

Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and Navy Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Corpsman Marcus Allen Kennedy's valiant service to his country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2019*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on July 15, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 475, Roll Call Vote 476, and Roll Call Vote 477. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call Vote 475, Yea on Roll Call Vote 476, and Yea on Roll Call Vote 477.

RECOGNITION OF MADAM C.J. WALKER AND RENAMING OF WEST 136TH STREET BETWEEN LENOX AVENUE AND ADAM CLAYTON POWELL BOULEVARD AS "MADAM CJ WALKER WAY"

### HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2019*

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, Madam C.J. Walker is the first self-made American female millionaire and the wealthiest African American woman of her time as an inventor and entrepreneur.

Madam C.J. Walker born as Sarah Breedlove on December 23, 1867 in Louisiana to Owen and Minerva Anderson Breedlove was the first of her family born into freedom.

Madam C.J. Walker was orphaned at a young age. She first married during her adolescent years and became a widow only a few years later. After the death of her husband Moses McWilliams, she overcame adversity and moved to St. Louis, Missouri as a single mother to her young daughter A'elia Walker working as a laundress—barely earning one dollar a day—she persevered through the hardships of poverty solely focused on supporting herself and her daughter.

Madam C.J. Walker was determined to make a better life for her and her daughter and she was inspired to start her own line of beauty products. Her inspiration stemmed from her own struggle as an African American woman who had difficulty finding hair-care products that were not only aimed for a specific hair type, but were also owned by an African American woman.

Madam C.J. Walker was an activist and philanthropist who worked alongside her daughter A'elia Walker, leading the vanguard of women and women of color in the world of business, philanthropy, advocacy with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Negro Business League, and the National Conference on Lynching, and rich history and culture of Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance.

Madam C.J. Walker dedicated her wealth and success to better the lives of young Afri-

can-American men and women through scholarships for the Young Men's Christian Association, the Tuskegee Institute, Bethune-Cookman University, and the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church as a testament to her fervent belief in furthering African Americans as they pursue economic independence and financial security which continues to pave the way for African Americans nationwide.

As the Representative of the Thirteenth Congressional District of New York in the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to recognize Madam C.J. Walker for her inspiration and achievement impact in the African American community and celebrate the renaming of West 136th Street between Lenox Avenue and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard as "Madam CJ Walker Way".

RECOGNIZING COLLEEN O'HARRA AS THE CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

### HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2019*

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mrs. Colleen O'Harra, the co-founder of the Oceanside Women's Resource Center and a former member of the Oceanside City Council, as my Constituent of the Month for July. For 45 years, Colleen and her team have been serving survivors of domestic violence and their children at the Women's Resource Center, working tirelessly to ensure that community members receive the services and support they need to recover.

The Women's Resource Center opened during a time when there was limited to no services available for domestic abuse victims, becoming the only facility of its kind aiding North County San Diego families. Under Colleen's trailblazing leadership, the Women's Resource Center grew from an "underground" network where domestic abuse survivors received short-term assistance in private homes, to a 31-bed shelter providing long-term housing, support, and resources to survivors.

Colleen's work is imperative as we address the epidemic of violence against women that plagues our country. Each year, approximately 12 million adults and over 15 million children are exposed to domestic violence. These alarming figures tell us that we must do more at the local, state, and federal level to empower survivors and raise community awareness, ensuring that domestic violence and sexual assault are neither tolerated nor accepted in our communities. In April, the House of Representatives passed the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 (VAWA) with bipartisan support to prevent domestic violence and ensure survivors have resources to recover and seek justice. Today, I urge my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to help end the cycle of domestic violence and reauthorize the VAWA.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize residents of the 49th District who have gone above and beyond to support our neighbors and make our community stronger. After 45 years of providing critical support services and shelter to survivors in our community, we owe Colleen a debt of

gratitude, and I am proud to recognize her as the Constituent of the Month.

HONORING GERMAINE CLAIR AND BROOKS JOHNSON FOR THE 2019 HOPE HOUSE COMMUNITY AWARD

### HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Germaine Clair and Brooks Johnson for receiving the 2019 Hope House Community Award.

Germaine Clair and Brooks Johnson are honored for supporting the Hope House's fundraiser and opening their lovely home during the fall art show to host the Taste for the Arts Donor Brunch. Their graciousness offered a wonderful tool to strengthen the Hope House and introduce new friends to the Hope House Foundation through the Stockley Gardens Arts Festival.

I commend their dedication to growing inclusion through the arts in our community and strengthening the Hope House's mission.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT REIGEL'S KNIGHT OF THE LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL AWARD

### HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2019*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Reigel for receiving the Knight of the Legion of Honor Medal from the people of France for his service during WWII.

Robert, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday, enlisted with the U.S. Army in 1943. He served in four battles overseas during WWII, which included deployments to France, England, Italy, and Bavaria. Through his service, he earned the Victory Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Battle Stars, two Overseas Service Bars, and a Good Conduct Medal. He retired from the U.S. Army with a Technician Fifth Grade rank.

The Knight of the Legion of Honor Medal was established in 1802 and pays tribute to soldiers who helped liberate France and Western Europe during WWII. It is the highest military distinction given to those who have accomplished exceptional deeds for France.

The Hon. Guillaume Lacroix, Consul General of France in Chicago, presented the prestigious award to Robert during a ceremony at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. Surrounded by his family and fellow veterans, Robert was honored as a hero to both America and France.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in thanking Mr. Robert Reigel for his service to our country. His dedication to our country and his valor in service are truly an inspiration to us all.