

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND CULTURE
20TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, this year the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Our islands' only, locally-run museum is as much a tribute to the story of the people of the Marianas as it is to the resilience and determination of those who have led the Museum's operation. They have kept the Museum alive despite many years of inadequate funding, understaffing, and a destructive typhoon that could well have shut it down permanently.

The Museum is located in a 92-year-old hospital built during the time the Northern Marianas were under the administration of Japan. The structure itself is an artifact of our history, and before its renovation looked the part. Its concrete, paint-less exterior told the story of war and every typhoon that has passed through our islands in the last century.

Today, within the Museum a visitor can view artifacts from the time of the ancient Chamorro people, and of the Spanish, German, and Japanese occupations that descended upon us. These artifacts, and the paintings and photographs that are part of the displays, tell the story of how our people survived, adapted, and thrived throughout our history. They—and other objects stored away in the Museum—are lovingly preserved by their local conservators, who exhibit a profound dedication to keeping the memories of our people alive.

The NMI Museum of History and Culture is an independent program of our Governor's Office. Sadly, the facility fell on hard times in the mid-2000s, when massive budget cuts forced the lay-off of most staff. At this low point, the Museum had only one employee, whose availability determined when the museum would open and close. As a result, many a visitor was turned away who could have experienced the history of the Chamorro people.

In 2015, the Marianas were hit by Typhoon Soudelor, the most devastating typhoon in decades. That terrible storm could well have meant the end for our Museum. The typhoon left many artifacts damaged, the roof leaking, mold along the walls, floors flooded, and much of the plumbing a wreck. And the museum was forced to close its doors to visitors—indefinitely.

Into this scene of destruction a new energy arrived in the person of Mr. Danny Aquino. Appointed Executive Director last year, Mr. Aquino was tasked with the grueling repair of the museum.

And more help was on the way. An outpouring of financial and material support from IT&E, Saipan Stevedore, Saipan Shipping, CMS Trucking, Soudelor Corporation, Tropical Gardens, and other local businesses, a

\$55,000 appropriation from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, and \$50,000 from the Marianas Visitors Authority gave Aquino and his team the funds to start repairs.

Help from the staff of the Mayor of Saipan also moved the work along at a faster pace. The Mayor's team assisted museum staff with grounds maintenance, landscaping, and other outdoor work. Somehow, restoration took less than six months to complete; and the Museum reopened last November to its first visitors in a very long time.

I visited the museum in February to see this progress. I had been there shortly after Typhoon Soudelor; and I can report the difference between then and now is night and day. Mr. Aquino's can-do attitude, and the tireless work of his staff—James Cabrera, James Macaranas, Allan Lifoifoi, and Wenny Haruo—drove the repair efforts and the result is a museum that the Marianas can truly be proud of.

Today, visitors to our islands can orient themselves to the three-and-a-half millennia of Marianas history at our Museum. Residents can take pride in who they are and where they come from by strolling through this beautiful facility. And students—many of whom are required to take a course on the history of our islands—can enlarge their vision of the future by learning about our past at the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture.

Please join me in congratulating the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture on 20 years of serving our islands and our people.

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NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: AN
UPDATE ON THE GOLDMAN ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we held a hearing on parental child abduction. International parental child abduction rips children from their homes and whisks them away to a foreign land, alienating them from the love and care of the parent and family left behind.

Child abduction is child abuse, and it continues to plague families across the United States.

According to State Department statistics, almost 800 children are today held hostage in a foreign country, separated from their American parent. Several hundred additional children join their ranks every year.

If past is prologue, only 16 percent of these children will be returned to the United States.

In 2014, Congress adopted legislation I wrote, the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act (Public Law 113–150) to change the status quo. Since 2014, we have seen a reduction in new abductions, but not an increase in percentage of returns in ongoing cases.

Despite the new legislation, the State Department has persistently refused to use the return tools in the Goldman Act as envisioned by Congress. Moving beyond letters and meetings, the Goldman Act is an enforcement tool for the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and leverage for return agreements with non-Hague countries.

The Goldman Act takes the lessons learned from the successful return of Sean Goldman from Brazil and lays out actions: a delay or cancellation of one or more bilateral working, official, or state visits; the withdrawal, limitation, or suspension of U.S. development, security, or economic support assistance; and extradition.

To my knowledge, extradition has been used once and the other options not at all. The Obama State Department said in the past that sanctions will not work. But in the one case where sanctions were tried by Congress, they worked.

The inaction by the Obama Administration has been noted and challenged. On February 14 of 2017, one month into the new Trump Administration, Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fumio Kishida, noted in a Diet discussion of abduction that, "until now there is not a single example in which the U.S. applied [Goldman Act sanctions] towards foreign countries." He went on to note that "according to the U.S. [Japan is] not included in the category of the non-compliant countries."

Three days later, the Osaka High Court overturned a return order for the four American children of James Cook in flagrant violation of the Hague Convention, Japan's own Hague implementation guide, and U.S. law. The court had reopened the case because Mr. Cook had moved into an apartment after the enormous legal bills from years in court in Japan. When did sharing a bedroom with a sibling become a grave risk to a child's physical or psychological well-being?

I urge and believe the new administration can and must do better.

At least 300 to 400 children have suffered abduction from the U.S. to Japan since 1994, and more than 35 currently await reunification with their American parent—most of these are left over from previous Administrations. In almost all cases, the child is completely cut off from contact with the left behind parent. Most have aged out of the system without ever being reunited with their left behind parent.

Some parents have won in court only to find that Japan's law enforcement could not return their children unless the taking parent agreed to abide by the decision, and the taking parent did not.

The systematic non-enforcement of access and return orders is so bad in Japan that 26 EU countries recently issued a joint demarche to Japan, asking Japan to fix the problem. Although non-enforcement has plagued many U.S. cases, the U.S. did not join the demarche.

However, in the upcoming Goldman Act report, the U.S. has the chance to hold Japan

● 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.

accountable for its failures in the Cook case as well as others, like that of the Elias children, taken from my home state of New Jersey after their mother obtained duplicate passports from the Japanese consulate in contravention of the judge's order. The report can and must better reflect the reality of the child abduction and the suffering of American children separated from their American parent every day in Japan.

According to the Goldman Act, a country can find itself on the "non-compliance list" and eligible for sanctions if a country regularly fails to enforce return orders. The State Department should also put the country on the list if the judiciary regularly fails to properly apply the Hague Convention—such as in the Cook case.

Finally, a country should be put on the "non-compliance list" if 30 percent or more cases in the country are unresolved cases—or cases that have been pending for more than a year.

Notably, the definition of an "unresolved" case makes no mention of a country's Hague status. In other words, all of the cases that began before Japan's accession to the Hague Convention and that were communicated to the Japanese government should be counted against Japan.

No child should be left behind.

We received assurances from the State Department years ago, as they myopically pursued Japan's accession to the Hague Convention knowing that the Convention would not cover the then existing cases of more than 50 children, that they would not leave these children behind.

That they would find ways to solve these cases.

How many of these children have come home four years later? How many even have access to their left behind parent now?

Almost zero.

The Goldman Act directed the State Department to develop an agreement with Japan for the precious children that were already abducted. The Goldman Act made a way for the State Department to hold Japan accountable for these cases.

Four years later, we have no agreement with Japan for these cases. We have no action against Japan for these cases or current cases. And we have yet to see the State Department even list Japan as "non-compliant" in the annual report.

Every day these children are separated from their US parent the damage compounds.

As the State Department's own 2010 Report on Compliance with The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction observes, "Abducted children are at risk of serious emotional and psychological problems. Research shows that recovered children often experience a range of problems, including anxiety, eating problems, nightmares, mood swings, sleep disturbances, aggressive behavior, resentment, guilt, and fearfulness. As adults, individuals who were abducted as children may struggle with identity issues, personal relationships, and possibly experience problems in parenting their own children."

We must do better by our children. We must not leave any abducted child behind.

Congress is currently looking at new ways to put pressure on countries with low resolution rates, like Japan, Brazil, and India.

Last year, I introduced H.R. 3512, the Bindu Philips and Devon Davenport International

Child Abduction Return Act of 2017 to amend the Generalized System of Preferences system so that any country named as "non-compliant" would lose their trade benefits. The loss of trade preference would be automatic and not dependent on the Administration choosing to apply sanctions. Currently, 11 of 13 non-compliant countries receive trade benefits from the United States. This has to change.

In addition, I am working on a bill that would limit H1-B and other business visas for countries that have low abduction resolution rates—this would affect Japan, Brazil, and India, among others.

We have 13 egregious long term cases pending in Brazil, including the Dr. Brann and Davenport cases. More than 90 American children are separated from their American parent in India—India will not even appoint a person to receive the applications and has refused to join the Hague Convention.

We asked in our hearing last year, when is enough, enough?

We hope that the State Department will do its job and implement the Goldman Act. We hope that the Trump Administration will be different than the last.

But we are prepared to go around the State Department in order to ensure no abducted child is left behind.

YADIRA TISCARENO ESCALERA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yadira Tiscareno Escalera for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Yadira Tiscareno Escalera is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yadira Tiscareno Escalera is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yadira Tiscareno Escalera for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO IVY BOTTINI—28TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding

women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Ivy Bottini, of West Hollywood, California.

Ivy Bottini is a legendary activist, professional artist, mother, award-winning actress, and community leader. Renowned from coast to coast for her feminism and fight for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community, she paved the way for many of the advances in civil and human rights we enjoy today.

Ivy was a founding member of the first chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966. She designed the iconic logo for the organization, which is still in use today. In August of 1970 Ivy and over 150 of her fellow activists made headlines by unveiling a banner reading "Women of the World Unite" over the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty.

Ivy moved to Los Angeles in 1971, and from the time she set foot in the community, she has been working to improve the quality of life for its people. She speaks her mind and amplifies the voices of those in need around her. She founded AIDS Network LA, Los Angeles' first AIDS organization and the Los Angeles Lesbian/Gay Police Advisory Board, co-founded AIDS Project LA and served for over 15 years on the West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board. In 1981, she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the California Commission on Aging making Ivy the first "out" lesbian or gay person to be appointed to a state board or commission. She was instrumental as an advocate for affordable housing for Gay and Lesbian seniors in the opening of "Triangle Square," the first in the nation assisted living, affordable income apartment complex for LGBT elders.

Over the years, Ivy has received numerous recognitions for her years of service and most recently, she was recognized as the 2016 Woman of the Year for the 3rd Supervisorial District of the County of Los Angeles and as the 2017 Woman of the Year for the 50th Assembly District of the State of California.

Ivy is an inspiration throughout the country. Her life's work is an example of finding one's voice and using it forcefully for the benefit of all Americans.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Ivy Bottini.

IN HONOR OF MS. SHERRY KOLBE

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman and native Iowan from Marshalltown, Iowa. Ms. Sherry Kolbe has dedicated her career to the National Association of Private Special Education Centers. NAPSEC advocates for the needs of children with severe disabilities. Having served as the Executive Director for 28 years, Ms. Kolbe has impacted the lives of hundreds of children.

We congratulate Ms. Kolbe as she prepares for retirement. After years of hard work, she deserves the utmost respect for her distinguished career and should be assured that new leadership at NAPSEC will benefit from her outstanding example.

CONGRATULATING DETECTIVE SERGEANT RANDY GRAHAM FOR HIS SERVICE WITH THE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Detective Sergeant Randy Graham for his retirement from the Michigan State Police after 31 years of service. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to his community, Randy has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

D/Sgt. Graham began his career in Flint before moving to Newberry in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. For the past decade, he has led the Traverse Narcotics Team (TNT), a multi-jurisdictional drug team comprised of state, county, local, and federal law enforcement officers. This team builds on inter-agency cooperation and coordination to conduct investigations into narcotics in Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Kalkaska, Wexford, Missaukee, and Antrim Counties. Randy was key in implementing an innovative Field Training Officer (FTO) program for new detectives within the Traverse Narcotics Team, and his unit has received numerous awards for its work in Northern Michigan.

The efforts of D/Sgt. Graham and his team over the last decade have been critical in our ongoing effort to combat the harmful effects of narcotics in Michigan's First District. His constant dedication to the people of our state is admirable. Outside of his service with the Michigan State Police, Randy holds an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Oakland University and is active in the Traverse City Elks Lodge. A retirement party for Randy will be held there on April 21 to celebrate his extraordinary career.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Detective Sergeant Randy Graham for his 31 years of service to the people of Michigan through the Michigan State Police. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a devoted individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Randy all the best in his future endeavors.

JUDGE LISA BLOCH RODWIN—LOIS HAIGHT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin has dedicated her life defending individuals and families. Her extensive record in public policy on abuse, neglect, juvenile justice, custody and family violence has earned her national recognition. Lisa's unwavering support for victims is unparalleled and I am proud to honor her today.

During Lisa's storied career, she has worked with the Erie County District Attorney's office, served as Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit, and was most recently appointed by the New York State Governor as an Erie County Family Court Judge. She was unani-

mously confirmed by the New York Senate and was elected to a full term in 2008.

Lisa is just one of a few select judges chosen to serve on the New York State Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee, which is responsible for drafting and reviewing legislation on Family Law. She has also been appointed to the NYS Advisory Council on Immigration Issues in Family Court.

Before being appointed to the bench, Lisa was the founder of the New York State's first Domestic Violence Bureau outside New York City. She was responsible for the prosecution of more than 4,000 family and child abuse cases. Lisa helped develop protocols for the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence crimes for local police agencies and developed interview and investigation policies for child abuse investigations at the Child Advocacy Center in Buffalo.

Lisa's commitment to providing resources, services and protections for victims is unmatched. She has received numerous awards and acknowledgments for her efforts and there is no doubt she deserves every bit of that recognition.

Lisa continues to stand up for what is right and her efforts to promote respect and services for crime victims will no doubt stand the test of time.

Each year the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus honors outstanding individuals and organizations for their tireless efforts supporting and empowering survivors of crime. Co-chaired and co-founded by JIM COSTA (D-CA) and myself, the bipartisan caucus advocates for crime victims and protects programs that provide critical support for related services.

I am proud to announce Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin as the recipient of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation. The Lois Haight award pays tribute to California Judge Lois Haight who, as an appointee of President Ronald Reagan and Chair of his 1982 President's Task Force on Victims of Crime, led pioneering efforts on behalf of crime victims that resulted in significant public policy advances to promote crime victims' rights and services. Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin's efforts have had a significant impact on local, state, and national public policy development and implementation that promote dignity, respect, rights and services for victims of crime.

And that's just the way it is.

JOSE VILLEGAS GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jose Villegas Garcia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jose Villegas Garcia is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jose Villegas Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jose Villegas Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND DR. FREDERICK DOUGLAS REESE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of renowned civil rights leader, Reverend Dr. Frederick Douglas Reese of Selma, Alabama who passed away on April 5, 2018, at the age of 88. Dr. Reese is best known for the pivotal role he played in the Selma to Montgomery March that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

It was Dr. Reese who as President of the Dallas County Voters League invited Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to Selma to organize and support their local voting rights campaign. As a longtime educator, pastor and civil rights activist, Dr. Reese's life and legacy stands as a testament to the power of one man's ability to change the world.

Dr. Reese was born in Selma on November 28, 1929, the only son of a strong matriarchal family led by his mother Ellie R. Reese and that included his older sister siblings—Doris Reese and Annie Ratliff. His strong educational and spiritual home environment coupled with the Christian education training received from his Green Street Baptist Church family propelled him to develop a firm faith that served as the solid foundation for his success.

An outstanding student, Dr. Reese graduated from Alabama State University and Livingston University with a degree in mathematics and a background that prepared him for political involvement. Believing knowledge is power, he continued his education at the University of Alabama, Southern University, and Auburn University before receiving his doctorate of divinity from Selma University.

Dr. Reese's teaching career began in Millers Ferry in Wilcox County, AL where he worked in the school system for nine years teaching science and eventually serving as assistant principal. It was there that Dr. Reese met his future bride, Aline Touglass Crossing, a fellow teacher. The two were married on June 28, 1953 and she remained his life-long companion for 64 years.

In 1960, Dr. Reese returned to his hometown of Selma to teach at R.B. Hudson High School. A beloved educator, Dr. Reese challenged his students to excel and made learning fun with his unique teaching style that combined disciplined study with practical application.

By the mid-1960s, Dr. Reese was the president of the Dallas County Voter's League and president of the Selma Teachers Association. He used both leadership positions to actively educate Blacks in Selma about their right to vote. In fact, Dr. Reese's first act as President of the Teachers Association was to sign a

proclamation declaring that teachers should register to vote. He challenged his fellow teachers to exercise their right of citizenship, saying "How can we teach American civics if we ourselves cannot vote?"

With courage and tenacity, Dr. Reese led the first ever Teachers March to the Dallas County Court House in which a hundred black teachers demanded to register to vote. It was the first time in the Civil Rights Movement that teachers in the South publicly marched. Their actions were met with violence by the local sheriff Jim Clark and law enforcement. Nevertheless, Reese's persistent collaboration with league members notoriously called the "Outrageous Eight", now revered as the "Courageous Eight", fueled the movement with his nonviolent tactics and moral fortitude. Imbued by his faith and determination, it was Dr. Reese as president of the voter league who penned the invitational letter for Dr. King to come to Selma to bring his influence and support to the Selma voting rights campaign.

On March 7, 1965, led by our colleague John Lewis, Dr. Reese and more than 600 other activists marched over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on what is infamously known as "Bloody Sunday." During the march, protestors were beaten and sprayed with tear gas on the orders of Alabama Governor George Wallace.

Following the march, participants gathered at the Brown Chapel AME Church where Dr. Reese spoke to the crowd. Bloodied and beaten, the protesters committed to marching again for their right to vote. On March 21, 1965, after President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered the protection of the marchers, more than 50,000 people completed the 50-mile march from Selma to Montgomery. The Selma Marches prompted Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that still remains a keystone of federal voting rights protections for all Americans.

Dr. Reese also answered God's call to the ministry. He began his pastoral ministry by serving the congregations of Macedonia and Mt. Zion Selfield. Reverend Dr. Reese was the Pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church for 50 years, making a lasting impact on the Selma community.

Dr. Reese was a true renaissance man. For his outstanding contributions, he has received numerous awards and honors. Dr. Reese was a civil rights icon, exemplary educator, beloved pastor, loving husband, doting father and grandfather. Dr. Reese brought Selma and this nation out of the turbulent darkness and then went on to be among its first African American city councilmen and rose through the ranks of the Selma School System to be principal of Eastside Junior High School, principal of Selma High School and eventually Assistant Superintendent from which he retired.

In his passing, Dr. Reese leaves behind his wife Mrs. Alline Reese; son Marvin (Frances), Conyers, GA; daughters Minister Valerie (Ed) Harris, and Minister Christa Reese; grandsons Marvin (Charlene) Reese Jr, Minister Alan (Kimberly) Reese and Frederick Reese, Conyers, GA; great grandchildren Kyla Russell, Zaria Reese, Jada Mains, Faith Reese, Jaylen Reese, Alan Reese Jr, and Maliyah Reese, Conyers, GA.

On a personal note, I will fondly remember Dr. Reese as my principal and mentor at Selma High School who always told me that anything was possible. I know that I am Ala-

bama's first Black congresswoman today because of the activism and influence of Dr. F.D. Reese. To say thank you does not adequately express my gratitude. One of my greatest honors as a Member of Congress was to present Dr. Reese with the gold medal at the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony that honored the foot soldiers on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights March. Dr. Reese's life and legacy stand as a testament to the power of one man's ability to change the world. His legacy will live on in the many people he impacted.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and a grateful nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and contributions of Reverend Dr. Frederick Douglas Reese. Dr. Reese was an American hero, a national treasure and a beloved Selma native son whose life's fight for voting rights forever shaped the fabric of American history.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY ERIN DECKER—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Kelly Erin Decker of Kagel Canyon, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

After graduating from Princeton University with Bachelors of Arts degrees in Politics and in Visual Arts and Art History, Kelly pursued her love for the arts as a regional theater performer on the East Coast. With several years of theater experience under her belt, Kelly took a chance on herself for a future in film and television and embarked on a cross country journey that brought her to Los Angeles, where she enrolled in the Playhouse West School and Repertory Theater in North Hollywood. Ms. Decker has appeared in many stage performances, short films and movies, such as the Ghost of Christmas Past at the Sierra Madre Playhouse and as Michael Madsen's girlfriend in the movie Devil's Domain.

In 2009, Ms. Decker and her husband, Jeffrey Leeson, became Kagel Canyon residents and quickly became involved in their community by joining the Kagel Canyon Civic Association. For the last several years, Kelly has served on the Kagel Canyon Civic Association Board, first as Vice President and since 2015 as its President. Her chief mission is to expand community involvement in the association and community engagement in issues affecting the foothills area at large. She works closely with local, county, state and federal offices to advance the concerns of Kagel Canyon residents. Kelly is an ardent preservationist of the last remaining rural and equestrian communities in Los Angeles and serves on the board of Save Angeles Forest for Everyone.

A compassionate advocate for her Kagel Canyon community, Kelly's dedication to the residents is nothing short of extraordinary. As editor of The Hot Sheet, the Kagel Canyon monthly newsletter that is hand delivered to every home, she keeps residents informed about local issues. During the December 2017 Creek Fire, she quickly responded by serving as Kagel Canyon's unofficial community information officer, working day and night to provide residents with up-to-date information on the status of evacuations, organizations to reach out to for help and generally assisting with whatever was needed at the time. Ms. Decker's efforts did not cease after the fire was extinguished; and to this day, she continues to support and be an exceptional resource for all the residents of Kagel Canyon, but in particular for the sixteen Kagel Canyon families who lost their homes in the fire by organizing numerous fundraisers, coordinating efforts to collect food and clothing donations and providing resources to assist with the rebuilding process.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Kelly Erin Decker.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE GREEN BAY ELKS LODGE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Green Bay Elks Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elk. Since March 15, 1893, members of the Elk Lodge have worked tirelessly to spread their core values of charity, justice, patriotism, and brotherly love in their communities through philanthropic and social engagement.

As the largest non-governmental scholarship provider in the United States, members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elk provide the leaders of tomorrow with the resources they need to succeed. The Green Bay Elk Lodge awards the Most Valuable Student scholarship, Legacy scholarship, and State scholarship to deserving Wisconsin students every year to help them achieve their academic pursuits. The Green Bay Elk Lodge also champions many educational initiatives for Wisconsin youth including drug awareness campaigns and anti-bullying campaigns.

For 125 years, the Green Bay Elks Lodge has honored and supported the brave men and women serving our country. Today, the Green Bay Elk Lodge continues this legacy of helping veterans with events such as Soup for Vets, Heroes Closet, and Welcome Home Kits to provide Veterans with the services and support they need upon their return home. These events demonstrate the organization's commitment to spreading patriotism and respect to those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding the Green Bay Elks Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elk and the organization's commitment to serving and empowering veterans and youth in the community of Green Bay.

IN HONOR OF THE TOWNS OF AURORA, HOLLAND AND WALES, NEW YORK BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARIES

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Towns of Aurora, Holland and Wales, New York on their bicentennial anniversaries.

The Towns of Aurora, Holland and Wales, New York were founded on April 15, 1818, when the Town of Willink, New York was split into three different towns. Each of the towns has their own rich history, and I am honored to represent them here in Congress.

The Town of Aurora was home to Millard Fillmore, twenty-seven years before he became the 13th President of the United States. Today, Millard Fillmore's home is currently a National Historic Landmark in Erie County, New York.

Holland, New York, named after the Holland Land Company, is home to the Holland Speedway. Here, families and NASCAR enthusiasts can spend an afternoon enjoying the races or racing their own cars for fun.

Wales, New York, named after the Wales of Britain for its rolling hills and green pastures, prides itself on its rural, dairying environment and family friendly atmosphere.

I thank the Towns of Aurora, Holland, and Wales for their commitment to preserving 200 years of history, and I congratulate them on their Bicentennial Anniversaries.

MIGUEL OLIVAS MALDONADO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Miguel Olivas Maldonado for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Miguel Olivas Maldonado is a student at Arvada K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Miguel Olivas Maldonado is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Miguel Olivas Maldonado for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERAN EMPLOYMENT AND CHILD CARE ACCESS ACT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, since January 2013, veteran unemployment decreased from just under 8 percent to where it is now at 2.7 percent—the lowest levels since 2001. Despite the progress, barriers to childcare services still exist for low-income and homeless veterans who are seeking employment.

Currently, it is optional for the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to provide childcare assistance under the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E). This means VA is not required to provide childcare assistance even if a veteran qualifies for assistance. According to the VA, during Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, over 131,000 veterans participated in the VR&E Program of which an estimated 43,000 of those veteran participants had one or more child dependents. Of the 131,000 veterans who participated in VR&E Program, only 17 veterans received childcare assistance. In FY2016, 12 veterans received child care assistance.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Veteran Employment and Child Care Access Act, which would expand child care services and enable veterans who are participating in VA and Department of Labor workforce development, job training, job placement services, or vocational rehabilitation programs to access childcare services while they participate. Specifically, this bill would make mandatory for VA and DOL to provide childcare services to eligible veteran who are participating in job training or vocational rehabilitation programs.

This is the same bill that Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH—a veteran and hero—introduced in the Senate. I am proud our legislation will ensure that veterans have access to affordable childcare services when they most need it. This bill will provide much needed childcare services to low-income and homeless veterans working towards finding a good and stable job.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA FORD—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Donna Ford of La Cañada Flintridge, California.

A civil litigator for several years in New York and Pennsylvania, Ms. Ford relocated to La Cañada Flintridge with her family in 2005. Since moving to California, she has been an active member of the local community, serving as a dedicated volunteer and board member of several non-profit organizations.

Believing that all children have tremendous potential regardless of their background or circumstances, Donna is a passionate advocate for young people and is committed to enriching the lives of children and adolescents. To that end, for twelve years, she has served on the board of directors of HillSides, an organization dedicated to fostering a stable, healthy environment for at-risk children and their families by providing a range of innovative services, including residential treatment, individualized education, counseling and adoption assistance. Ms. Ford currently serves as chair of the HillSides Board of Directors, co-chaired HillSides' annual gala in 2011, and has served on several committees over the years.

In addition to her work with HillSides, Donna is a longtime volunteer of the Cottage Guild at Rosemary Children's Services in Pasadena, which provides education, therapeutic support and permanency planning to children and adolescents, and residential housing at Rosemary Cottage for young girls between 13 and 18 years of age.

Donna has continued her commendable work with children by mentoring African American girls at John Muir High School in Pasadena and serving as a board member of the Institute for Educational Advancement, a Pasadena organization that assists gifted children in reaching their full potential, for a decade. In addition, she volunteers for the University of Southern California's Medical Faculty Family and Friends, which raises scholarship funds for medical students, and has served on the diversity committee for the Pasadena Playhouse.

Donna is married to Dr. Henri R. Ford and they have two children.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Donna Ford.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR HECTOR F. GARCIA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Mayor Hector F. Garcia. Mayor Garcia served the City of Watauga for more than 29 years. He passed away this year at the age of 78 after a lifetime of service to his community and our nation.

Mayor Garcia and his wife Wendy first moved to Watauga in 1968 to raise their family. In 1979, Mayor Garcia began his service as co-chair of Watauga's first charter commission. He was elected to the city council in 1980 and served until 1986. In 1994, he chaired the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Two years later, he was elected mayor of Watauga and served until 2002. After a brief hiatus, Mr. Garcia was elected for a second time as mayor in 2013 and served until his death.

In 1958, Mayor Garcia joined the U.S. Air Force and served our country for more than ten years. Following his service, he worked for General Dynamics, now Lockheed Martin, for more than 35 years. Initially hired as an aircraft assembler, he rose within the company, retiring from the engineering and planning department.

A lifelong North Texan, Mayor Garcia selflessly served not only the City of Watauga, but

our entire community. He will be deeply missed. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife Wendy, their family, and all who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO DEANNA CANTRELL—
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRES-
SIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we dedicate the month of March to give special recognition to the accomplishments and sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman Deanna Cantrell, of San Luis Obispo, California.

Deanna has served as the San Luis Obispo Chief of Police since January of 2016, making her one of less than 2 percent of female police chiefs in the nation. Before joining our Central Coast community, Deanna spent 21 years with the Mesa, Arizona Police Department where she held a variety of impressive positions. Since arriving in San Luis Obispo, Deanna has made immense strides in encouraging community engagement, particularly among marginalized groups. She started the PACT, a group comprised of local action groups such as Women's March SLO, RACE Matters SLO, Hispanic Leadership Council, the LGBTQIA community and more. She's assigned officers to various specific populations to be the liaison that supports those communities and enhances partnership and communication.

Deanna also started PEACE, a series of community workshops to increase understanding between PD and law enforcement. Additionally, she was invited to be a speaker at the inaugural Women's March in San Luis Obispo where she made the community feel both heard and protected.

Those who know her describe Deanna as someone who shares herself as a person, role model, and friend by visiting schools, sitting on panels, and always saying yes when called upon for support. She exemplifies the kindness, warmth, determination, intelligence, and caring we hope to see in every person in uniform. Deanna's tireless service to our district makes her someone who all young women and men can look up to with admiration.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Deanna Cantrell, for her incredible service to her community. We thank Deanna for her service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORMA
ETHERIDGE THORN SARVER

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Norma Etheridge Thorn Sarver. I join her family and friends to celebrate her life and service to the community.

Norma was born on October 21, 1921. She married Captain William A. Thorn (USN), who commanded the aircraft carrier USS *Antietam*, and they had two daughters. Captain Thorn was killed when his plane crashed into the Potomac River after taking off from the Naval Support Facility in Washington, DC.

Civic engagement, social responsibility, and service to her community were extremely important to Norma. She volunteered at DePaul Medical Center for more than 25 years giving nearly 10,000 hours of her time. Norma was a longtime member of Larchmont United Methodist Church, and active in the Lakewood Garden Club, Women of Wesleyan, and the Kings' Daughters Royster Circle. She was part of a group of pioneering women who responded to the needs of their community, especially during times of such hardships as war and economic depression.

In October of 1965, Norma married her second husband, Rear Admiral Ben W. Sarver (USN), a 1935 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Ben served in the Pacific Theater during World War II on several destroyers, and was the recovery officer for the early Gemini space flights. Norma quickly took on the role of mother to his three children.

Norma's strength, conviction, and devotion could be felt by all who were lucky enough to know her. Through the loss of both husbands and as a survivor of ovarian cancer, she lived her life with grace and a fearless spirit. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and confidant who lifted people up, brought out the best in them, and always provided words of encouragement. Norma, and her infectious smile, will be dearly missed by both her family and the community.

HONORING FIREFIGHTERS IVAN
FLANSCHA AND ZACHARY AN-
THONY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones and peers of my constituents, York City Firefighters Ivan Flanscha and Zachary Anthony, who perished in the Line of Duty on Thursday, March 22, 2018. We grieve their passing and are forever indebted for their selfless, tireless and devoted years of service as firefighters.

I've long revered the commitment of people who devote themselves selflessly to serving our communities and fellow citizens. Ivan learned the importance of public service at an early age from his father, a dedicated police officer in Waterloo, Iowa who lost his life in an off-duty accident when Ivan was five years old. Ivan began his career with the York City Fire Department in 1999, where he earned the auspicious title of Firefighter of the Year in 2004. His colleagues recall his amazing and tireless work ethic, how dependable and reliable he was to all who knew him.

Zachary joined the York City Fire Department in 2010, and dedicated his life to public service, gladly helping others in the community—whether in the course of his official duties or in his private life. Zachary's colleagues recall his fantastic spirit and free will, as well

as his eagerness to embrace new opportunities and experiences.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I am crestfallen at the passing of these brave Warriors, and offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of Ivan Flanscha and Zachary Anthony on our tragic loss. While they died in service to our Commonwealth and Country, they were doing what they loved and what truly mattered to them; they set the standard for all to follow—in their lives and in their service. Ivan and Zachary will remain in my heart and prayers, and I wish them Godspeed and I'll see them on the High Ground.

KALEIGH MELINGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kaleigh Melinger for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Kaleigh Melinger is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kaleigh Melinger is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kaleigh Melinger for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY GLEICHER—
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my congressional district. Today I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Emily Gleicher of Elysian Valley, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Growing up in Queens, New York, Emily saw the need for sustainable living and gardening in major cities. She would walk the streets of New York and see empty parcels of land filled with garbage and dead weeds and she saw an opportunity to enhance urban areas with sustainable farming.

When Emily moved to Los Angeles in 2012, she and her husband, Arlen Jason Wood, decided to convert their front yard into a giant raised lima bean farm where they would later sell their crops to local farmer's markets. As

with New York, Ms. Gleicher saw empty pieces of land around Los Angeles that could easily be transformed into urban sustainable farms.

Emily and Jason decided to harness their passion for gardening and in 2015, they created Farm LA, a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is dedicated to transforming underutilized land in Los Angeles into sustainable energy projects and drought-tolerant agricultural farming. Since its inception, the goal of Farm LA has been to create food access and a cultural appreciation for sustainable living while enhancing the beauty of the city around us. Farm LA's programming includes: urban farming, fruit shares, sidewalk gardens, educating elementary schools and summer camps on growing food also known as "kindergardening," and selling their 9th generation lima bean seeds at local health fairs and farmer's markets.

Through her passion and dedicated service, Emily has created a Farm LA community of over 500 volunteers in the last three years as her organization continues to expand. Ms. Gleicher hopes that her work will help to provide food access in lower income residential neighborhoods while giving people a better understanding of the products they consume in an effort to address the prevalence of childhood obesity. Emily's passion for sustainable farming has brightened our community and she continues to serve as a role model for the citizens of this district.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Emily Gleicher.

JESSICA JOHNSON—ED STOUT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VICTIM ADVOCACY RECIPIENT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Safety, Advocacy, Growth, and Empowerment (SAGE) program in Wenatchee Valley, Washington works to aid individuals who have experienced domestic abuse.

For the past 12 years, Jessica Johnson has gone above and beyond, serving SAGE to the best of her ability. Her hard work and dedication paid off. In 2016, Jessica was promoted to Executive Director, propelling Jessica to even greater heights. Her work with SAGE has helped to provide a safe-haven for those who faced sexual abuse, domestic violence, stalking, poverty, and sex trafficking in Central Washington.

During her time at SAGE, Jessica has overseen the creation of a 24-hour crisis line, a Crime Victim Service Center, and a Domestic Violence advocacy program. Each of these programs has been instrumental in providing aid to crime victims.

Jessica has not only focused her efforts on the larger central communities, but has implemented outreach to rural areas as well. This outreach has expanded opportunities for those who need assistance the most and helped victims reach the resources they desperately need. Jessica has also established group

counseling programs in high schools and worked with schools to ensure faculty and staff are given adequate training on spotting the signs of domestic abuse.

Perhaps some of the most important services SAGE and Jessica have provided is through the Child Advocacy Center. In the Child Advocacy Center, law enforcement agents conduct forensic interviews with children who have been victims of sexual and domestic abuse. This service has been an invaluable resource and helped create a safe environment to interview and assist vulnerable children.

Each year the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus honors outstanding individuals and organizations for their tireless efforts supporting and empowering survivors of crime. Co-chaired and co-founded by JIM COSTA (D-CA) and myself, the bipartisan caucus advocates for crime victims and protects programs that provide critical support for related services.

I am proud to announce Jessica Johnson as the recipient of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy. The Stout Memorial Award is in memory of Ed Stout, the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime in St. Louis. The Honoree is a professional or volunteer whose efforts have directly benefited victims and survivors of crime.

I am honored to recognize Jessica and her relentless fight in advocating for crime victims. With the help of Jessica and SAGE, victims from all over Washington have access to resources needed to help rebuild their lives.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL AND FRANCES McDUGAL

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Michael and Frances McDougal of Conroe, TX, and congratulate them on their 50th wedding anniversary.

In 1964, Michael and Frances first met on the campus of Southwestern University, where Michael was pursuing a career in law and Frances was working to become an elementary school teacher. Despite their many personality differences, the two spent four years growing closer together, and on April 6, 1968, the two were finally married.

Soon after, Michael began to pursue his law degree at Southern Methodist University, and in order to support her husband's dream of becoming an attorney, Frances began teaching in Dallas, TX. Together, the two thrived during this difficult time, which culminated with the birth of their first child, Heather, and the grand opening of Michael's first law office in 1971.

Even with the stress of a new business and an infant child, the two stuck together. Michael worked long hours to ensure the success of their new business, and Frances split her time between teaching and helping in the law office—all while raising a baby girl.

In 1972, the young family relocated to North Houston in order for Michael to begin serving under the District Attorney in Conroe, TX—a community they quickly adopted as their

home. Michael and Frances welcomed the birth of their first son, Christopher, in 1976, and the birth of their second son, Kevin "Ryan", in 1979. The family took full advantage of living in their community—taking up horseback riding and becoming active in their church's congregation.

Ultimately, Michael rose to the level of Montgomery County District Attorney before opening his own firm with his son Ryan—McDougal and McDougal Law Firm. Frances continued teaching and, after her own fight with cancer, she found herself heavily involved with FAITH Fighting Cancer and volunteering with Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Despite their successful careers and tireless community service, Michael and Frances have always made their family the center of their life: their three children, Heather, Christopher, and Ryan; their son and daughter-in-law, Jason and Audrey; and their seven grandchildren, Lindsey, Travis, Ashley, Callum, Cadenca, Abigail, and Max.

Michael and Frances McDougal's relationship serves as a perfect illustration of what a strong marriage and even stronger family should be. I am proud to join Michael and Frances' family, their friends, and the entire Eighth District of Texas in recognizing their 50th wedding anniversary and congratulating them on this momentous milestone in their relationship.

HONORING TWENTY-TWO TEACHERS OF THE GREATER BOCA RATON AREA

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the twenty-two outstanding teachers in South Florida who have been awarded the Teacher of the Year award from the Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise.

For the past 32 years, the Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise has offered this annual distinction to one teacher at each of the twenty-two schools in the greater Boca Raton area. Each awardee is selected by the school's principal. These teachers have dedicated their time to inspiring, empowering, and bettering the next generation of youth in our community. Their passion in this effort is truly worthy of our recognition.

These twenty-two exemplary teachers have made a profound impact on their students through their caring, commitment, and professionalism. They are a cohort defined by integrity, excellence, and the highest marks in all they do. The City of Boca Raton is fortunate to have such outstanding faculty.

Congratulations to Chayene Oliveira, Irene Gonedes, Patricia Fusco, Kerry Maione, Jaqua Lewis, Alexandra Mangogna, Meghan Mooney, Melissa Pierce, Thomas Simone, Gary Aronson, Joni Webster, Robyn Jones-Crockett, Deborah Straus, Susan Mallardi, Tara Clair, Josephine Saldana, Mary Shanty, Marcela Mendoza, Kathleen Loeffler, Karen Richards, Stephanie Stiepleman, and Danielle Alarcon on being nominated for this year's teacher of the year award.

I am pleased to honor them, and I thank them for their continued service.

IN MEMORY OF MR. EDWARD V.
SMITH, III

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Edward V. Smith, III, a dedicated North Texan who devoted his life to serving our community. In addition to many professional and charitable interests, Mr. Smith was a passionate alumnus of the University of North Texas, the former North Texas State College.

A fifth generation Texan, Mr. Smith maintained deep roots in the Dallas area. After graduating from North Dallas High School in 1955, he enrolled in then-North Texas State College. During Mr. Smith's time in college, he served as president of his class, attorney general of the student body, vice president of the student body, president of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, and president of Blue Key. Even following graduation, he never stopped giving back to his beloved alma mater.

Mr. Smith generously volunteered his time and attention to serve as president of the University of North Texas Alumni Association, Chair of the UNT Foundation, Chair of the Professional Development Institute, and as a member of numerous committees. He served as membership chair for the State of Texas and as a Regent of the College. In recognition of this service, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 1992.

In addition to his charitable work for the University of North Texas, Mr. Smith excelled professionally as a Dallas attorney. After graduating from law school at Southern Methodist University, he began a long legal career. Mr. Smith served on many committees in the Dallas and Texas Bars, and he was awarded the lifetime achievement award from the probate sections of both the Dallas Bar and the State Bar of Texas. He also received the Professionalism Award from the Dallas Bar and the Texas Center for Legal Ethics.

Mr. Smith selflessly served his community as a member of the board of the United Way, Advisory Board member of both the Dallas Foundation and the Communities Foundation of Texas, and as Chairman of the Board of the Grace Foundation. A lifelong Presbyterian, he also served his church as a deacon, an elder and, for many years, as Clerk of the Session.

Mr. Smith has left a rich legacy of generosity, loyalty, and excellence. I extend condolences to his wife Nikki, their family, the University of North Texas community, and all who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO KILJOO LEE
KURUMADA—28TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF
THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is

an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Kiljoo Lee Kurumada of La Crescenta, California.

Kiljoo was born in China and raised in South Korea. In 1967, she graduated from the Seoul National University College of Music and in 1969, she moved to the United States.

In 1983, Ms. Kurumada co-founded the Korean Resource Center (KRC), an extraordinary non-profit organization, whose goal is to empower immigrant, low-income, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and minority communities in Southern California. By using a holistic approach, this distinguished organization endeavors to support these communities by incorporating culture, services, education, coalition-building and organizing toward improving their lives.

Ms. Kurumada has taken on a prominent leadership role in the Korean-American community. She served as KRC board chair for more than two decades, and also served as founding board chair of the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC), a grassroots organization that promotes the active and organized participation of Korean and Asian Americans to achieve social and economic justice.

During her long tenure at the Korean Resource Center, where she currently volunteers two days a week helping low-income families and seniors with general inquiries, Ms. Kurumada and her colleagues have championed numerous causes, including access to health insurance, affordable housing, voter registration, senior advocacy, youth education and immigration reform.

Kiljoo has lived in La Crescenta for over four decades. She is married to Stephen Kurumada, and they have two children, Jennifer and Michael, and four grandchildren.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Kiljoo Lee Kurumada.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5476 SPE-
CIAL COUNSEL INDEPENDENCE
AND INTEGRITY ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior Member of the Judiciary Committee, and an original co-sponsor, I rise today to urge all Members to support and cosponsor H.R. 5476, "Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act."

When we were here in March, before the Easter Recess, I indicated that firing Special Counsel Robert Mueller would not be crossing a Red Line.

It would not be crossing a Blue Line.

It would be crossing a Red, White, and Blue line.

I have been concerned about this issue for a very long time—to me it was clear in August, and every day that passes is another where my first instincts about the President's desire to fire Special Counsel Mueller, are confirmed.

The importance of Special Counsel Mueller's investigation into the 2016 election,

and the nature and extent of Russia's interference, cannot be overstated.

The allegation that a foreign government—hostile or otherwise—played any part in the internal democratic processes of our country should shock every single American citizen.

It strikes at the heart of our democratic system of government.

We must come to terms with the fact that our very last national election is a crime scene.

The 2018 election could be one, too.

It was critical then, it is critical now, and it will be critical tomorrow that the Special Counsel be permitted to do his work unimpeded.

That is why last August I introduced H.R. 3654, "Special Counsel Independence Protection Act," which precludes the firing of the Special Counsel absent of substantial evidence, that there exists good cause to do so, and that determination accepted by a three-judge federal court.

H.R. 3654 has the support of 152 cosponsors and is also the subject of a discharge petition, and 144 members of the House of Representatives have signed the discharge petition.

I thank my colleagues who have supported H.R. 3654, to protect the Special Counsel's investigation recognizing that nothing less than our sovereignty, our democratic ideals, and our national dignity are at stake.

Today, I announce my support for new legislation protecting the Special Counsel, H.R. 5476, "Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act," introduced by Ranking Member NADLER, myself, and Mr. COHEN.

I am pleased that this legislation incorporates the core of my legislation to protect the Special Counsel.

The Nadler-Jackson Lee-Cohen bill constrains the Attorney General from damaging the Special Counsel's investigation, absent judicial ratification of any action to terminate the Special Counsel.

Under H.R. 5476, the judicial branch—yet another check on an unwieldy executive—would determine if the termination was appropriate.

The necessity of enacting this legislation is clear.

Seven times this year, the President has derided the investigation as a "witch hunt," including yesterday.

The New York Times has reported that the President has tried at least twice in 2017 to fire Special Counsel Mueller—once in June 2017, and once again in December 2017.

Now, this morning he is claiming, again over Twitter, that reports that he wanted to fire Special Counsel Mueller were more "fake news."

On Monday, after news that his lawyer's residence and offices were raided, the President openly mused, at a gathering of his war cabinet, about firing Special Counsel Mueller.

On Tuesday, the President asserted that he had the power to fire Special Counsel Mueller.

Yesterday on Twitter, the President called Special Counsel Mueller "the most conflicted of all."

He is wrong.

Last night, he advertised a program on his favorite cable network, and when that show aired, it consisted of a derogatory piece against the president's chief investigators: former FBI Director Comey and Special Counsel Mueller.

Last month, the President twice said he opposed the investigation, told an untruth about the political composition of the prosecutors in the Special Counsel's office, and has reiterated that it should never have been started.

Given the actions of the current President, it is appropriate to ask whether stronger legislation is needed.

But H.R. 5476 is an important compromise with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

We must step back and take off our partisan hats and approach this as Americans.

We, as Members of Congress, are Constitutional Officers.

This is an 'Article I' moment.

The People's House must exercise its constitutional prerogative and conduct oversight.

The framers of the Constitution prioritized the legislature branch over the executive branch.

Recent public opinion polls reflect that 70 percent of the American people want the Special Counsel to continue his investigation.

The Framers of our Constitution wisely divided power through a system of checks and balances.

They anticipated a moment like this and vested power in the Congress to address, deter, and remedy a crisis caused by a Chief Executive who held himself to be above the law.

When future generations look back on this moment, and they consider that our democratic ideals and institutions were under enormous pressure from unsuspecting places, they will ask what we did when it mattered.

We must act.

Now, while we as Americans have our differing views, they are ours to solve, amongst ourselves.

Unfortunately, for all of us, the scope of the Special Counsel's investigation also includes the question of the extent to which the Trump campaign was helped in any way by the Russians.

Congress must not abdicate its Article I responsibility.

We must get to the bottom of what happened in the 2016 election.

We must permit Special Counsel Robert Mueller to continue his investigation.

We must seize the moment and pass H.R. 5476, "Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act."

TYLER PITERA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tyler Pitera for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Tyler Pitera is a student at Arvada K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tyler Pitera is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tyler Pitera for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO LORI HARTWELL—
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Lori Hartwell of Glendale, California.

A resilient survivor of chronic kidney disease (CKD), Lori has dedicated her life to the renal field and patients with chronic illness. In her lifelong struggle with CKD, which began when she was two years old, Ms. Hartwell received dialysis treatments for almost 13 years and has had four kidney transplants. Rather than capitulating to the obstacles of this debilitating disease, Ms. Hartwell chose to embrace her circumstances and motivate others like her to lead complete and productive lives. In her book *Chronically Happy—Joyful Living in Spite of Chronic Illness*, she narrates the challenges she overcame as well as the steps to achieving one's dreams.

After developing a comprehensive understanding of the American renal patient population as a sales specialist for HemaMetrics and sales manager for Medcomp, Ms. Hartwell became editor of the medical journal *Contemporary Dialysis & Nephrology* and established Hartwell Communications to consult on patient-related educational materials. In 1993, Lori founded the Renal Support Network (RSN), originally a Southern California-grassroots patient-led organization that has since expanded across the United States. The RSN endeavors to cultivate an emotional support network built on hope, knowledge, and peer connection to provide CKD patients with the tools to thrive despite their illness.

In addition to her work with RSN, Ms. Hartwell gives presentations locally, nationwide and globally at national nephrology conferences and events about patient engagement, overcoming adversity, and achieving goals. She also advises elected officials on the impact of legislative policies on people with chronic illnesses, and serves on multiple councils and boards in the renal field, including the National Quality Renal Forum and the Board of Directors for Kidney Care Partners. She is former chair of the Patient Advisory Committee for the Southern California Renal Disease Council and served on the Governor's Rehabilitation Council for the State of California.

Ms. Hartwell's impressive work has not gone unnoticed as she has been recognized with numerous awards, including the National Kidney Registry's "Patient Advocacy Award" in 2010 and being named "Woman of the

Year" in the 21st California Senate District by State Senator Jack Scott in 2005.

Ms. Hartwell's remarkable efforts on behalf of those diagnosed with kidney disease, as well as her resilience in her own battle, speak for themselves. She is a steadfast community leader with a long record of dedicated service and an inspiration to all.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Lori Hartwell.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXPLOSION ABOARD USS "IOWA"

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 47 brave young men who lost their lives on April 19, 1989 aboard the USS *Iowa*. It is important to remember those who were killed in the line of duty especially those serving in the United States Armed Forces. The deaths of the 47 sailors aboard the USS *Iowa* are truly a tragic and upsetting story.

The USS *Iowa*, originally constructed to fight in World War II, was modernized and recommissioned for battle in 1984. However, during the overhaul of the ship, many of the necessary repairs were either rushed or instead used to upgrade the ship's power plant. This led to serious maintenance issues with the main gun turrets.

On April 19, 1989, there were a series of explosions aboard the USS *Iowa* during a live-fire exercise off the coast of Puerto Rico. The first explosion came from the ship's second turret resulting from a maintenance problem, and due to a buildup of carbon monoxide gas, there was a second explosion and a fire. Tragically, all 47 members aboard the USS *Iowa* lost their lives.

One of the victims was Buffalo native, Nathaniel Clifford Jones, Jr. I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest condolences to the Jones family for the passing of Nathaniel. His service on behalf of the men and women of this country will not be forgotten. We should all commend the service that these brave young men made on behalf of the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO BECKY JORGESON—
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we dedicate the month of March to give special recognition to the accomplishments and sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman, Becky Jorgeson, of San Luis Obispo, California.

Becky Jorgeson is an outstanding activist who is working to establish sustainable community villages of tiny homes for chronically homeless people with little or no income. She is the Founder and President of Hope's Village of San Luis Obispo, which aims to provide safe, healthy and drug-free communities where people who are homeless can live in dignity and peace.

Through Becky's "RVs for Veterans" program, 74 motorhomes, travel trailers and fifth wheels have been passed on to local homeless veterans getting them off the streets and into their own tiny homes on wheels. 734 showers have been given through her mobile "Showers of Hope" program; and numerous sleeping bags, tents, tarps, blankets, jackets and food have been passed out down by the creek and on the streets of San Luis Obispo through their outreach program.

Becky also has worked closely with educators and students to bring more homes to those in need. She collaborated with the Cal Poly Construction Management department to build and donate two "cabins on wheels" for their soon to be community village. Currently, Nipomo Tech High School is building another tiny home for Hope's Village, and Cuesta College will begin building in the Fall.

Becky's work to support the homeless population of San Luis Obispo has been a tremendous asset to members of the community in need. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Becky Jorgeson, for her incredible service to her community.

ARIEN PAULS-EVA MURILLO
UNsung HERO AWARD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Arien Pauls was excited for her graduation from Bullard High School in 2007 and even more excited to head off to Fresno City College. A hard worker, she took a part time job at Taco Bell to help pay her bills and tuition. After posting online about her lack of funds, she was contacted by her soon to be trafficker. She thought he wanted a simple relationship. However, when she finally agreed to meet him in person, he forced her into modern day slavery.

He moved her to Los Angeles and cut off all contact with her family and friends. For four years, Arien lived out of hotels and suitcases, her body being abused by strangers. After being forced to have an illegal abortion, she managed to escape with another trafficking victim. Luckily, her dastardly trafficker was charged with domestic violence.

Arien has faced many challenges throughout her life. She witnessed her mother use drugs and then, in her narcotic induced state, abuse her. She was molested by several male family members as a child, but she was determined to create a better life for her and her younger brother.

Arien refused to let her tragic past dictate her future. She became an advocate for human trafficking victims, using her experiences to relate to and help others. She volunteered with Breaking the Chains and the Cen-

tral Valley Justice Coalition, where she shares her story with hundreds of young women. Through this group, she is able to educate students about the dangers of human trafficking.

Arien is an unpaid volunteer and works as an assistant catering manager to support her 3-year-old daughter. Her dream is to one day earn a law degree and use her legal skills to further advocate for crime victims.

Arien's story is one of triumph. She may have endured horrific hardships, but she came out the other side stronger and more resilient.

Each year the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus honors outstanding individuals and organizations for their tireless efforts supporting and empowering survivors of crime. Co-chaired and co-founded by JIM COSTA (D-CA) and myself, the bipartisan caucus advocates for crime victims and protects programs that provide critical support for related services.

I am honored to announce Arien Pauls as the recipient of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Eva Murillo *Unsung Hero Award*. The *Unsung Hero Award* is in memorial of Eva Murillo, a prominent crime victim advocate from California. Arien has utilized her experiences to promote public education and awareness, public policy development and greater awareness about crime victims' rights and needs, as well as her stunning achievements and passion for victims' advocacy here today.

And that's just the way it is.

RAEGAN SAWANO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Raegan Sawano for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Raegan Sawano is a student at Oberson Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Raegan Sawano is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Raegan Sawano for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

ELLA DINKINS

HON. VAL BUTLER DEMINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and life of Ella Augusta Johnson Dinkins, as she celebrates her 100th birthday this year.

Mrs. Dinkins was born on April 20, 1918 in Orlando, Florida. She is the first child of Addie

Mae Gramling Johnson, a school teacher, and Augustus Newsome Johnson, an architect and builder.

When the onset of the Great Depression destroyed her family's financial security, she moved with her parents to Eatonville, the first black incorporated municipality in the United States of America. There, she attended and graduated from the Historic Hungerford School.

Mrs. Dinkins worked hard to support her family—as a domestic servant, truck farmer, insurance agent, hair dresser, and chicken farmer. During certain periods of her life, she worked three jobs at once. She retired in 1984 from her position with the United Telephone Company.

Mrs. Dinkins quickly built a reputation in Eatonville as a civic and faith leader. She is a member of Eatonville's oldest congregation—St. Lawrence African Methodist Episcopal Church—where she has served on countless committees and as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

In segregated Orlando, black women were forced to deliver babies in the basement of Orange Memorial Hospital. No incubators were available for children who needed them. Mrs. Dinkins helped to found Eatonville's Mothers' Club, which raised funds to buy incubators, saving the lives of vulnerable children in her community.

During the 1950s, Mrs. Dinkins joined Eatonville's Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary. In the 1960s, she worked to elect representatives who would work for equality, fairness, and progress.

In the 1980s, she became a Founding Member of the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (PEC), and has spent thousands of hours organizing programs, volunteering at the Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts, and representing her community at historical preservation conferences nationwide. When Eatonville was designated the Historic Town of Eatonville, Mrs. Dinkins served on the first Historic Preservation Board. PEC continues to organize the ZORA Festival, STEM Initiative, and other community programs.

Today, Mrs. Dinkins is widely known as a volunteer, civic leader, and community voice, who attends every Town Council meeting and other official community gathering.

Mr. Speaker, the Historic Town of Eatonville is blessed to count Mrs. Dinkins as a resident. I am honored to represent her, and I congratulate her on her 100th birthday.

KATY ISD BRINGS HOME FOUR
TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our Katy ISD track and field athletes for bringing home four championships at the 91st Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays.

Seven Lakes High School sprinters Thomas Pratt, Lance Broome, Chris Williams and Jahquan Bloomfield won the gold in the 400-meter relay with a time of 40.88 seconds. The Tompkins High School girls 3,200-meter relay

team of Alyssa Balandran, Grace Kohout, Marisa Marinchak and Gabriella Rico also brought home gold with a time of 9:52.68. Cinco Ranch High School freshman Heidi Nielson placed first in the 1,600-meter run with an incredible 4:53.43 time. Otito Ogonnia, a senior at Taylor High School threw the discus an impressive 185 feet and 9 inches, bringing home the gold in this event.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to all of these incredible and talented athletes for these great achievements. We look forward to seeing what their bright futures hold.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDA LEVIN—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Brenda Levin of Los Feliz, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born in New Jersey, Brenda Levin lived on the East Coast until she was 30 and never expected to leave. After studying graphic design at Carnegie Mellon and earning her undergraduate degree at New York University, she worked for a few years before returning to school to earn a Master of Architecture degree from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design in 1976. There she met her future husband, David Abel, who was determined to go west and convinced Brenda there would be more opportunities for women in male-dominated fields such as architecture. Her first job in California was working with prominent residential architect John Lautner on his design of a Palm Springs house for entertainer Bob Hope.

From that day forward, Ms. Levin has touched the historic and cultural spirit and complexity of Los Angeles, significantly shaping the city skyline as we know it. For over 20 years her architecture and urban planning firm, Levin & Associates Architects, has pioneered, in collaboration with innovative developers, the process of historic preservation by the polishing the riches of the city with a new sheen, and her success in this effort has helped to energize the preservation movement in Los Angeles. Among the landmarks she has helped to preserve and revitalize are Grand Central and Chapman markets, the Oviatt, Fine Arts and Bradbury Buildings, the Wiltern Theater and Los Angeles City Hall. In the revitalization/preservation process are the Griffith Observatory, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings at Barnsdall Art Park and the Japanese American National Museum's National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, among others.

In the spring of 2000, the Boone Gallery designed by Brenda opened at The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino and Art, Design & Architecture Museum at the University of California, Santa

Barbara. Ms. Levin's housing projects include the nationally-recognized Downtown Women's Center for mentally-ill, homeless women in Los Angeles and the Adams Congress affordable apartments in south Los Angeles.

Ms. Levin's exceptional work has been recognized with numerous awards. She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the AIA/LA selected her as recipient of the 2010 Gold Medal for her contributions in the preservation and revitalization movement in Los Angeles. In addition, in 2014, she received the Rose Award from the Los Angeles Parks Foundation, and in 2017, Brenda was the recipient of the Los Angeles Architectural Angel Award from Project Restore.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Brenda Levin.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. JOHNNIE MAE SITTONEN

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my friend, Congressman MICHAEL BURGESS, to pay tribute to Johnnie Mae Sittonen, a World War II veteran and Des Arc, Arkansas native who passed away in January of this year. Throughout her life, Johnnie Mae Sittonen served her country, her Arkansas community, and her family selflessly.

Johnnie Mae Sittonen was born in Biscoe, Arkansas in 1924. In 1942, she graduated from Des Arc High School as an exemplary student and enrolled at Arkansas State University. As a young woman, Johnnie Mae was one of the great Americans who volunteered to serve our nation. She joined the U.S. Navy in 1944, at the height of World War II. During her service, she met and married Paul Sittonen. After several years in Massachusetts, she and her husband Paul returned to Des Arc in 1959 to raise their five children and run a family farm.

Johnnie Mae Sittonen spent many years serving her Arkansas community. For more than 20 years, she worked in the Des Arc Schools as the cafeteria supervisor before retiring in 1986. A committed member of the First United Methodist Church in Des Arc, she taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, and served as an active member of United Methodist Women. She was a lifelong Democrat, and served as both the Chair of the Prairie County Democratic Women's Group and as an active member of the Retired Teachers Association.

Johnnie Mae Sittonen's hard work for those in her community did not go unnoticed. She was honored as the Outstanding Community Citizen in 1972 and the Des Arc High School Citizen of the Year in 1983, and later received Baptist Health's Amazing Spirit Award in 2006.

A member of the "Greatest Generation," Johnnie Mae Sittonen is an example of American excellence, servant-hearted kindness, and commitment to service. She will be deeply missed, not only by her family and loved ones, but also by the northeast Arkansas community she served throughout her life.

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA SOTO—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we dedicate the month of March to give special recognition to the accomplishments and sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman, Gloria Soto, of Santa Maria, California.

Gloria Soto was born and raised in the Santa Maria and Guadalupe areas of Santa Barbara County. She comes from an immigrant family who instilled the value of hard work and determination, and made numerous sacrifices to ensure she would have a chance at a better life. Gloria took advantage of every opportunity and graduated from Pioneer Valley High School, Allan Hancock College, and then from Bradman University all while working full time.

Gloria started out as an educator about 6 years ago where she built up educational programs from Lompoc to Paso Robles. She initiated Young Advocates groups in Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo that encourage young people to speak up for reproductive rights. Gloria now works in the development department of Planned Parenthood of the Central Coast where she strives to protect and expand access to reproductive health care in her community. She also educates donors about the importance of their continued support.

In addition to her work for Planned Parenthood, Gloria also serves on the board of Future Leaders of America where she volunteers hundreds of hours training youth leaders and directing week-long youth leadership camps. She is also a board member of the Fund for Santa Barbara, a member of the Activist-Led Grant Making Committee, and a key organizer for the Latino Legacy Awards in Santa Maria.

Gloria's contribution to social justice for a more just community are immeasurable, she is not afraid to get her hands dirty and understands the importance of taking leadership roles in organizations so they can better serve our community. She is a champion for youth, immigrants, and women, and we are lucky to have her in our district.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Gloria Soto, for her incredible service to her community.

JULIE M. NAUMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Julie Nauman had dedicated her life to improving the lives of victims. Julie has been a tireless advocate for those who are less fortunate.

Her work on the Executive Office of the California Crime Compensation Board has led

vital victim compensation in California. Julie has strived to help crime victims sort through complicated legal matters and help them cope with the financial aftermath of the crimes in which they were involved. Julie has also been committed to conducting multi-lingual victim outreach and public awareness efforts to reach crime survivors in California.

After the mass shooting in Las Vegas in October of 2017, it was no surprise, Julie was right ready to help. With her assistance, along with the CCCB, they were able to reach across state lines to provide information, assistance and guidance regarding victim compensation to hundreds of survivors who call California home.

When there was a mass shooting in April of 2017 in Fresno County, Julie personally helped to provide compensation funding for funerals for the murdered victims. She also aided the Fresno Police Department providing resources to better fund future victim assistance services for Fresno County.

As a past member of the Board of Directors and a current member of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Board, Julie has vocalized the need to ensure violent crime victims are aware of the financial support and services available to them.

Julie's persistent support of crime victims is unparalleled. Julie is a superb leader and a truly compassionate person, who is committed to improving the lives of crime victims everywhere.

Each year the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus honors outstanding individuals and organizations for their tireless efforts supporting and empowering survivors of crime. Co-chaired and co-founded by JIM COSTA (D-CA) and myself, the bipartisan caucus advocates for crime victims and protects programs that provide critical support for related services.

I am proud to announce Julie Nauman as the recipient of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus the Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Award for Public Awareness. The Public Awareness Award is in memory of Susanne McDaniel, one of the first prosecutor-based victim advocates in Texas and the nation. There is no doubt, Julie has used her voice to promote and to bring about change at the National level for crime victims.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO ANASTASIA MANN—
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Anastasia Mann of Hollywood Hills, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Anastasia Mann founded Corniche Travel in 1987 and successfully launched a new division called Anastasia's Africa in 2004, which specializes in customized trips to southern and

eastern Africa. She later established Corniche Entertainment, which provides music and entertainment for private events around the world. Alongside the development of her own company, Anastasia has taken on several leadership roles in the travel industry, locally, state-wide, nationally and internationally. She is the founding chairman of the West Hollywood Visitors and Convention Bureau, and a founding member of the California Travel and Tourism Commission, where she served two terms as the sole representative for all travel management agencies in California and served on the Executive Committee. In addition, she is a member of the California Chamber of Commerce and spent ten years on the international board of directors of the Travel & Tourism Research Association, serving as President and Chair. Ms. Mann served as a California representative to the White House Conference on Tourism during the Clinton Administration and was a keynote speaker at both the 2003 International Conference on Peace through Tourism in Geneva, Switzerland and the 2005 IIPT African Conference in Lusaka, Zambia.

In addition to her impressive achievements in the travel industry, Ms. Mann is also actively involved in the community, serving as President of the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council and as a Hearing Examiner for the Los Angeles Police Department's Board of Rights. She is a long-standing board member of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and was involved with the Hollywood Arts Council. Anastasia and her company support several organizations, including the Fred Jordan Mission in downtown Los Angeles, Program for Torture Victims, OneLegacy Foundation and Disabled American Veterans.

Ms. Mann's noble deeds have not been overlooked as she has received numerous commendations by the Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles Mayor, the Governor of California and the United States Senate for philanthropy and business achievements. She also received the Woman of Achievement Award from the Century City Chamber of Commerce in 2006, the prestigious Diamond Award from the Southern California chapter of the American Society of Travel Agents in 2017 and was the first recipient of the Anastasia K. Mann Leadership Award from the Travel and Tourism Marketing Association.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Anastasia Mann.

BILLIE DEAN

HON. VAL BUTLER DEMINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Vice Mayor Billie Dean, who will retire this month after serving the city of Apopka, Florida, for over twenty years.

Mr. Dean was born and raised in Clermont, Florida, across the lake from his current home. He attended Jones High School and Eustis Vocational High School, and earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree from Florida A&M University.

Mr. Dean also served our nation with honor and courage in the United States Army. A Ko-

rean War veteran, he received a Bronze Star for valor.

After settling in Apopka—where he has lived for over 35 years—Mr. Dean became a teacher and activist. He has served as a member of the Florida League of Cities, a Board Member of the Lake Apopka Natural Gas Board, a CARET Representative for Land Grant Colleges and Universities on behalf of Florida A&M University.

He has been a role model in his community, both through his example, and as a member of the 100 Black Men of Orlando, Inc., a long-term mentoring group for black children.

An active member and trustee of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Orlando, he has put his faith into practice in his community.

In 1994, Mr. Dean was elected to the Apopka City Commission. In 2014, he became Vice Mayor—the honor bestowed upon the city's longest-serving Commissioner.

Mr. Dean was an educator. He knew that education is the key to success, and worked throughout his life to ready the next generation to thrive. He married Isadora Moye Dean, and together they have five children and three grandchildren.

In Mr. Dean, our children see a model for public, civic, and community service. While Apopka will miss him as a Commissioner, I am certain that his positive influence on our community will be evident for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartiest congratulations to Mr. Dean upon his retirement.

RETIREMENT OF PHIL COYNE

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Phil Coyne, a Pittsburgh icon who has just retired after eighty-one years of service to our community as an usher for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Phil, the brother of Pittsburgh's former Congressman Bill Coyne, served generations of sports fans during his career, pausing only to serve his country in the military for four years during World War II.

At 99, Phil retired with a unique store of memories that spanned three different ballparks and six thousand games. Arguably the Pirates' biggest loss of the season, Phil leaves with his own Pirates jersey sporting the number 99, and his presence will be felt not only by the fans sitting along the third-base line in PNC Park, but by the whole city.

"Phil remains number one on our organizational seniority list and will always have a place on our team," affirmed Pirates President Frank Coonely.

Phil also ushered at Steelers football games until he was 98—and at St. Paul Cathedral every Sunday.

Phil's long career is unlikely to ever be matched or exceeded.

While Coyne will not be there to usher for anyone any longer, he will still listen to games and even attend some of them—but now as a fan.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I want to commend Phil and thank him for his many years of dedication to

Pittsburgh sports and his community, and I am pleased to honor him as his 100th birthday approaches.

MEGAN SCHUELLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Megan Schueller for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Megan Schueller is a student at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Megan Schueller is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Megan Schueller for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE VICTIMS OF
THE SMOLENSK AIR CRASH

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I join in acknowledging the eighth anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster, a tragedy that claimed the lives of Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and 94 others aboard a government aircraft on April 10, 2010. Among the victims were high ranking generals and government officials, clergy, anti-communist leaders and the family members of victims traveling to a ceremony for the 1940 Katyn Forest Massacre. Also on the plane was one American citizen on an official mission for the city of Chicago. This week, we offer our prayers for the souls of the 96 crash victims and honor those who served their country.

TRIBUTE TO BETH FARNSWORTH
WARD—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CON-
GRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we dedicate the month of March to give special recognition to the accomplishments and sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my

District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman, Beth Farnsworth Ward, from Santa Barbara.

Beth Farnsworth Ward is an Anchor and Reporter for KEYT NewsChannel 3 in Santa Barbara. When the Thomas Fire broke out in December of 2017 and rapidly spread through two counties, Beth stepped up and took the lead covering the disaster and its aftermath, working tirelessly to bring important stories and up-to-date news to affected residents.

Beth provided vital TV news information for our community as evacuations and alerts came out from county officials. Her outstanding leadership and tireless work to help residents navigate information, warnings, and updates ensured residents all throughout the Central Coast were well-informed during the largest wildfire in California history and her work to keep residents safe cannot be understated.

She stepped up once again in January, when the deadly mudslides left many in Montecito in need of resources and information. Beth's tireless devotion, from telling compelling and hard-hitting stories from the field to delivering timely news on set was invaluable to our community as we joined together as a community to recover from two of the worst natural disasters our community has faced.

I am honored to recognize Beth for her commitment to our news operation and the residents of Santa Barbara county. Her news coverage is exemplary of the importance of journalism and local reporting to our community's safety and security.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Beth Farnsworth Ward, for her incredible service to her community.

TRIBUTE TO ISA-KAE MEKSIN—
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my congressional district. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Isa-Kae Meksin of Echo Park, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Isa-Kae's family immigrated to New York from the Ukraine where her father was a concert pianist and her mother was a homemaker. Growing up, Isa-Kae's mother taught her to question authority and to think on her feet, guiding her towards her passion for local politics and historic preservation.

While in New York, Ms. Meksin received a Bachelor's Degree from Hunter College and soon after worked as a secretary for C.L.R. James, the visionary Afro-Trinidadian historian and journalist. It was during this time that she observed how workers, women, African-Americans and youth, were agents of change, and it was this work that led her to Los Angeles to connect with and observe the activities of the local factory workers.

Isa-Kae moved to California in 1953 where she attended California State University, Los Angeles and worked towards her teaching credential. As a teacher in the 1950's, she dedicated her time to working with students with disabilities, specifically the visually impaired, and she maintains life-long relationships with some of these past students. Ms. Meksin continued this incredible work for many years until she found a new passion: activism.

In 1978, Isa-Kae worked on opposing the discriminatory Briggs Initiative which would have banned gays and lesbians, and anyone who supported Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) rights, from working in California public schools. As someone who fought for and supported the rights of LGBT individuals, Isa-Kae testified to the horrific outcomes of such a potentially divisive initiative and how the legislation perpetuated grossly inaccurate portrayals of homosexuals, and through her dedicated efforts and those of others, the Briggs Initiative was defeated.

Isa-Kae continues her activist work by volunteering with various organizations like the Watts Gang Task Force, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Central City Action Committee, the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park, the Studio for Southern California History and many others. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Meksin works with California State University, Los Angeles to create opportunities for homeless youth to attend college and in 2017, she was awarded the Distinguished Educator Award from the university for her efforts.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Isa-Kae Meksin.

MEGAN RONDINI

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Megan Rondini was of Texas. A young college student at the University of Alabama. She was a bright young woman with her whole life ahead of her. What happened next should have never transpired. Megan was raped by a man from a rich family in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. After Megan managed to escape Bunn by fleeing outside a second story window, she headed to a hospital for a rape kit. She did everything a victim should do.

But it was here the system began to fail her. The hospital did not have a sexual assault forensic examiner or SAFE on staff, so they had nobody trained to properly deal with a sexual assault victim or trained to properly collect DNA evidence.

When she went to the police station, she was treated with disdain and disbelief, dismissed and ignored. The police didn't believe her, and treated her like a criminal. They even read her—the victim—her Miranda Rights.

Megan was failed by the system at every turn. Feeling like she had no other option, she tragically took her own life.

The injustices she endured started a national dialogue about campus sexual assault, an issue that is extremely pervasive in our society, but one that very few people wanted to

talk about. The outrage generated forced many universities to re-evaluate and change how they handle victims of sexual assault. Legislators on both sides of the aisle came together on local, state and federal levels to try to come up with new laws and real solutions.

Many hospitals and university infirmaries have begun hiring and recruiting staff trained specifically to handle sexual assault cases. Countless future victims will benefit from the changes that have been implemented because of Megan Rondini. And those changes have only just begun. We will all continue to fight in her name to make the system better for victims.

Each year the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus honors outstanding individuals and organizations for their tireless efforts supporting and empowering survivors of crime. Co-chaired and co-founded by JIM COSTA (D-CA) and myself, the bipartisan caucus advocates for crime victims and protects programs that provide critical support for related services. Today, I am proud to announce Megan Rondini as the recipient of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Award for Public Awareness. The Public Awareness Award is in memory of Suzanne McDaniel, one of the first prosecutor-based victim advocates in Texas and the nation. There is no doubt, Megan's story has overwhelmingly brought change at the National level for crime victims.

And that's just the way it is.

SUTTON SPARR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sutton Sparr for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Sutton Sparr is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sutton Sparr is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sutton Sparr for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING FRED DEL BARRIO

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fred Del Barrio, who was recently named Business Man of the Year by the Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

In 1984, Fred Del Barrio, a high school senior at the time, reluctantly took his first job at the McDonald's on Conway Avenue in Mission, Texas. By the age of 20, he was the manager of the McDonald's at El Centro Mall in Pharr; by the age of 23 he was the supervisor of three stores; and by the age of 31 he owned his own franchise. Today, Mr. Del Barrio is the proud owner of 13 McDonald's franchises.

Mr. Del Barrio has been described by his peers as exceptionally humble and versatile. Moreover, when the Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce chose him for Business Man of the Year they cited his knowledge of "the value of giving back to the community." Because he has been in their shoes, Mr. Del Barrio understands the importance of fostering relationships with his employees. Even though the job has changed over time, Mr. Del Barrio strives to give all of his employees the resources they need to get ahead.

Mr. Speaker, it is honoring to represent industrious and productive South Texan. Fred Del Barrio's business acumen and contributions to the community are a shining example of what the 15th District of Texas has to offer.

KASKASKIA COLLEGE—NATIONAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Kaskaskia College as part of April's national Community College Month.

Kaskaskia College provides high quality and affordable services to over 7,000 students every year. Students can receive distinguished Associate Degrees and skilled labor training to propel themselves forward in higher education and the work force.

Kaskaskia College has doubled down on their mission to provide the most competitive education and technical training. KC has expanded access to their services through online programs, dual-credit courses, and six educational centers that complement their main campus. The services KC provides have become vital to the economic and educational growth in the communities it serves.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to send my congratulations to Kaskaskia College's faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees for their continued success and dedication to their mission.

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the students, teachers, school districts, and advocates throughout Western Pennsylvania who participated in the March for Our Lives on March 24 in downtown Pittsburgh. It is estimated that about 30,000 people participated—a powerful demonstration of the movement against gun violence.

I especially want to recognize the students who have started and fueled this movement. Recently, my office has received many letters from students throughout the Pittsburgh area. These students have written that they are scared and frustrated. One of my constituents wrote, for example, that she sits in each of her classrooms throughout the day, planning out where to run or hide if a shooter enters. But these students have consciously turned their passion about this issue into action to improve their futures. This decision is admirable.

I was pleased to join these young people during the March for Our Lives in Pittsburgh on March 24, and I was inspired by their call for legislative action on this issue. Congress must make greater efforts to ensure these young people see significant new gun legislation enacted. I will continue to support policies that can prevent gun violence tragedies in the future.

I would also like to recognize the teachers and school districts that have encouraged their students to think critically about the issues that impact their lives and about their roles in democracy. I applaud their efforts to protect their students and teach a new generation of leaders how to serve their communities.

Finally, I would like to recognize my constituents who have been vocal about this issue for many years. When I participated in the sit-in on this House Floor almost two years ago after the shooting in Orlando, we felt that enough was enough. That's so much more true today. I am committed to continuing this fight to curb gun violence as long as it takes, and I believe that the efforts of this new generation will finally tip the scales in our favor and enact new commonsense gun laws.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. JOHNNIE MAE
SITTONEN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my friend, Congressman RICK CRAWFORD, to pay tribute to Johnnie Mae Sittonen, a World War II veteran and Des Arc, Arkansas native who passed away in January of this year. Throughout her life, Johnnie Mae Sittonen served her country, her Arkansas community, and her family selflessly.

Johnnie Mae Sittonen was born in Biscoe, Arkansas in 1924. In 1942, she graduated from Des Arc High School as an exemplary student and enrolled at Arkansas State University. As a young woman, Johnnie Mae was one of the great Americans who volunteered to serve our nation. She joined the U.S. Navy in 1944, at the height of World War II. During her service, she met and married Paul Sittonen. After several years in Massachusetts, she and her husband Paul returned to Des Arc in 1959 to raise their five children and run a family farm.

Johnnie Mae Sittonen spent many years serving her Arkansas community. For more than 20 years, she worked in the Des Arc Schools as the cafeteria supervisor before retiring in 1986. A committed member of the First United Methodist Church in Des Arc, she taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, and served as an active member of United Methodist Women. She was a lifelong Democrat,

and served as both the Chair of the Prairie County Democratic Women's Group and as an active member of the Retired Teachers Association.

Johnie Mae Sittonen's hard work for those in her community did not go unnoticed. She was honored as the Outstanding Community Citizen in 1972 and the Des Arc High School Citizen of the Year in 1983, and later received Baptist Health's Amazing Spirit Award in 2006.

A member of the "Greatest Generation," Johnie Mae Sittonen is an example of American excellence, servant-hearted kindness, and commitment to service. She will be deeply missed, not only by her family and loved ones, but also by the northeast Arkansas community she served throughout her life.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AMY ALZINA—
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we dedicate the month of March to give special recognition to the accomplishments and sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman, Dr. Amy Alzina, from Montecito.

In her first year as principal/superintendent of Cold Spring School in Montecito, Dr. Alzina has had more to deal with than many principals will have to handle in a lifetime. Fortunately, her incredible spirit and strong leadership has been woven into the fabric of the school since she arrived.

Cold Spring School was particularly impacted by the aftermath of the Thomas Fire and subsequent mudslides, which devastated Montecito and took the lives of twenty one individuals. When Cold Springs School was forced the school to close for nearly six weeks and took the lives of two students, Dr. Alzina was a calming voice and a beacon of information for the students and families ensuring families felt understood and supported.

From meeting with families who lost their loved ones, to hosting school-wide movie nights so parents could have time to themselves knowing their children were safe, Dr. Alzina gave the community comfort and security during an incredibly difficult time. Her leadership and compassion was instrumental to helping Montecito recover from the devastation.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Dr. Amy Alzina, for her incredible service to her community.

LYLA TAYLOR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lyla Taylor for

receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Lyla Taylor is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lyla Taylor is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lyla Taylor for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT—
ALLIED PROFESSIONAL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Center for SafeSport is an outstanding organization that helps prevent child abuse within the governing bodies of the United States Olympic Committee. SafeSport was launched in March of 2017 and aims to empower athletes by developing a national sport culture of respect and safety.

SafeSport has a team of professionals specifically focused on developing best practices, policies, and programs to protect our children from predators and promote education and awareness about abuse.

Additionally, the Center's Response and Resolution Office is tasked with investigating and resolving policy violations of the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement's 47 member National Governing Bodies. This will aid in investigations to identify trends and patterns across sport, which will help to strengthen prevention efforts.

Congress has recently recognized the need for keeping our young athletes safe, and SafeSport is committed to fighting alongside us to end the exploitation of young women and men in this country. SafeSport not only is committed to preventing sexual abuse but any form of emotional and physical misconduct. This also extends to bullying, hazing, and harassment.

With these policies put into place, SafeSport is effectively eradicating abuse from our sports programs. The organization is a shining beacon that empowers our youth to stand up for what is right.

Each year the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus honors outstanding individuals and organizations for their tireless efforts supporting and empowering survivors of crime. Co-chaired and co-founded by JIM COSTA (D-CA) and myself, the bipartisan caucus advocates for crime victims and protects programs that provide critical support for related services.

I am proud to award this amazing organization with the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Allied Professional Award, recognizing the efforts of SafeSport and their leadership, creativity, and commitment in linking allied

professionals to improve the plight of crime victims in our Nation.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDETTE NICOLE SABA MONESTIME—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my congressional district. Today I would like to recognize one remarkable woman, Claudette Nicole Saba Monestime of Atwater Village, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Claudette Nicole Saba Monestime is a Palestinian American who was born in Wiesbaden, Germany, where her father was stationed serving the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Nicole, her parents and two sisters moved from Germany to Anaheim, California after her father's military service ended. She credits her amazing public school education in the Anaheim school system and the attainment of a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from California State University, Fullerton.

She moved to Atwater Village nearly twenty years ago to expand her career in marketing, and along the way met and married her husband, Rene Monestime. They had two sons, Reece and Micah. After having a successful career as a marketing manager at Princess Cruises and Cunard Line, she started her own marketing firm and immersed herself in her children's public school education.

Ms. Monestime helped create a technology vision for Glenfeliz Boulevard School for Advanced Studies, which has resulted in the consistent use of 75 iPads and 35 laptops by students throughout all grade levels. She continues to volunteer her time in the classroom by helping teach first, second, and third grade students about the intricacies of computer programming. Nicole is the president of the Glenfeliz Boulevard School for Advanced Studies' non-profit booster organization, Friends of Glenfeliz, which raises much needed funds to help to pay for programs that benefit the entire student body, and also participates in an ongoing community outreach campaign to ensure that local businesses play an integral role at the elementary school. Ms. Monestime serves as the president of the School Site Council, which works with the Los Angeles Unified School District to give parents perspective and feedback regarding decisions made at the district level.

Nicole's inspiration comes from the committed parents, administrators, teachers, business and non-profit leaders from the Atwater Village community who work in creative ways to make a difference. When they say, "It takes a village to raise a child," that is most certainly true and is happening in Atwater Village.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Claudette Nicole Saba Monestime.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM B. "BILL"
ZIMMERMAN, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor William B. "Bill" Zimmerman, Jr., of Covington. Bill passed away on November 6, 2017 at the age of 74. He was a fixture in the community who gave generously of himself to his fellow residents of the Alleghany Highlands.

Bill cared deeply about the place where he grew up and spent his life. He graduated from Covington High School in 1960, and later in life he advised the school's Jayteens. He worked as a Director of the Alleghany Highlands Office on Youth Program and as a diversion specialist for Alleghany County and the City of Covington.

Residents of Covington knew him as a long-time councilman who fulfilled his duties with integrity and dedication. From 1976 to 1980 and again from 1998 until his passing, Bill served as District 1's representative on the Covington City Council, and for a time also served as Vice Mayor.

Bill also contributed to various boards and organizations with his time and his talents. Among his contributions to the Alleghany Historical Society was a grand piano. Even as his health declined, he continued to sing in the Granbery Memorial United Methodist Church choir.

It is hard to think of Covington without remembering Bill Zimmerman. During parades in Covington, I grew accustomed to seeing him on the same street corner greeting people. I offer my condolences to his family, his friends (of which I was one), and the City of Covington on this great loss.

SERENITY TURNER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Serenity Turner for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Serenity Turner is a student at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Serenity Turner is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Serenity Turner for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE CAREER OF WINTER
PARK FIRE CHIEF JIM
WHITE

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jim White, chief of the Winter Park Fire Department, who will be retiring in May after over 35 years of public service in the firefighting profession.

Chief White began his career in firefighting only a few miles from here as a volunteer at the Arlington County Fire Department in Virginia before moving to Myrtle Beach, South

Carolina, where he worked for ten years as a professional firefighter. Chief White later established roots in Winter Park, where he has spent the last fifteen years as our city's top firefighter.

Some might say firefighting is the White family business. His father also volunteered as a firefighter, and his brother went on to become the deputy fire chief of the same Arlington fire station where White began his career. These men exemplify courage—running in while others are running out.

But whether it is because firefighting is in his family's DNA or because of his own passion for the job, it is clear that Chief White is both a capable leader and a dedicated public servant. During his tenure as the Winter Park Fire Chief, he oversaw the development of the city's first emergency management office, the improvement of several of the city's fire safety accreditations, and the construction of Winter Park's own public safety facility.

Chief White's achievements did not go unnoticed. In 2008, the International City Management Association awarded Winter Park its "Community Health and Safety Program Excellence Award" in recognition of an effort led by Chief White to modernize the city's fleet of ambulances, making it safer for rescue personnel to save lives. And, in 2014, Chief White received the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association's "Fire Chief of the Year Award" for his service to the public and his contributions to the fire service as a whole.

Although Chief White's leadership and experience will surely be missed at the department, he will leave an incredible legacy for others to follow. As a Winter Park resident myself, I want to personally thank Chief Jim White for his remarkable career in public service, and I wish Jim and his entire family all the best as they enter this new and exciting chapter in their lives.

May God bless Chief White and our brave firefighters and first responders across this nation who put their lives on the line to keep us safe.