

servant. Serving two separate terms as the President of the Soroptimist International of Dixon, Mary Lou Batchelor has worked tirelessly to advance the status of women and girls, continually advocating for equality and opportunity. She also served as chair of the Soroptimist's countless events, programs, local projects, and fundraisers. She has been instrumental in bringing positive and significant changes to her community. She is especially devoted to generating financial support for cancer survivors and for the families of those who have lost their battle with cancer. Mary Lou was also a former President and is the current Treasurer of the Women's Improvement Club of Dixon, and as an active member of Dixon Advocates for Seniors, Mary Lou was recognized as the 2017 Dixon Senior Citizen of the Year. Her passion for volunteerism in the community is evident in her role at the League of Women Voters, helping to encourage and engage women in the community to become informed voters. She currently is involved in the city of Dixon's Volunteer Program in which she will be assisting agencies such as the Police Department, Fire House, or City Hall when needed. Mary Lou is hardworking, responsible, compassionate, and an effective community leader who truly cares about her community and embodies all the qualities of a true public servant.

IN MEMORY OF BENJAMIN MARIO  
BELTRAMO

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2018*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman JIMMY PANETTA to honor the life and memory of Benjamin Mario Beltramo who recently passed away.

Ben was the middle child of five born to Mario and Linda Beltramo. He grew up in Fresno where he attended catholic schools throughout his lower education. Upon graduating from high school, Ben decided to follow in his father's footsteps and attend the University of Notre Dame, where he majored in English. After completing his undergraduate studies, Ben again followed in his father's footsteps and chose to become a lawyer by gaining entrance into Berkeley's prestigious Boalt Hall School of Law. Soon thereafter, Ben accepted a job with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, to begin after completing a clerkship with a federal court judge in southern California.

On November 12, 2002, Ben officially began serving the citizens of Alameda County and the State of California as a Deputy District Attorney. He joined his brother Matt there, who in part had inspired him to join the District Attorney's Office. In less than a year, Ben's work ethic, intelligence and commitment to justice was recognized when Ben was asked to sit second chair on a high-profile case involving corruption in a local police department. Ben impressed not only the Senior District Attorney assigned to the case but gained the respect of the defense attorneys and the judge presiding over the case. Ben played an active role in the prosecution of that case and was subsequently assigned to the Felony Trial Team at

the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland. During his career, Ben held a variety of important assignments; specifically, he was assigned to the Law and Motion division, the Strike Team which targeted dangerous felons within the City of Oakland, and Felony Trial Staff on three separate occasions. He also headed the Narcotics Task Force, and on November 22, 2013, was assigned to the Alameda County Gang Team. He served on the Gang Team until his untimely death.

An effective trial lawyer is equal parts effort, determination, intelligence and charm. In all of these aspects, Ben excelled. Even before his untimely passing, Ben was often described as "the best of us" by many of his friends and colleagues. Ben successfully handled several high-profile cases as a trial lawyer. In August 2006, Ben obtained a guilty verdict in the brutal beating death of a homeless woman in Berkeley. In February 2010, Ben prosecuted the murder of a 17-year-old young man who was tragically killed a short time before he was scheduled to attend the University of Oregon on a football scholarship. In May 2014, Ben prosecuted two gang members responsible for the fatal shooting of three-year-old victim Carlos Nava. Ben treated victims and their families, defense attorneys and their clients and the process with the utmost professionalism.

Even with the professional accolades and quiet contentment Ben received from his accomplishments, he would argue, and convince everyone, that his real success was in his personal life. On October 7, 2006, Ben married his amazing wife Shara Mesic Beltramo. The two of them met at work as Shara was also a Deputy District Attorney. Ben often remarked how lucky he was to have found Shara. From their union, Mateo, age 8, and Luke, age 6, were born. Anyone who saw Ben with his boys knew that he had no greater joy than being a father. Ben loved spending time with his family and was always the proud father and husband. In addition to all of these remarkable qualities, Ben was a bit of a renaissance man. He really enjoyed the outdoors and working with his hands. He worked diligently to remodel his family home, removing and replacing most of the woodwork in the house, as well as installing skylights in his master bedroom. Making his and Shara's house a home was foremost among Ben's many goals.

On October 8, 2018, Benjamin Beltramo's family, the citizens of Alameda County and everyone touched by Ben's life, suffered a tremendous loss. Despite this loss, we are made better by having known Ben.

HONORING CHIEF KEN ARNOLD

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Ken Arnold, on his retirement as the Chief of Police for Napa Valley College in Napa, California.

Chief Arnold was born in Orlando, Florida and raised in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas. In 1983 he graduated from Napa Valley College with two Associate of Science degrees in Law Enforcement and Private Se-

curity. Chief Arnold also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Saint Mary's College of California in 1991. From 1979 to 1997 he served in the Army Reserve and was honorably discharged as a Sergeant First Class.

Chief Arnold has served Napa Valley College as Chief of Police since 1990. He also is the head of parking services and emergency management, among many other responsibilities that are essential to keeping the students and college safe. Chief Arnold is an adjunct professor at the Napa Valley College Criminal Justice Training Center. He teaches first aid for law enforcement, cultural awareness, emergency management and campus law enforcement, among other courses. In addition, Chief Arnold coordinates the Napa Valley College police academy and in-service training programs. Since 1989, he has also taught emergency preparedness and trained other instructors for the Napa County Community Emergency Response Team training program.

During the October 2017 wildfires, Chief Arnold displayed incredible leadership and greatly assisted our community. He set up a temporary shelter at Napa Valley College for fire evacuees when the fire first broke out and included a kennel for displaced animals. At the college, Chief Arnold led the coordination of emergency operations, community donations, distribution of food and clothing, staff shift management and volunteers.

Chief Arnold has held numerous leadership roles. He is the former president of the California College and University Police Chiefs Association and Napa and Solano County Training Managers Association and was Board Chairman of the Napa chapter of the American Red Cross. He has also served on the board of Saint John's Lutheran School.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Arnold is an admirable leader who is dedicated to serving and protecting our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Chief Ken Arnold here today.

CONGRATULATING DAN ROACH ON  
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE ILLINOIS  
STATE POLICE

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dan Roach, who is retiring from the Illinois State Police. Mr. Roach has a diverse background in police work, and has been an asset to the community.

Mr. Roach has served as an Illinois State Police law enforcement professional for 26 years, including over 21 years of investigations, patrol, and administrative leadership experience, retiring as Captain. Mr. Roach served as the Deputy Chief of the Schaumburg Police Department for the last 4 years, where he oversaw the Patrol Division, the Investigations Division, and the Special Operations Division. Mr. Roach has accrued extensive experience in team-building, and interpersonal and management skills such as employee development, problem-solving, and networking with diverse groups of people at all levels. I commend Mr. Roach on an outstanding career of public service and wish him

the best as he begins to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Mr. Dan Roach that I am especially proud to serve Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Mr. Dan Roach for an exceptional career and thank him for all of his contributions and service to the community.

**HONORING VERNEAL BRUMFIELD  
WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR  
AWARD**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Verneal Brumfield as a woman of the year. She is committed to serving her community and devotes her time to help further the development of Solano County. She retired as a Correctional Administrator with 28 years of service to the State of California, where she was responsible for thousands of inmates and staff over the years. She has gone on to become actively involved in many community service organizations where she advocates for causes she believes in. She has served in leadership positions with the National Council of Negro Women, the Tri-City NAACP, the Solano County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and Democratic Women in Action. During her time as President of the Solano County Chapter of Links, Inc., she worked to secure a large grant which funded a STEM collaboration benefitting Solano County students. She also worked with the National Council of Negro Women and Campfire Girls of America to put on an event providing a holiday meal and gifts to underserved children in her area. Throughout her years of service to her community, Ms. Brumfield has been an integral part of many such projects benefitting the people of Solano County. She is always willing to serve wherever there is need and consistently does so with kindness and compassion.

**CONGRATULATING LTC(RET) NICHOLAS M. LAIACONA ON RECEIVING THE 2018 VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2018*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate LTC(RET) Nicholas Laiacona on receiving the 2018 Veteran of the Year Award.

Each year, the Friends of the NYS Military Museum and the Capitol District of NY Chapter, Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) recognize an outstanding veteran from the local community. This year's awardee, LTC Laiacona, has made distinguished contributions to his country as a soldier and to his community as a veteran.

LTC Laiacona entered the Army in 1966 and served in Vietnam as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander in the Mobile

Riverine Force, 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta. After returning home, he transferred to the Ordnance Corps, fulfilling assignments in the United States, Germany, and Korea. In 1985, he was selected as one of the first certified U.S. Army Material Acquisition Managers and became one of the first officers in the Army Acquisition Corps. LTC Laiacona retired in 1991 with over 24 years of service and numerous awards and decorations, among them the Purple Heart and Vietnam Service Medal with 4 stars.

After retiring, LTC Laiacona continued to contribute to the Army by applying his expertise to several corporations in support of U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering. He also remains active in several Veterans organizations, including the AUSA where he served as President of the Capital District Chapter and continues to serve on its Executive Committee.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate LTC(RET) Nicholas Laiacona on his well-deserved award of 2018 Veteran of the Year. We are thankful for his service and dedication to both his country and community.

**TRIBUTE TO WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2018*

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representatives DEBBIE DINGELL, PAUL MITCHELL, MIKE BISHOP, SANDER LEVIN, DANIEL KILDEE, FRED UPTON, JOHN MOOLENAAR, and JACK BERGMAN to recognize Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, on the occasion of its 150th—or sesquicentennial—celebration. Located in the heart of Detroit, Wayne State University is ranked among our nation's best research institutions, educates over 27,000 students among 13 schools and colleges, and is the eighth-largest employer in the city of Detroit.

In addition to educating and training leaders in research, the arts, law, and medicine, Wayne State University has for over 150 years, consistently served the people of Detroit, the great state of Michigan, and our nation. Wayne State University began, and has remained, in Detroit—a city that has seen the highest heights and the deepest depths, and is now reinventing the very definition of the great American city.

Through the tireless work and effort of its first university president, Dr. Edward W. Jenks, to the current president Dr. M. Roy Wilson, Wayne State University is the embodiment of public service and access to education. Under the direction of Dr. Wilson, Wayne State University has dramatically increased its overall six-year graduation rate, with African American graduation rates double what they were just a few years ago. Today, Wayne State University attracts, and is composed of, many of the best and brightest students and researchers, with an excellent team of administration, faculty, and staff professionals. They remain firmly rooted in the community while preparing their diverse student body to impact locally and globally making the university a thriving hub of innovation and academia.

Wayne State University has also cemented its status as a leading research institution and a champion for women and children in our nation. In fact, Wayne State University is the only site outside of Bethesda, Maryland, that houses a branch of the National Institutes of Health. Thanks to the Perinatology Research Branch, over 20,000 women, children, and families have received access to world-class prenatal health care that they might not have otherwise been able to access.

Through the Integrative Biosciences Center (IBio), the University is reimagining the way science approaches urban health issues. IBio was named the 2017 Renovated Laboratory of the Year by R&D Magazine and Laboratory Design. This 127,000-square-foot, \$90 million facility is dedicated to studying and eliminating the many health disparities that plague residents of Detroit and communities across the country. IBio includes faculty with expertise in environmental sciences, bio and systems engineering, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and bio-behavioral health. Opened this fall, the Mike Ilitch School of Business, further expands the Wayne State campus into The District Detroit while adding academic programs in the business of sports and entertainment.

The mission of Wayne State University is to create and advance knowledge, prepare a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impact local and global communities. We congratulate and thank Wayne State University's student body, Board of Governors, President M. Roy Wilson, faculty and administrators for living out the passion and principle of their mission statement. Reaching their 150th anniversary is a milestone, and we eagerly look forward to what the University accomplishes in its next 150 years.

Wayne State University has been, is and will always be Warrior Strong.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MS. IRENE  
WHITLEY MARCUS**

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2018*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a civil rights hero in the greater Kansas City area for her dedication and determination to ensuring the success of the African American community through equality and opportunity. Since the mid-twentieth century, Ms. Irene Whitley Marcus has worked feverishly to demolish anti-Black sentiments and discriminatory policies, in order to create accessible housing in the Kansas City community. During a time when segregation laws disproportionately afflicted Black Americans and civil unrest persisted, Ms. Marcus held firm to her belief that all of America's children were deserving of the liberties and rights guaranteed under the constitution, regardless of their skin tone.

Through her memories and experiences, the history of the Black community in Kansas City is preserved and respected. World War II provided many Black families an opportunity for upward social mobility in the workforce and created the opportunity for minorities to purchase homes. Ms. Marcus tells of a time when Black businesses were rare and social life existed only in Black American homes due to