

We are fortunate to have the dedicated members of the Walnut Rotary Club serving the communities in the 16th Congressional District of Illinois. The passion, integrity, and collective life experiences of the Club members are a real benefit to all of us. They continue to deliver real and lasting impacts in our area through various programs and initiatives, and their charitable work stretches across the community, throughout the state of Illinois, and all over the world.

I'm proud to recognize the Rotary Club of Walnut today, and to thank them for their exemplary work in helping others. This group is the true embodiment of the Rotary's motto "Service Above Self" and I look forward to many more years of their servant leadership in our area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 13, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on April 11, I missed Roll Call votes No. 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, and 137. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call 132 and Roll Call 136. I would have voted NAY on Roll Call 133, Roll Call 134, Roll Call 135, and Roll Call 137.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR JOSEPHINE M.P. BLAS ON RECEIVING THE 2018 SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 13, 2018

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Major Josephine M.P. Blas on receiving the 2018 Small Business Administration's Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year Award for Guam. Josephine is being honored for fulfilling a commitment to advancing small business opportunities for Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. She is currently the State Public Affairs Officer, Joint Forces Headquarters for the Guam National Guard. Josephine is being recognized for being a consistent voice for the Guam National Guard and Reserve community since 2000 with her assignment as a Public Affairs Technician.

Josephine has nurtured and strengthens the relationship between local employers and Guard and Reserve members, building commitment to foster positive relationships to allow service members to serve undeterred or unworried about work status in Guam. The relationship building has allowed Guard and Reserve members to be exposed to business opportunities and initiatives. She continues to amplify the stories of the Guam Guard and Reserve talent, boosting their ability as business starters and owners.

Josephine is responsible for publicizing the work of the Guam National Guard through various social media platforms and generating candid and timely communication counsel and

guidance to Guam Guard leadership while ensuring safeguards from foreign threats. She is also tasked with promoting public knowledge, understanding and support of the Guard's missions, organizations and capabilities; and develop and maintain strong working relationships with the media and civilian organizations. Josephine also provides staff assistance, guidance, outreach, and training and mediation concerning employer relations for the National Guard and Reserve Component members, retirees and their employees as it relates to duty.

Josephine is an effective ambassador of goodwill and support, symbolizing the best characteristics of our military forces, both local and global. Josephine has served the leadership of the Guard and Reserve, accompanying and supporting them on critical visits to units away from home and providing unique perspectives for their families. She serves as an invaluable bridge to both families and employers. Josephine is also a Life Member of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Guard Association of the United States, served as the vice president for Air National Guard Association of Guam and currently serves as the Vice Commander of the Women Veterans of America, Guam Chapter. Additionally, Josephine is the mother of an autistic son and serves as the president of Autism Community Together, a nonprofit group raising community awareness to and providing support for families with autistic children and adults.

I congratulate Major Josephine M.P. Blas on receiving the 2018 Small Business Administration's Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year Award for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending her for her award and thanking her for her many contributions to our island community.

RECOGNIZING JACQUELINE R. ERWIN OF DELAWARE COUNTY, PA

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 13, 2018

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Jacqueline R. Erwin, a Classification Specialist for the United States Postal Service, an ordained minister, and a life coach from Delaware County, Pennsylvania. On April 13th, she will be presented with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage Award for outstanding work in her community and career by the Philadelphia/South Jersey Chapter of the African American Postal League United for Success (A-PLUS).

Jackie began her career as a postal worker in 1986 and worked her way up to her current appointment as a Classification Specialist. Her dedication to her job has gone beyond her individual duties. She is the National Vice-Chairperson of NETWORK, a nonprofit organization within the Postal Service dedicated to African-American women who serve at the USPS. In addition to her leadership in her professional life, she is an author, minister, mother, grandmother, and wife.

I join A-PLUS in commending Jackie for her extraordinary work advocating for African-American female postal workers, her commitment to her family, and for making her com-

munity a better place. I wish her success as she continues to enthusiastically serve and advocate for those around her.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 13, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as National Arab American Heritage Month. Arab Americans throughout southeast Michigan and the entire country embody the best of America through their work ethic and contributions to our communities.

It is always an honor to recognize April as National Arab American Heritage Month and celebrate the community's diversity of creed, values and faith that strengthen America's democracy. With almost four million Arab Americans living in the United States, it is important that we take the time to honor the momentous contributions made by these individuals. Arab Americans have greatly impacted the American way of life across a variety of fields, including education, business and government. Those of us in southeast Michigan know that whether they are a business owner, lawyer or factory worker, these individuals make our community a better place to live and raise a family.

Michigan's 12th District contains Dearborn, Michigan, which is home to the largest population of Arab Americans in the country, and it is a distinct privilege to represent this community in Congress. Dearborn is a vibrant city that is home to people from all walks of life and backgrounds who have a common desire to foster a community in which families can thrive. Arab American community members are attributed to meaningful and lasting positive change in southeast Michigan. Notable contributions include the creation of the Center for Arab American studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, which teaches the history and experiences of Arab Americans in a fast-growing facility and the opening of the Arab American National Museum, which is the world's first museum devoted to Arab history and culture. These hardworking individuals make our communities strong and exemplify the values that make America great. During Arab American Heritage Month, it is my hope that the contributions of Arab Americans throughout our country's history will be recognized and celebrated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing April as National Arab American History Month. Their meaningful contributions to the United States are deserving of acclaim.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 13, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 150th anniversary of the City of Ogdensburg.