

Navneet Randhawa is a dedicated community servant who has routinely taken the time to reach out to people in need and bring communities together. In 2012 Navneet participated in the Sutter County Library's Citizenship Preparation class, where she learned of their Literacy Services Program. She was interested in the opportunity to give back to the library and volunteered a tutor for ESL students with the lowest reading levels. Colleagues and students alike attest to her friendly and welcoming manner as she provided critical assistance with the program. Navneet also worked tirelessly for Casa de Esperanza, a shelter, counseling, advocacy, and education facility for adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking. Through her work as a bi-lingual counselor advocate she was instrumental in bridging the gap between the organization and her Southeast Asian community, helping Casa de Esperanza reach more people in need of their services. She also worked to help her colleagues better understand her culture so they could better serve the community. Though Navneet now works as a nurse, she continues to volunteer her time with Casa where she continues to make a positive difference in people's lives. Navneet's unique skill and compassion in bringing together communities and treating everyone with compassion is a joy and inspiration to everyone around her.

Margaret Renn has dedicated her life to educating children throughout her community. Margaret taught in elementary school classrooms for 16 years at schools in San Jose, Vallejo, and Fairfield before going on to serve as an elementary school principal in the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District for 16 more years. Now in retirement, Margaret continues her passion for education by volunteering with the Solano County Chapter of the California Retired Teachers Association. In addition to her many years of service as a public educator, Margaret now spends her free time serving special needs children and adults at the Horseplay Therapeutic Riding Center in Dixon, where she has been volunteering for five years, is one of two volunteer coordinators, and serves on their Board of Directors. Through her work at the Horseplay Therapeutic Center she has the privilege of getting to see special needs riders develop physical strength, social skills, and self confidence while expanding their horsemanship skills. Margaret has dedicated herself to the education and wellbeing of others and her service in the classroom and at the stables have had a lasting positive impact on her community.

Jenn Rexroad is a fierce advocate for children and families throughout our community. As the Founder and Executive Director of the California Alliance of Caregivers, Jenn consistently fights for the needs of at-risk foster care children. Jenn was instrumental in creating and implementing a policy agenda that advocated for the rights of foster children and played a vital role in establishing numerous projects important to children and families. Her work on the Resource Families' Policy Summit and the Mental Health Services Parent Stakeholder Engagement Project has furthered the goal of improving mental health services for all children and youth statewide. Her fervent advocacy has helped to create stronger protections and opportunities for those in need. Jenn is in position to continue her vital work by

servicing as a First5 Yolo Commissioner and volunteering as the Child Welfare Policy Director for the organization Children Now. Her unbridled energy and concern for those in need are instrumental in creating a more caring and compassionate community. Her work on behalf of children and families in our community will have a lasting impact on generations to come.

Jen Roberts is a passionate activist whose strong and energetic leadership has had a real impact on her community. As founder of Indivisible Colusa, a local volunteer organization focused on engaging in progressive political advocacy, Jen has been tireless in creating ways for local community members to develop their voice. In doing everything from organizing postcard campaigns to composing the Indivisible Colusa newsletter, Jen has been relentless in pursuing ways for community members to engage in the political process on the local, state, and federal levels. She has been known to regularly open her home for meetings and debate watch parties. Her courageous, thoughtful, and principled leadership has allowed Indivisible Colusa to rapidly transform from its humble beginnings in 2017 to the lively and visible presence it is in the community today. Jen is also a founding member of the Colusa County Democratic Central Committee, which held its first meeting in February 2018. Kickstarting this process, Jen was integral in establishing a Democratic party committee in one of the few California counties that didn't already have one. Jen is tireless in her efforts to engage others and ensures that those in her community have a place to develop and express their beliefs while delving into the democratic process.

I congratulate each of them and commend them for their work. I am inspired by them and firmly believe when women succeed, America succeeds.

TRIBUTE TO ANN AND VINCE
BELLIS

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ann and Vince Bellis of Greenville, North Carolina.

In October of this year they were honored by the Friends of Greenville Greenways for their efforts to champion, create, and expand the family-friendly walking, running and biking space. They have given countless hours over several years to the fulfillment of this community-enhancing project.

This couple have been honored for a lifetime of civic engagement, their incredible technical knowledge of the environment including a plethora of horticultural expertise and for unselfishly sharing that knowledge with the community.

Many citizens of Greenville daily enjoy the Greenway and I applaud the work of the Bellis' in making what was once just an idea into a beautiful reality for the betterment of our city.

IN HONOR OF JULIO BALSERA

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Julio Balsera, the extraordinary Cuban activist. He passed away last month at the age of 80.

Born in Havana in 1939, Mr. Balsera spent his early years fighting the Castro regime. He fled Cuba by hiding inside the kitchen cabinets of a cargo ship bound for Caracas in 1960, and in 1963, he made his way to Miami.

Mr. Balsera continued his activism in South Florida. He founded the J. Balsera School Bus Service, which offered children rides to school. Through this business, Mr. Balsera became a key figure in the burgeoning Cuban-American community. He got to know the schoolchildren who rode his buses and their families, and he was always happy to provide vote recommendations. He also sent his buses to mobilize voters ahead of elections and to help Cubans arriving in Florida during the Mariel exodus.

Mr. Balsera sold his bus company after four decades of business, but he continued his activism, leading the charge to recall former Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez in 2011. He was also a founding member of the Cuban American National Foundation.

Julio Balsera's influence can be seen at nearly every level of government in the greater Miami area, and his legacy of speaking truth to power will be felt for years to come. I'm proud to recognize his contributions to our South Florida community.

HONORING SAINTS CYRIL AND
METHODIUS SCHOOL FOR BEING
NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saints Cyril and Methodius School in Lemont, Illinois, for receiving the prestigious 2019 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award. The school was recognized under the Exemplary High Performing Schools category.

In 1982, the U.S. Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools boasting high or significantly improved achievement. I am proud that Saints Cyril and Methodius School has been honored as one of those exceptional schools.

Saints Cyril and Methodius School has long been a fixture of the Village of Lemont having been founded at the same time as the parish in 1884. The mission of Saints Cyril and Methodius School is to provide an excellent Catholic education in a compassionate environment that strives to develop each student spiritually, academically, physically, and emotionally. The school offers an integrated set of courses to motivate students to understand the connection between the classroom and living one's faith. Students are challenged with a