

After graduating with honors from Tenafly High School, Ms. Rafferty went on to attend Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. While in college, Caitriona developed an interest in politics and began volunteering for local campaigns including Paul Vagianos for State Assembly and Christine Orday for State Assembly. In Spring 2016, Caitriona studied abroad at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy where she had the opportunity to expand her worldly views, attend a Catholic Easter Mass at the Vatican, and make lifelong friendships. In May 2017, Caitriona graduated from Sacred Heart University with her Bachelor of Science in Political Science.

Caitriona joined my team as an Intern in my Washington, D.C. office in September 2017 and was quickly offered a full-time position on my staff as Staff Assistant in November 2017. As Staff Assistant, Ms. Rafferty was instrumental to my team through managing my D.C. internship program, assisting my constituents by planning tours in the nation's capital, and assisting staff with legislative and communication projects. In February 2018, Ms. Rafferty was promoted to Legislative Correspondent. In this capacity, she ensured every constituent concern or question was promptly addressed.

Ms. Rafferty's laid-back personality and steadfast work ethic was a valuable asset to my office. She was greatly respected by her peers for attention to detail and dedication to her work. Outside of work, Caitriona enjoys going to the movie theater, listening to podcasts, wandering through museums, but above all, she loves spending time with friends and family.

Ms. Rafferty's time with my office will come to an end at the beginning of the 116th Congress on January 3, 2019. I have no doubt she will continue to be successful and grow professionally in her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Ms. Caitriona Rafferty for her public service to the people of California's Central Valley and wishing her well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

REP. ELIZABETH ESTY FAREWELL

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Congresswoman ELIZABETH ESTY for her productive years in Congress and on the Science Committee in particular. Representative Esty has served her constituents in Connecticut proudly during her time in Congress.

Among other accomplishments, she enacted H.R. 255, the "Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act", in the current Congress. She also sponsored on H.R. 1020, the "STEM Education Act of 2015", which became law. It promoted educational opportunities for students in STEM subjects.

It is because of her principled approach that 33 of the Science Committee's 35 bills that were approved on the House floor were bipartisan.

ELIZABETH was willing to work across party lines to get legislation passed. It has been a pleasure serving with ELIZABETH in Congress.

THANKING DYLAN COLE
CHANDLER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Dylan Cole Chandler for his service to my office and the people of California's Twenty First Congressional District.

Mr. Chandler was born on July 17, 1992 in Huntsville, Alabama. As a child, Mr. Chandler was always supported and encouraged to learn by his parents, Christie Chandler Barclay and Douglas Hines Barclay II.

Growing up in Alabama with his sister, Emma, Mr. Chandler enjoyed being active and challenging himself academically as he held the position of Class Officer and played varsity soccer while attending New Hope High School. Upon graduating in 2010, Mr. Chandler attended the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa where he became an active member of the University's Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. During the spring semester of his junior year, Mr. Chandler furthered his interest in American politics, gaining firsthand experience of the political process in Washington, D.C. while interning for Congressman MO BROOKS of Alabama.

Mr. Chandler graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 2015 and soon returned to Capitol Hill beginning his career as a Legislative Correspondent in my Washington, D.C. office. In this position, Mr. Chandler successfully developed and maintained relationships with the constituents of California's Twenty First Congressional District, ensuring every voice was heard and concerns were thoroughly addressed.

Proving himself an integral member of my team, Mr. Chandler quickly moved up to take on the role of Senior Legislative Assistant. Mr. Chandler's dedication to the people of the Central Valley was unwavering as he worked tirelessly on legislative issues impacting my district including Agriculture, Financial Services, and Healthcare. These efforts were instrumental in securing millions of dollars in federal funding, improving the lives of countless people residing in my district.

Outside of work; Mr. Chandler is very active and enjoys skiing, golf, traveling, exploring local restaurants with various cuisines. His family and friends are incredibly important to him and he makes frequent visits to Alabama a top priority.

Mr. Chandler's time in my office will come to an end this January and he will begin a new chapter serving as Legislative Assistant to Congressman SEAN DUFFY of Wisconsin's Seventh Congressional District. While the Central Valley is losing a strong and reliable advocate, I have no doubt that Mr. Chandler will achieve many great things and continue working to help the lives of many others in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Mr. Dylan Cole Chandler for his public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing him the very best in this next chapter of his life.

REP. GENE GREEN FAREWELL

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Representative GENE GREEN for his years of service in Congress. He and I have been members of the Texas delegation for years and I consider him to be both a colleague and a friend.

GENE has selflessly dedicated years of his life to represent the constituents of the 29th district of Texas. He has listened to their concerns and focused on the issues they care about.

GENE has worked with his colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee to pass legislation that has the support of both parties. His current leadership position as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Health, as well as his previous leadership roles on the Committee has garnered him respect from his peers throughout Congress.

I wish GENE the best as he starts his next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO ANNA RAQUEL
VETTER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ms. Anna Raquel Vetter for her service to my office and the people of California's Twenty First Congressional District.

Ms. Vetter was born on July 27, 1989 in Houston, Texas to Maria Santucci Vetter and Bruce Gary Vetter. Although Ms. Vetter spent parts of her childhood in Texas, Georgia, and Colorado, she spent the majority of her formative years in Champaign, Illinois. As the eldest growing up with her three brothers; Anthony, John, and Daniel, Ms. Vetter was always responsible, reliable, and, when needed, stern—making her a natural leader.

After graduating from The High School of Saint Thomas Moore in Champaign, Illinois in 2007, Ms. Vetter went on to continue her studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. While attending the University of Illinois, Ms. Vetter also worked at a local boutique and in the Sports Marketing and Promotions Office for the University's Athletic Department. Balancing her studies and working two jobs, Ms. Vetter graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Advertising and Political Science. Soon after, Ms. Vetter began her career on Capitol Hill working as Deputy Communications Director for her hometown Congressman, Timothy V. Johnson.

Ms. Vetter joined my team in February 2013 as my Communications Director. In this role, Ms. Vetter oversaw all outgoing communications and served as my formal spokeswoman and media liaison, cultivating and maintaining relationships with local, state, and national media outlets.

After demonstrating her natural leadership abilities, Ms. Vetter took on the position as Deputy Chief of Staff in April 2016. Through this, Ms. Vetter was a trusted advisor on my

long-term legislative plan and was integral in overseeing all operations and staff in my Washington, D.C. office. As a member of my team, Ms. Vetter was greatly respected by her coworkers for her professionalism and dedication to her work.

Outside of work, Ms. Vetter enjoys golfing, going to the gun range, hiking, and like a true Italian, making and eating pasta. However, she spends most of her freetime with her Labradoodle, Sullenberger "Sully" McCormack who she and her fiancé, Ryan James McCormack, brought home on June 12, 2018. Additionally, Ms. Vetter is looking forward to her marriage to Mr. McCormack, which will take place on November 2, 2019.

Ms. Vetter's time in my office will come to an end as she becomes the Communications Director for Congressman Van Taylor at the beginning of the 116th Congress. Knowing Ms. Vetter's work ethic, professionalism, and undeniable love for the United States of America, there is no doubt that she will be successful in her new office and in all of her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Ms. Anna Raquel Vetter for her public service to the people of California's Central Valley and wishing her well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 13, 2018, due to a death in my family, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call no. 435, YEA.

REP. JARED POLIS FAREWELL

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Representative JARED POLIS on his victory in the Colorado gubernatorial race even though it means he is leaving Congress.

I have worked with Representative POLIS on Science Committee issues over the years given his district contains both a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) office. Congressman POLIS has shown an acute knowledge regarding High-Tech issues given his experience running internet-based companies in the private sector and his philanthropic work in the area.

I wish him the best of luck as he starts this new chapter serving the constituents of Colorado.

CELEBRATING THE BOLD VISION AND STEWARDSHIP OF OMAR BROWNSON DURING HIS TENURE AS FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT AT RIVER LA

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bold vision and stewardship of Omar Brownson during his tenure as founding Executive Director and President at River LA. Omar led efforts to transform the Los Angeles River, bringing renewed interest and a holistic approach to restoring its 51-mile expanse.

Since 2010, Omar has helped forge new partnerships that traverse public, private, and philanthropic sectors, fostering creativity and innovation. The vastness of the Los Angeles River and the diversity of the communities it connects create unique challenges that demand unique leadership. Through forward-thinking initiatives, Omar has been able to tackle these challenges through a wider lens—seeing opportunities to address inequity and climate change.

The history of the Los Angeles River is written by many and Omar has become squarely embedded in that history. Through the passionate collaboration of all those committed to its future, our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the beauty of this natural resource. As policy makers, advocates, and community leaders, we must all continue working together to create policies that ensure the protection and vitality of all of our planet's natural resources, including the Los Angeles River.

I ask all members to join me in commending Omar Brownson for his incredible dedication to the Los Angeles River.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, due to a death in my family, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on Roll Call no. 431, YEA; On Roll Call no. 432, YEA; on Roll Call no. 433, YEA; and on Roll Call no. 434, YEA.

THANKING COLE JONATHAN ROJEWSKI

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Cole Jonathan Rojewski for his near decade of service to the Central Valley Congressional Delegation, and particularly, for his work in various roles over the last six years for California's Twenty First Congressional District.

Mr. Rojewski was born in Clovis, California to parents Cynthia and Al Rojewski. Cole enjoyed growing up in Clovis countryside with his sister, Dena, and the family's many animals. From an early age, Mr. Rojewski had a love for animals and being outside. As a child and young adult, Cole was an active member of Future Farmers of America (FFA), something he continues to participate in today as a mentor to young FFA members. Cole attended Clovis High School and Clovis East High School, where he was a member of the school's men's golf team and graduated in 2006. Following his graduation from High School, Mr. Rojewski attended California State University, Fresno, where he graduated in 2011, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science.

It was while attending CSU Fresno that Cole found an interest in politics. Beginning in 2010, Cole worked for Congressman DEVIN G. NUNES as a Field Representative in his Clovis District Office. Mr. Rojewski continued to work for Mr. NUNES throughout his time in college, and also had an active role on campus as Vice Chair of the Central Valley Region of the California College Republicans.

In 2012, Mr. Rojewski played a vital role in my first campaign for Congress. Following my election that November, Mr. Rojewski joined my team in Washington D.C. Throughout the last six years in my office, Mr. Rojewski has played a vital role in our success representing the Central Valley, having served as my Office Manager, Campaign Manager, Deputy Chief of Staff, and most recently as my Chief of Staff from 2015 to the end of 115th Congress.

Cole's natural leadership abilities, supreme work ethic, and keen political instincts have made him a truly invaluable member of my team, and an excellent public servant elevating the needs of the people of the California's Central Valley throughout the halls of Congress and our nation's Capitol.

Following the 115th Congress, Cole's time in my office will come to an end, but I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for him. I have no doubt he will continue his great work in politics and will have many great achievements in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Cole Rojewski for his public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing him the very best in this next chapter of his life.

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN FAREWELL

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize PAUL RYAN's 20 years of exemplary Congressional service with great appreciation and gratitude.

I think Speaker of the House may be the toughest job in America. A Speaker has to gather 218 votes to approve any measure, unlike executives who can simply issue orders.

PAUL may be the first Speaker who didn't seek the office and, instead, was drafted by the Republicans in Congress—a true testament to the respect his colleagues have for him. And he has handled the speakership with humility, dignity, and confidence.