

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CORPORAL RUSSELL "RUSTY" BROWN FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of U.S. Army Corporal Russell "Rusty" Brown. CPL Brown served in the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1970, and was awarded a Purple Heart for his honorable service.

CPL Brown was born in Little Falls, NY, to Evan and Doris Brown. Raised in Fort Plain with his many siblings, CPL Brown's brothers Les, Ray, and Walt also served in the U.S. Army. While in Vietnam, CPL Brown was on patrol to set up an ambush. Tragedy struck when a member of CPL Brown's unit stepped on a landmine, severely wounding CPL Brown with shrapnel and killing his fellow soldier. For his sacrifice, CPL Brown earned the esteemed Purple Heart award, in addition to the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Marksman Badge Rifle M16.

Following his honorable service in Vietnam, he immediately continued his service to our nation and his community. Rusty married his beloved wife Billie; both had deep roots in Montgomery County. In 1970, CPL Brown joined the Morris J. Edwards American Legion Post 168 in Saint Johnsville. As a member for over 50 years, CPL Brown has assisted other veterans in their journey to re-acclimate to civilian life. CPL Brown continues this practice as a pillar of support for American servicemembers as they struggle with their personal trials. The Morris J. Edwards American Legion Post 168 has set a beautiful example of how to celebrate the amazing and heroic individuals that served our country. By decorating the village of Saint Johnsville with 379 'hometown hero' banners, the village will continue to honor local heroes each and every day. CPL Brown's banner can be found on St. Johnsville's Bridge Street.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, it is my honor to recognize and honor the service and achievements of CPL Rusty Brown.

HONORING THE 2023 TRUMAN SCHOLARS

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2023 Truman Scholars.

This year the Foundation received 705 applications from 275 institutions. After a review of the students' records of leadership, public

service, and academic achievement, the final selection committee selected 199 students from 133 institutions to interview. The final selection of students includes 62 students from 60 institutions.

This year's nominees are: Malhaar Agrawal, Lina Altaan Al Hariri, Andrés Arocho González, Bob Atkinson, Andee Baker, Malea Bauer, Zachary Billot, Maisie Brown, Grace Carter, Gabrielle Chiodo, Isobel Dernalan, Madeline Dotson, Margot Duque, Abby Dziura, Yasmine Elkharsa, Maya Elsner, Colin Hall, Sky Harper, Jason Hess, Amarachukwu Ifeji, Luda Isakharov, Samiha Islam, Adam Johnson, Travis Johnson, Ayesha Khan, Azeem Khan, Catherine Kish, Nidhi Krishnan, Niko Malhotra, Dwayne Martin, Anna Mathis, Sandrien Mekany, Sarah Mickelson, Rafael Montero, Aaliyah Moore, Tay Moore, Rina Nagashima, Klemmer Nicodemus, Anchee Nitschke Durben, Shreeya Parekh, Joleece Pecore, Irena Petryk, Hattie Polson, Christian Gyles Ramos, Emily Robertson, Andrew Schumann, Cheyon Sheen, Michael Solomon, Caleb Swanson, Cameron Tiefenthaler, Jalen Travis, Martayn Van de Wall, Madison Van Der Mark, Pieter van Wingerden, Kaitlyn Vana, Iona Volynets, Corbin Walls, Caleb Weiland, Jonathan Weinberg, Aubrey Wieberg, Ambria Williams, and Carter Yost.

Established in 1975, the Truman Foundation is the nation's living memorial to the thirty-third president. According to the Foundation's website their mission is to recognize aspiring leaders at an important inflection point in their development. Students are recognized in their junior year of college and rewarded for their aspirations to enter public service. After being selected, students receive a scholarship for graduate or professional school, participate in leadership development activities, and have special opportunities for internships and employment with the federal government.

Congratulations to this year's nominees. I look forward to seeing where each of them will go in the future.

HONORING LEE GREEN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Lee Green as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Herbert "Herb" Lee Green was born on June 3, 1964 in Incheon, South Korea to a Korean mother and an American father.

Herb came to the United States at six years old and mastered the English language within 30 days of arrival. Herb attended schools in California and graduated from high school in

North Florida. After high school, Herb signed up for the U.S. Navy where he attended the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Training (BOOST) program in San Diego.

Upon completion of the BOOST program, Herb entered the University of Florida where he met his future wife, Lisa Lesesne. While at the University of Florida, Herb joined Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in the Fall of 1984 and has been an active member since. Herb received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a master's degree in structural engineering.

Herb began his career as a young engineer at Kimley Horn and Associates in West Palm Beach, Florida where he worked for seven years.

In 1998, Herb moved to Kissimmee. At this time, he worked for the Avid Group. Herb also volunteered as a youth sports coach in baseball, soccer, and basketball and served as SAC Chair at Osceola High School.

Herb's entrepreneurial spirit kicked in and he decided to open a company with a former colleague, and that was the beginning of the Good Group. Later, Herb would open his own engineering company, Cadjazz Engineering, which has been going strong for 14 years.

Herb is an excellent cook and enjoys attending sporting events at the University of Florida. He also gives back by donating his engineering expertise to charitable organizations, including Children's Hospital in Jacksonville, and designs of sporting facilities and parks.

Herb is the loving husband of Lisa Lesesne Green and the proud father of Harleston Lesesne Green and Kameron Lee Green.

HONORING MR. MARK HILDRETH AS MOORE COUNTY SCHOOLS ALTERNATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mark Hildreth as the Moore County Schools Alternate Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Hildreth is an experienced English Language Arts teacher at Crain's Creek Middle School. When needed, he also serves the school district as an alternate teacher. Over the course of his 27 years as an educator, he has exhibited outstanding leadership and commitment in providing his students with an excellent foundation in the studies of literature and poetry, in addition to this prestigious award, Mr. Hildreth also has been recognized as Crain's Creek Middle School Teacher of the Year. It is imperative that we acknowledge individuals like him who continue to assume the high calling of serving in North Carolina's public schools. As the son of a retired schoolteacher, I have seen the tireless work that educators put into developing our youth for a

• 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.

successful future. I am extremely grateful for his efforts and encouragement which have touched and benefited the lives of so many.

Mr. Hildreth has led by example throughout his career and has made immeasurable contributions to our community. Crain's Creek Middle School and other schools throughout the district are better today because of his passion and hard work. I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation for his dedicated service to our youth and wish him the best as he continues to educate and inspire those in his classroom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring and congratulating Mr. Mark Hildreth for being named Moore County Schools Alternate Teacher of the Year.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LT. GORDON EUGENE THOMPSON

#### HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the life and service of Second Lieutenant Gordon "Tommy" Thompson, a Montanan Marine fighter pilot with VMF-224 who failed to return from a combat mission over Guadalcanal on August 31, 1942.

Gordon was a skilled rancher and excellent student, graduating from Moccasin High School in 1937 as valedictorian. After attending Montana State College, "Tommy" decided to chase his dreams of flight and joined the U.S. Navy's flight training program in August 1941. A task made even more daunting when the attack on Pearl Harbor plunged the United States into World War II months later. Gordon never wavered in his commitment to his country. Despite knowing the dangers, he saw his training through and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps and deployed to Guadalcanal.

The United States had yet to fully expel Japanese forces from Guadalcanal when Lt. Thompson arrived on the island. His first mission was to monitor enemy activity and prepare for a possible counterattack. Unfortunately, the oxygen system in his F4F Wildcat fighter malfunctioned, leaving him unable to pilot his craft.

After being declared "missing in action," Lt. Thompson was awarded the Purple Heart, which was sent to the parents, Lachlan and Ita, back in Moccasin along with other medals for his bravery. After repeated inquiries into the search for their son, the Thompsons were unable to learn more about Gordon's death.

Although postwar searches for Lt. Thompson's remains were unsuccessful, in the summer of 2018, a local man recovered Gordon's Marine identification tag in his garden. After deploying researchers to the area, a team of Department of Defense specialists finally discovered Gordon and his missing aircraft. Lt. Thompson was officially listed as accounted for on July 13, 2022, to the relief of his family and friends. I'm happy to say that he will soon be laid to rest back home in Moccasin, Montana.

Lt. Gordon Thompson's story is that of courage in the face of immense danger. Like many others like him, Gordon carried out his duty

and paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend the freedoms we all enjoy. I want to thank Lt. Thompson for his bravery in World War II and thank his family for their resilience. I'm proud to acknowledge Lt. Gordon Eugene Thompson for his service, and it is a privilege to honor him and his family in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### HONORING CONCHITA HSU AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Conchita Hsu as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Conchita Hsu has served as the president of the Florida Chapter of Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA) since January 2022 and as elder advisor of the Orlando Chapter of International Buddhist Progress Society since January 2017. From 2013 to 2016, she served as the president of the Orlando Chapter of BLIA. Under her leadership, the BLIA chapter has played an active role in the Central Florida community, including leading relief efforts after Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, supporting communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping underserved members of the community, sponsoring local schools, hosting the Abolition 2020-Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration, partnering with local institutes for cultural exchanges, and more. The chapter has been recognized with the Orange County Public Schools' Crystal Awards and the Orange County Mayor's Outstanding Community Service Awards numerous times in the past decade. Conchita also served as principal of the Chinese School of Chinese American Association of Central Florida from 2005 to 2009 and as the chief executive officer of Orlando Guang Ming Academy from 2016 to 2021, promoting Chinese literacy and culture. She has also served as a contributor to the Florida Asia Trend Magazine, volunteered with the Tzu Chi Foundation Central Florida Chapter Outreach Program, and is active as an interpreter for various non-profit organizations as well as for patients in hospitals. She has called Central Florida home since 1996 with her husband David and is the proud parent of two grown sons—who are now a doctor and a college professor—and one grandson.

#### RECOGNIZING MIKE GRIMM

#### HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career of Mike Grimm and to celebrate his retirement from The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Grimm has dedicated his life to conservation and ecological studies throughout Northeast Wisconsin, and he has been instrumental with my "Save the Bay" initiative since its inception.

Mr. Grimm began his career in the field of ecology and conservation with his studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and later a Master of Science in Natural Resource Planning. He joined The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 1991, and later moved to Door County in 1994 to create the "Door Peninsula Project." Since then, he has served as a conservation ecologist throughout the region and has taken part in planning, researching, and restoring different land management projects on behalf of TNC.

Mr. Grimm has been a leader when it comes to TNC's philanthropic missions and has played a pivotal role with land acquisition projects throughout the region as well. He has extensive knowledge of the diverse ecological and biological landscapes of northeast Wisconsin, and he has conducted a significant number of ecological assessments throughout the region. His research and conservancy efforts have been profound, and he has worked hard to preserve and protect our unique northeastern Wisconsin landscapes and wildlife.

Furthermore, Mr. Grimm has been a key component of the Save the Bay initiative since its inception in November of 2015. He led the first Lower Fox Watershed Workgroup meeting for the program in 2016 and has facilitated meetings throughout the region for the past eight years. Mr. Grimm has invested many hours towards this collaborative program and has significantly contributed to its success. He has been instrumental with the formulation of goals and priorities for the initiative, and has played a substantial role with planning, preparation and idea generation.

Mr. Grimm's work throughout Northeast Wisconsin has been nothing short of incredible. His presence at The Nature Conservancy will be missed, as well as his thoughtful leadership at Save the Bay meetings, but the work he has done and projects he started will continue forward and will preserve his legacy. Mr. Grimm's impact on the community will not soon be forgotten and I would like to urge everyone to join me in thanking Mr. Grimm for his great career and his many years of service to Northeast Wisconsin.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FALMOUTH COMMUNITY TELEVISION

#### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 30th anniversary of Falmouth Community Television. Founded on May 31, 1993, Falmouth Community Television is a nonprofit community media center that creates content covering the issues that matter most to the people of Falmouth, Massachusetts. Highlighting oral histories, scientific discoveries at Woods Hole, documentaries, political dialogues, local government discussions, as well as sporting and school events, Falmouth Community Television produces media to represent and serve the local community. Through unfiltered coverage, Falmouth Community Television strives to uplift diverse voices across its platforms and encourage civic engagement and conversations

surrounding public discourse. Whether broadcasting town emergencies and other vital information or working with local nonprofit organizations and community groups to communicate their programs and services, Falmouth Community Television is a pillar of the Upper Cape.

Not only does Falmouth Community Television work to represent the people of Falmouth through the media that it broadcasts, but it also encourages members of the community to participate in the media production process. At the Falmouth Community Media Center, a state-of-the-art facility completed in 2019, people of all ages can take a variety of video production workshops and classes. Using the two production studios, as well as a post-production space, animation suite, audio booth, and podcasting and vlogging set, community members can access and utilize the training and technology necessary to bring their media ideas and concepts to realization. Additionally, Falmouth Community Television offers the Youth Producers Club. This after-school program helps students to develop storytelling skills and learn more about media production and literacy. Across all of Falmouth Community Television's offerings, members can learn more about their community, the television production process, and how to be a critical consumer of media.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the 30th anniversary of Falmouth Community Television, and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the organization for its service and wishing Falmouth Community Television all the best in the years to come.

HONORING MARIE RELOSA  
FULLWOOD AS A DISTINGUISHED  
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA  
FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC  
ISLANDER HERITAGE  
MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Marie Relosa Fullwood as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Marie "Michi" Relosa Fullwood was born in Baguio City, Philippines to Juancho Alfonso Relosa and Marie Chlupp on December 2, 1983. She graduated from Sta. Clara Parrish School in 2001. Upon graduation, she moved to the United States to join her parents.

After she arrived, she spent the next two years exploring the culture and every opportunity that the country would offer her. She worked many jobs to assist in supporting her family. At the age of 20, she joined a small landscape company that only had two employees. Her responsibilities consisted of but were not limited to implementing cost reductions, handling the accounts receivable and accounts payables, and handling all human resources issues. She later became the landscape designer of the company. Michi did not know how to do any of this. She did not attend college of any sort but her husband Eddie taught her everything she needed to know when it came to running the family business. She credits him and God for this amazing, successful journey.

She is now the vice president of No Limit, Inc. and Eddie is the CEO. They employ almost 100 people and support the \$15/per hour minimum wage initiative. That's the starting pay for each and every employee. In 2018 and 2022, No Limit, Inc. was awarded Business Partner of the Year by the Osceola County School District. No Limit, Inc. continues to support Thacker Avenue Elementary by helping create a garden for the 21st-century program and donating garden supplies for students. They also support staff activities which promotes a positive school culture.

Michi feels she is truly living the American Dream. She says it takes dedication, commitment, and hard work, but it can be done.

In addition to being an entrepreneur, Michi is a loving wife, a mother of two, and a great friend to many. Working at No Limit is her livelihood, but her passion is event planning and decorating. Putting a smile on someone's face is and always will be her ultimate goal.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NON-DISCRIMINATION HOME RULE ACT OF 2023

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Non-Discrimination Home Rule Act of 2023, which would end the unique applicability of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA) to the District of Columbia. My bill would protect the District's right to self-government, ensuring the District is treated the same as states, and defend LGBTQ+ and reproductive rights in D.C.

RFRA, which provides more protection for religious exercise than the First Amendment requires, applies to the federal government, the D.C. government and the territorial governments, but not to state governments. As RFRA does not apply to the states, under the principles of home rule, it should likewise not apply to the District.

While RFRA was designed to be a shield to protect religious freedom, it is being used, as evidenced by the Supreme Court's 2014 Hobby Lobby decision, as a sword to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community and women. Members of Congress have used RFRA as a justification for trying—but failing—to overturn D.C. non-discrimination laws. House Republicans have repeatedly tried since 2015 to nullify or block the District's Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Act, which prohibits employers from discriminating against employees and their families based on reproductive health decisions, claiming, in part, that it violates RFRA.

My bill would ensure that District residents are treated the same as residents of the states under RFRA. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on May 30, 2023, I was unable to be present for

the recorded votes on Roll Call No. 238, 239, and 240. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on H.R. 2792, Small Entity Update Act, as amended; YES on H.R. 2795, Enhancing Multi-Class Share Disclosures Act, as amended; and YES on H.R. 2796, Promoting Opportunities for Non-Traditional Capital Formation Act, as amended.

HONORING MARIA EDUARDO AS A  
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL  
FLORIDA FOR ASIAN  
AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER  
HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Maria Eduardo as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Maria Eduardo has been a clinical laboratory scientist (CLS) and AAPI manager for almost a decade in the Veterans Health System. She is a community leader known for her advocacy work in promoting diversity and inclusion. She has been instrumental in creating and implementing the Asian Pacific Island Heritage program in her community.

Born and raised in the Philippines, Maria Eduardo developed a deep appreciation for her country's rich culture and history. Her passion for cultural awareness led her to pursue her master's degree so she could share her knowledge and experiences with others.

Maria Eduardo's interest in the APIH program was sparked by the lack of representation and recognition for the Asian Pacific Islander community in her workplace. She recognized that many of her colleagues from these communities faced discrimination and marginalization due to the lack of understanding and awareness of their cultures.

In response, Maria Eduardo spearheaded the creation of the APIH program, which aims to promote understanding and appreciation of the contributions and experiences of the Asian Pacific Islander community. The program includes educational activities, cultural events, and community outreach efforts. As the founder of the Philippines Association of Medical Technologists, Florida Chapter, she is focused on their recruitment program helping fellow CLS's find job opportunities in the United States.

Under Maria Eduardo's leadership, the APIH program has made a significant impact on the community. It has helped raise awareness of the rich cultural heritage of Asian Pacific Islanders and has provided a platform for members of these communities to share their stories and experiences.

Maria Eduardo's dedication to promoting cultural diversity and inclusion has earned her numerous awards and recognition. She is a sought-after speaker on topics related to cultural awareness and has inspired many others to follow in her footsteps.

Through her work with the APIH program, Maria Eduardo has demonstrated the power of education and community involvement in creating a more inclusive and understanding society. Her legacy serves as an inspiration to all those who strive to promote cultural awareness and acceptance.

# RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF RUN BABY RUN 5K

## HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Run Baby Run 5K in Oxford, Alabama.

On, August 26, 2023, volunteers and participants will gather for the 10th Annual Run Baby Run 5k at Choccolocco Park in Oxford, Alabama. This event is sponsored by Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center's (NEARMC) Obstetrical Unit.

This event began in 2013 as a dream of Shelley Parris's, a postpartum nurse at NEARMC. As the only hospital that services pregnant women for east Alabama, she saw a need in her community. Since the first Run Baby Run 5k in 2013, over \$10,000 has been raised to assist families as they prepare for parenthood. Items provided include: Infant stethoscopes, oxygen blenders, prenatal class digital curriculum, Mamaroo Multi-Motion Baby Swings for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Nursery with infant inserts, OB Education Conference, NAS Recliners for parents and cuddlers, and Bereavement Services Moses Baskets. This community project has brought 21st century care to a rural community.

Mrs. Parris is an example of some of the long-time serving nurses that have given their lives to serve those in Calhoun County and in the surrounding areas, and this project is much more than a fun run to these nurses and the families receiving its benefits. Run Baby Run is unlike any other 5k, as all are welcome to participate, from pregnant mothers to fathers pushing strollers and wagons with toddlers to baby-wearing parents, the community has been supportive and involved.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 10th anniversary of this project and congratulating Mrs. Parris on making her vision come to life to help families as they continue to grow and make a significant contribution to the area.

# SALUTING OUR SOLDIERS OF TOMORROW

## HON. KEITH SELF

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen of tomorrow, the service-bound academy students of the Third District of Texas. This district of Texas is home to some of the best and the brightest young people, and it is always an honor to recommend such fine students to our nation's service academies. I know they are ready to join the premier military force of the world. This year, Texas' Third District is going to send nine students to the United States Military Academy; seven students to the United States Naval Academy; nine students to the United States Air Force Academy; and one student to the

United States Merchant Marine Academy. The 26 appointees and their hometowns are as follows:

### U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

Ronald De Madet—Frisco. Brian Dyer—Plano, Jaden Fabiani—Plano, Christopher Newton—Richardson, Andrew Nguyen—Murphy, Andrew Smith—Plano, Caleb Smith—Richardson, Prachet Upadrashta—Frisco, Brian Yun—Plano

### U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Tanner Call—McKinney, Ajay Goluguri—McKinney, Daniel Gurevich—Frisco, Chelan McNear—Frisco, Riley Perumal—Prosper, JeaShe Sherpell—Prosper, David Walker Jr.—McKinney

### U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Samuel Adler—Allen, Kailey Blackmon—Plano, Alexander Baum—Murphy, Sophie Kent—Frisco, Kyle Kermes—Anna, Yumin Kim—Frisco, Kim Kyugmin—Plano, William Steen—Plano, Kai Tiede—Frisco

### U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Aidan Graham—Allen

God bless these 26 appointees. God bless America. I salute them.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Jeff Hurt, whose longtime service to Texas and the U.S. Service Academies is to be commended, Jeff exemplifies the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership, which in turn have enabled him to assist in seeking out our next generation of servant leaders to lead our Nation as military officers in training. We commend Jeff for his dedication to our next generation of student military leaders.

# HONORING MELISSA TRAN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

## HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Melissa Tran as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Melissa Tran is a marriage and family therapist and obtained her Master of Arts in 2008. Ms. Tran relocated to Florida from Washington in 2011 when she began serving the Central Florida community as a therapist at the Department of Veteran Affairs. Her early federal career included serving as the region's Asian American Pacific Islander representative with the Vet Center. She also served in various roles for the Florida Family Therapy Alliance from 2014 to 2021, such as in the diversity committee and leadership development team.

Ms. Tran is also the military sexual trauma coordinator and leads initiatives advancing perinatal services at the Orlando VA Health Care System. In 2020, she founded Perinatal Reproductive Education Planning and Resources (PREPARE), which provides comprehensive, accessible, and equitable perinatal care to Veterans. Her contributions to perinatal care for Veterans and their families are trans-

formative, setting a new standard of care and support for some of the most vulnerable populations in Central Florida.

Ms. Tran has received multiple achievements and recognition for her work, some of which include the 2021 Under Secretary for Health's Dr. Robert L. Jesse Award for Excellence in Innovation and the 2023 FedHealthIT Disruptive Tech Change Agent Award. She was also a 2022 Federal Asian Pacific American Council Civilian Awards nominee and was named one of Modern Healthcare's Top 25 Emerging Leaders in 2023.

Ms. Tran is the daughter of Vietnamese immigrants. Her faith and heritage are woven into her identity and practice with the deep need to focus on care for marginalized communities. As a Vietnamese American, wife, and mother of two children, her values are rooted in compassionate kindness as a provider, advocate, and role model for other people of color.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC INSPECTORS FOR SAFE INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

## HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I introduced the "Public Inspectors for Safe Infrastructure Act" (H.R. 3785) with U.S. Representatives JULIA BROWNLEY (D-CA) and SHEILA JACKSON LEE (D-TX). Our bill builds upon the "Safety, Efficiency, and Accountability in Transportation Projects Through Public Inspection Act of 2019," introduced by former Congressman Jose E. Serrano (D-NY).

The "Public Inspectors for Safe Infrastructure Act" would require construction inspections for federally funded highways to be conducted by public employees. Our bill would allow State or local transportation departments lacking sufficient inspectors to contract privately employed inspectors temporarily. Our bill ensures public safety by requiring that all federally funded bridges, tunnels, and roadways are inspected objectively and thoroughly under the highest safety standards. This work can and should be done by skilled, qualified inspectors employed by state and local departments of transportation.

From the delays in building the carpool bridge connecting the San Diego (405) and Costa Mesa (55) freeways to the series of issues that delayed the Bay Bridge, there are numerous examples where outsourcing inspection work to private contractors has undermined public safety, delayed projects, and contributed to cost overruns. Our bill seeks to avoid these potential conflicts of interest, while also mandating public disclosure of any private inspection contracts used by state and local transportation departments when public inspectors are unavailable.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join us in cosponsoring the "Public Inspectors for Safe Infrastructure Act." As a senior Democratic member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I filed this bill as amendments to the House's 2015, 2020, and 2021 Highway Bills.

HONORING MS. JENNIFER BLAKE  
AS MOORE COUNTY SCHOOLS  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jennifer Blake as the Moore County Schools Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Blake is a third-grade teacher at Carthage Elementary School. She credits her own student experience as her inspiration for becoming a teacher. Following the example set by her own educators growing up, Ms. Blake works diligently to provide third-grade students with an excellent academic foundation as well as serve as a trusted mentor for students as they develop important life skills. It is imperative that we acknowledge individuals like her who continue to assume the high calling of serving in North Carolina's public schools. As the son of a retired schoolteacher, I have seen the tireless work that educators put into developing our youth for a successful future. I am extremely grateful for her efforts and encouragement which have touched and benefited the lives of so many.

Ms. Blake has led by example throughout her career and has made impactful contributions to our community. Carthage Elementary School is better today because of her passion and hard work. I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation for her dedicated service to our youth and wish her the best as she continues to educate and inspire those in her classroom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring and congratulating Ms. Jennifer Blake for being named Moore County Schools Teacher of the Year.

HONORING ROSALINDA  
TOMIMBANG AS A DISTIN-  
GUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL  
FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN  
AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERIT-  
AGE MONTH.

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Rosalinda Tomimbang as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Rosalinda Tomimbang is a registered nurse with Orlando Health. Her version of the American Dream is unique.

Born in 1956 in the Philippines to a modest family with seven kids, her parents emphasized the value of education. Rightfully so, five of them became nurses. The other two became a doctor and an accounting professional.

Rosalinda received her B.S. in nursing in Manila in 1978. She got married the same year to her high school classmate, Wendell, an electrical engineer.

She gave birth to twin girls in 1980 and another one in 1987. In 1982, along with her twins, she joined her husband in Iraq while he was working with a Kuwaiti company. Iraq was

then at war with Iran. The young family adapted to the war-torn country, braving frequent missile attacks from Iran. Her twins attended the Baghdad International School.

At the end of June 1990, Rosalinda and her daughters came to the United States for vacation. A month later, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Her husband followed, leaving behind everything they had, including several months of pay with his company.

After months of waiting with no end to the situation in sight, her husband started looking for a job. Shortly after, he was offered employment and partnership in a business.

Rosalinda started working in 1991. The first few years were hard for the young couple and Rosalinda took on two jobs. They stressed the value of education to their kids and all of them became successful in their careers. Christi, the elder of the twins, is a civil engineer and project manager. Faye, the other twin, was an aerospace engineer who after more than 10 years with the Space Shuttle Program pursued a career in medicine. May, the youngest, has a degree in engineering and is now an Army warrant officer training as a helicopter pilot.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR JUDY C.  
MINER, ED.D. ON HER RETIRE-  
MENT

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Judy C. Miner, an extraordinary educator and public servant.

Judy Miner was born in San Francisco to immigrant parents. One of five children, she was the first in her family to attend college. She earned a Bachelor's degree in history and French and a Master's degree in history from Lone Mountain College, and a Doctorate in organization and leadership with a concentration in education law from the University of San Francisco.

Dr. Miner has worked in the California Community Colleges for 35 years, and was President of Foothill College for eight years. In 2015 she was named the seventh permanent Chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, a post she held with distinction and honor. She has devoted her life to closing opportunity and achievement gaps and to student equity, and she has taken the District to the highest levels of leadership and accomplishment. Because of her tireless dedication, postsecondary education has become accessible and excellent, and her tenure as Chancellor propelled the District to be one of the best in our nation.

Dr. Miner has always invested in the infrastructure that students need to succeed. She increased faculty pay to attract top talent and developed a partnership with the Krause Center of Innovation to help teachers be more effective with students. She advocated for new degrees and fields of study, such as the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy and the Nanny and Family Studies Program. She made students feel welcome with counseling services, vocational organizations and community building programs.

Dr. Judy Miner's work has gone beyond Foothill-De Anza. She is a global leader for

community colleges, representing our country honorably with the American Council on Education and at the International Conference for Community Colleges. Her legacy will be felt for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in thanking Dr. Judy Miner for her exemplary work in education. She has bettered the lives of hundreds of thousands of students, and her work has made us a stronger community and a greater nation. She is truly a national treasure.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD  
GOODMAN

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Donald Goodman, who passed away at the age of 83 on April 29, 2023. Don was a pillar of the community who dedicated his life to supporting youth athletics in Cloverdale.

Born in Mendocino County in 1939, Don grew up in Hopland and graduated from Hopland High School. He later attended Napa Valley College where he met his wife of 63 years, Neva Goodman. The couple later moved to Cloverdale, where in 1971, Don began volunteering with the Cloverdale Little League to coach their son's team. He continued to serve the children of the Little League as the administrator for California District 35, a position he held for 40 years. Don also assisted in the Little League World Series every summer. In recognition of his many years of supporting young athletes' success, he earned the W. Howard Hartman Little League Friendship Award in 2018.

Most notably, Don volunteered as the public address announcer for Cloverdale High School for half a century and was considered "the voice of Cloverdale." Don was known to ensure that every student athlete felt special and empowered when announcing for the football, basketball, baseball, and softball teams of Cloverdale High School. Throughout the seasons, hundreds of young athletes have benefited from Don's generosity, work ethic, and dedication to making a positive difference for others.

Beyond student athletics, Don served on the Cloverdale School Board of Trustees where he demonstrated an exemplary commitment to academics and high-quality education. He also served many years on the Board of Directors for Cloverdale's annual Citrus Fair, helping showcase the bounty and talent of the community.

While he will be greatly missed, Don's legacy will live on through the innumerable positive impacts he has had on his community. Don is survived by his wife and children, Doug, Tom, and Nanci, his four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending deep condolences to Don's family and many friends, and in expressing my deep appreciation for his decades of public service in his community.

HONORING KAMALAKAR SHENAI AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Kamalakar "Kam" Shenai as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Kamalakar "Kam" Shenai emigrated to the United States from India in 1976 with \$208 in his pocket, an engineering degree, a determination to work hard, and a heart full of ambition. Along the way, he earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering from UC Berkeley and an MBA in Marketing from RIT.

Mr. Shenai's career started as a salesman in Buffalo, New York, which became a 35-year corporate journey. A span that culminated into being the head of marketing operations for North America at a Fortune 500 company and then chief client officer for a privately held global company.

Mr. Shenai has been a Central Florida resident since 2014 and in his retirement has served on several boards, is on the Kidney Advocacy Committee for the National Kidney Foundation, and is the co-founder of Asian Pacific Islanders Coming Together (ACT).

One of the most notable examples of Mr. Shenai's commitment to making positive change in the AAPI community is his work on ACT, a non-partisan organization. ACT's mission is to engage, educate, and empower the AAPI population to amplify their voice through voter participation.

Mr. Shenai is also involved with the National Kidney Foundation. As a kidney patient himself, he has been an active member of the Kidney Advocacy Committee, where he has worked to meet with federal lawmakers and urge them to support the organization's legislative agenda.

Mr. Shenai lives in Lake Nona, Florida with his wife of 50 years. has two children—a daughter and a son—and is a proud grandfather of four grandchildren.

Mr. Shenai's motto, "Do common things uncommonly well," is a testament to his commitment to excellence and his desire to make a difference in the lives of those around him.

RECOGNIZING NEVILLE RAY, 23 YEARS WITH T-MOBILE USA

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Neville Ray for his thirty years of work in wireless network management, and to congratulate him on his retirement as T-Mobile's President of Technology and Strategic Network Advisor to the CEO.

Throughout his 23 years with T-Mobile, Neville has played a critical role in architecting the carrier's transition from 2G to 5G and leading a best-in-class team. He is responsible for the management and development of the com-

pany's wireless network, technology services, and technology operations.

Neville's colleagues recognize him as a strong, adaptable, and innovative leader. According to T-Mobile CEO Mike Sievert, Neville "takes the crown as the nation's overall network leader" and "has made T-Mobile's network a true competitive weapon." T-Mobile's 5G network was the first to offer coverage in all 50 states, largely thanks to Neville and his team, who anticipated that the 5G era would be won or lost on mid-band spectrum.

Neville has helped T-Mobile achieve numerous company milestones, including the first launch of Wi-Fi calling with a hotspot in 2007, the first launch of video calling using LTE or Wi-Fi in 2015, and the first-ever World Series 5G experiences in 2020.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Neville Ray for his career helping T-Mobile innovate and succeed, and I wish him a happy retirement.

HONORING THE WOODEN FLOOR

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of one of the foremost creative youth development nonprofit organizations in the country, The Wooden Floor.

In 1983, Beth Burns, who at the time was a sister with the order of St. Joseph of Orange, founded the organization under the name Saint Joseph Ballet as a summer dance program for at-risk youth. The program was an immediate success, and by 1989, the organization was receiving national recognition and serving 150 students in a donated 4,000-square-foot space in downtown Santa Ana.

In 1998, college scholarship awards were established for the growing number of graduates enrolling in higher education. The following year, the organization grew to a 21,000-square-foot campus with three dance studios, education, and community centers, which were funded by supporters who raised a total of \$6.8 million for the construction and establishment of their Endowment Fund.

By the early 2000s, they grew to serve 375 students with expanding services, including academic assistance, college preparatory guidance, crisis intervention, and intensive dance immersion with leading dance choreographers from around the country.

After over 20 years, founder Beth Burns retired in 2005, remaining connected to the organization and honored as a Board Emerita.

2005 also marked the first year that 100 percent of their graduates enrolled in college, a feat that has continued to this day. In 2009, the organization changed its name to The Wooden Floor, with the tag line "From here, you can step anywhere," to reflect the comprehensive nature of their supportive model.

Locally, The Wooden Floor expanded in 2018 to serve an additional 100 students and their families at a second location in Santa Ana, totaling nearly 500 students year-round who are served from 3rd through 12th grade. Celebrating 40 Years of Impact in 2023, with national and international grants and awards, an innovative brand refresh and the launch of an Endowment Campaign called Step Forward, The Wooden Floor is positioned to pro-

pel young people forward well into the next 40 years through its new mission statement: "To inspire and transform the lives of young people through the power of dance and access to higher education."

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the exceptional contributions and achievements of The Wooden Floor.

HONORING ASHOK PATEL AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Ashok Patel as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Ashok Patel was born in Nairobi, Kenya. His grandparents had moved to East Africa from India in the early 1900s. When he was just four years old, Ashok moved with his family to London. There, he directly experienced the challenges of being raised in an ethnic minority community and yet learned to integrate positively into the prevailing British lifestyle. He was deeply attracted to the faith of his forefathers, Hinduism, in particular BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha. Thus, though a brilliant student, he followed his heart and dropped out of college to live a life of study and meditation in India.

After several years, he was asked to begin reaching out to Hindus around the world to elaborate and teach the traditions of the world's oldest religious tradition. Ashok did this with a particular focus on the young and vulnerable. He became a highly respected writer, speaker, and life coach, traveling across the world. He actively coordinated acclaimed international events, such as the Cultural Festival of India held in New Jersey and the All-World Religions Conference sponsored by the United Nations in New York. He has received various awards and felicitations.

Although settled in London, Ashok accepted the challenge of immigrating to the United States. He successfully entered the hospitality and tourism industry and later diversified into the retail grocery trade, actively working with other small businesses to help them succeed.

Today, he owns and manages Prayosha Vacation Homes, an innovative property management company specializing in short-term vacation rentals. Ashok is a director of the Osceola Chamber of Commerce, vice chair of the Small Business Council, president of the Downtown Kissimmee Leads Group, and serves as a voluntary director at Osceola Community Health. As a successful Osceola businessman, Ashok continues to help small businesses succeed.

Ashok is a highly respected leader in the Indian community of Central Florida and is involved in inter-community relations. He is an active volunteer leader of BAPS Charities international.

HONORING DR. ELLEN JUNN

**HON. JOHN S. DUARTE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great admiration and respect to honor Dr. Ellen Junn, the esteemed President of Stanislaus State. Dr. Junn's unwavering commitment to excellence in education and her outstanding leadership have had a profound impact on the university community, its students, and California's Central Valley.

Throughout her tenure, Dr. Junn has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the transformative power of education. Under her guidance, Stanislaus State has flourished, reaching new heights in academic achievement, student success, and community engagement. Her vision and dedication have paved the way for innovative programs and initiatives that have enriched the educational experience for students and provided them with the tools to succeed in the modern world.

Dr. Junn's commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive campus environment is truly commendable. She has championed access to quality education for all, ensuring that every student has an equal opportunity to thrive. By prioritizing the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students, faculty, and staff, she has created a campus that celebrates the unique perspectives and experiences that each individual brings to the table.

Under Dr. Junn's leadership, Stanislaus State has forged strong partnerships with local industries, government agencies, and community organizations. By fostering these collaborations, she has created numerous opportunities for students to gain real-world experience and develop the skills needed to excel in their chosen fields. This commitment to experiential learning has not only enhanced the educational experience but has also strengthened the university's ties to the community it serves.

Dr. Junn's impact extends far beyond the walls of Stanislaus State. She has been an influential voice in higher education, advocating for policies and initiatives that benefit all students and institutions. Her leadership has been recognized and respected at the state and national levels, further solidifying Stanislaus State's reputation as a force for positive change in the education landscape.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Dr. Junn is known for her compassion, approachability, and dedication to the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. She leads by example, embodying the values of integrity, resilience, and empathy. Her genuine concern for the success and happiness of those around her has created a vibrant and supportive campus community.

As we honor Dr. Ellen Junn, we express our gratitude for her transformative leadership, unwavering dedication, and remarkable achievements. Her vision and passion have made a lasting impact on Stanislaus State and the lives of countless individuals who have had the privilege of being a part of this remarkable institution. We wish her continued success in her future endeavors, knowing that her legacy will continue to inspire and shape the future of education.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EVELYN  
DIXON WILLIAMS**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to recognize the remarkable life of Evelyn Dixon Williams, who sadly left us at 107 years old.

As a woman of faith, Evelyn Williams was a leader and lifelong member of New Jerusalem First Missionary Baptist Church where she served as a Deaconess and Sunday School teacher. Mrs. Williams was a compassionate and generous person, regularly visiting home-bound and nursing home residents in the Dania/Liberia community; sharing food, gifts and spiritual encouragement.

Mrs. Williams was active in community organizations such as the Broward Civic Improvement Association, which focused on improved housing and roadways, black business and employment opportunities, and equity in public accommodations. She served in the Order of the Eastern Star—devoted to religious, charitable and educational work. An ardent supporter of education, Mrs. Williams financially assisted area youth in pursuing their higher education and professional goals. She and her husband Alonzo were business owners with rental property and gas stations including a station in Dania.

The Broward County Historical Society and the City of Dania Beach have recognized Mrs. Williams for her many years of community service and activism, which included registering voters and serving as a dedicated elections poll worker for more than 50 years.

Truly an inspiration, Mrs. Williams is remembered for her quiet dignity, kind and generous spirit, and legacy of service to family, church and community. My heart is with her family in mourning the loss of this kind, generous, and compassionate soul. We were forever privileged to have shared this time with her. May her memory be for a blessing.

**HONORING HELEN O'CONNOR AS A  
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL  
FLORIDA FOR ASIAN  
AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER  
HERITAGE MONTH**

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Helen O'Connor as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Daughters of South-Asian mothers know the pressure for perfection, the grind toward pleasing others, especially mom. Helen's family expected her to follow traditional Filipino ways—for the daughter to stay in her parents' home and take care of them until their passing. Facing potential shame, Helen left. She knew her gifts existed for her community and not for mom alone.

Within an international English school and Valencia College, Helen O'Connor has collaborated with professors, exploring ways to

improve instructional approaches and reflect on unknowingly harmful practices. She actively seeks inclusive approaches to hiring and designs and builds new standard operating procedures that remove overlooked barriers to student success. Helen championed this in PERT outreach programs, emphasizing the necessity for learner-centered activities. This engaged students who had not met qualifying scores in reading or writing and led to 84 percent of attendees making qualifying writing scores and the majority making qualifying reading scores.

Her ripples in the community go beyond Central Florida. Helen joined Writing Center leaders, introducing strategies to incorporate Linguistic Justice with Writing Center directors internationally. She also influenced ways to better center agency to their tutors and students' voices alike. Through her ideas, Helen brings consistency and structure. She normalizes compassion and vulnerability by inviting others to be their authentic selves in the workplace.

By encouraging healing spaces and embracing the complexity of intersectional identities, Helen spreads compassion while building her own path. She didn't stay in her mother's home but brought her mom to hers. She learned the constant pressure and ridicule her mother faced and the struggle between loving one's culture and being shamed because of it. This duality drives Helen, and she works without rest to ensure others can find clarity in their own identity, and above all, their voices.

**HONORING THE FEARLESSNESS,  
PERSEVERANCE AND LEGACY OF  
JAMES "JIMMIE" MATTERN**

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of James "Jimmie" Mattern.

Jimmie was born in Freeport, Illinois on March 8, 1905. From an early age, he was fascinated with mankind's newfound ability to take to the skies. His fascination quickly turned to passion, and in 1926, he embarked on his first solo flight. Jimmie spent the next several years as a pilot for cargo, passenger, and stunt planes, before changing course and setting his ambitions on breaking world records.

In June of 1933, less than a year after an attempt at a tandem world speed record that ended with a crash landing in Belarus and a brief imprisonment in a Soviet prison, Jimmie set out from Floyd Bennett Field in New York to complete the first-ever solo flight around the world. Unfortunately, Jimmie once again crash landed in the USSR and had to navigate the frozen wilderness of Siberia before being rescued by nomadic fur traders. This year marks the 90th anniversary of Jimmie's historic solo flight.

Following his awe-inspiring escapades, Jimmie became an international celebrity, spending the next several years touring the world recounting the epic true tales of his adventures.

Jimmie's courageous attempt to challenge the limits of human capabilities inspired a generation of American aviators to reach for new



heights. Quoting astronaut Wally Schirra, Ronald Reagan remarked in a tribute upon Jimmie's death, "We stood on your shoulders to reach the stars." Astronaut Neil Armstrong held similar admiration toward Jimmie, bringing both Jimmie's watch and license into space with him.

During WWII, a patriotic Jimmie Mattern served as the engineering test pilot for the famed Lockheed P-38 fighter jet and invented the "piggy-back" method of training pilots in the single pilot plane, ensuring American aviators were well-prepared to handle the complex and cutting-edge aircraft.

As a result of his remarkable career and impact, Jimmie received numerous honors and awards throughout his life, including being welcomed into the Oval Office by 4 United States Presidents. He also received the Navy League Award and was awarded a one-of-a-kind United States Air Force citation for his work teaching young pilots.

Today, Jimmie's legacy lives on through his 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. His daring attempt to circumnavigate the globe, along with his many other contributions to American aviation, has inspired generations of young aviators to follow in his footsteps. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the life and contributions of James "Jimmie" Mattern.

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HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY  
PRESIDENT DR. LAURIE  
NICHOLS

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**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Laurie Nichols on her retirement. Dr. Nichols is retiring from her current position as President of the Black Hills State University, where she says the highlight of her role was returning to the same region where she began her career nearly 40 years earlier.

Dr. Nichols has also served the education community as President of the University of Wyoming and held leadership roles at South Dakota State University and Northern State University.

During her term as President of Black Hills State University, she expanded the Rapid City campus, strengthened partnerships with the nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base, and continued to build on the academic partnerships with American Indian University of North America.

I am proud to recognize her accomplishments throughout her career and service to her community in South Dakota.

HONORING TOM LIN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023 I recognized Tom Lin as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Tom's family origins are from the Tai Po and Yuen Long districts of Kowloon in Hong Kong, China. His father was a scientist in the U.S. government who helped direct him to a career path. Tom's academic studies included police science, criminology, and psychology. Tom is married to his wife Paula and has four children.

Tom started in the U.S. government in 1978 working at the FBI in Washington, D.C. He eventually transitioned to law enforcement in 1982 at the Alexandria City Police Department, where stigmatism towards Asians still continued in society. Tom left Virginia and the D.C. area in 1988 and was hired at the Orange County Sheriff's Office, where he presently works.

With over 40 years in law enforcement, his work experience has included general police duties and court appearances. He also worked in vessel handling to include airboats in the Marine unit. Tom was a master diver on a dive/recovery unit, an aviation flight officer, and a fugitive/warrant agent. He also worked in vehicular and economics investigations. Tom's last assignment was a school resource officer for five years and was certified in crisis intervention and firearms instructing.

In 2022, at the direction of Sheriff John Mina, the inception of the OCSO Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Liaison Group came to fruition. Tom accepted a team leader role which continues to this day, with visions of building a stronger relationship between law enforcement and the AAPI community. His success has always been predicated on the strong leadership ranks of the AAPI community that he serves, striving to recognize the growing AAPI community and safety needs. In Orlando/Orange County, Florida the AAPI community numbers around 6 percent of the 1.4 million population, with the state of Florida at 2 percent of 21 million and rising. The outreach and networking through public events had been invaluable.

Tom has been affiliated and member of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce for 15 years and currently serving on the Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 term. He has worked in conjunction with the Orange County Mayor's Office's Orange County Asian Committee, among various other AAPI organizations, to promote further expansion of business networking initiatives and resources which better resonate with the community. Tom looks forward to being a continued resource for AAPI community members in Orange County and Central Florida.

HONORING MS. DEBBIE WARREN AS MOORE COUNTY SCHOOLS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Debbie Warren as the Moore County Schools Principal of the Year.

Ms. Warren is an experienced educator who has devoted her career to fostering excellence in education for the youth in our community. She began her impressive 36-year tenure with Moore County Schools as an exceptional children teacher at Robbins, Westmoore, and Pinehurst elementary schools. She has since served as assistant principal at Southern Pines Elementary School, Pincrest High School, and West Pine Middle School and as a principal at Aberdeen Elementary School and Southern Middle School prior to her position as principal at Carthage Elementary School. In addition to this prestigious award, Ms. Warren was previously recognized as the Pinehurst Elementary School Teacher of the Year as well as the school district's Exceptional Children Teacher of the Year on account of her outstanding service and leadership.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Warren has made a significant impact on our community both as a teacher and an academic administrator. Carthage Elementary School and other schools throughout the district are better today because of her passion, hard work, and dedicated leadership which set an example for all to follow. It is imperative that we acknowledge those who continue to assume the high calling of serving in North Carolina's public schools. As the son of a retired schoolteacher, I have seen the tireless work that these individuals put into developing our youth for a successful future. I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation for her dedicated service and wish her the best as she continues to lead and inspire those in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring and congratulating Ms. Debbie Warren for being named Moore County Schools Principal of the Year.

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CONGRATULATING JEWEL WICKS OF INVERNESS, MONTANA FOR HER COMMISSION AS AN ENSIGN IN THE U.S. NAVY

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**HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, each year, countless Montanans answer the call to service and join the ranks of our military. Nearly ten percent of Montanans are veterans, and the Treasure State has a long tradition of protecting our country.

Even in the small towns that dot Montana's Hi-Line, there is no shortage of servicemembers eager to defend our nation. Today I'm proud to announce that my good friend Jewel Wicks of Inverness, Montana is carrying on this tradition and has just been commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy.



Jewel graduated from North Star Highschool in neighboring Rudyard before attending the University of Montana in Missoula. After graduating Cum Laude with a major in Psychology and a double minor in International Relations and Global Public Health, Jewel began to consider a career in public service. Jewel's impressive background could launch her into plenty of interesting opportunities, and I'm pleased that she decided on an exciting career with the U.S. Navy and joined their Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.

Jewel made all of Montana proud this spring, graduating with honors and earning her first commission as an ensign. Jewel's impressive career is a testament to herself, her family, and the entire state of Montana. I will follow her naval career with great interest as she pursues this thrilling new chapter of her life. I want to thank Jewel for her service to this country and it is my privilege to recognize her amazing accomplishments in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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RECOGNIZING DR. JEFFREY RAFN

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 5, 2023*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of retiring Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

(NWTC) President, Dr. Jeffrey Rafn. An exemplary member of the Northeast Wisconsin community who has had an incredible impact on higher education.

Dr. Rafn has held many roles during his 42-year career in education and is now retiring from his 26-year role as the president of NWTC. After earning his Ph.D. in sociology from Boston University, Dr. Rafn served as an educator and administrator throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Dr. Rafn set an incredible bar as an educator and administrator, eventually becoming the State Commissioner of the New Hampshire Community Technical College System before moving to Northeast Wisconsin in 1997 to begin his career at NWTC.

Dr. Rafn's time at NWTC has resulted in many major accomplishments from passing a \$46.6 million building referendum in 2001 to a \$66.5 million building referendum in 2015. During his career, NWTC also became the first college in Wisconsin to utilize e-textbooks and saw significant expansion by creating campus locations beyond just the original Green Bay campus—in Sturgeon Bay and Vlarinette. Dr. Rafn is an innovative leader who spearheaded meaningful advancements that drastically improved the NWTC learning experience for all students.

During his 26 years at NWTC, Dr. Rafn was an inspirational leader who garnered an impressive list of accomplishments and led the institution to new heights. Under Dr. Rafn's leadership, NWTC was recognized by Community College Weekly in 2003 as the fastest

growing large community college in the nation and more recently, in 2021 was recognized as a Leader College of Distinction by Achieving the Dream. Dr. Rafn won the Wisconsin Technical College System Eagle Management Award in 2019 and won the Lifetime Achievement Award from Vistage in the same year. Dr. Rafn's accomplishments throughout his career did not go unnoticed and his lengthy list of awards is demonstrative of that fact. I commend Dr. Rafn for his dedication and commitment to NWTC and to Northeast Wisconsin.

Outside of his responsibilities as president of NWTC, Dr. Rafn has been an active member of the community and has been committed to advancing education in all ways possible. He currently serves or has served on several commissions and boards such as: the Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis Council at UW Madison, the Brown County United Way Board of Directors, the Advisory Board of Community College Research Council at Teachers College at Columbia University, the Executive Committee on Advance Business Development, and many more. Dr. Rafn has truly applied his leadership skills and utilized his profound experience to better his community and higher education.

Dr. Rafn served close to 1 million students and created a legacy that will be admired by educators for years to come. Dr. Rafn's presence as President of NWTC will be missed and his distinguished career deserves the highest degree of recognition. I wish him and his family all the best in retirement.