

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF MASTER SERGEANT
JEREMY ROBERT BURRIS

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Master Sergeant Jeremy Robert Burris.

A native of Crown Point, New York, Master Sergeant Burris attended Crown Point Central School prior to graduating with Honors from Hudson Valley Community College in 2005 with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Following his graduation, Master Sergeant Burris answered the call to protect his country and enlisted in the United States Army. He served as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Specialist, a hazardous and technically challenging position that is regarded as one of the most dangerous in the Army. Burris served his country dutifully and honorably for eighteen years, attaining numerous accolades that reflected his outstanding skills and conduct. Master Sergeant Burris earned two Bronze Star Medals, a Meritorious Service Medal, seven Army Commendation Medals and an additional one with a distinction for Valor, an Army Achievement Medal, five Army Good Conduct Medals, a National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, an Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Combat Action Badge, a Master Explosive Ordnance Badge, an Air Assault Badge, a Driver and Mechanic Badge, a Combat and Special Skill Badge, Basic Marksmanship Qualification Badge, four Overseas Service Bars, along with a number of other distinctions. Master Sergeant Burris's impeccable military service record warrants the Nation's undying gratitude and everlasting respect.

Despite his extraordinary service, Master Sergeant Burris was much more than his rank and military accomplishment. He was a devoted father, husband, and son. He adored spending time with his wife and children, and he found himself happiest in the company of his loving family. Mr. Burris is a touching reminder that no matter how striking one's professional accomplishments may be, their true legacy lies in the impact they impart on those around them. Without a doubt, Master Sergeant Burris's most meaningful legacy is that of his two children, Jerico and Mila.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary service and exceptional life of Master Sergeant Jeremy Robert Burris. His enduring contributions to his family, the United States Army, and the Nation will not soon be forgotten.

HONORING CASA DE VENEZUELA
ORLANDO'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, as Casa de Venezuela Orlando celebrates their 20th anniversary this July, we are recognizing their impact across the Central Florida community and beyond.

In July 2003, a group of Venezuelan citizens led by William J. Diaz gathered in Orlando, Florida to create an organization tasked with promoting cultural, social, and civic values within Central Florida communities. They decided to be called Casa de Venezuela Orlando with Mr. Diaz elected as the first president and founder.

Over the next 2 decades, political turmoil in Venezuela continued and forced thousands of migrants to flee and move to the Central Florida region. Casa de Venezuela Orlando was organized and ready to provide support to incoming families and provide shipments with humanitarian supplies to those still in Venezuela. Throughout this time, Casa de Venezuela Orlando gained strength and support across Central Florida and obtained recognition from their community due to their attention to the humanitarian needs of Venezuelans, along with people of other nationalities who moved to the area.

For years, Casa de Venezuela Orlando has organized annual immigration-focused events, health and vaccine campaigns, back-to-school events, Christmas bazaars, medical and clothing supply drives, events with local food banks, and more. They also help the community with scholarship opportunities and academic credential validation.

In April 2015, Casa de Venezuela Orlando launched an initiative to request that Venezuela be designated for Temporary Protected Status, which would provide deportation protections and allow Venezuelans in the United States to live and work. Casa de Venezuela advocated for this program directly with elected officials. At that time, then Florida State Senator DARREN SOTO signed a letter to the Department of Homeland Security requesting this protection for Venezuelans. In 2019, Congressman DARREN SOTO and Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART passed a bipartisan piece of legislation out of the U.S. House of Representatives that would designate Venezuela for TPS.

Mr. William J. Diaz, through Casa de Venezuela Orlando, founded the network of Casas de Venezuela and other NGOs within the Venezuelan diaspora in the U.S. in 2018. Today, the network totals 77 organizations that provide orientation, guidance, and support to the Venezuelan community.

Congratulations to Casa de Venezuela Orlando for their 20th anniversary and their continued impact within the Venezuelan community.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CHIEF
CATHERINE HARMAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Fire Chief Catherine Harman for her 40 years of fire service to the people of Garden City and Michigan's 12th District Strong.

Chief Harman began her career as a firefighter and paramedic with the Detroit Fire Department, where she served for 10 years. She went on to serve the community of Garden City 30 more years, 13 of those as Fire Chief. As a fire service professional, Chief Harman is one of only 5 percent of women in the United States who have a career in fire service. In her role as fire chief, she has blazed the trail for countless women and sets an example for young people everywhere.

Chief Harman has done an outstanding job of leading the 21 members strong Garden City Fire Department, including persevering through the challenges of serving the public through a global pandemic. Under Chief Harman's leadership, there has been tremendous improvement in improving fire safety across the community.

Please join me in recognizing Garden City Fire Chief Catherine Harman for her outstanding service the people of Michigan's 12th District as we wish her well on her retirement.

HONORING BUILDING SAFETY
MONTH

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark Building Safety Month 2023 and to recognize the more than 63,000 members of the International Code Council (ICC) who have dedicated their careers to ensuring public safety throughout the built environment—whether in our homes, offices, schools, or houses of worship. One of those members is International Code Council President Michael Wich, the Director of Building Code Administration and Chief Building Official for the South Central Planning and Development Commission—who just happens to be my constituent from Houma, Louisiana.

The Code Council brings together local, state, and federal government stakeholders, as well as those from the private sector, to develop model codes and standards that protect the occupants of the buildings in which we live, work, and play. Those standards are then implemented year-round by building safety officials, the fire service, architects, engineers, builders, and other skilled tradespeople to ensure the safe construction and maintenance of buildings.

• 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.

Building Safety Month was created by the International Code Council and its partners to remind the public about the professionals who ensure buildings are safe, resilient, efficient, and livable. This year's Building Safety Month theme is "It Starts with You," which encourages the public to recognize the critical role of our local code officials who work around the clock to keep our communities safe and mitigate the risks posed by natural disasters.

Building codes and standards include important safeguards to protect the public from hurricanes, tornadoes, snow and ice storms, and earthquakes. As Americans rebuild following these events, we recognize and thank those who implement and enforce building codes for protecting lives, property, and businesses, and ultimately ensuring our communities are resilient to future events.

Development, adoption, and implementation of up-to-date codes and standards has enabled Louisiana to rebuild stronger following the devastation stemming from Katrina and Rita in 2005; Gustav and Ike in 2008; Lee in 2011; Isaac in 2012; the Baton Rouge flooding of 2016; Harvey in 2017; Laura, Delta, and Zeta in 2020; and Ida in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking ICC Board President Michael Wich, as well as ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, the International Code Council leadership, and ICC's Members and staff as they recognize Building Safety Month 2023.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HELEN REYNA

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Helen Romero Reyna.

As the fourth oldest of 10 siblings, Helen was raised not too far from the local dairy farm by the Santa Ana Riverbed. Helen is a Santa Ana native and completed her education in Orange County at a time when segregation was still in place. Although she lived in Santa Ana, she was bussed to Hoover Elementary in Westminster and graduated from Garden Grove High School.

Helen and her husband, Tomas Rangel Reyna, raised 4 children in the city her own family raised her: Tomas Reyna, Denise Reyna, Kenneth Reyna and Roman A. Reyna. She worked at Baxter until 1990 as a crossing guard and enjoyed her family to the fullest in the last 30 years. She loved family time, especially with her 8 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. She also enjoyed her weekly bingo, and cheering on the 49ers and the Lakers.

Helen leaves behind a legacy of love to all those who knew her. Let us join in mourning the loss of Helen. Her family and her community will never forget her.

HONORING THE CAREER OF ADELA JONES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Adela Jones, a beloved educator and superintendent.

Adela Jones has served the students of Sanger Unified for 36 years. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Fresno State, and her Master's Degree in Bilingual Education from Fresno Pacific University. She began her teaching career in 1984 and joined Sanger Unified as a classroom teacher in 1987. Since then, Mrs. Jones has held many positions within Sanger Unified, including Reading Development Teacher, Elementary Principal, Area Administrator, and Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. In 2018, Adela was appointed Superintendent of Sanger Unified.

Throughout her career in education, Adela has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the education and well-being of Sanger Unified students. One of her proudest achievements lies in the creation of a strong and dedicated team of teachers and staff who have tirelessly worked to meet the needs of students—particularly during the challenging times brought about by the pandemic. From the teachers on the front lines to the support staff behind the scenes, Adela has fostered a sense of unity and purpose within the district which has prompted an excellent education to every child.

What sets Adela apart as an exceptional educator is the lasting impact she has made on the lives of her students. Many Sanger Unified employees were once her students, and they fondly remember her love of singing in class and the invaluable knowledge she imparted to them. It is a testament to her dedication and mentorship that these former students still cherish the influence she had on their lives. Adela's commitment to her students goes beyond the classroom, extending to supporting their growth and achievements long after they have left school.

Under Adela's guidance, Sanger Unified has achieved remarkable milestones and received well-deserved recognition. The opening of Sanger West High School, the establishment of six community schools through an \$8 million-plus implementation grant, and the distinction of all middle schools being recognized as Schools To Watch are testaments to her impeccable leadership. However, Adela humbly attributes these accomplishments not to herself, but to her team as a whole.

Amidst these successes, Adela Jones has faced numerous challenges during her superintendency, with the most significant being the unprecedented closure of schools due to the pandemic. The decision to keep students and teachers apart was undoubtedly one of the hardest moments she had to endure, but it also brought about a sense of unity among her team. Adversity has a way of revealing the strength of character, and Adela's leadership shone brightly as she guided the district through uncharted territory, ensuring the continuation of learning and supporting her community during these trying times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Adela Jones for her dedication and commitment to improving the lives of many students through education. May we never forget her contributions and continue to be inspired by her legacy.

HONORING DR. EMILE-BACKER

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the Record a Proclamation honoring Dr. Magalie Emile-Backer.

Whereas, Dr. Magalie Emile-Backer is a native of the Republic of Haiti and migrated to the United States as a child.

Whereas, beyond science, Dr. Emile-Backer is an entrepreneur, investor, trusted community leader and advocate for global diaspora communities. From research to her community advocacy in global development, her life's work and vision is to leave a legacy of economic freedom in low middle income countries (LMICs) and to service the vulnerable by being a vessel for God's work.

Whereas, as a community advocate, Magalie spearheaded COVID-19-related initiatives throughout the African-Caribbean diaspora to address vaccine hesitancy, economic impacts of COVID and other civil society engagement programs including World AIDS Day, Malaria Nothing but Net campaigns, COVID townhalls, and advocacy for recent Census, etc.

Whereas, she is a global health advocate committed to health systems strengthening in the U.S., particularly, in developing nations. Her life's work is improving global health and eradicating poverty through creative community-based development solutions for economic empowerment.

Whereas, since 2010, Magalie and her husband Firmin Backer, Co-Founded the Haiti Renewal Alliance (HRA), a non-profit based in the Washington, DC area committed to promoting business development and foreign/diaspora direct investment for the socioeconomic growth of the Caribbean, especially, Haiti. HRA's motto is building sustainable institutions through infrastructure and trade opposed to perpetuation of aid and charity.

Whereas, HRA convenes, connects and brokers through strategic community engagement partnership models. In 2021, HRA launched another platform in partnership with USAID, diaspora partnership accelerator (DPA), in response to the growing call to action around diaspora direct funding models. HRA's Diaspora Framework and integration models provide innovative solutions in a resource constraint global development landscape.

Whereas, after the 2021 Haiti Earthquake, through her advocacy for empowering localization, she helped raise 1M through HRA's corporate donor strategy and other govt donor grants to help direct funding to diaspora locally led projects.

Whereas, the campaign also help create OneDiaspora, a network of diaspora, private sector and local NGOs committed to strengthening community-based initiatives and localization priorities. HRA has become a leading

institution focused on strategic global development consulting, effective community-based engagement, particularly, diaspora and private sector integration for sustainable growth and investment.

Whereas, Dr. Magalie Emile-Backer has over 20 years experience conducting research in the biopharmaceutical industry and federal government. She is currently a Director in Vaccine Safety, at Moderna Therapeutics, supporting the manufacturers global health safety surveillance for the COVID-19 pandemic and global expansion of its innovative mRNA science portfolio. Prior to Moderna, Magalie has served as a biomedical research SME at NIH and supported the nation's COVID-19 response within ASPR/HHS.

Whereas, Dr. Emile-Backer holds a clinical doctorate from Howard University, Bachelors from Temple University and postdoctoral fellowship training from Rutgers University, and Hoffman Laroche Pharmaceuticals, as well as, several certifications and publications in major scientific journals. Magalie serves on several community, scientific and county boards (e.g. Alexandria Commission on HIV, Myocarditis Advisory board and Fairfax Health systems).

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Emile-Backer for her extensive work recognizing Caribbean Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING WHEELERSBURG SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wheelersburg High School Softball Team on winning the 2023 Ohio High School Athletic Association Division III Softball State Championship.

The Wheelersburg Pirates won their second straight state championship following a 6-0 shutout victory over Indian Lake. The Pirates have posted an impressive 57-1 record over the past two seasons and a perfect 32-0 this season. Wheelersburg head coach Teresa Ruby remarked that she was "speechless" and so proud of how her team played this season.

The Pirates broke the game open in the 3rd inning, scoring four runs, and Pitcher Andi Jo Howard took control after, recording two strikeouts and only allowing two hits in a shutout.

I want to congratulate Coach Ruby and her players, including four of whom were named to the All-State team, on their amazing season. I look forward to watching them chase a three-peat next spring.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALDERWOMAN SCHEKETA HART-BURNS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend Alderwoman Scheketa Hart-Burns and to recog-

nize the important contributions she made to the City of Aurora, Illinois.

Mrs. Scheketa Hart-Burns was born in Fort Meyers, Florida on December 1, 1954, and moved to the City of Aurora in 1978 making it her home and her community. She dedicated herself to improving the lives of residents in the city she loved.

Alderwoman Hart-Burns is a history-making, award-winning elected official, community leader and mentor to many. She holds the distinction of being the first African American elected to Aurora City Council in 1991, originally in the 6th Ward. When the 7th Ward was added, she became its alderwoman. The ward is on the east side of Aurora, south of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad line. She was also appointed the first-ever African American Mayor pro tem from 2016-2017.

A stalwart figure in the community, Alderwoman Hart-Burns spearheaded and served as a member and advisor to dozens of organizations and initiatives for Ward 7 residents and the City of Aurora as a whole.

Her ward and neighborhood initiatives include establishing a ward committee and several apartment-complex resident councils, establishing community gardens, and hosting annual holiday programs for Ward 7 communities.

Citywide she started the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon, started the effort to install commemorative street signs for prominent Black residents, established the annual citywide Black History Program, hosted annual holiday musicals for food pantries, and made holiday dinners for senior citizens and disabled persons.

She was especially committed to helping Aurora's children, founding many programs to help youth and their families. These include founding the Back-to-School Bash at Martin Luther King Park, which serves more than 5,000 students, co-founding the annual Coats-for-Kids drive which provides winter coats, hats, and gloves to thousands of students, acting as founding advisor and Mother Emeritus of Boys II Men, Inc., mentoring Aurora University Students pursuing degrees in social work, and co-founding the City of Aurora's STEAM Academy.

Alderwoman Hart-Burns was also involved in organizations serving surrounding communities, including working as the Chairperson of the Circle of Wise Women for the Kane County Health Department and the Chairperson of Weed and Seed with the Kane County State's Attorney's Office. She was a Board member and Advisor of the Quad County Urban League for 33 years, a founding Advisor for the City's African American Heritage Advisory Board, a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens, and a board member of the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry and Childcare Center.

Alderwoman Scheketa Hart-Burns had a strong faith and was an Evangelist Missionary at Greater Mount Olive Church of God In Christ.

I am proud to represent Aurora, and I am grateful for the service and kindness Mrs. Scheketa Hart-Burns has shown over the years. Mrs. Scheketa Hart-Burns is an Aurora legend, and her commitment and contribution to the city will never be forgotten. I offer my condolences to her family and to the city for the loss of this trailblazer, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating my dear friend Scheketa Hall-Burns' incredible life.

RECOGNIZING

KLINKENBERG FOR TWO YEARS
OF SERVICE TO THE NEW DEMO-
CRAT COALITION

KEVIN

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin Klinkenberg for his incredible 2 years of service to the New Democrat Coalition as Senior Policy and Outreach Advisor.

Under my tenure as Chair of the New Dems, Kevin was an invaluable member of the Coalition team, leading our work on health care, trade, and immigration. His unbridled commitment to expanding the reach and influence of the New Dems on these critical issues will continue to positively impact the work of the Coalition, and the well-being of the American people, for years to come.

Kevin was key to growing the Coalition's outreach initiatives, helping to foster strong relationships with outside stakeholders. His efforts strengthened our various initiatives and helped solidify our Coalition's reputation as a group of pragmatic lawmakers who deliver results for our constituents.

Beyond his exceptional contributions to the Coalition, Kevin has been a warm and helpful presence to all who have had the pleasure of working with him. While we will miss him dearly, we could not be more excited for his next chapter as a Senior Advisor and Congressional Liaison at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

HONORING WHITLEY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Whitley County High School Colonel Baseball Team and Coach Jeremy Shope for winning the 2023 Kentucky High School Athletic Association State Championship at the Kentucky Proud Park.

The Colonels brought home the 13, Region's-first-ever state baseball title, returning top honors to the mountains for the first time since 2001. Rising from defeat after a district championship loss, Whitley County closed out the season with an impressive 39-4 record, defeating LaRue County, South Warren, Henderson County, and finally beating the Shelby County Rockets 2-1 to earn the state tournament crown. Our mountain student athletes have a long-held legacy of competing with tremendous grit, talent, and pride, and I am personally proud of their determination and tenacity to show the entire state what our students are capable of achieving.

When Coach Shope took over the helm of the baseball program in 2018, the Colonels had not made a tournament appearance since 2005. The team has since improved by leaps and bounds, steam rolling past their opponents, winning the regional title in 2021 and 2023, and sweeping the state tournament this

year with skillful plays that they have tirelessly trained for.

The Colonels were visibly determined to bring the state title back to the mountains. Grant Zehr, a senior pitcher, dominated the baseball mound with 96 pitches in the final game, earning the MVP award for the tournament. Bryce Anderson scored the first run thanks to an RBI ground out by Sam Harp, who scored again in the sixth inning by courageously stealing home plate, a rare feat at any level of competition. The team's stellar defense then held the Rockets to one run, securing the highly coveted banner for Whitley County High School.

It is with great enthusiasm that I join the people of southern and eastern Kentucky in celebration of the Whitley County High School Baseball Team and the coaching staff for winning the state championship. Their achievement will undoubtedly encourage our young mountain student athletes to dream bigger, knowing the state title is always within reach with sheer perseverance, excellent coaching, and hard work.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN
KLINKENBERG

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate Kevin Klinkenberg for his service to the New Democrat Coalition. Kevin has been an incredible and integral member of the New Dem team, and we thank him for his 2 years of service.

In my capacity as New Dem Vice Chair of Outreach, I have had the sincere pleasure of working closely with Kevin to strengthen our Coalition's outreach efforts to key stakeholder groups. From relationships with labor organizations to the business community, Kevin has undoubtedly strengthened the New Dem brand through his ability to convene diverse groups and facilitate important dialogues.

Throughout my tenure as Vice Chair, I have had the privilege to observe Kevin's dedication and remarkable work ethic firsthand. I can say with certainty that the Coalition's success would not be possible without Kevin's contributions.

As Kevin departs to join the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a Senior Advisor and Congressional Liaison, New Dems can be sure he will continue to demonstrate the qualities that made him such an integral member of our team. I wish him well, and I look forward to witnessing all the incredible work he will accomplish throughout his career.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ELISE JONES
MARTIN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazer, fearless business owner, voting rights advocate, and my good

friend, Elise Jones Martin. Mrs. Martin transitioned from this life on June 1, 2023, in Palo Alto, California. Having lived in Columbia, South Carolina, for the majority her life, Mrs. Martin was a pillar of our community who was widely loved and respected for her tenacity and compassion.

Elise Jones Martin was born on February 7, 1915, in Hartsville, South Carolina. She was raised in a loving home by her mother, Fannie Jones, who worked as a seamstress to support her and her siblings after the passing of their father. By age 20, Mrs. Martin had graduated from cosmetology school in New Jersey and settled in Columbia, South Carolina, where she opened her first beauty shop. A successful business owner, she owned several successful beauty shops in the state. She would go on to open Elise Beauty Shop in downtown Columbia and become the first Black person to own a business on Main Street.

In addition to her business acumen, Mrs. Martin was deeply dedicated to her education and passing the gift of knowledge onto others. She took classes at South Carolina State University, Allen University, and Benedict College. Mrs. Martin would go on to become a beloved cosmetology teacher of 27 years at Columbia's Booker T. Washington High School. In addition, Mrs. Martin often kept in touch with her former students, offering insight and guidance as they embarked on future endeavors.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Martin was a highly involved member of the community and volunteered her spare time to bettering the lives of others. She was involved with many groups, including the Columbia Housing Authority, the Clyburn Golf Center Committee, the Columbia Zoning Commission, the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development, the City Beautification Committee, the Drew Park Board, and the Jones-McDonald Community Club, which was co-founded by her mother. Additionally, she was a recipient of the Enduring Spirit Award from the Columbia Museum of Art and received accolades from the Columbia City Council and the American Cancer Society.

Having grown up in the Jim Crow South and enduring difficulty at the polls, Mrs. Martin closely cherished her civic activities. She became a prominent voting rights advocate in South Carolina. In addition to spending decades registering people to vote and guiding them through the voting process, Mrs. Martin served as a poll worker for more than 30 years, well into her nineties. She famously met Barack Obama whilst he was running for President, telling him proudly, "You are a good man. You've got good brains and don't you stop."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the incredible and inspiring life of Elise Jones Martin. She is remembered fondly by her three children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, the products of a more than 50-year loving marriage to the dearly departed Montez Martin, Sr. Throughout her life, she remained steadfast in her dedication to her state and extending the greatness of this country to all Americans. She will be sorely missed and well-remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN
SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION ON
THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the power of the sportfishing industry and to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA). ASA has played a vital role in preserving and promoting our cherished fishing tradition in this great Nation. From striped bass off the Atlantic coast, grouper species in the southeastern United States and Gulf of Mexico, catfish and trout throughout America's rivers and lakes, to salmon and mahi on the west coast, the United States is truly the envy of anglers throughout the world. Over 52.4 million Americans participate in recreational fishing every year and thanks to ASA's efforts, this number continues to rise.

Anglers contribute over \$148 billion in economic output, contribute \$1.8 billion towards conservation, and support 945,500 jobs across the country. Sportfishing is a powerful driver of the U.S. economy, thanks in large part to efforts that ASA and all its members within the sportfishing industry have accomplished since their inception.

For the past 90 years, the American Sportfishing Association has been at the forefront of protecting and advancing the interests of recreational fishermen across the United States. Through collaborative partnerships with government agencies, conservation organizations and industry stakeholders, they have played a pivotal role in shaping policies that promote responsible fishing practices, support habitat restoration, and safeguard the rights of anglers. ASA has supported meaningful legislation that has advanced conservation efforts throughout the years, such as the Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, which established an excise tax for the conservation, management and enhancement of sport fisheries and their habitats. More recently, ASA has been a leading advocate for pivotal conservation legislation such as the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act, America's Conservation Enhancement Act and the Great American Outdoors Act. To this day, ASA supports conservation efforts on Capitol Hill and beyond and is a champion of access to fish, abundant fisheries, fair trade and commerce.

ASA has also been instrumental in fostering a deep appreciation for the great outdoors and inspiring future generations to enjoy the sport of fishing. Their educational initiatives and angler retention campaigns, such as "Fishing, Share the Fun," help to introduce new anglers, both young and old, to fishing and provide them with a lifetime of enjoyment in the sport. ASA is also a supporter of legislation that introduces children to fishing, as seen in their efforts to support the Youth Coastal Fishing Program Act.

Beyond their advocacy efforts, ASA serves as a unifying force within the angling community, bringing together diverse stakeholders, manufacturers, retailers, and fishing enthusiasts under one common purpose: the preservation and promotion of our Nation's rich fishing heritage. Every year the American Sportfishing Association hosts ICAST, the

world's largest sportfishing trade show, bringing thousands of Americans from all 50 states and over 70 countries together to showcase the latest innovations in sportfishing equipment and technology that their members have manufactured. ASA's I CAST also provides a platform for anglers and the sportfishing industry professionals to collaborate, share knowledge and form lifelong friendships dedicated to the sport.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the American Sportfishing Association for their 90 years of service to the angling community. Their unwavering commitment to the sport, conservation and education has enriched the lives of countless Americans and will continue to do so for generations to come. Congratulations to ASA, their President Glenn Hughes and all their dedicated staff and members. Here's to the Association's next 90 years.

**CELEBRATING CRYSTAL RIVER,
FLORIDA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the city of Crystal River, Florida's 100th anniversary, which will be celebrated on July 3, 2023. This city is home to more than 3,500 residents and to some of the most beautiful natural resources on the planet. More than half a million people from around the world travel to Crystal River each year to kayak, fish, dive, swim with the manatees and enjoy the pristine waterways within this gem of Florida's Nature Coast. Trip Advisor lists Crystal River's own Three Sisters Springs as one of the Top 10 Places in the World to Visit Before You Die. Crystal River is also home to a National Wildlife Refuge located in Kings Bay, which consists of 20 islands and small parcels of that that was established in 1983 to protect the West Indian manatee. In addition to its tremendous natural resources, the people of Crystal River are its best asset. The residents work together to create a sense of community and ensure that their city remains a wonderful place to live, work and play. Over the last 100 years, Crystal River has achieved many important accomplishments:

In 1924, its first school was built.

In 1933, airport construction began.

In 1939, the first ever City Hall building was built.

In 1948, Crystal River High School became state football champions.

In 1951, Paradise Point, a deluxe resort for sportsman was built.

In 1961, Elvis Presley visited to film "Follow that Dream".

In 1969, Crystal River schools were fully integrated.

In 1975, The federal government designated the Crystal River and Kings Bay as critical habitats for the manatees.

In 1976, the Crystal River nuclear power plant opened.

In 1978, Seven Rivers Community Hospital opened.

In 2013, Three Sisters Springs was featured in National Geographic Magazine.

In 2015, Crystal River became a Main Street community.

I look forward to working with the residents and compassionate leaders of Crystal River as we celebrate many more important milestones in this wonderful city within the years to come.

BIDEN SUBVERTS RULE OF LAW

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the failure to lawfully secure the border by Biden and liberal Democrats have encouraged dangerous surges in crossings of illegal aliens. This invasion exposes families to potential terrorists, human trafficking, and dangerous drugs.

The intentional failure at the border will be further documented on July 4th with the release of the movie "Sound of Freedom" at theaters nationwide. In it, Americans can see the true story of the rescue of children from sex traffickers, directed by Alejandro Monteverde with cast of Jim Caviezel, Mira Servino, Kurt Fuller, Bill Camp, Jose Zuniga, Scott Haze, Gerardo Taracena, and Eduardo Verastegui.

Since Biden took office, over 5.2 million illegal aliens have crossed the Southern Border and 1.5 million aliens have evaded apprehension. Among these numbers include over 200 on the terrorist watchlist, putting families everywhere at risk of mass murder. Rule of law is subverted benefiting illegal aliens and the Biden Family with the Hunter Biden plea deal as President Trump is targeted with fabricated hoaxes.

Over 100,000 Americans die annually by drug overdose, including those affected by materials supplied by the Chinese Communist Party. In the last six months, over 19,000 pounds of the deadly drug fentanyl have been seized at the border.

In conclusion, God Bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the Global War on Terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with open Biden borders.

CELEBRATING THE 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S.-THAILAND ALLIANCE

HON. RICHARD MCCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. MCCORMICK. I rise today to commemorate and honor the 190th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand. As our two nations celebrate this historic milestone, I want to acknowledge the enduring bond of trust and collaboration since the signing of the 1833 Treaty of Amity and Commerce.

I want to reflect on the remarkable journey we have shared with our oldest treaty ally in the Asia-Pacific region and celebrate the invaluable partnership that has flourished between our nations. Thailand was designated a major non-NATO ally in 2003 and is one of the strongest security partners of the United States. The annual Cobra Gold Exercise re-

mains the largest multinational military exercise in the Indo-Pacific region. Our two countries have fought side by side in countless conflicts such as the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and most notably Thailand was one of the first Asian nations to commit troops to Afghanistan and Iraq.

The longstanding friendship and partnership between The United States and Thailand has been a cornerstone of stability and progress in the Asia-Pacific region with multilateral agreements that have furthered our shared commitment to democratic values, human rights, and economic cooperation. This is reflected in the U.S.-Thailand Communiqué on Strategic Alliance and Partnership, signed last year, and the first ever U.S.-Thailand Strategic and Defense Dialogue held last year.

We must recognize Thailand's unwavering commitment to our shared values throughout the ebbs and flows of shared adversity and prosperity. Therefore, I warmly thank the Royal Thai Embassy in Washington, D.C. for organizing the Sawasdee Thai Festival, which commemorates the enduring friendship between our two nations.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, it is essential to recognize the individuals who have contributed to enhancing the understanding and strengthening the ties between our nations. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation and recognition to Park Boonnuch, who has provided invaluable assistance to my Congressional Office and been a valuable help in various matters of Foreign Affairs.

Through Mr. Boonnuch's dedication and expertise, we have gained a deeper understanding of the Thai people's rich culture, history, and aspirations. Mr. Boonnuch has also demonstrated a strong passion for understanding the intricacies of the United States government system. We have witnessed his desire to acquire knowledge and share this newfound wisdom to improve U.S.-Thailand cooperation.

As a result of his tireless efforts, not only have we witnessed an enhanced spirit of cooperation between our nations, but we have also borne witness to the blossoming of a profound fellowship that unites us ever closer.

As we look ahead, let us reaffirm our commitment to the enduring friendship between Thailand and the United States—"as long as heaven and earth shall endure"—as reflected in the Treaty's preamble. May the next one thousand years be marked by even deeper diplomatic relations, cultural exchange, and mutual respect. Together, we can build a future that upholds our values and paves the way for continued prosperity and friendship.

**HONORING DR. ANTHONY NUNEZ
AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN
HERITAGE MONTH**

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Anthony Nunez is a practicing cardiothoracic surgeon in Osceola County, Florida. He is a staff surgeon at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Lake Nona with additional privileges at HCA Florida Poinciana Medical Center. He became board

certified in thoracic surgery after graduating from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and received advanced training in heart and lung transplantation at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio.

He started his practice in Florida at Halifax Medical Center and subsequently moved to the Osceola Regional Medical Center. He is serving the counties of Osceola and Polk and was instrumental in the care of many critically ill patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. His diverse research interests started at the National Institutes of Health, and he now serves on the Industrial Advisory Board at Embry Riddle University, Daytona Beach.

He was the co-founder of Endotronix along with Harry Rowland, Ph.D. Endotronix is a medical device company currently conducting human trials of a wireless implantable pressure sensor designed to monitor pulmonary artery pressure in patients with congestive heart failure. The conception of this device started at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Ohio. Through a Space Act agreement and private equity funding, Endotronix developed the device and monitoring system, and performed all the early animal and human trials in the United States and Europe. They recently completed enrollment in the PROACTIVE-HF pivotal U.S. human trial, anticipating FDA data submission in 2024.

Dr. Nunez is married with three children. His eldest daughter is preparing to start at Florida State University. Dr. Nunez continues to serve the communities of Lake Nona, Kissimmee, and Poinciana through a diverse portfolio of thoracic surgery cases with an ongoing focus on robotic thoracic surgery for mediastinal and pulmonary cancer, performing his surgical cases on the DaVinci robotic surgical platform.

HONORING WWII VETERAN PAUL ENGLEHART IN RECOGNITION OF HIS 98TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Englehart, who celebrated his 98th birthday on June 27, 2023. I am honored to pay tribute to him for his service and loyalty to his Nation during wartime.

Born in 1925 to Calvin Englehart and Margaret Squire, Paul grew up in Toledo, Ohio alongside his twin sister, Pauline, and older brother, Russell.

After the outbreak of the war, Russell served in the South Pacific until its end in 1945. But after Paul graduated from Libbey High School in 1943, he too decided to enlist in the United States Army.

Paul received his training at Fort Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan. At the time, his training assignment was to guard prisoners of war. He was then sent to Roswell, New Mexico, to guard German prisoners.

In July 1944, along with 5,000 other soldiers, Paul was dispatched to the Philippines where he would continue his assignments, and on January 14, 1946, he was honorable discharged.

In 1950, Paul married his wife, Loulla, and had three children, Roy, Ann, and Kathy. Paul then began work as a draftsman for the Pack-

ard Motor Car Company in Detroit where he stayed for two years.

Paul then worked for GM-Truck and Bus in Pontiac, Michigan, to continue his specialization as a draftsman. He remained there for 25 years, retiring in 1981. While at GM, Paul was specially recognized for not missing a day of work in over a decade of service.

During his much-earned retirement, he has enjoyed traveling to Las Vegas, Nevada—and especially the Grand Canyon. For over 25 years, Paul has also been an active participant in the VFW.

On behalf of Michigan's 9th Congressional District, I am proud to offer my warmest birthday wishes and a debt of gratitude for his honorable service to the United States Army. We are proud to have Paul Englehart in our community.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR JONATHAN TAYLOR

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Jonathan Taylor of the United States Air Force upon his departure from this body as a Legislative Affairs Officer for NORAD and USNORTHCOM. In that role, Major Taylor served as a bridge between key Department of Defense senior leaders and Members of Congress, advising both on the impacts of Congressional proceedings and legislation to Homeland Defense and National Security. Prior to this role, he served for nearly three years as a Legislative Liaison for the Department of the Air Force during which he escorted many of us Members across the world on successful Congressional delegations, educated and advised his commanders and Members on critical missions sets, and helped us pass three consecutive NDAA's.

Major Taylor's exemplary career began in 2009 as a Distinguished Graduate from the University of Mississippi's Air Force ROTC Det. 430, and he earned his wings at Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training on Sheppard AFB, TX. He spent the next nine years flying the mighty C-17 Globemaster III around the globe, amassing over 2,400 hours, including 555 combat hours, executing airlift, humanitarian, airdrop, and special operations missions. Prior to joining us in the Capitol, he taught hundreds of students how to fly at Altus AFB, OK.

We wish Major Taylor and his wife, Amber, the best of luck as he furthers his education at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and we look forward to seeing him lead in the years to come.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Major Jonathan Taylor for his dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force and to our Nation.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF MIKE LONG

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I rise today to recognize and honor my good friend, Mike Long, the longtime Chairman of the Conservative Party of New York.

Mike Long was a man of integrity who lived a life of service above self. In the realm of New York politics, he was among the most highly respected leaders, held in high esteem by both his allies and his political opponents.

Proudly born in Brooklyn, New York, Mike was raised in southern Queens. In 1959, feeling strongly that he had a duty to his country, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Following his military service, Mike began his career in elected office, serving on the New York City Council before becoming Chair of the New York State Conservative Party. Throughout his term, Mike met with virtually every state and federal Republican and Conservative candidate running for public office. His chairmanship continued for more than 30 years, a testament to his character, his work ethic, his leadership, and his determination to make a difference.

Mike proudly stood as a champion for hard-working New Yorkers and a lifelong advocate for smaller government, lower taxes, and improving the lives of New York families. In recognition of his strong defense of the rights of the unborn, Pope Saint John Paul II named him a Knight of St. Gregory, one of the highest honors for a Catholic layman.

I am honored that I was able to call Mike a true friend.

When I first ran for office, I reached out to Chairman Long to set up a formal meeting and seek his advice. The meeting was set for his Brooklyn office, however, I had gotten lost driving in the city and ended up being hours late. When I arrived, Mike couldn't have been more gracious—I will never forget it—he said I will probably win my campaign because I know how to drive in upstate New York, but clearly not in New York City.

I was proud to earn his support and that of the Conservative Party. My family was honored to have Mike and his wife, Eileen, at our wedding years later. He is a dear lifelong friend.

While my heart remains broken under the weight of his irreplaceable loss, my sadness gives way to joy when I think of Mike at peace in heaven, keeping tabs on New York politics surrounded by angels.

As I honor him for his service and an extraordinary life well lived, we join together in praying for his beloved family, thousands and thousands of friends, and a vast community of admirers.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FRANCIS H. "FRANK" SUITS, SR.

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Frank Suits who passed

away on June 22nd of this year. Frank was a devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and husband who will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Frank will long be remembered for the many meaningful contributions he made to his business and community. He successfully ran the Suite-Kote Corporation for many years while also serving on the Homer School Board and many other Homer-based community programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of Frank Suits. While we mourn his passing, we celebrate his life and the legacy he leaves behind. May his life and memory always be a blessing.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JUNE CATALANO

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of June Catalano as she retires from the City of Pleasant Hill.

Throughout her career, most recently as City Manager in the City of Pleasant Hill, California, June has been dedicated to her community and to improving the lives of Bay Area residents. Prior to her work with the City of Pleasant Hill, June served as City Manager of Martinez from 2001 to 2006. Additionally, she served as Assistant City Manager for the City of Milpitas from 1998 to 2001. She also was the Director of Development Services with the City of San Leandro, Director of Planning and Building for the City of Santa Ana, and Community Development Director for the City of Laguna Beach.

June's leadership has been instrumental to the expansion and growth of Pleasant Hill. During her tenure with the City, June worked to foster a vibrant community within Pleasant Hill and to provide public spaces for community members to gather and enjoy. She played a key role in the redevelopment of the Crossroads Shopping Center and the newly renovated Pleasant Hill Library. June also led efforts to coordinate the Concerts by the Lake, Community Service Day, National Night Out, and more. Additionally, June guided the City through the Great Recession and through the COVID-19 pandemic where her leadership and dedication were critical in prioritizing community safety and health. June has worked tirelessly throughout her career to bring community members together and to improve quality of life for all residents of Pleasant Hill.

Please join me in congratulating June Catalano on her well-deserved retirement after 17 years of outstanding public service to our community.

REMEMBERING DR. DENNIS CARLTON WOODS

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. Dennis Carlton

Woods, an inspiring and influential member of the Southeast Michigan community who passed away on May 26th of 2023. As Dr. Woods' family reflected upon their loved one's magnificent life, they affectionately recalled him as a persistent, creative, and intelligent father and community member. While Dr. Woods will be deeply missed by the many people he impacted, there is no doubt that these qualities have been passed on to his family and friends and will continue to positively influence his community.

On December 3, 1943, Dr. Dennis Carlton Woods was born in Detroit, MI, to Flavia Bell Taylor and Meldon Hubert Woods. Welcomed into a large, loving family, he was the third of seven dedicated and energetic children. After losing his father, Meldon, early in life, Dr. Woods sought new opportunities for himself and was determined to fulfill his intellectual curiosity. This determined spirit led him to Tennessee State University as a student athlete studying biochemistry with the intention of going to medical school. As a true Michigander, he still managed to return to Detroit during his summers to work at the Ford Motor Company foundry. Working hard to support himself and explore any opportunities that came his way, he sincerely believed that hard work is what is required to make something out of your talent. These values took Dr. Woods to Meharry Medical College in 1967, where he was incredibly involved in his campus community and pursued his medical degree, specializing in ophthalmology.

Outside of his academic career, Dr. Woods tried as many different activities as he could while at Tennessee State University and Meharry Medical College. During his undergraduate career, he pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. While in medical school, he was Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper, the *Meharrian*, Class Treasurer, Pre-Alumni Association Treasurer, captain of the Meharry basketball team, and member of the Urology Club. His time as a student was also when he developed a passion for civil rights.

His drive to try new things didn't stop when he came back home to Detroit. Even when he co-founded a private practice, the Detroit Medical Group, he continued to lead an adventurous and well-rounded life. Dr. Woods became politically active in the area, hosting multiple political fundraisers at his home for multiple candidates, including the first African American mayor of Detroit, Mayor Coleman Young. These acts of social service included volunteering regularly at Plymouth United Church of Christ. Throughout his lifetime, he enjoyed fine art, photography, gardening, genealogy, travel, and more. His hobbies allowed him to bring his community of family and friends together to enjoy the activities as a group.

Above all, Dr. Woods was a family man. He was a loving father to his three children—Delisa Chimene, Dennis Jr., Krystle Charon—and was married to his wife—Polly Ann—for almost 55 years before his passing. He was heavily involved in his children's upbringing and encouraged them to pursue several opportunities and find their passions early in life. He spread his life experience, kindness, and zest for life to his children throughout their upbringing by showing them what they could achieve and supporting them in their individual pursuits. He remained close to his family and was even fortunate enough to spend time with

his nine grandchildren. Dr. Woods had an impact on everyone around him—he took photos of families at every community gathering, participated in shared gardens, spread his scientific teachings, and connected people across his lifetime.

Dennis Carlton Woods was truly a unique man—he was driven, brave, intelligent, curious, and above all, he was kind. His loss is one that leaves a community not only with irreplaceable memories, but also with valuable life lessons and love that will never leave them. He was a loving husband, father, and community leader who never failed to teach those around him. His legacy of hard work, dedication, and belief in his peers to succeed will live on for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize the life of Dr. Dennis Carlton Woods today, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his remarkable impact on his community.

HONORING SARAH HARRIS

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarah Harris, a standout public servant and local leader who recently retired from her role as Puyallup's Parks and Recreation Director after a 35-year career with the City.

After graduating from Arkansas College, Sarah spent several years working for the military with a focus on recreational sports and fitness. When she moved to Washington state, she applied her love of sports and recreation to her first job with the City of Puyallup as a part-time Recreation Supervisor in 1988. Sarah eventually shifted to her most recent role with the City as their Parks and Recreation Director, working to grow the City's parks and beautify its public spaces for South Sound communities.

During her decade-long tenure as Director, Sarah oversaw several community projects, including the creation of Van Lierop Park and the installation of Puyallup's first-ever Spray Park in Pioneer Park. Thanks to Sarah's skilled leadership and sustained commitment to the City's development, Puyallup has one of the best Parks and Recreation systems in Washington.

I commend Sarah for her tireless service to the people of Puyallup and the state of Washington and wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING DR. CHRISTOPHER COLLIVER

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Christopher Colliver, a recipient of the coveted Presidential Rank Award, one of the most prestigious awards in the Federal career civil service.

Dr. Colliver is one of a small percentage of career members of the Senior Executive Service to be chosen by the President for exceptional performance in their field over an extended period of time. He began his career at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) in 1988, where he helped revolutionize digital intelligence analysis, production, and modeling and simulation architectures.

Since 2012, Dr. Colliver has served as Technical Advisor for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, and Acquisition Intelligence at the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He advises the AFLCMC Commander, Engineering Director, Intelligence Director, and Program Executive Officers, to deliver superior war-winning capabilities on time and on cost.

Dr. Colliver has distinguished himself through sustained extraordinary service to the Department of Defense and the United States of America. His visionary threat predictions and engineering solutions drove the acceleration of a \$10 billion modernization program to defend all Department weapon systems.

Dr. Colliver led a multi-agency team responding to new terrorist tactics and provided solutions for warfighting operations, which drove enemy effectiveness to zero. He conceived and led novel experimentation resulting in a reprioritization of \$1 billion to implement enhanced flight security and safety.

Dr. Colliver's guidance mitigated critical technology threats to an advanced program, enabling an early \$2 billion decision with 20-year risk and threat reductions. He assured accurate global threat warning for ballistic missile launches by improving data fidelity and timeliness by 75 percent with \$10 million in savings.

Throughout his career, Dr. Colliver has been awarded numerous honors for his outstanding contributions to the Department of Defense and our Nation, including the Director of Central Intelligence Exceptional Analyst of the Year Award (2000); the Air Force Civilian Achievement Award (2002, 2003, 2005); and the Air Force Meritorious Civilian Service Award (2012, 2021).

I want to personally thank Dr. Colliver for his 35 years of service at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and the significant contributions he has made in a life and career dedicated to our national security. His accomplishments bring great credit upon himself, the United States Air Force, and the Department of Defense. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING DISTINGUISHED LEADERS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor distinguished leaders in Central Florida for Pride Month: Kimberly A. Holdridge, Andrea Montanez, Billy Looper and Tom Christ, Jessica Beers, Jorge Lanza, Joseph "Joey" Knoll, Svetlana "Lana" Dunn, and Tatiana Quiroga.

KIMBERLY A. HOLDRIDGE

Kimberly A. Holdridge is a labor leader with the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage

Employees Local 631 in Orlando, Florida. In 1993, Kim became the financial secretary of the Local and remained in that role for two decades. In June of 2020, Kim was elected to serve as a business representative for the same group and has just begun her second term in this prestigious role. During her career, she has served on the Florida AFL-CIO Executive Board where she currently serves as chairman of the Finance Committee and as executive vice president of the Central Florida AFL-CIO. In addition to the elected position of the local union, she was elected by acclamation to the role of district secretary/treasurer of the IATSE District 14 in 2006, representing thousands of theater and film craftspeople in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2006, Kimberly was selected by the Central Florida LGBTQ community as Female Role Model of the Year and by the AFL-CIO as a Rising Star within the labor movement. In 2009, she received the IATSE International Presidents Award. Within the greater Central Florida community, Kim received many appointments to city and county boards. She is also chair of the Public Art Board, chair of the city and county Municipal Planning Board, and a member of the nominating board for the City of Orlando. Additionally, she serves as Chairman of the Board for the Mental Health Association of Central Florida.

The LGBTQ community has seen plenty of Kim in action. She has served as president of the Orlando Gay Chorus and the Rainbow Democratic Club and is the chair of the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee. Currently, she is proud to serve on the International IATSE Pride Committee and as secretary of the Central Florida Pride at Work Chapter. Kim resides in the heart of the City of Orlando with her partner of 30 years, Denise Holdridge, whom she married in 2014 in Providence, Rhode Island before gay marriage became permissible within the state of Florida. Lastly, Kim served in the armed forces of the United States Air Force Reserves in the early 1980s as a sheet metal specialist just prior to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." She is a champion for working families and is doing whatever she can to create opportunities for everyone to thrive and live their best lives.

ANDREA MONTANEZ

Andrea Montanez (she/her/ella) is an openly proud immigrant transgender Latinx woman from Colombia. She serves as the LGBTQ+ immigration organizer lead for Hope Community Center and is a Contigo Fund community board member. Andrea's role is to bring visibility and educate communities on the intersections of being an immigrant and transgender.

A long-standing community builder through volunteerism, Andrea is a board member at Peer Support Space, whose mission is to build and be a local hub for diverse, peer-led recovery communities. In addition, she is the co-director of outreach at Come Out with Pride Orlando, whose focus is to produce an annual Pride event that fosters a sense of community, encourages LGBTQ+ citizens to live openly and with pride, and educates the general public about our shared cultural heritage.

Andrea is also in charge of the "ventanilla de inclusión" at the Consulmex in Orlando. She is also a captain at Equality Florida.

BILLY LOOPER AND TOM CHRIST

With entrepreneurial backgrounds, Billy Looper and Tom Christ began producing large

LGBTQ+ events at Walt Disney World Resorts in 2009. One Magical Weekend has included events at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Waterpark, Disney Hollywood Studios, Epcot, and the House of Blues at Disney Springs. As one part of one of the longest-running events in our history, Billy and Tom are proud to contribute to Gay Disney and welcome guests from all over the world year after year to Orlando. They are especially proud to host over 250 alumni from Bliss Healthcare's Transformation program over the past three years at Riptide, providing a safe place for their trans friends at TransBeach. In 2018, they co-founded the Kindred Pride Foundation, whose mission is to honor the original Gay and Lesbian Day at Magic Kingdom attendees back in 1991 and continue the RED Shirt Pride Days kickoff to Pride Month, now in its 32nd year. The Kindred Pride Foundation values diversity, inclusion, equality, safe expression, and kindness and contributes to the community by producing the Pride Cup—an LGBTQ+ multi-sport tournament each year. The Diversity in Sports Summit included a forum of eight collegiate and professional athletes telling their inspiring "coming out" stories in front of business and sports leaders in Orlando. They invite you to join them for Santa's Bike Force—an annual tradition since 2003 where they give out "first time" bikes to deserving kids. Their LGBTQ+ marketing company is a Certified LGBT Business Enterprise, and they are proud members of the Pride Chamber and the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

JESSICA BEERS

Jessica Beers currently serves as the executive director of the Kissimmee Sports Commission. In her role, Jessica provides oversight of the administration and management of the Kissimmee Sports Commission. She is also responsible for identifying and pursuing new strategic partnerships on behalf of Experience Kissimmee.

Before her new role, she served as a leader in the sports, entertainment, and transportation industries. Her past employers include Brightline Trains Florida, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the Orlando City Soccer Club, and the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Jessica played for and volunteered with the CFSLeague—an amateur softball league for all persons with an emphasis on LGBTQIA+ participation.

She was also a staff member who supported the ownership's decision to install 49 rainbow-colored seats at Exploria Stadium to honor Pulse victims and survivors.

As a sports enthusiast, Jessica also supports the Pride Cup—an annual LGBTQ+ multi-sport competition held the first weekend in June in Osceola and Orange Counties.

Jessica graduated Magna Cum Laude with her Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education from Concordia University, St. Paul, and currently resides in Central Florida with her wife Gina Lutz.

She serves on the Howard Phillips Center Community Leadership Council and is an active member of the Central Florida WISE Chapter.

JORGE LANZA

Jorge Lanza (he/him) serves as the Kissimmee program manager for the LGBTQ+ Center Orlando, Inc., also known as The Center. His commitment to serving the LGBTQ+ community began the night of the Pulse nightclub tragedy when he responded to the needs

of survivors and victims as a volunteer at ORMC's Emergency Department.

His journey with The Center began in 2017 as a volunteer. A year later, he was hired on as The Center Kissimmee's HIV coordinator. In 2022, Jorge was promoted to his current role managing The Center Kissimmee. During his tenure, Jorge has been instrumental in the growth of The Center Kissimmee, providing a sex-positive safe space for HIV and HEP-C testing for underrepresented communities, including those with limited English proficiency. He is committed to breaking barriers to testing by providing services during non-traditional hours to accommodate the needs of the community. Under his watch, HIV testing at The Center Kissimmee has grown from an average of 200 tests annually to more than 700 tests annually.

Jorge's service includes collaboration with the Osceola County Health Department on numerous events, including hosting a vaccination drive for Monkeypox and other communicable diseases, as well as community health fairs, including co-hosting Osceola County's first World AIDS Day Health Fair in 2021 and again in 2022. Additional partnerships stewarded by Jorge include those with Club Orlando, Valencia College, the City of Kissimmee, Kissimmee Main Street, Harmony Healthcare Orlando, and Walmart Pharmacy.

JOSEPH "JOEY" KNOLL

Joseph "Joey" Knoll (he/him) is the founder and president of SPEKTRUM Health, a charitable community-based health center that caters to the LGBTQIA+ community in Orlando, Florida. He has a wealth of experience working in a variety of healthcare practice settings with over 20 years of nursing experience. Starting as a nursing assistant in New York at the age of 16, he worked his way up the nursing ladder to become a licensed practical nurse (LPN), then a registered nurse (RN), and ultimately a nurse practitioner (NP). One of his favorite roles was as a nursing instructor, teaching pharmacology classes for 10 years. He has additional formal training and experience in health policy, risk management, and health law. He also served on the executive board of the Florida Association of Nurse Practitioners (FLANP) for eight years. Clinically, he specializes in LGBT primary care with a special focus on mental health management, HIV treatment and prevention, STD treatment and prevention, and gender-affirming care for transgender individuals. He is also an active member of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH). Nursing and advocacy are at the heart of everything he does, and he believes all humans deserve equal quality and affirming healthcare in all settings. For fun, he enjoys the beach, sun, sand, and water. Though Joey does not have any human children, he is happy to have two four-legged companions, Kimber and Speck.

SVETLANA "LANA" DUNN

Svetlana "Lana" Dunn (she/her) is the chief operating officer for SPEKTRUM Health, a charitable community-based health center that caters to the LGBTQIA+ community in Orlando, Florida. Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Lana's early experiences as a transgender woman struggling to understand her own place in the world helped shape her deep empathy and passion for social justice. Lana's advocacy efforts extend far beyond her role at SPEKTRUM Health. She is a promi-

nent voice in the fight for transgender equality, advocating for policy changes, increased awareness, and improved healthcare practices at both the state and national levels. Recognizing the importance of collaboration and inclusivity, Lana actively engages with community members, patients, and advocacy groups to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met. She firmly believes in the power of education and empowerment, working tirelessly to promote transgender rights, mental health support, and access to gender-affirming healthcare services. She believes in the healing power of art and creativity and often channels her passion into various artistic endeavors. Through her multifaceted approach to life and work, Lana inspires others to embrace their authentic selves and create a world where transgender individuals are celebrated and supported without discrimination. Lana's unwavering commitment to transgender equality and her exceptional leadership at SPEKTRUM Health have made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals. Her tireless dedication and advocacy continue to drive positive change, shaping a more inclusive and equitable future for the LGBTQIA+ community in Orlando and beyond.

TATIANA QUIROGA

Tatiana Quiroga (she/ella) is a committed and seasoned leader with 20 years of experience in diversity and inclusion, pragmatic planning, and working in the nonprofit sector. She is an enthusiastic activist for the LGBTQIA+ and Latinx community who has held various advocacy roles. Most recently, she has been appointed as the first executive director for Come Out with Pride, Inc. Prior, she was the director of family equity & diversity with Family Equality, a national nonprofit advocating for LGBTQIA+ families. In addition, Tatiana also serves on the board of directors for Zebra Youth as co-chair. She earned her Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling from Rollins College, a certificate in diversity, equity, and inclusion from Cornell University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Central Florida. Originally from La Paz, Bolivia, Tatiana immigrated to the U.S. and is a strong advocate for social justice, racial and gender equity, and the LGBTQIA+ movement. She lives in the Orlando area with her wife and two kiddos.

HONORING THE TENURE OF
I.I.A.B.A. CHAIRMAN JOHN R.
COSTELLO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John R. Costello for his exceptional tenure as the 117th Chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America.

A native of Rochester, New York, Mr. Costello graduated from Bishop Kearney High School before attending Villanova University and earning a B.B.A. in Finance. Shortly after his graduation in 1977, he began his career in insurance and spent the next five decades dedicated to serving the industry and those seeking its services. Currently, Mr. Costello is a partner at USI Insurance Services in Niagara Falls, New York.

First elected to the leadership team of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, or I.I.A.B.A., in 2016, Mr. Costello was elevated to the organization's chairmanship in September of 2022. Founded in 1986, the I.I.A.B.A. is the country's largest and longest-operating national association of independent insurance agents and brokers. Over the past year, Mr. Costello has done a remarkable job guiding the association as a strong and thoughtful leader for independent insurance agents and small businesses across the country. His nearly half a century of service to the insurance industry has impacted thousands of lives, both locally and nationally. In addition to his association leadership, Mr. Costello is active in the Society of Certified Insurance Counselors and the Insurance Risk Management Institute.

Throughout his career, Mr. Costello also dedicated himself to giving back to his community, volunteering for a plethora of local organizations. To name only a few, he served as the Chairman of the Board of Bishop Kearney High School, a board member and past president of Sunset House Hospice Facility, a vice chair and treasurer of OASIS Adaptive Sports, and a former director and current member of the National Ski Patrol at Bristol Mountain. Both as a member of his community and the Chairman of the I.I.A.B.A., Mr. Costello has worked dutifully to improve the lives of those around him and ensure their highest potential could be achieved.

I am honored to recognize the extraordinary career of Mr. John R. Costello and his successful term as the 117th Chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America.

CELEBRATING FARMINGTON HILLS UPON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the city of Farmington Hills, and to recognize its contributions to the state of Michigan. Farmington Hills is a haven for a diverse community, for children of all ages, and for growth and justice. Over a hundred years before it became a city, Farmington Township and the Village of Farmington lived next to each other in harmony as a farming community that made its mark on Michigan history.

Farmington received its name from its first settler, Arthur Power, who hailed from Farmington, New York. Power and Dr. Ezekiel Webb helped develop the community by starting families and creating a post office, a physician's office, and school. Together, they developed a small, strong farming community that slowly grew more businesses and traditions. Power spread his Quaker religious teachings to his son, Nathan, and imbued in him respect for all humans regardless of race. Nathan Power went on to serve as President of the Oakland County Antislavery Society. As a result of Nathan Power's leadership, Farmington became a key stop on the Underground Railroad and a channel for formerly enslaved individuals to travel to Detroit and Canada. Other famous abolitionists that spent time in Farmington in the 1800s include Laura Haviland, J.S.T. Milligan, and Sojourner Truth.

The city was also a part of a secret attack by the Japanese during World War II known as Operation Fu-Go, which launched over 9,000 hydrogen balloons that failed to explode over the U.S. and Canada. One of these balloons was found near 8 Mile and Gill roads in Farmington in 1945. The balloon started a small, short-lived fire in an open lot near the home of the Hedt's family and looked like a bonfire. At the instruction of the American government, the Farmington community and media stayed quiet about this attack until a few months later. In true patriotic fashion, Farmington contributed many of its dedicated

community members to the war effort, including Army Private Alfred Ricke who was recently identified after being considered Missing In Action for the past 78 years.

Farmington Township and the Village of Farmington began on their journey to join together and become a city in the 1970s, and the Township incorporated in May of 1973 to become the City of Farmington Hills. Becoming a city put Farmington Hills on the map, literally and figuratively. It brought in new business, more people, and inspired development. In the last fifty years, the City of Farmington Hills has grown from a simple farming commu-

nity to one of the most diverse, populous, and safe cities in the state of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent the City of Farmington Hills, Michigan, a community that represents true Michigan spirit and unique culture. This city's strong history represents the core values that make this a wonderful place to live, and it makes the 11th Congressional District proud. Their contributions to this state and this country have not gone unnoticed, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating their 50 years of being the city of Farmington Hills, a place and a people that make us a stronger nation.