

Irene Molloy, for her artistic accomplishments both in Hollywood and in our home of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

This week, Irene will begin a new path in her illustrious career, as she will make her debut as director of the Bucks County Center for Performing Arts' rendition of "The Fantasticks." This production of the 1960s musical will take place at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown Township.

A native of Chalfont and a graduate of Archbishop Wood Catholic High School, Irene had worked both on Broadway and in Los Angeles before founding the firm Radiant Bloom Productions.

I applaud Irene for using her artistic talents to make Bucks County a more vibrant place.

I would also like to recognize Howard Perloff of Carversville, the founder and artistic director of the Bucks County Center for the Performing Arts for his contributions to our community and those where he has produced a multitude of plays over a decades-long career.

#### SUPPORT AMIGOS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in fostering increased investment in the United States economy by one of our oldest allies, Portugal. As a co-chair of the Congressional Portuguese Caucus, I am proud to join Congressmen CICILLINE and VALADAO in leading the AMIGOS Act, which we introduced earlier this spring.

Earlier this month, Senators WHITEHOUSE and HATCH introduced the companion measure of the AMIGOS Act in the United States Senate. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation would make Portuguese citizens eligible for specific visas that allow them to enter the United States to conduct substantial trade or to invest a substantial amount of capital. We do this with other nations. This will spur investment in our economy, and it helps create jobs.

In 2015 alone, trade between Portugal and the United States reached \$4.2 billion, and it is only growing. The AMIGOS Act will strengthen this reciprocal economic relationship, one of our longest and strongest allies.

Strengthening relationships that benefit both countries is the best way to grow the economy and to increase the number of jobs in the long term, not trade tariffs.

We have extended these visas before. In 2012, Congress granted, most recently, eligibility to Israel.

Our friendship with Portugal and the contributions of hardworking Portuguese immigrants in America are an important part of our country's history and heritage. Portugal was one of the first countries to recognize the United

States after we declared our independence, and Portugal joined us in being a founding member of NATO.

The AMIGOS Act is commonsense, bipartisan, and bicameral. It is the type of trade policy we should be leading, not engaging in trade wars. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the AMIGOS Act and working together for strong and stable investment in America's economy and American jobs.

With bipartisan efforts in the House and in the Senate, these are the kinds of things that we can do, and I am hopeful that this legislation will be enacted into law before the end of the year.

#### IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Immigrant Heritage Month.

At a time when heinous action is being taken in the name of securing our borders—and we must secure our borders—I stand here to call on every one of my colleagues in Washington, local leaders across the United States, and individual Americans and their families. I call on all of us to come together and remember we are a Nation of immigrants, immigrants past and immigrants present.

For more than 250 years, immigrants have made our country what it is today. Every generation of immigrants contributes new ideas, fresh energy, and vibrant culture to our Nation that makes up this mosaic web of an incredible place we call America.

I grew up in California's San Joaquin Valley, which I have the honor and privilege to represent. Our valley is a rich combination of people whose families have come from all over the world. It is part of this fabric, this mosaic, I talk about. They have made California and our Nation what it is today through hard work, family values, and lasting contributions in so many different ways: the agriculture economy, businesses, education, and healthcare systems.

Their story is our story. It is the story of achieving the American Dream. The American Dream lives on. It lives on in all of us.

Last week, I met with a group of students from my district on the Capitol steps, many of whom are children from immigrant families. These young people came to Washington to learn about our government and how to make a difference. They are our future leaders in the next generation who want to achieve this American Dream.

At a time, Mr. Speaker, when children and Dreamers are being leveraged to ram shortsighted and ineffective immigration reform through Congress, let us pause. Let's step back. Let's think about what our country stands for, our common bonds and our values. I call on all of us to come together to reflect that.

Let us commemorate American Heritage Month with something real. The Fourth of July is next week. We celebrate our country. We come together in

a patriotic fashion, remembering what has made America great. Part of what has made America great is generations of folks coming from all over the world, wanting to live this dream.

We must reject that immigration policy being forced through the Congress, and we must come together to fix our broken immigration system with real, bipartisan reform that provides long-term solutions while respecting the dignity and humanity of all people who are part of this American Dream.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July next week, let us never forget that our common values and our bonds are far stronger than whatever differences we may have.

#### LAMPETER-STRASBURG SOFTBALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Lampeter-Strasburg High School women's softball team located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, that recently reached the pinnacle of its sport by winning the State championship. I am especially proud, Mr. Speaker, of this win because this is the school in my home school district where my family and I reside.

The Lampeter-Strasburg Pioneers beat West Allegheny on Thursday, June 14, to claim its first-ever PIAA 5A softball State championship. After losing by a slim margin 2 years ago, the Pioneers overcame adversity and returned to the State finals this year to win 6-2. The team's 14-3 win over Donegal—which won last year's 5A State championship title—in the Lancaster-Lebanon section 3 playoff is further evidence of its success during the postseason.

I spoke to Coach Gene Charles last night by phone. He credited the victory to the team's clutch hitting and key defensive stops later in the game. Coach Charles has coached at Lampeter-Strasburg for more than 20 years, building an extensive network of active alumni who frequently travel to games with his family.

We are lucky to have leaders and mentors in our district like Coach Charles who inspire our student athletes to strive for success and to learn from failure.

Junior Brynne Baker also pitched a noteworthy game, holding the opposing team to just one earned run. In her postgame interview, Baker said this was a huge win for the team, especially the graduating seniors, and a proud moment for the Lancaster-based community.

Congratulations to all the players, coaches, their families, and all those who made this championship for Lampeter-Strasburg possible. Your community is proud of you and will continue rooting for you season after season.