

Dr. Freeman was appointed by the NIU Board on September 20, 2018, to serve as the university's 13th president and first woman president—lucky number 13.

As a proud NIU alum, earning my PhD in political science from NIU in 2004, I'm excited to welcome Dr. Freeman to her new, and finally, official role. She previously served as acting president since July 2017.

Dr. Freeman has dedicated her career to the promotion of social excellence and engagement in teaching and learning, research and scholarship, creativity and artistry, and outreach and service.

I have no doubt that her inspiring nature and example will surely lead NIU to greater heights under her steadfast and visionary leadership.

Her commitment to the academic excellence of the students and faculty at NIU will maintain NIU's leadership as a world-class institution. Throughout her career, Dr. Freeman has fostered an inclusive learning environment where students and faculty can live, grow and thrive.

As a proud NIU alum, I can recount the moments throughout my educational journey where men and women, like Dr. Freeman, helped pave a way for me and others to succeed, in the classroom, in our careers and in life.

In my current role as the Congresswoman for Illinois' 2nd District, it encourages me to see the broad-spectrum collaboration and participation underway at NIU, from science and mathematics to political science, business and the arts.

My office and constituents have certainly benefitted from the great educational experience available at NIU. In fact, a number of my current and former staffers and interns are all NIU alums, and they work hard every day to serve the great people of the 2nd Congressional District.

As our institutions of higher learning face 21st century challenges, I know that NIU, under Dr. Freeman's leadership, will rise up and not only meet but also exceed these challenges.

In particular, Dr. Freeman's own personal examples as a barrier-breaking researcher in the STEM field will certainly inspire many young people to find their own place and path in the dynamic, growing and innovative STEM fields.

As a proud Husky, it's my honor to welcome Dr. Freeman as the 13th President of Northern Illinois University. I am confident that under her leadership, NIU will continue to flourish as an innovative and world-leading, student-centered, research-focused public university.

Welcome once again and go Huskies.

HONORING NATALIE AUDAGE 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 Ms. Natalie Audage as a woman of the year. She is committed to serving her community through her career as a Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator for Yolo County Children's Alliance. Her down-to-earth and en-

gaging personality and commitment to professionalism enable her to bridge divides and affect positive change in social service sectors in Yolo County. Through her work, Ms. Audage produces a guide of resources that aims to prevent child abuse by providing parents and caregivers with skills that encourage healthy interactions with their children. As a coordinator of Yolo County Children's Alliance's Family Strengthening Network, she spearheaded the effort to train collaborative providers on the World Café model, an initiative which brings parents, leaders, educators, agency staff, and students together to pursue improvements in county systems. This model ensures that people of all communities are reached and offered the opportunity to reach their potential and thrive. Ms. Audage also worked for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, where she researched and produced resources related to violence prevention and the adverse effects of child abuse across the lifespan. She brings this expertise to her work fighting for families in Yolo County. She is a passionate and dedicated advocate for children and is leaving an indelible mark on Child Abuse Prevention in Yolo County. I commend Natalie Audage for her passion and commitment to keeping children safe and in healthy family environments.

SCARSDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, first responders are the heroes of our local communities. We in the 16th Congressional District of New York are fortunate to have had the Scarsdale Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 for the past 125 years, and I want to honor them on reaching that amazing milestone.

Established in 1893, the Scarsdale Volunteer Fire Department No. 1 started with a handful of dedicated volunteers as they hooked a couple of horses to a wagon attached with fire extinguishers, and were without a fire station until the following year. Now, the Scarsdale Volunteer Fire Company is one of three fire stations throughout the Village of Scarsdale comprised of 47 career members and 70 volunteer firefighters across 3 different fire stations.

In 2016 alone, the Scarsdale Fire Department responded to 1,499 alarms, which included 42 structure fires, 139 motor vehicle accidents and victim rescues, 268 hazardous condition requests, and 258 public assistance calls. The skill and professionalism of the Scarsdale firefighters is evident in their average response time of 3 to 4 minutes per emergency. This has made the Scarsdale Fire Department one of the best in Westchester County, and within the top 10 percent of fire departments in New York State.

I want to commend Fire Chief James E. Seymour IV for his outstanding leadership as well as all the career firefighters and volunteer firefighters who dedicate their time and service for protecting the Scarsdale community.

Mr. Speaker, every community unknowingly relies on the dedicated service of unsung he-

ros. The Village of Scarsdale is fortunate to have the amazing first responders of the Scarsdale Volunteer Fire Company protecting them for over a century.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2018

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the National Adoption Day celebration that will take place in Ector County on November 16th at the Crossroads Fellowship Church. Throughout the day, local courts in Ector County will finalize the adoption process for families in the community.

It is no coincidence that National Adoption Awareness Month falls in the same month of Thanksgiving. During this time of year, we reflect on the many blessings in our lives, such as family. Our families play an instrumental role in our lives by helping shape our character, providing unconditional love, motivating us through challenging times, and giving us a lifetime of memories that we will always cherish.

Sadly, over 100,000 children are waiting to find their permanent home. Many of these children have various medical, developmental, and emotional needs that require special nurturing from parents and families. Our world is fortunate enough to be blessed by people who open their hearts and homes to these children. These selfless individuals provide an important service not only to these children, but also to our communities and country.

These new families hold a special place in my heart because I am adopted myself. My father adopted my little brother, sister, and me, so seeing other children who have the benefit of a loving family warms my heart.

I want to thank the Court Appointed Special Advocates of the Permian Basin and other adoption organizations across the nation that make National Adoption Day possible. I also want to thank the dedicated individuals who make a powerful difference in the lives of children through adoption.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST 5 MADERA COUNTY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of First 5 Madera County. Since its creation in 1998, First 5 Madera County has embarked on a mission to promote an integrated system of care with the purpose of ensuring that every child has a safe and nurturing environment to grow. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor the work of First 5 Madera County and celebrate their many accomplishments throughout the past 20 years.

Since its inception, the goal of First 5 Madera County has been to provide services to children and families in the Central Valley.