

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.