you know, great kid, loved life. He was bright, bright kid, and it doesn't seem right. It doesn't seem fair, you know. I just hope the best for his family."

Soviak joined the Navy after high school graduation.

"He just loved life," Edison High School superintendent Thomas Roth told WOIO-TV. "He was out there and enjoyed things, and he was helpful for others as I think we all can see from what happened yesterday. You know, he was always there to help other people. He wanted to be of service and that's what he did."

ARMY STAFF SERGEANT RYAN C. KNAUSS, 23, OF CORRYTON, TENNESSEE

Sergeant Ryan C. Knauss went to Gibbs High School before he enrolled in the Army, his family told CBS Knoxville, Tennessee, affiliate WVLT-TV. Knauss was a member of the Army's 82nd Airborne division and a staff sergeant.

Knauss had only been in Afghanistan for a week before his death but had previously spent nine months in the country, his grandmother told WVLT.

No local funeral arrangements have been made at this time, family members said. Knauss will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

MARINE CORPS STAFF SERGEANT DARIN T. HOOVER JR., 31, OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Sergeant Darin Hoover Jr. was on his third tour of duty, his father Darin Hoover Sr. told Salt Lake City CBS affiliate KUTV.

"He led his men, and they followed him, but I know in my heart of hearts he was out front," Hoover Sr. said. "They [his fellow Marines] would follow him through the gates of hell if that's what it took."

He said the 9/11 terrorist attacks moved his son, who was a child at the time, to vow he'd serve in the military. "He decided, 'That's what I want to do,'" Hoover Sr. told KUTV.

Hoover Jr., 31, was based at Camp Pendleton in California.

"(He was the) best kid in the world," his father said. "Couldn't ask for any better."

MARINE CORPS SERGEANT JOHANNY ROSARIO PICHARDO, 25, OF LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Sergeant Johnny Rosario Pichardo was screening women and children at the Abbey gate when the attack took place, according to

Marine First Lieutenant John "Jack" Coppola. He told CBS News in an email that Pichardo, a supply chief from the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, was a member of the brigade's Female Engagement Team (FET). FETs, he said, are "volunteer teams of female Marines with the experience and maturity necessary to enable continuity of operations while respecting cultural norms."

Coppola said Pichardo's service "was not only crucial to evacuating thousands of women and children, but epitomizes what it means to be a Marine: putting herself in danger for the protection of American values so that others might enjoy them."

Pichardo is a Lawrence High School graduate and former Bridgewater State University student. She is survived by her mother and sister, CBS Boston reports, and will be laid to rest in Lawrence, where her family lives.

"It was her family's wish that Rosario is remembered and honored as a hero," Lawrence Mayor Kendrys Vasquez said Saturday. Bridgewater State University also released a statement saying the "community is struck with profound grief upon learning of the death of one of our own" even though Rosario only attended for a semester before committing herself to the Marines.

MARINE CORPS SERGEANT NICOLE L. GEE, 23, OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Marine Corps Sergeant Nicole L. Gee was one of several Marines seen cradling and comforting Afghan children amid evacuations just days before her death. On August 21, Gee posted a photo of herself holding an Afghan child on Instagram. "I love my job," the 23-year-old Sacramento native wrote.

Gee was sworn into the Marines less than a year ago and was promoted to sergeant three weeks before the Kabul attack, according to posts on her Instagram account.

Gee was married to a fellow Marine, Jarod Gee, her sister Misty Fuoco said. Nicole posted several Instagram photos of her and her husband celebrating the holidays and celebrating his own promotion to sergeant just a few months ago.

MARINE CORPS CORPORAL HUNTER LOPEZ, 22, OF INDIO, CALIFORNIA

Corporal Hunter Lopez joined the Marine Corps in 2017 and was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, according to a statement released by the Riverside Sheriff's Department.

Lopez, 22, was the son of Riverside Deputy Sheriff Alicia Lopez and Riverside Sheriff's Captain Herman Lopez. He intended to follow his parents into law enforcement after his current deployment and become a Riverside County sheriff's deputy, the department's statement said.

MARINE CORPS CORPORAL DAEGAN W. PAGE, 23, OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Corporal Daegan Page joined the Marine Corps after he graduated from Millard South High School, according to a statement his family released to local news outlets.

He grew up in Red Oak, Iowa, and the metro Omaha area and was a member of the Boy Scouts. He enjoyed playing hockey and hunting and "spending time outdoors with his dad," the statement said. He loved the Chicago Blackhawks.

Page "always looked forward to coming home and hanging out with his family and many buddies in Nebraska." Once he finished his service in the Marines, he planned to at-

tend a local trade school and perhaps become an electrical lineman, the statement said.

MARINE CORPS CORPORAL HUMBERTO A. SANCHEZ, 22, OF LOGANSPORT, INDIANA

Corporal Humberto Sanchez was a 2017 graduate of Logansport High School who played varsity soccer and was on the homecoming court in his senior year, according to the IndyStar.

The school's principal, Matt Jones, told the IndyStar that Sanchez was one of five students in his class who enlisted in the Marines. He remembered Sanchez as "a bright, athletic young man who was popular, well-liked by his soccer teammates, classmates, coaches, and teachers."

Logansport Mayor Chris Martin mourned Sanchez's death in a Facebook post Friday.

"This young man had not yet even turned 30 and still had his entire life ahead of him," Martin wrote. "Any plans he may have had for his post-military life were given in sacrifice due to the heart he exhibited in putting himself into harm's way to safeguard the lives of others."

Indiana Congressman JIM BAIRD posted his condolences on Facebook, too, saying, "He bravely answered the call to serve his nation, and I am both proud of his service and deeply saddened by his loss."

MARINE CORPS LANCE CORPORAL DAVID L. ESPINOZA, 20, OF RIO BRAVO, TEXAS

Lance Corporal David Espinoza, 20, was born and raised in Rio Bravo but attended high school in Laredo, CBS Dallas/Fort Worth reports.

Congressman HENRY CUELLAR released a statement that said, in part, "Mr. Espinoza embodied the values of America: grit, dedication, service, and valor. Mr. Espinoza is a hero."

The city of Laredo posted its condolences on Facebook.

MARINE CORPS LANCE CORPORAL JARED M. SCHMITZ, 20, OF ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

For Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz, being a Marine "was something he always wanted to do," his father, Mark Schmitz, said in an interview, "and I never seen a young man train as hard as he did to be the best soldier he could be."

"He just went over in the last two weeks," his father, Mark Schmitz, told radio station KMOX in an interview Friday. Schmitz had been stationed in Jordan, and when the situation deteriorated in Afghanistan during the U.S. withdrawal, he was one of the thousands of U.S. troops deployed to Kabul.

Mark Schmitz's voice broke as he told KMOX, "I'm very honored that I could call him my son—his life meant so much more. I'm so incredibly devastated that I won't be able to see the man that he was very quickly growing into becoming."

MARINE CORPS LANCE CORPORAL RYLEE J. MCCOLLUM, 20, OF JACKSON, WYOMING

Rylee McCollum was a native of Bondurant, Wyoming. He attended Jackson Hole High School and was a 2019 graduate of Summit Innovations School in Jackson, according to CBS Wyoming affiliate KGWN-TV.

He was a husband and expectant father, according to The Associated Press.

"He was a Marine before he knew he was allowed to be a Marine," McCollum's sister, Cheyenne McCollum, told AP.

An uncle of McCollum's wife, Gigi, tweeted a picture of both of them at the dinner table: "Thank you all for your prayers, outpouring love to Gigi, and recognizing our own American Hero."

MARINE CORPS LANCE CORPORAL DYLAN R. MEROLA, 20,
OF RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CALIFORNIA

Lance Corporal Dylan R. Merola had only been in Afghanistan for a little over a week, his mother told CBS Los Angeles.

"He was supposed to come home in a couple of weeks," said a loved one.

The Los Osos High School graduate planned to go to college and study engineering. He was honored at his alma mater's first football game of the season.

"One of the best kids ever," his mother, Cheryl Merola, said. "Kind, loving . . . he would give anything for anybody."

MARINE CORPS LANCE CORPORAL KAREEM M. NIKOUI, 20,
OF NORCO, CALIFORNIA

Kareem M. Nikoui attended Norco High School in 2019 and served in JROTC, CBS Los Angeles reports.

"Just a good kid. Really had a strong energy about him and knew what he wanted to do," Norco High School principal Robert Ibbetson said. "It was neat to see that kind of direction and drive and goal-setting."

He is survived by his mother, father and siblings, the city of Norco confirmed Friday night.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CASA OF COLLIN COUNTY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Collin County's milestone 30th anniversary of service to the community and to the abused and neglected children of North Texas.

Since its establishment in 1991, CASA has served 100% of the abused and neglected children removed from their homes in Collin County. As the child's official voice in court, these guardian ad litem work tirelessly to champion the best interests of the children they serve so that they receive needed services while ensuring the child's case moves through the system as quickly as possible. The ultimate goal of CASA is for each child to be reunited with family if appropriate or to be placed in a safe, permanent, and loving home. It is a mission their trained advocates do not take lightly.

CASA's network of trained advocates are often recognized for providing consistent, strong, and clear voices for abused and neglected children as they navigate a complicated legal system. CASA often serves as the only stable, trusted adult in the lives of these children as they navigate the changing dynamics of the foster care system.

Since its inception, CASA has advocated for more than 12,000 children. Further, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the dedicated volunteer advocates, exceptional staff, outstanding leadership, and committed Board of Directors and Advisory Board once again rose to meet the needs of those they serve by adapting their processes to provide even greater support through new and innovative ways.

Now as we reflect upon the thirty years of selfless service performed by CASA of Collin County, I ask my colleagues to join me in

thanking the organization and their decades of fierce advocates for changing the lives of countless children in our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM R. SANCHEZ

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William R. Sanchez who passed away at the age of 103 on August 23, 2021. Mr. Sanchez was a longtime constituent of mine in Monterey Park, California, and an American patriot who bravely served our country during World War II.

Mr. Sanchez was born on July 18, 1918, in El Paso, Texas, and moved with his family to Los Angeles at the age of one. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1938 and immediately joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, where he worked in Northern California managing forests and building roads. He received a boxing scholarship to UCLA, but instead decided to enlist in the U.S. Army in 1940. In search of adventure, Mr. Sanchez chose to serve at Fort Mills on Corregidor Island in the Philippines. He was assigned to Army Intelligence on the island and served on General Douglas MacArthur's staff. While working with Army Intelligence, he helped provide advance notice of the Japanese force on its way to attack Pearl Harbor.

In 1942, Sgt. Sanchez fought in the Battle of Corregidor and was taken as a prisoner of war after keeping the Japanese at bay for five months. Like thousands of other American prisoners of war, he experienced unimaginable atrocities on the Bataan Death March. He was then transferred on a Japanese "hell ship" and taken to Camp Omori near Tokyo, where he was constantly abused, beaten, and underfed. Sgt. Sanchez's mental fortitude helped him endure these brutal conditions for over three years until the end of the war.

After the war, he returned to the U.S. and attended Woodbury College where he earned his bachelor's degree. He then went on to earn a master's degree in International Trade and Finance from USC. He started his own company, Belenco, and became one of the biggest importers and suppliers of rolled steel products on the West Coast. Mr. Sanchez settled with his family in Monterey Park in 1958 and took an active role in the community. Over the years, he remained active in the veteran community, serving as the keynote speaker at many veterans forums, and offering advice and support to countless veterans and their families on their benefits and rights.

William Sanchez was truly a hero of our time. He leaves behind an enduring legacy of service and sacrifice to our nation, and that is why it is my distinct honor to commemorate his life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF L.D. "JACK" GRIFFIN

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of L.D. "Jack" Griffin, who passed away on Saturday, July 24, 2021, at the age of 94.

On April 11, 1927, Jack was born in Monroe, Louisiana, to Sam and Alma Lee Mullican Griffin. He married Myra Collier, and they spent 68 years together. Jack and Myra were blessed with two children, Ky and Leeza.

Jack patriotically served our country in the United States Navy during World War II. He was a longtime resident of Tyler County and continued to faithfully serve his community as a member of the First Baptist Church of Woodville. Jack was also a part of the Magnolia Masonic Lodge No. 495 in Woodville. As a Mason, he attained the 32nd Degree, an honor bestowed for his outstanding service. He was also a member of the El Mina Shrine in Galveston, Texas.

Jack traveled the world as a pipeliner. His specialty was in water crossings. Jack skillfully engineered and constructed pipelines in Straits of Mackinac, the Puget Sound, the Straits of Gibraltar, and many places in between. Jack retired as Director of Field Services with Williams Companies based in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Jack is remembered as one who loved his family and looked forward to being amused and entertained at their regular gatherings. In the words of Henry David Thoreau, he went confidently in the direction of his dreams, living a life more than he imagined. Even though he worked all over the world, he said of his beloved Woodville, "It may not have been where I intended to go, but I think I ended up where I needed to be."

Jack is survived by his wife, Myra Griffin of Woodville; son, Ky D. Griffin and wife Rhonda of Jasper; daughter, Leeza Blanchette and husband Jacques of Woodville; grandchildren, Blake Blanchette and wife Helen of Sinton, Megan Parmer and husband Randy of The Woodlands, Brent Blanchette of Woodville, Blaire Rogers and husband Dwight of North Palm Beach, Florida and husband Collier Griffin of Chicago, Illinois; great-grandchildren, Caroline, Libby, and Ellie Blanchette, Emerson Parmer, and Sutton, Quint, and Griffin Rogers; sisters-in-law, Carolyn Collier of Goldsboro, North Carolina and Judy Sheffield of Houston; nieces, Kim Nagypal and husband Bela of Woodville, Tammy Bohannon of Allen, and Cristi Connor and husband Paul of Houston. Jack was preceded in death by his parents, Sam and Alma Griffin, and his brother-in-law Malcolm Collier.

Madam Speaker, I honor my friend Jack Griffin as one of the last members of the Greatest Generation. His faithful service to our country and his community will not be forgotten, and my heartfelt prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING SIOUX FALLS LITTLE
LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the members of the Sioux Falls Little League baseball team, who represented the great State of South Dakota in the 2021 Little League World Series.

Sioux Falls had a remarkable season placing fourth after a truly amazing series of victories. Through their hard work and perseverance, they have become the most successful Little League team in South Dakota history. They are also the first team in the history of the Little League World Series ever to pitch four no-hitters.

During their historic Little League World Series run, this team has shown incredible determination, teamwork, and resiliency. So many South Dakotans truly enjoyed following along and cheering on the hometown team. I, along with the entire State of South Dakota, am proud of them for this outstanding accomplishment and for representing our State on the national stage.

My sincerest congratulations to Easton, Hayden, Noah, Alex, Gunnar, Beau, Kye, Boston, Sam, Brayson, Jacksyn, Opland, Gavin, Cason, Maddux, and Brekken, as well as Coach Mike, Coach Jeff, Coach Devin, and Coach Ryan. I commend each one of you on your success, and I look forward to seeing what great things you will accomplish in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSE "JOE"
ARCE AND THE TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF KANSAS
CITY'S HISPANIC NEWS**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize and celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Kansas City Hispanic News, a weekly bilingual newspaper published and owned by Jose "Joe" Arce, that has continuously served the Greater Kansas City community in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. Since its creation, the Kansas City Hispanic News has helped bridge the gap with the Latino community by offering representation on a mainstream paper. Wholly devoted to establishing top quality media coverage via in-depth stories in both Spanish and English, Arce and his publication have made a monumental impact on the Latino community.

The Kansas City Hispanic News opened its door in 1996 along Southwest Boulevard, located in Kansas City's Westside neighborhood, a community heavily influenced by Latino and Mexican American roots. Through investigative reporting and providing community members with stories in two languages, the weekly newspaper has increased its coverage to extend beyond the state line into Kansas, showing the impact on Latino households. With this newspaper, Arce has provided

a platform for Latinos to be represented, informed, and engaged as local businessowners through advertising opportunities, giving the Latino community a place to flourish and thrive.

Born and raised in Kansas City's West Side, Arce always felt in touch with his Mexican roots and Latino background. Before he started the bilingual newspaper, he worked as a photojournalist and reporter for WDAF-TV Fox 4 News, dedicating himself to serving the people in his community through journalism. After years of experience, Arce realized the lack of representation and reporting catered to the Latino population and took it upon himself to start a paper that could inform and celebrate the accomplishments of the Latino community. As an involved civic leader, Arce used the bilingual paper as a vehicle of information on important topics that affected Latinos such as elections, workers' rights, local businesses, and celebrations. His efforts allowed people to feel connected to not only their roots but to their local community and offered access to information for those who were only Spanish speakers.

While the Kansas City Hispanic News is one of his most influential additions to the Fifth District, Arce's contributions extend beyond journalism. As an active civic leader, Arce has served on boards for numerous organizations such as the Guadalupe Centers and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City. Additionally, Arce was one of the key figures in the distinguished victory of renaming 23rd Street in the Westside Neighborhood in Kansas City, Missouri to Avenida Cesar Chavez after activist Cesar Chavez in 1993. To increase representation and local celebrations related to Latino and Mexican American traditions, Arce helped expand Fiesta Hispana KC, an annual festival held in Kansas City to celebrate Mexico's Independence Day as well as Hispanic Heritage Month.

Through this festival, community members have been able to partake in the celebration that brings music, food, dance, and local businesses, further connecting the Latino community as well as providing others to learn more about Latino culture. Arce is known to be a friend, mentor, and a loyal supporter of youth journalists. To help Latino students pursuing journalism, Arce founded the Hispanic Media Association, which provides scholarships. Furthermore, Arce served as the chair of the Cesar E. Chavez committee at the University of Central Missouri for 15 years where he focused on finding ways to attract Latino students to the campus. Arce's unwavering devotion and tireless commitment to serve and better the Latino community is a testament of his compassionate and caring nature.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing and thanking Joe Arce and the Kansas City's Hispanic News for all they have done for Kansas City and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in the last twenty-five years. I am honored to have someone like Arce, a champion of public service and civic leader, in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District which I represent. His immense impact on the Latino community and Kansas City will continue to be felt for years to come. Let us celebrate Joe Arce's job well done and wish him many more years of success.

CELEBRATING EPIC'S 70TH BIRTH-
DAY OF SERVICE TO THE COM-
MUNITY**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate EPIC's 70th Birthday of empowering and inspiring people with disabilities through the services and support they provide to the community.

EPIC offers a range of programs and services to help individuals with disabilities with educational, residential, employment, and care-taking resources. EPIC was founded in 1950, and began as a group of Peoria-area parents who wanted to provide their special needs children with education and opportunity. These parents decided to open a school in 1957, and what started out as an organization to help 10 children has now helped over 600 individuals with intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, epilepsy, and other intellectual or developmental disabilities. I commend EPIC for its work in the Peoria community, and I thank the management and staff for their dedication to helping people with intellectual disabilities.

It is because of strong organizations such as EPIC that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate EPIC on its 70th Birthday.

A PIECE OF GLASS, IN MEMORY
OF THOMAS BUTLER OF SQUAD
ONE**HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a poetic tribute in honor of Thomas Butler and his father, William. I presented to his family on the day of his funeral after his father had given me a piece of glass from the World Trade Center where Thomas died. I include in the RECORD this poem, penned by Albert Caswell.

A PIECE OF GLASS

(by Albert Carey Caswell)

A Father and a Hero who raised a fine son
A man who dedicated his entire life to saving
others this one
As too his fine son's life journey had just
begun
His little boy,
his pride and joy
as one day too he'd follow his father's most
courageous footsteps his son
And try as he may,
this most splendid of all men who so many
had saved,
could not but save his own most precious of
all ones
A piece of glass now in my hands
As once before stood so very grand
Within your two great Twin Towers,
gracing this fair city throughout all the
hours
as high above a majestic skyline you ran
With your twin bright beacons of hope,
and your islands of ingenuity and determina-
tion to all hearts spoke

With your Gotham Tributes to all of Woman-kind and Man which invoked
 And from that first day begun
 As a construction worker peering out through you up towards the rising sun
 Until, that final opening day
 When, your most magnificent fruition was portrayed,
 in this your most historic of all runs
 And with each new succeeding day
 While, gazing through you and pressing hands all upon you as would they
 And how many countless hours,
 throughout all those snow storms, blizzards, thunder storms and rain showers
 When, upon a bright beautiful spring day, planning their escapes, counting the minutes . . . to the seconds . . . the hours
 Running down below to their most beloved ones so,
 as there they would come rushing out of your most majestic of all Towers
 And how many weddings were so amassed?
 With, young hearts here so enamored as the time had passed
 As it was all here along love's path
 And how about all those most beautiful babies born,
 from all those true fine loves warmed here so to last
 Ah yes, as it was in this the most magnificent of all buildings,
 which held so many hearts at bay with the spells that they'd cast
 On 9/11, while looking out you on that fine fall day
 Up towards those jet blue skies as the white clouds drifted on by and far away
 As so unsuspectingly their own death's they could not for see,
 unaware of what dreaded dark death and dark evil before them now lay
 Perhaps, with but thoughts of loved ones beating in their hearts on that day,
 at what was to be their last and most tragically heroic of all days
 And 'Oh . . . but did you so see all of those planes coming crashing in and so wince?
 While, watching in such shock and in horror at all of its most vulgar carnage
 At the lost of all those fine innocents
 As down below you witnessed all those brave hearts,
 magnificent souls gallantly rushing in without regard of consequence
 Our most fearless firefighters, and most precious police,
 and brave citizen saviors who stayed armed with but only their beliefs
 And 'oh how it must have shattered you to see
 All of those splendid people, women and men
 Together holding hands, jumping off in such misery and grief
 As I ask you now, did Tommy in those last final moments
 While, looking through you think of his most beloved family out too his heart reached.
 As he came rushing up the stairs on his way to Heaven,
 passing death's cold stare to our Lord speaks
 As he stood there, as one of the most courageous of all ones
 So Magnificently Bill Butler's fine son
 And from this day of all days what are we all here to so take
 With all such grief and so much horrendous heartache
 That still within our beating hearts,
 within its rhythm something far much more greater now to take
 And from all of their most tragic deaths of which we are now left
 Are all those bright lights as Angels names up in Heaven now bless

Comes this great consolation in hearts knowing,
 that all those who heroically died to Heaven surely rose up no less
 Burying our babies, our daughters and sons for there can be no greatest pain for a parent begun
 While, there in the darkness all alone,
 our Lord sees and hear's your most desperate of all moans
 Up in Heaven our Lord in his love cries,
 as his tears wash down upon us when there comes a gentle rain from his eyes
 To ease our pain for all our lost daughters and sons
 Somehow find the strength until your reunited again
 A piece of glass as given to me
 By a wonderful Father,
 all in the midst of this his families most dark tragedy
 Forever and a day,
 as with me this his most precious of all gift's will stay
 To be ever revered in my family
 As it's with chills I now stand . . . with quivering hands,
 remembering the sacred name of a hero named Thomas Butler eternally
 And from this day on a great lesson as born, to teach my children of Thomas's sacrifice so warm
 And for the generations to come,
 I shall plant those seeds of his faith to all of my children and theirs among
 Of all those like Thomas who died and sacrificed like Christ to Kingdom Come
 About all their selfless seeds of faith, courage and sacrifice
 With their greatest gifts but for the greater good to give up ones life
 To nourish others' souls about Thomas's life
 Remembering 9/11 and all those fine heroes, and all their sacred gifts who which did not to think twice
 A piece of glass, was once but just mere sand
 As it is we who here who are made up of flesh and blood and hands
 Who here with hearts and souls and courageous acts and in our tears now stand
 Goodness . . . Evil . . . Darkness . . . Light
 In the moment of truth will we burn bright?
 Will we reside in the darkness or choose rise up in the light?
 And for all those who do,
 are but our Lord's chosen people in his heart burns bright
 As we peer back through time
 looking back upon this the very soul of Woman and Mankind
 That on this day we fully understand
 That buildings can rise,
 and in time may not stand
 But, in our Lord's heart
 There are far greater things which command
 Which, leaves him in awe
 Of the most sacred of all gifts to understand
 All those who give up one's life for another will rest in God's hands
 As here I stand, with a sacred piece of glass in my hands
 Forever and a day,
 these lessons of sacrifice and Thomas I'll take on my way
 And a sacred piece of glass given to me by a wonderful man

In Memory of Thomas Butler and all the Heroes of 9/11, on Sunday May 26, 2002. I took the families of the Memorial Day Concert on a tour of the Capitol, Thomas Butler's Father Bill Butler presented A Piece of Glass from the World Trade Center to me in the crypt of the United States Capitol building after I had recited 2 poems about the Heroes of 9/11. I went to his son's funeral in Long Island and printed this poem to his family.

HONORING RUTH HUNT CANDIES

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a wonderful Kentucky business, Ruth Hunt Candies. The business, located in Mount Sterling, is celebrating 100 years of providing delicious candy to its customers.

Ruth Tharpe Hunt's family, friends, and especially her bridge club loved her homemade sweets. In 1921 she opened a small store in her home and began selling her candy to the public. The business quickly outgrew her home, and she built a small factory on Mt. Sterling's Main Street. Ruth Hunt ran the business with her daughter Emily Peck until the 1960s. Emily ran the business until 1988, when the Kezele family and Bobby Moore took over and expanded into a comprehensive factory complex. Throughout the years, the business has kept the same idea—"Produce the highest quality chocolates to make the customers happy."

Favorite confections include Kentucky Pulled Cream Candy, Caramels, Mallows, and Kentucky Bourbon Balls. The company's most famous product, however, is Ruth Hunt's Blue Monday Bar. This product has been produced for over 80 years and has been called a "Blue Monday" ever since a traveling minister told Ruth Hunt that "every Monday I must have a little sweet to help me through my blue Monday!"

Ruth Hunt Candies has stores in Mount Sterling and Lexington, Kentucky. Its products are sold in retail shops throughout the region and around the world. Products have been provided as gifts from the horse farms of the Bluegrass to the White House.

Over the past 100 years, Ruth Hunt Candies has provided high-quality candy to customers and jobs to the local economy. Started in Ms. Hunt's kitchen, the growth and longevity over 100 years is impressive. I congratulate this wonderful business on their 100th anniversary. It is my honor to recognize Ruth Hunt Candies before the United States Congress.

IMPEACHING GENERAL MILLEY
AND SECRETARY AUSTIN

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the serious and deadly incompetence displayed by Mr. Biden and his current military staff, including General Milley and Secretary of Defense Austin. The military leadership has been irresponsible, careless, and incompetent regarding Afghanistan. After 20 years, over \$2 trillion wasted, and thousands of American lives lost, our military leadership lost this war and did so in a humiliating defeat played out in real time before the world.

Our enemies are emboldened as our military leaders showed cowardice and incompetence. Instead of resolve and a plan of action to exit a war they could not justify or win, they evacuated our troops and abandoned civilians. They abandoned our allies and left

them to fend for themselves. The British were so incensed over this humiliating defeat and abandonment of their servicemembers on the field that the British Parliament passed a resolution censuring Mr. Biden, a first in our nation's history.

Our allies lost faith in their ability to count on us.

In addition, our military leaders, led by the strange General Milley, who is obsessed with homosexuality in the military and flying gay pride flags at every opportunity, informed Congress that we did not need to keep Bagram Air Base before the civilians were evacuated. His bungling led to a disaster with 13 of our servicemembers unnecessarily killed trying to control an airport that we had no control over and had many weak points compared to Bagram Air Base. His decision cost the lives of his troops.

On top of this disastrous incompetence, General Milley and Secretary Austin abandoned over \$80 billion in our top-notch military equipment and allowed it to fall into the hands of the very military we had been opposing. Milley and Austin failed to create a plan to retrieve, scuttle or destroy our valuable equipment. Helicopters, airplanes, drones, missiles, automatic weapons, MRAPS, Humvees, ammunition, mortars and howitzers were all lost to the enemy even though our leaders knew where the equipment was yet did nothing to stop the acquisition by the Taliban.

This is gross incompetence and dereliction of duty. Both the very weirdly obsessed General Milley and Secretary Austin should have resigned in shame for the humiliation they brought to this country. But they have not. Therefore, we need to remove them. I will vote to impeach both Milley and Austin and remove the stain they have left on our military and our people.

I include in the RECORD a letter from Arizona Representative Walt Blackman. His letter needs to be read and shared and I join him in his conclusions.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: I proudly served 21 years in the United States Army. Several times during my service I was on deployment to other countries. I was responsible for military equipment valued at millions of dollars.

I was trained as a private whose job was imperative to track, secure and dispose of military equipment in accordance with military regulation. While I was stationed at Fort Hood there was a time when our military installation was on complete lockdown because a soldier had misplaced a set of night vision goggles. Securing and tracking military equipment, especially sensitive items is a practice that is constantly drilled into all soldiers.

According to UCMJ any servicemember of the United States Armed Forces who either willfully or by neglect sells, damages, destroys, disposes of, or otherwise mismanages U.S. military property may face charges under Article 108 of the UCMJ.

The Commander in Chief Joe Biden and the Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin have placed America as well as multiple other countries in a vulnerable situation by not properly handling military property. This has allowed very sensitive military equipment owned by the United States of America to fall into the hands of terroristic enemies. The Commander in Chief Joe Biden as well as the Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin should be held accountable and in the same manner of the law as any other soldier would under Article 108 of the UCMJ.

I am requesting you impeach Joe Biden and court-martial the Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and General Mark Milley under Article 108 of the UCMJ.

Respectfully,

WALTER BLACKMAN,
Chairman, Criminal Justice Reform
Judiciary
Public Safety and Military Affairs
Commissioner; Education Commission of
the States Member, Legislative District 6
Phoenix, Arizona.

HONORING U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE CHIEF VICKI CHRISTIANSEN FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen for 40 years of service to the protection and management of our nation's forests.

Chief Christiansen began her career in forest service with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources before joining the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service eleven years ago. She recently retired as Forest Service Chief where she oversaw operations of more than 30,000 employees nationwide.

Chief Christiansen's career accomplishments demonstrate her strong leadership skills and steadfast commitment to preserving and improving our nation's environmental well-being. She began her distinguished career as a wild land firefighter with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources before advancing to become Washington State Forester, Arizona State Forester, Forest Service Deputy Director for Fire and Aviation Management, and Forest Service Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry.

Appointed Forest Service Chief in 2018, Christiansen administered positive change while successfully managing intense episodes of crisis. She is revered by her colleagues for improving workplace safety, productivity, and culture as well as her resilient and calculated responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, economic distress suffered by the agency, and disruptive natural occurrences such as wildfires and hurricanes. Furthermore, her collaboration with State and local actors played an instrumental role in improving community engagement in forestry protection nationwide. Through hard work and leadership that sparked long-lasting change, Chief Christiansen's legacy will serve as a model for future Forest Service Chiefs to emulate.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to Chief Christiansen for her years of exemplary service to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and multiple state forest service agencies. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing her and her family continued success and happiness as she moves into retirement.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen for her 40 years of service in forest protection and management.

CELEBRATING THE BLACK THEATRE TROUPE'S 50TH SEASON

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate The Black Theatre Troupe's 50th season. Founded in 1970 by civil rights activist Helen K. Mason, this Phoenix troupe is one of the oldest continuously operating Black theater companies in the United States. Despite having to push back their 50th anniversary season by a year due to COVID-19, the show will go on as The Black Theatre Troupe returns to the stage this month.

The Black Theatre Troupe was born of the need to create a space for Black voices to be heard in the Southwest. Today, it has grown into a nationally recognized, award-winning theater company that continues to tackle issues of racism, prejudice, and discrimination. Fifty years later, The Black Theatre Troupe remains a vital platform for illuminating the Black experience and culture, provides unique opportunities for multiethnic and underserved artists to train and perform, and educates and entertains a diverse audience.

Throughout its history, The Black Theatre Troupe has faced many challenges—lack of funding, a fire that destroyed its stage, and even a global health pandemic—but thanks to the tenacity and enthusiasm of its members and supporters, the Troupe has continued to grow and thrive. I'd like to congratulate The Black Theatre Troupe on 50 seasons and wish them all the best for 50 more.

IN HONOR OF THE 2021 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES CHAM- PIONS, THE TAYLOR NORTH LIT- TLE LEAGUE TEAM

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Taylor North Little League Team, the winners of the 2021 Little League World Series. This team's tremendous accomplishment is worthy of commendation.

After defeating their opponents at the district, state, and Great Lakes Regional championship, the Taylor North team was not yet done. On August 29, 2021., they won 5–2 against Ohio's Hamilton West Side team at Lamade Stadium in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Throughout the championship they defeated seven state champions and came out on top with a record of 19–1. In a season that was as challenging as it was rewarding, the team's tireless dedication to baseball and commitment to teamwork paid off when they became world champions at just twelve years old. These players proved that with hard work and confidence in your teammates, there is no obstacle that is too big to overcome.

No Michigan Little League team has won the World Series since 1959. This team put Michigan Little League back on the map after 62 years. They brought their win back home to Taylor, Michigan to be met with a fitting homecoming victory parade complete with cheering

fans, a marching band, and ending with a glittering fireworks show.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the Taylor North Little League Team: Chauncey Adkins, Noah Boren, Lucas Farner, Job Furkas, Kale Harris, Max LeForest, Jaxon Shufeldt, Jackson Surma, Cameron Thorning, Gavin Ulin, and Ethan Van Belle—along with Coach Guido Ulin and Manager Rick Thorning. Please join me in congratulating this team on their fantastic win and in wishing them the best of luck in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
MATTHEW J. MCCARTHY

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding life and legacy of Matthew J. McCarthy, age 35, who passed away far too soon on Friday, August 13, 2021. A talented and respected trumpet player, composer, arranger, and educator, Matt touched the lives of countless individuals and left a lasting impression on the central Florida music community.

Matt was a professional trumpet player, specializing in modern and improvised music. He had experience playing all styles of music, including jazz, big band, orchestral, chamber music, rock, ska, pop, commercial, salsa, and more. He worked with musicians and performance groups that included the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Sam Rivers RivBea Orchestra, Cirque Du Soleil's La Nouba, Junkierush, the Outer Toons, the Supervillains, Mad Sexual Genius, the Orlando Jazz Orchestra, the Harry James Orchestra, various bands of Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, the Smithsonian Jazz Orchestra, and countless other local groups and celebrities. Matt also spent a lot of time performing with the one and only Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, playing lead trumpet. It was with this group, he toured all over the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and on countless international cruises.

A prolific composer and arranger, specializing in custom arrangements and charts, Matt had experience in transcription, copywork, and orchestration for groups of all sizes. His library included hundreds of arrangements for jazz chamber groups, big bands, large orchestras, latin ensembles, and original compositions for a variety of groups. Frequently premiering new works, his arrangements became highly sought after, especially for competitive marching bands.

Matt began his career in music at the University of Central Florida, where he studied trumpet, composition, and jazz studies, graduating with a dual-specialty Bachelor of Music degree in 2007. During that time, he began working as a freelance trumpet player and arranger. This eventually led to a long career with the bands of Walt Disney World. Additionally, Matt started subbing in the trumpet section for the Sam Rivers RivBea Orchestra, which began a life-long interest in experimental and avant-garde music.

Matt furthered his musical career in 2013 by attending graduate school at the University of South Florida, where he graduated with a

Master of Music in jazz composition in 2015. There he studied with Chuck Owen and Jack Wilkins. During his tenure at USF, Matt performed as lead trumpet player for Jazz Ensemble I, served as director of Jazz Ensemble II, and taught various courses in the Jazz Studies Department. Matt frequently appeared with the USF Jazz Faculty Ensemble and toured Italy with the USF Jazztet in the summer of 2015, performing at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia, Italy. While studying composition, Matt was awarded the Owen Prize for Jazz Composition for his tune, "Hans the Hunter."

Matt McCarthy leaves behind a legacy of kindness, imagination, and musical excellence. Matt's positive and creative outlook on life touched the lives of so many and made our community a better place. I am saddened by the loss of such a valuable member of the community and extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH ATTACKS

HON. YVETTE HERRELL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. On that day, 19 al Qaeda terrorists hijacked four aircraft and claimed the lives of 2,974 people, shocking our nation and the world.

The devastation and destruction from that day was heartbreaking, but was swiftly overcome by American resilience following the attacks. Heroic first responders ran towards danger, risking their own lives to rescue victims, and their selfless fortitude will always be remembered. The brave passengers of Flight 93 prevented further tragedy by overwhelming terrorist hijackers; their courage saved countless American lives. Regardless of political party, race, or creed, the 9/11 attacks on our nation remind us of the unifying values that can bring Americans together on the darkest of days.

Today, I want to especially commend the work of the men and women responsible for the new 9/11 Memorial Monument in New Mexico. This community-sponsored Memorial Monument in the Village of Williamsburg was created by hardworking and dedicated New Mexicans to pay solemn tribute to those we lost on 9/11, and the heroes who rose amid the flames. Following the attacks, 42 of New Mexico's finest traveled across the country to assist in search and rescue operations; our country will forever be grateful for all first responders served their fellow Americans.

The tragedy of September 11th echoes to this day. Thousands of first responders, those who worked and lived in lower Manhattan, and crews that came in to clean up the rubble were exposed to toxic particles. By 2018, nearly 10,000 people were diagnosed with 9/11-related cancers. These heroes deserve to have the best of care, and I am thankful that President Trump extended the Victim Compensation Fund through 2092.

September 11th, 2001 will forever be remembered as "Patriot Day," a National Day of

Service and remembrance. I commend all the first responders, volunteers, and countless numbers of men and women who responded to this great tragedy and continue to pray for all families who lost their loved ones.

HONORING GOLD MEDALIST JOHN
BOIE OF MILTON

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Boie. A native of Milton, Wisconsin, John Boie competed for Team USA at the 2020 Paralympics held this year in Tokyo, Japan. John was a member of Team USA's Wheelchair Basketball and helped lead the team to a gold medal victory in a 64–60 win over Japan. John and his teammates secured a gold medal for the United States at the second straight Paralympics for Men's Wheelchair basketball.

During a preliminary game against Iran, John was the heart of Team USA's defensive effort turning 11 first half turnovers into 18 points. The win over Iran contributed to the team's 4–1 record in pool play allowing them to advance to the final knockout round at the 2020 Paralympics Games. The team demonstrated strong chemistry, bolstered by a common thread with five players having ties to UW-Whitewater, including John himself. Together, the team competed in a thrilling gold medal matchup with the United States defeating Japan 64–60 in a come from behind win after trailing during the third quarter. In addition to scoring four points for Team USA, John's strong defensive effort throughout the game helped the United States secure victory.

John's love for sports began at a young age. Despite suffering from an incomplete spinal cord injury after an accident involving a tractor, John continued to demonstrate a love for the game of basketball. John was introduced to wheelchair basketball after attending a wheelchair basketball summer camp at UW-Whitewater when he was eleven years old. John would go on to attend UW-Whitewater where he would become a three-time collegiate wheelchair basketball champion. John would go on to win a silver medal during the 2018 World Championships.

John represented the United States and Southeast Wisconsin with honor. He made both his country and community proud with his composure, talents, and determination. While this is his first gold medal, John's passion for success suggests that it won't be his last. I know Southeast Wisconsin will be backing him 100 percent in his future endeavors.

John's perseverance through adversity helped lead to this historic success. I was proud to watch John represent Wisconsin and the United States on the world stage. On behalf of Wisconsin's First Congressional District, I would like to congratulate John on his tremendous accomplishment and wish him the best of luck.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL SITE FOUNDATION

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation on its 50th anniversary.

On Friday September 6, 1901, President William McKinley was shot by anarchist Leon Czolgosz during a trip to the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. Closely monitoring the situation from a family vacation in the Adirondack Mountains, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt traveled to Buffalo to pay his respects when it became apparent that President McKinley would not survive his injuries. President McKinley died the day of Roosevelt's arrival, on Saturday, September 14, 1901.

It was only a matter of hours before the Vice President assumed the Office of the President of the United States. That same day, Vice President Roosevelt was sworn in as president at the residence of his close friend, and an esteemed lawyer, Mr. Ansley Wilcox, located at 641 Delaware Avenue. In taking his Oath of Office, Roosevelt declared, "In this hour of deep and terrible national bereavement, I wish to state that it shall be my aim to continue, absolutely without variance, the policy of President McKinley, for the peace and honor of our beloved country."

In conjunction with the National Park Service, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation has maintained the residence on Delaware Avenue since 1971, with several missions in mind. First and foremost, the foundation strives to uphold educational dialogues around the Roosevelt Presidency, ranging from the inauguration itself to his life, policy choices, and legacy. The foundation also highlights the 1901 Pan-American Exposition, which introduced Buffalo to the world as the first electrified city of light, powered by nearby Niagara Falls. More generally, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation highlights a period in Western New York's history when it served the country as an industrial powerhouse filled with driven, creative individuals seeking to build a new and better future.

Today, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation offers a variety of programs and experiences that aim to preserve the legacy of President Roosevelt. The foundation displays a variety of exhibits and showcases within the home that examine Roosevelt's inauguration and time in office. Tours are offered at the nearby museum, as well as at sites of importance across the City of Buffalo. The foundation also hosts a "Speaker Nite" series of events, inviting esteemed individuals to explore issues of significance from President Roosevelt's tenure and share how these issues remain relevant today.

I thank the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation for its commitment to preserving the unique history of the Western New York region, and I again congratulate the foundation on its 50th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING MAKENNA PEED FOR WINNING FOUR STATE TRACK MEDALS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize MaKenna Peed of Kewanee High School for winning four gold medals for Track in the IHSA State Competition.

MaKenna competed in the 100 meters (41.12 seconds), 200 meters (1:32.09), shot put (2.23 meters), and discus (5.28 meters), winning gold in all four events. She is also the first Kewanee High School athlete to medal in the Athletes with Disabilities Division. As a former student athlete, I admire and appreciate MaKenna's hard work and dedication to track. I am proud that she represented Kewanee High School and the community exceptionally well throughout the state.

It is because of student leaders such as MaKenna that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would once again like to congratulate MaKenna Peed on her success in Track while competing at the state level.

HONORING BERNARD A. BARTON, JR., IN CELEBRATION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bernard A. Barton, Jr. on his retirement from the Library of Congress and to thank him for nearly three decades of dedicated public service.

Following his service as a U.S. Air Force officer, Mr. Barton spent his career at the intersection of knowledge and technology. As Deputy Chief Information Officer for the North Carolina National Guard, Mr. Barton designed the agency's disaster recovery and continuity of operations capabilities, ensuring the Guard can meet its "Always Ready" motto. As Chief Information Officer for the Defense Technical Information Center, Mr. Barton ensured that the Department of Defense's largest library had the IT infrastructure necessary to "fuse science and technology data" and "reliably deliver the knowledge needed to develop the next generation of technologies to support our Warfighters and help assure national security."

In 2015, Mr. Barton took on what *Fortune Magazine* labeled maybe the "hardest job in tech," serving as the Chief Information Officer for the Library of Congress. Since then, he has ably guided the nation's oldest federal cultural institution through a complete technological overhaul. With aplomb, he oversaw the centralization of Library technology activities; fostered the creation of an agency-wide digital strategy; and marshalled efforts to optimize and modernize the Library's IT infrastructure and critical IT business systems. Under his leadership, the Library completed a three-year Data Center Transformation, embracing the best of traditional IT services and the Cloud to ensure a stable, flexible, scalable foundation

for the future. He also completely revamped IT security, and successfully addressed more than 100 major technology recommendations identified by Congress and the GAO.

Through it all, he has been a transparent, proactive, and enthusiastic partner for Members of Congress, our staff, and our constituents. He has responded to our inquiries and ideas with the resolute assurance that technology will not be a problem for our Library.

The impact of these changes cannot be overstated. As the world's largest library and home of both the Congressional Research Service and the U.S. Copyright Office, the Library of Congress stands as a beacon of knowledge and creativity the world over. Mr. Barton leaves the Library a stronger, more digitally enabled institution that is better prepared than ever to serve the needs of Congress, researchers, and all Americans.

Please join me in wishing Mr. Barton a well-deserved retirement after a lifetime of faithful public service.

RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN—
JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the views submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman, of Temple Lev Tikvah:

The Jewish High Holy Days, also known as the Days of Awe, are a ten-day period commencing with the New Year of Rosh Hashana and concluding with the Day of Atonement of Yom Kippur. With humble Biblical roots and profound Rabbinic transformation, it is a sacred vehicle and opportunity set aside for inspiring soul-searching and heroic resolve to mend the brokenness of the human heart and do our called upon share, individually and collectively, to repair and heal our inner world as well as the outer one. Quite a tall order but a compelling one!

The celebration this season takes place against the onerous backdrop of a threatening gathering cloud of anti-Semitism—the world's oldest and most resistant virus—at home and abroad as critical American democracy, alarmingly violated on 1/6, along with the unresolved burden of shameful Black slavery, lingering racism toward minorities, urban unrest and a ravaging global pandemic with the State of Israel begrudged its rightful responsibility to protect its citizens from those intent on obliterating the only sovereign Jewish country while denying the monumental Holocaust. What a perfect storm scenario for the resurrection of history's worst images of hatred for the Other.

The High Holy Days, peak Jewish religious experience, offer a reflective mirror into an ancient people's awesome spiritual odyssey enabling it to somehow survive history's high waves of relentless tsunamis through offering humanity noble teachings and indispensable lessons. On Rosh Hashanah 5782 (Based on calculating the generations enumerated in the Biblical Genesis) as we celebrate the world's creation, our prayerful focus is not only on the wonder of the unfathomable acts of creation, but no less on the confounding complexity of human relationships. Our Biblical heroes, unlike the Greek ones, are flesh and blood creatures who both succeed and succumb, contending with blessings as well as blemishes.

The first Jewish family of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael, birthing the kindred monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, reflects deep convictions along with searing conflicts whose profound impact is still with us today. This we know for sure, our basic human make-up of passions and prejudices, loves and hatreds has not changed. We remain subject to their influences in determining our conduct, positively and negatively. While naturally we tend to dwell on the multiple challenges and struggles of contemporary life, there is much we can absorb from those who laid the foundation for the twin components of Jewish identity, faith, and peoplehood.

Abraham and Sarah had the stamina to leave their home in pagan Mesopotamia in search of new beginnings—spiritually, physically, and psychologically. They were not deterred by the cumbersome obstacles such a journey and journeys would entail, sustained by a driving vision of an encounter with a God whose unifying message captured their yearning imagination. Soon they would discover, however, that their newly found breakthrough faith was intertwined with a fragmented reality. The shared tenets and tents in an unknown territory would become the testing ground for lofty ideals and binding values. The Rabbis teach us that the founders' tent in the wilderness of Canaan was open on all sides to allow one and all to enter and be warmly welcomed, finding caring respite and appreciated protection from both hostile humans and adverse elements.

Are we equipped with the capacity to learn from mistakes and chart a new course of conduct and consideration, finally creating Shalom's overarching harmony? The tradition ushered in by our progenitors is an optimistic one, having faith in God as well as us, while sanctifying the precious gift of life. As we enter the portals of a new year may we master from those who shaped us in ways both manifest and concealed, that we may turn hatred into love, violence into vision, pain into promise, adversity into advantage and blemishes into blessings!

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. He is a member of the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission.

HONORING LOUIS TESSIER'S DECADES OF SERVICE AT THE DEDICATION OF "LOU TESSIER WAY" AT THE WARREN COUNTY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Louis Tessier for his decades of service to Lake George and all of Warren County, New York, and to mark the dedication of "Lou Tessier Way" at the Warren County Airport.

Louis Tessier first came to Lake George in the 1970s when he purchased the Four Seasons Hotel. He quickly got involved in the local community and was elected to the Lake George Town Board in 1982. Just two years later, Mr. Tessier was elected as Supervisor of the Board, a position he held until his retirement in 2009. His long list of accomplishments in this role includes overseeing \$500,000 in renovations for the Lake George Town Hall, acquiring the land for Usher Park Beach, and

assisting in building the Scoville Learning Center at Adirondack Community College. In addition to his years of service on the Lake George Town Board, he also served as Chairman of the Board for Warren County's Board of Supervisors, budget officer for Warren County, and a member of the American Legion.

A pilot himself, Louis Tessier was a devoted advocate for the Warren County Airport. He went out of his way to support the staff and assist them whenever they needed help. He put in hours of work to help organize the Adirondack Balloon Festival. In honor of his commitment to the airport and the community it serves, the Warren County Board of Supervisors unanimously decided to rename the entrance road to the airport "Lou Tessier Way."

Mr. Tessier truly embodies the community spirit present throughout the North Country. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to thank Mr. Tessier for his decades of service to Lake George and Warren County and congratulate him for this well-deserved recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. VIVIANA MEDELLIN

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I rise today to memorialize the significant contributions of Mrs. Viviana Medellin, an individual who went above and beyond to serve our KC Latino community. She poured her heart and soul into the empowerment of Latino voices, leveraging her Chicana roots and producing so many far-reaching programs that will carry her legacy forward while sharing her culture with many within the Greater Kansas City region.

Before her public service, Mrs. Medellin followed her dream of working with renowned cardiologists Dr. G. Hartzler and Dr. Barry Rutherford in the Cardiovascular lab at St. Luke's Hospital. Prior to working in the Cardiovascular lab, she started at St. Luke's as a nursing assistant and eventually retired after nearly 48 years of service and dedication to public health. It was during that 48 years that she met her amazing and loving husband, Richard Medellin, and together raised their children: Monica Holman, Robert A. Frias, Sophia Byers, and Ricardo Medellin.

Viviana not only was committed to public health in Kansas City, but she was also a devout Catholic, as a long-time parishioner of St. Agnes Catholic Church. Having graduated from Redemptorist Catholic High School in 1965, Viviana was charged at an early age to give back. She also served the Altar and Rosary Society and as a member of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle.

It is because of her pursuits to advance the celebration of her Mexican American culture that Viviana served as the President of Azteca de Greater KC and as Vice-President of The Greater Kansas City Hispanic Heritage, advancing several amazing programs over the years. Of those programs, Viviana was a significant contributor to the Fiesta Hispanic celebration that started in 1984 and has been a

beacon of Hispanic celebration and acknowledgement for decades. In addition, Viviana has been a host on Kansas City Community Radio station, KKFI 90.1 FM's Taste of Tejano, where she combined her love of Tejano music and that of sharing her culture through the airwaves. She was certainly an amazing person, sharing her passion for her community with all of Kansas City, and for that she deserves great recognition.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mrs. Viviana Medellin for the tremendous accomplishments throughout her career and her tireless efforts in providing Kansas City with celebration of the rich Mexican American culture, thriving within our amazing City. Her contributions to our community have made a significant impact on Missouri's Fifth District and I speak on the behalf of the entire district when I say thank you to Viviana.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. SUSAN "CHERI" CHERYL MAINARD OFNER

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Susan "Cheri" Cheryl Mainard Ofner, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, patriot, and friend.

Cheri was born July 27, 1951, in Dallas, Texas to the late Loretta and Aston "Dee" Dale Mainard. She was the oldest of four children, and at an early age, developed a love for sports, her country, and the Lord.

Cheri was a woman of great faith and spent her life dedicated to learning and sharing the Word of God. As a young girl, Cheri's family moved to Houston, and attended Springs Branch Baptist Church, where her mother taught Sunday school.

Cheri attended school as a National Merit Scholar at the University of Texas, where she secured a highly competitive spot on the gymnastics team. It was during gymnastics practice where Cheri met the love of her life, Lee Ofner, in January 1971. The couple's first date was watching Superbowl V, played between the Baltimore Colts and the Dallas Cowboys.

In 1972, Cheri graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance & Accounting, and in 1973 married Lee in a ceremony at her home church in Houston, Texas. A few years later, in 1975, Lee earned a Doctorate in Dental Surgery degree from Baylor College of Dentistry and began his U.S. Navy tour in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

The couple moved back to Dallas after Lee completed his tour with the U.S. Navy. Together with Cheri's degree in business and Lee's doctorate in dental surgery, they established a successful dental practice in 1977. During this time, Cheri and Lee had two children, Jay and Courtney. Cheri was an all-star mom, attending every soccer practice, school musical, ballet, Bible study, etc. She even coached Courtney's gymnastics team.

The Ofners eventually retired from dentistry, and ultimately, found their forever home in 1991 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Cheri and Lee immediately became involved with their new community, joining several Bible

studies, volunteering on campaigns for the Republican party, and helping with various events and fundraisers at the Colorado Springs Christian School.

Since putting down roots in the Pikes Peak region, the Ofner family attended several churches in Colorado Springs, including Fellowship Bible Church, Woodmen Valley Chapel, Rocky Mountain Calvary, Mountain Springs, and most recently, The Road@Chapel Hills Church.

For the last few years of Cheri's life, she and Lee cared for her father Dee, a WWII veteran, in their home, for which Cheri was extremely grateful.

Cheri is survived by her husband of nearly fifty years, Lee; her loving children, CDR (USNR) Jay (Jennifer) Ofner of Mililani, Hawaii; and MAJ (USAF, Retired) Courtney (Kirk) Olsen of Colorado Springs, Colorado; her beloved grandchildren Amanda, Evie, Aaron, and Kylie; and her wonderful siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Romans 12:11 commands that His believers, "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the LORD." Cheri did just this and lived her life with conviction, passion, and unadulterated love and excitement for her Heavenly Father. She leaves behind her husband, family, and friends who loved and adored her and who are celebrating her life and reunion in heaven with the Lord God, Almighty. I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring my friend and fellow patriot, Cheri Ofner, in saying, "well done, good and faithful servant."

HONORING JEROME L. DAVIS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a leader in our business and transportation community, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Executive Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer Jerome L. Davis, on his upcoming retirement. As the Airports Authority's highest-ranking executive under the president and CEO, Davis has overseen the Office of Revenue, which includes Marketing and Consumer Strategy, Concessions, Airline Business Development, Real Estate, Commercial Parking, Communications and Government Affairs. Davis' retirement caps off a career that has spanned more than four decades as a key executive in major U.S. corporations.

Under Davis' leadership, overall passenger traffic at Reagan National and Dulles International airports increased by more than nine percent, led by growth at Dulles International through the addition of 30 new international routes and 15 new airlines. Davis' efforts to increase non-airline revenue boosted it to an unprecedented 57 percent of total revenue, a \$90 million increase since 2015. In addition, he led a 2015 rebranding of the corporation, including the creation of a new logo to more closely tie the organization to the air travel industry and the National Capital Region.

Davis also led an expansion and upgrade of the airports' concessions program, recruiting many popular global and local brands to provide a greater "sense of place" for the National Capital Region. His accomplishments in this area included the complete redevelopment of over 180 concessions locations, including shops and restaurants in Reagan National's newly constructed concourse; launching new valet parking services; and executing agreements for new passenger lounges, including the American Express Centurion Lounge coming to Reagan National in 2022.

Prior to joining the Airports Authority, Davis held key executive positions in corporations including Procter & Gamble, Maytag, Waste Management, Electronic Data Systems and Frito-Lay. He also recently retired from the boards of two public companies, Apogee Enterprises and GameStop Corp. Davis also has represented the Airports Authority on the board of directors of Destination DC, the District of Columbia's official convention and visitors' bureau.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Davis and his service to our regional economy, the traveling public, and the gateways for our nation's capital, and I wish him all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PATHFINDER DAY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Pathfinder Day, a day in which to honor all those who have served in this elite group of soldiers. The Pathfinders hold a special place in the history and, more importantly, the successes of our Armed Forces. These brave volunteer soldiers were trailblazers who played a vital role in heightening our military's precision and capabilities.

The Army Pathfinders were first utilized at the height of our involvement in World War II as newly formed paratrooper units were being scattered during combat jumps as far as 60 miles from the target. Prior to their formation, a consistent tactical issue had been the inaccurate and widely scattered drop zones for our paratroopers. The correcting course our military found was to assemble volunteer units to drop in the prior night, undetected by the enemy, and set up marked drop zones for our parachuting soldiers and gliders—widely considered a suicide mission. However, these first Pathfinders' bravery and tenacity in the face of a seemingly impossible mission led to success.

Pathfinders have been employed in every major conflict, continuing to drop into unknown enemy territory with no larger force to rely on for retreat or reinforcement. They would continue to do all of this in the name of providing their brothers-in-arms with accurate information and other operational support. While modern technological advancements and the everchanging landscape by which we conduct warfare have shifted so that units such as the Pathfinders are no longer utilized, we would do well to remember the traits that these patriots exhibited—bravery, selflessness, and an

undying need to complete what was requested of them. Now as the National Pathfinder Association gathers in fellowship to commemorate this September 13th Day of recognition, I ask my colleagues to join me in reflecting upon these giants of valor.

HONORING MR. BRYAN O'BRIEN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. Bryan O'Brien, a recently-departed constituent of mine who served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. Due to contentious public debate on our nation's involvement in the war, returning Veterans were denied the appropriate recognition for their service. Thankfully, Mr. O'Brien and his fellow service members did not accept this unfair mistreatment. They advocated for one another and for future generations to ensure all returning service members are treated with respect and honor, regardless of the public opinion of the war itself. They have been quite successful in this endeavor. Bryan was a proud Member of the SPC Zachary L. Shannon Memorial VFW Post 2550 in Dunedin, Florida. He also served as the national sergeant at arms for the VFW. He was a founding member and past vice-president of the Heritage Springs Veterans Club. A true patriot, Bryan loved his country and made an indelible mark on both our community and those who had the privilege of knowing him. Indeed, Bryan leaves behind a legacy of service and sacrifice. May his memory be eternal! My thoughts and prayers are with his widow, Patricia, and his three children: McKenzie O'Brien, Craig Wagner, and Robert Wagner. Thank you, I yield back my time.

CONGRATULATING JULIA FINAZZO FOR WINNING THE LONG JUMP AT THE IHSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julia Finazzo of Galena, Illinois, for winning the Long Jump at the IHSA State Championships.

Julia Finazzo competed in the IHSA State Competition at Eastern Illinois University in the 100, 200, long jump and 4x100 meter relay. Finazzo finished first place in the long jump event, jumping 18 feet, which broke her own record. She also anchored the winning 4x100 meter relay, which set a program record with a winning time of 50.46. As a former student athlete, I admire and appreciate Julia's hard work and dedication to track. I am proud that she has represented the Galena community exceptionally well throughout the state.

It is because of student leaders such as Julia that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would once again like to congratulate Julia Finazzo on her success in Track while competing at the state level.

CELEBRATING THE JEFFERSON
AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST'S
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th Anniversary of the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ located in my hometown of Cookeville, Tennessee. What began as a small number of Christians meeting in 1871 is now a strong institution providing generations with a place to practice their faith and be a part of a supportive community.

In their early years, the church shared a building with a Methodist church on what today is known as Lowe Avenue. In 1874, the congregation moved to a new building north of the county square on the corner of Washington and Freeze Street. In 1908, to accommodate their growing congregation, the church built a new place of worship on Broad Street and took the name Broad Street Church of Christ.

In 1909, seeing the need and benefit of higher education, Jere Whitson and other members of the Broad Street congregation led the founding of the University of Dixie, commonly called Dixie College and now known as Tennessee Technological University. The school currently has an enrollment of over 10,000 students and offers a wide variety of degrees at different levels from eight academic schools and colleges. I am proud to be an alumnus from this university and take pride in their founding and traditions.

As the area grew, the Broad Street Church of Christ congregation moved to plant other congregations in the area. They acquired land, supported construction of new church buildings, and identified members of Broad Street who were willing to be the initial members of the new congregations. These church plants are still active today. As the Broad Street building aged, the members decided in 1962 it was time to move south to the current location at 521 South Jefferson.

Today, the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ, led by the ministry team of Andy Brewster as the pulpit minister, Evan Burns as associate minister, Jesse Bates as youth minister, and Bo Perez as the Spanish-language minister, continues its commitment to mission work worldwide. Currently, it supports 30 ministers, 40 congregations, and a bible school in Nicaragua by providing humanitarian aid and training. They support nine preachers and a preaching school in Panama and the San Blas Islands. Jefferson Avenue also is committed to Healing Hands International and their work in developing countries, providing access to clean water and medical supplies. They continue to spread the word of God throughout the world through support of World Christian Broadcasting as well as Gospel Chariot Ministries who offer mobile evangelistic teams.

The Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ is also making a difference here at home. When Gatlinburg Church of Christ lost its building to the 2016 wildfires, Jefferson Avenue was moved to assist in the rebuilding of their congregation. In March of 2020, when tornados in Cookeville resulted in tragic loss of life, Jefferson Avenue served as one of many distribution centers for emergency supplies. It also helped with direct assistance to many in need.

Christian organizations like The Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ are the bedrock of our communities in Middle Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I would like you to join me in honoring and congratulating the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ for 150 years of dedication and commitment to spreading the gospel right here at home and abroad.

RECOGNIZING THE BUFFALO
STATE COLLEGE
SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor of my own alma mater, Buffalo State College, to recognize 150 years of education and service to the Western New York Community.

Buffalo State College, a member of the State University of New York (SUNY) system, opened in 1871 as the Buffalo Normal School to train teachers for the area's growing public school system. Now the largest comprehensive four-year college in the SUNY system, Buffalo State educates over 9,000 undergraduate and graduate students each year. In addition to their renown Special Education program, the school offers 79 undergraduate majors, 11 post baccalaureate teacher certification programs, and 64 graduate programs.

Education is perhaps one of life's greatest gifts and for the past 150 years, Buffalo State College has committed to providing access to quality public higher education, giving a countless number of students the opportunity for engaged and applied learning. As an alumnus myself, I have seen first-hand just how great of an institution Buffalo State really is. Its ability to improve and evolve each year with ever changing educational practices deserves the highest honor.

Buffalo State is known for its strong community connections and commitment to life-long learning. Graduates become scholars, leaders, and global citizens. The educational community encompasses a diverse range of students and faculty. It is this commitment to diversity and inclusivity that has made Buffalo State into the institution it is today. This diversity creates a learning environment where all people are welcome and helps to foster the growth of a knowledgeable, understanding community.

It is attributes like this that have enabled Buffalo State to become a pristine institution within the Western New York Community for many years. I sincerely congratulate the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Buffalo State College on being a part of the school's storied history, and I look forward to seeing how Buffalo State continues to grow and develop throughout the future. Go Bengals.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF 9/11
VICTIMS ON THE 20TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, as we honor the loved ones lost 20 years ago.

The horrific events that unfolded that day claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans and forever impacted many more. The senseless terrorist attacks that took place in New York City, Washington, D.C., and a field in Pennsylvania fundamentally altered our nation. Commercial airliners were weaponized, our Pentagon attacked, and the World Trade Center Towers fell. Yet, in one of America's darkest hours, Americans were united by God, heroism and compassion.

As we take a moment to commemorate the great losses our nation suffered 20 years ago, we also continue to be inspired by the raw strength and resilience displayed by our great nation in the grief and aftermath. To this day, America's fortitude continues to set an international example, even during trying times.

While this day is still difficult and we cannot bring back those precious American lives that were tragically lost by the brutal attacks, we must never forget their sacrifice and those that protect our freedom. I commend the participants of Lake Havasu City's 9/11 Rededication Ceremony for honoring the memory of the Americans lost on the twentieth anniversary of the September 11th, 2001 attacks.

May God continue to comfort the families who lost loved ones and may God bless the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEEL
HAJRA'S 11 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE ANN ARBOR AREA COM-
MUNITY FOUNDATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Neel Hajra, the outgoing CEO of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His significant contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Mr. Hajra came to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation in 2011 and became CEO in 2015. He is a two-time graduate of the University of Michigan who started his career as an attorney with the Ford Motor Company. During a sabbatical from that job, he developed a love for community and the nonprofit sector. He later took a job at Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW), where he remained for nine years before joining the Foundation.

As CEO of the Community Foundation, his determination to create positive community change is infectious. Among his numerous successful endeavors includes establishing a scholarship program that increased graduation rates for underserved students, and launching a resilient support system for Washtenaw

County nonprofits so that the foundation can help them thrive. Years after his passion for the nonprofit sector was sparked, Mr. Hajra continues to show his dedication to community through his work. Even as a busy CEO, Mr. Hajra teaches courses in nonprofit policy and management to the next generation of leaders at the Gerald R. Ford School for Public Policy. The impact of his work in our community will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Hajra was born and raised in Washtenaw County and continues to serve his hometown as a vice chair for the Council of Michigan Foundations and as a member of the Washtenaw County Board of Health. He is the recipient of two prestigious national awards: the Aspen Institute Fellowship for Emerging Nonprofit Leaders and the American Express NGen Fellowship. He resides in Ann Arbor with his wife Lisa and their three children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Neel Hajra for an exemplary decade of dedicated service to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. He has effectively served the Ann Arbor community and has enhanced the nonprofit field in Washtenaw County and beyond. I join with Neel's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in his new role as CEO of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, where he will be improving the health of Michigan residents through grant awards and professional support.

TWENTY YEARS THROUGHOUT THE TEARS—IN MEMORY OF 9/11

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poetic tribute in memory of the heroes and innocents lost on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 at The World Trade Center penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

TWENTY YEARS THROUGHOUT THE TEARS (by Albert Carey Caswell)

Twenty years throughout the tears
It was twenty years ago this day,
what happened here upon our hearts which weighs
All in our tears which flow each day
All in what our prayers have come to say
As we stop to ponder all the pain and woe it's made
The kind which only seems to grow only
Heaven can allay
When, we reunite with our loved ones one fine day
As on this day that we stop to remember,
what all happened here on the darkest of September's
When, we lost all of our loved ones as Towers fell down below
Watching all of those scenes from hell we'd come to know
As their most courageous hearts to new heights so rose
What seems like just yesterday,
still remains 20 years later all in our pain and woe
As we teach our children well about all of those
Those innocents and heroes of 9/11 who up to heaven rose
The Men and Women up in the Towers
The magnificent Fire Fighters and Police
who chose to fight in the darkest of hours

As it been twenty years of heartbreak and tears for all of us and our's
When, all of our loved ones went away
On bended knee throughout the years oh how for them we've prayed,
wishing but to with them one more day
When, something or song reminds us of them as the tears come our way
As we give thanks and praise to all of those heroes for what they gave
Against such evil wrought on that day
God bless those Heroes At Ground Zero heroically fought and stayed
Teaching us all about faith and glory,
teaching us all about their courage and selflessness as was their story
When, from out of all this pain and heartache came such Gotham Glory
As we watched Fire Fighters and Police,
running up the towers towards sure death in disbelief
To save precious lives all because of their selfless belief
Mothers, Fathers, Sisters, Brothers, Parents and Grandparents and friends,
we so loved in our hearts until the end
Watching all those innocents and heroes dying right before our eyes crying
And for all those children who had to grow up without moms or dads,
and lost the best friends they'll ever have
Not to watch them grow up to be everything they hoped to be
No one to read them stories at night to sleep
No one to explain or nurture them of the meaning of life so very deep
Or on Christmas or Hanukkah to share their love all in such joy so sweet
Or High School graduations,
or walk them down the aisle on wedding days in hearts to keep
Witnessing with them the miracle of birth
As a new generation comes into this world to ponder their true worth
And then now all the ones who are dying from that second wave
All because they chose to stay who dug in deep day after day
To find all of those precious bodies which lie beneath to place in a grave
To have a place to be with them and pray
When, all across our Nation came a call to arms
As all our fearless men and women of the Armed Forces ventured out into harm
Who gave their precious arms and legs,
and their lives in That Full Measure they so gave
For heaven so holds a place,
for all such selflessness souls of the human race.
And Hush little baby don't you cry,
one day up in heaven you will look into your Mother or Fathers eyes
Your parents have become Angels in The Army of Our Lord realize
And when you lay your heads down to rest,
they watch over you each night as you rest
And when you wake you can feel their Angel's breath
So have a good life for them and this our world you will bless
Sadly, time does not heal all
only up in heaven when we hear our loved ones voices call
As twenty years have flown on by,
as we keep asking that question why?
Knowing in our hearts it's the battle of GOOD vrs EVIL therein lies
As we watched the new towers up towards the heavens rise
To build this great memorial of water falls and reflecting pools
Etched upon it all their great names with hearts of love and courage full
To build upon the exact footprint of the towers we fought for this sacred jewel

So we would NEVER FORGET what happened,
on that day when hearts over evil ruled,
For a hallowed place to take all our children by the hand,
to teach them well all about and make them understand
All their precious souls so very bright
Goodness . . . Evil. . . Darkness . . . Light
Those brave hearts whose evil must fight
Who bring the light
As we remember that day when they taught us,
The Darkness is no match for The Light
And standing here this day,
we can but not help to feel all of their precious souls telling us to pray
For Mankind each day,
and NEVER FORGET WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY
And to give thanks,
and remember what the gift of hope to world and America gave
And to try to live a life of courage, faith, hope, and love as they
By the grace of God we will join them up in heaven one fine day
As long as we carry them in our hearts they're not gone
As long as we remember them in our thoughts and prayers they live on
Even twenty years later on this morn
God Rest Their Souls,
and may we try to live lives as caring and selfless as all of those

COMMEMORATING OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALIST RICHARD TORREZ, JR.

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Richard Torrez Jr., who earned a silver medal at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

Born on June 1, 1999, Mr. Torrez was raised in Tulare, California. He developed a love for boxing at a young age, following in the footsteps of his grandfather as well as his father Richard Torrez Sr., who competed in the 1984 Olympic Boxing Trials. As a child, Mr. Torrez was mesmerized by the Olympic games and dreamed of one day winning a medal for the United States.

Mr. Torrez grew up in the boxing gym his father owns and operates, Tulare Athletic Boxing Club. Learning discipline and commitment, he quickly became an elite boxer. Family always remained at his core. His father, to this day, remains one of his coaches.

Graduating from Mission Oak High School in 2017, Mr. Torrez was considered one of the most accomplished students of his graduating class. He was president of the school's chess club and involved in the robotics team. He was also a varsity member of the football, basketball, and track teams. Mr. Torrez capped off his high school career as valedictorian of his graduating class.

Fighting as a super heavyweight, Mr. Torrez placed fifth at the 2019 Elite World Championships, third at the 2019 Pan American Games, and first at the 2020 Boxam Tournament. He has successfully competed in many other tournaments as well, but reaching the Olympics have always been his biggest goal.

Mr. Torrez earned the right to represent the United States as a super heavyweight boxer at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. His years of disciplined training were evident from his first fight, becoming the first American to vie for the super heavyweight gold medal since Riddick Bowe in 1988 at the Seoul Olympic Games. He made the United States proud by earning the silver medal.

Through his accomplishments, Mr. Torrez brought great pride to his hometown. Hundreds of people gathered in various places in Tulare to watch his fights. Signs supporting him were placed on most streets. He joins two other Tulare residents, Bob Mathias and Sim Inness, as the city's Olympic medalists.

All of America is proud of Richard Torrez Jr. His impact on U.S. boxing and his Central Valley community will be long remembered.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE LOST
AND THOSE WHO GAVE AND
RISKED THEIR LIVES DURING
THE TERRORIST ATTACKS
LAUNCHED AGAINST THE
UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER
11, 2001

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as tomorrow marks the 20th anniversary of the attack launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, I rise to remember the victims of that horrific tragedy and those first-responders who risked, and in too many cases, sacrificed their lives to rescue the occupants of the besieged World Trade Center Towers. The morning of September 11, 2001 is, and will always be, a day like no other. It is a day all living Americans will remember because not since Pearl Harbor had there been such a dastardly and deadly attack on American soil.

Twenty years later, my heart still grieves for those who perished on flights United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175. When the sun rose on the morning of September 11, none of us knew that it would end in an inferno in the magnificent World Trade Center Towers in New York City and the Pentagon and in the grassy fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. I stand here remembering those who still suffer, whose hearts still ache over the loss of so many innocent and interrupted lives.

My prayer is that for those who lost a father, a mother, a husband, a wife, a child, or a friend will in the days and years ahead take comfort in the certain knowledge that they have gone on to claim the greatest prize, a place in the Lord's loving arms. And down here on the ground, their memory will never die so long as any of the many of us who loved them lives. Madam Speaker, I watched as the first, and then the second, plane flew into the World Trade Center and was horrified when the buildings came down.

I was in The Capitol and saw the billowing smoke from the wreckage at the Pentagon and was told about the missing third plane that met its fiery end in the empty fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania thanks to the selfless act of patriotic and heroic Americans. But

as hard as it is to believe, out of a tragedy so overwhelming and horrific, something good and great emerged in the aftermath of September 11. On that day there were no Republicans or Democrats. There were no Northerners or Southerners or West or East Coasters. We were not Red State or Blue State. We were all simply Americans.

On that day, we were united in our shock and anger and sadness. We were united in our resolve to defend our country and protect the freedoms that has made America the greatest country in the history of the world. Later that day, I joined scores of my colleagues on the East Steps of the Capitol where we sang "God Bless America"; lit candles, held hands, and prayed for our country and its leaders. In the days ahead I travelled to New York City to visit first responders and victims still recovering bodies and rescuing victims of the attacks and became a charter member of the Committee on Homeland Security to ensure that 9-11 never again happens in America. A united America can never be defeated as Operation Enduring Freedom showed.

The brave and valiant armed forces of the United States swiftly toppled the Taliban and liberated Afghanistan, making good on the pledge that "[w]hether the terrorists are brought to justice or justice is brought to the terrorists, justice will be done." And though he ran and hid for almost ten years, Osama bin Ladin could not hide forever and evade the long arm of American justice, which, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, caught up with him on May 2, 2011.

Madam Speaker, Americans take care of their own. Americans cherish freedom. Americans cherish liberty. And Americans want peace. Not just for themselves alone, but all persons in every corner of the globe. Madam Speaker, ensuring that America is safe and secure and protected from another attack on American soil is the least we owe to the heroic passengers on Flight 93 and to the brave firefighters of the FDNY and officers of the NYPD and the officers and civilians we lost in the Pentagon who gave faithful service to our nation.

Americans want their country to remain safe, free, and invulnerable to another cowardly attack like the one we witnessed twenty years ago tomorrow. We owe that much to the Americans who lost and gave their lives. And we have an obligation to them to ensure that this nation—and its 241 year record of, and experiment in, democracy—shall long endure and can and will withstand any threat from foreign adversaries or home-grown domestic terrorists.

This nation, as with any nation, suffers the conceit that it is immune from attacks from within on its democratic pillars at its peril, as we learned tragically on January 6, 2021. On that now unforgettable winter day, a violent mob invited by the then-president of the United States came to Washington, D.C. and laid siege to the Capitol for the avowed purpose of disrupting the constitutionally-mandated Joint Meeting of Congress to confirm the votes of presidential electors and announce publicly to the nation and the world the persons elected as President and Vice President of the United States.

As a result of the mayhem instigated by the 45th president, the congressional meeting was delayed for several hours, at least six persons

lost their lives as a result of the insurrection, more than 138 officers, 73 from the United States Capitol Police Department and 65 from the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, sustained injuries during the attack on the Capitol Building, several of which required hospitalization and dozens, if not hundreds, of officers will suffer in years to come with post-traumatic stress disorder and cope with coronavirus infections contracted from the unmasked domestic terrorists and rioters who stormed the Capitol.

All of this is more than enough to sound the warning bell that we are now engaged, as President Lincoln observed at Gettysburg, in a great contest testing the proposition that this nation, or any nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all are created equal can long endure. This illustrates the reason why it is so vital that we enact legislation to strengthen and fortify the foundation of our democracy, which is of course the right to vote and to have that vote counted. To do that, we must enact without delay H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and H.R. 1, the For The People Act. The right to vote is the sine qua non of democratic citizenship; without it every other right is fleeting and temporary.

That is why it is important to remember that the true and fundamental purpose of the Voting Rights Act was to give proof to the world that America was living the true meaning of its creed that all are created equal and doing so by protecting and empowering black Americans, who had for two centuries been exploited, victimized, persecuted, scapegoated, cheated, and treated with both benign and malignant neglect all because they were excluded from participating in the political process and the making of decisions that affected their lives.

It is interesting to note the absence of the current frantic efforts to disenfranchise black voters and other persons of color had no antecedent in 1994, when unexpectedly Republicans won the House majority for the first time in 40 years and majorities in several state legislatures across the country. Nor did it happen after the 2010 elections when Republicans recaptured the House majority after holding the White House for two consecutive terms. Madam Speaker, what accounts for the lack of vote suppression action then and the desperate anti-democratic actions we see now is clear and simple.

In 1994, 27 years ago, and as recent as 11 years ago in 2010, conservative Republicans still believed they could compete for democratic political power fair and square and that their ideals, ideas, principles, and values could attract majority support. But with the demographic changes and generational replacement taking place in America, the maturation and coming of age of the beneficiaries of the Great Society, and the rise of what social and political scientist call the "Obama Coalition," they no longer believe that. So they now hold it as an article of faith that they cannot win if they do not cheat; instead of taking their ideas and arguments to the voters and letting the voters pick their leaders, they have opted to change the rules so they can handpick the voters.

In The Flight 93 Election, the controversial, provocative, call to arms, conservative essayist Michael Anton spelled out clearly the perils the antidemocracy forces feel surround them:

If you haven't noticed, our side has been losing consistently since 1988. We can win midterms, but we do nothing with them. Call ours Hannibalic victories. After the Carthaginian's famous slaughter of a Roman army at Cannae, he failed to march on an undefended Rome, prompting his cavalry commander to complain: 'you know how to win a victory, but not how to use one.' And, aside from 2004's lackluster 50.7 percent, we can't win the big ones at all.

In his 1837 Lyceum Address titled "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions," Abraham Lincoln warned that mobs or people who disrespected U.S. laws and courts would always pose the most dangerous threat to the perpetuation of United States:

All the armies of Europe and Asia . . . could not by force take a drink from the Ohio River or make a track on the Blue Ridge in the trial of a thousand years. No, if destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher.

But Lincoln advised us of the best defense against domestic threats and attacks on our democracy: public reverence for the Constitution and rule of law as "the political religion of our nation."

Madam Speaker, democracy in America is not an act, it is an activity; it is never finished or complete but always in the process of making our union more perfect; and the nation will always be confronted with challenge of confirming the proposition that this nation, or any nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all are created equal can long endure.

The price of liberty is indeed eternal vigilance. But we can do this. We must do this.

After all, we are Americans.

CELEBRATING THE RUSH CITY WOMEN'S CLUB 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Minnesota's Rush City Women's Club as they celebrate their 100th anniversary of community service.

Since September of 1921, the Rush City Women's Club has carried out their mission of Community Betterment and Mutual Benefit for the club and community members.

From maintaining community parks to establishing a local library, the Rush City Women's Club has demonstrated their commitment to live out their stated mission.

Their impact on the Rush City community has been huge, and I am proud that the selfless members of this club, past and present, take the initiative to make their communities a better place to live.

The support the Rush City Women's Club has provided to schools, nursing homes, libraries, and other local organizations is truly extraordinary and cannot go unnoticed. Those willing to serve their community, in any capacity, are shining examples of what makes America an exceptional country.

The women of the Rush City Women's Club have taken great strides over the last 100 years, and I wish them another 100 years of success and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING SARAH RUDDER AS MY CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the incredibly resilient and athletically talented Marine Corps veteran, Sarah Rudder, as my August Constituent of the Month. As a young girl, Sarah knew she wanted to be a Marine after watching an air show and the Silent Drill Platoon perform. She accomplished her goal, but in the wake of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. her dream of a long career in the Marine Corps came to a close. While recovering bodies in the rubble of the famous building, Sarah sustained a career-ending ankle injury, forcing her to medically retire, and ultimately leading to amputation of her left leg below the knee.

Following her career-ending injury, Sarah struggled to find the purpose and commitment that she felt while serving in the military. After being medically retired from the military, Sarah volunteered as an online coach for the Catch a Lift Fund, a nonprofit that provides fitness grants, equipment, and nutrition to combat-wounded veterans. It was within this program that Sarah launched her path to competitive fitness. After chronic pain, depression, and post-traumatic stress, her fitness journey morphed into a sense of therapy, helping to ease her stress and bring back the routine and drive she missed as a Marine.

Sarah's best course of action to relieve some of the strain and pain on her body from the original injury was to have her leg amputated below the knee. With her new sense of relief and a fitted prosthetic leg, she got serious about the fitness regimen CrossFit. In 2015, Sarah tried out for the Warrior Games, an annual competition put on by the Department of Defense for wounded active-duty service members and veterans. Sarah did so well that when she returned in 2016, she qualified to compete for Team USA at that year's Invictus Games, a global competition for wounded service members that was started in 2014 by Britain's Prince Harry. During her two years competing for Team USA at Invictus, Rudder won a dozen gold medals in the 100- and 200-meter running events, along with the 1-minute sprint row, shotput, discus, swimming, seated volleyball, and power lifting.

Overcoming a life-changing injury is an incredible challenge, and I am inspired by the strength and perseverance Sarah has embodied in her recovery journey. I thank Sarah for her service to our country, for her dedication to helping other disabled veterans in similar circumstances, and her unwavering drive to be her very best. I'm proud to honor Sarah Rudder as my August Constituent of the Month.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD MORADO

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I rise today to

honor the significant contributions of Mr. Richard Morado, an individual that went above and beyond to serve our Latino and greater Kansas City community. Richard has not only served our greater Kansas City community but has served our country, honorably and proudly, when he joined the Navy in 1972, on an aircraft carrier. It was in the Navy and through his parent's dedication to the community that Richard found his own passion for community service.

After the Navy, Richard returned home and utilized his G.I. Bill benefits and received an associates degree from Penn Valley College, and later would graduate from Rockhurst College with a business degree. Richard has carried on the tradition of service his parents taught him at a very young age. His father Mike Morado was very active during the civil rights movements in Kansas City, as a local leader in the Hispanic community to fight for equity and justice. This vein was seared into Richard where he picks up from his father's service.

Richard joined several community organizations, serving in various capacities in several groups including: IMAGE, LULAC, the American G.I. Forum, MANA, and the COHOL Civil Rights committee. In addition, Richard has been a longtime volunteer for the local environmental nonprofit Bridging the Gap. His service has been so significant that the Greater KC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce bestowed the Carlos Cortez Humanitarian of the Year Award to him in 2006, for his contributions to Kansas City.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Richard Morado for the tremendous accomplishments throughout his career and his tireless efforts in providing Kansas City with celebration of the rich Mexican American culture, thriving within our amazing City. Richard's contributions to our community have made a significant impact on the Missouri's Fifth District and I speak on the behalf of the entire district when I say thank you to Richard.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9-11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

HON. ANTHONY GONZALEZ

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, 20 years ago, our nation experienced true evil.

On a crisp Tuesday morning, mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters went to work thinking it was just like any other day, not knowing in a matter of minutes that all of our lives would be changed forever.

On that fateful day, we faced grave uncertainty and an insurmountable threat to our way of life unseen in decades.

But while that day brought us immeasurable pain and suffering, it also brought us together as a nation.

It showed us that even in our darkest hour, the United States will never back down and proved again that Americans will always rise to the occasion.

As we come together to remember 20 years that have passed since this tragedy, I would like to reiterate to all those who served:

Your sacrifices and service have not and will not be forgotten. Just as we will never forget September 11, 2001, we will never forget

your patriotism in ensuring our nation remains free and safe.

To the families who lost loved ones on that fateful day, we continue to grieve and promise to never forget their memory.

May God bless those who lost their lives, those who risked their lives and are now dealing with the consequences today, and our brave men and women who continue to fight the global war on terrorism.

CONGRATULATING THE OLYMPIC
TAVERN IN ROCKFORD ON ITS
75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Olympic Tavern for its 75th anniversary of serving the Rockford area.

Anthony Rotella founded The Olympic Tavern in 1945 when he returned from serving overseas in the U.S. Armed Forces. As a cook in the U.S. Marines, he figured he could use his knowledge and experience to open a restaurant, which has become a staple in the

Rockford community for the last 75 years. Zak Rotello, Anthony's grandson, currently runs the restaurant and has maintained 95 percent of his pre-pandemic staff during the last year. Zak credits his father, Tom, his grandfather, Anthony, and their staff, for keeping the doors open for all these years, always providing great service and great food. I commend the Olympic Tavern and its team of management and staff, who commit every day to serve the public.

It is because of strong community business leaders such as Zak Rotello of the Olympic Tavern that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Olympic Tavern on its 75th Anniversary.