

providing rides to the parents of athletes who have no way to get to the games. As a community leader, Tina organized the 1st Annual Soapbox Derby, a family friendly event that inspires children and adults to create the fastest gravity-powered, or most creative vehicles, they can and race in front of cheering fans. This was especially important to Lake County in that it was simply a joyous occasion for the entire community after four straight years of disastrous fires. Tina Viramontes is a Deputy City Clerk for the City of Clearlake who has a heart for public service and a strong desire to help people. She greets everyone with a smile, a cheerful attitude, and helps them navigate through the various departments with professionalism and integrity. On behalf of the Clearlake community and the people of the 3rd Congressional District, I offer Tina Viramontes congratulations and my well wishes in her future endeavors.

Dr. Vajra M. Watson has had immense influence the community during her career at UC Davis as the Director of Research and Policy for Equity. Her poise, work-ethic, and commitment to making the world a better place stands unmatched. Dr. Watson devotes her time to creating and expanding upon various academic and community-based programs. She digs in to solve problems on the ground, putting her renowned academic research to work. Just a few of the programs that she helped develop include Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS), the UC Davis Campus-wide Equity task Force, and the UC Davis Outreach Center. Dr. Watson has been an invaluable figure for the African American Community, creating and fighting for these life-altering programs. Her work supports the education and elevation of marginalized youths from disenfranchised communities. Her SAYS program has been instrumental in helping teachers learn to incorporate authenticity in the classroom environment to engage and enrich their students. In addition to her hands-on work in the community, she has contributed to the education canon of academia with a multitude of books and peer reviewed studies. Her book *Transformative Schooling* addresses many of the central aspects of our time as she delves into the structure and nuances of America's education structure, as well as the necessary action that must be taken. On behalf of the 3rd Congressional District, I offer Vajra M. Watson my sincere best wishes and continued success.

Jeanine Werner has dedicated much of her life to improving the lives of children who are deaf and hard of hearing, or those that have physical and cognitive disabilities. Her empathy and drive started early in her life, leading her to begin working with these populations in high school. As she continued to develop her professional career, she never abandoned her original goal. After working with these populations as a classroom aid, she eventually took on the opportunity to work with adults and children known as "Campers". These "Campers", who are attendees of Lion Camps for people with disabilities, undoubtedly benefited from her kindness and commitment to improving the lives of those around her. Upon returning to Yuba City, Jeanine involved herself with Casa de Esperanza, a shelter for those suffering from abuse and violence. Jeanine then began work as a Counselor Advocate for the First Responder program. Shortly after, she was promoted to be Project Director for the

program because of her skill and passion. During her time at Casa de Esperanza, Jeanine transformed several programs and projects through expansive training, education, and outreach efforts. Her desire to improve the lives of those around her continues to benefit our community. On behalf of the people of Yuba City and the 3rd Congressional District, I am pleased to congratulate Jeanine Werner as a 2019 Woman of the Year for her dedication, passion, kindness, and intellect.

Kristina Wiley's dedication to helping others is unparalleled. In her tireless work to improve her community, she has served as president of Soroptimist, a non-profit organization devoted to improving the lives of women and girls across the country. In addition, Kristina has raised money for charities and even traveled to Haiti to perform dental surgery for those in need. In her work in Dixon, Kristina has raised tens of thousands of dollars for breast cancer research, donated to the funeral funds of those in need and raised \$47,000 for animal welfare. In addition to these great contributions, Kristina has devoted her time to mentoring children and even taken children in need under her wing while they get back on their feet. Kristina has also used her skills as a DDS in Haiti, traveling there 5 times in order to perform much-needed procedures on those who would otherwise not have access to dental care. Her involvement in the community has improved many lives and will continue to do so in the future.

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

IN SUPPORT OF THE SAFE RETURN OF AUSTIN BENNETT TICE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Austin Bennett Tice's prolonged captivity in Syria, where he has been held since August 14, 2012; over seven years.

Austin is an American journalist who headed to Syria to work as a free-lance reporter for the McClatchy News Service between his second and third years at Georgetown Law School. A native of Houston, Texas, and a Georgetown alumnus, Austin is an exceptional young man who demonstrated his determination and potential early in life as both an Eagle Scout and a National Merit Finalist.

After graduation from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. As an infantryman, his service included tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. At the time of his capture, Austin sought to ensure that the world understood the tragic situation in Syria. Because of his dedication to our country, we owe this young man every possible effort to affect his release.

Presidential Policy Directive 30, U.S. Nationals Taken Abroad and Personnel Recovery Efforts, clearly commits the Government to working in a coordinated manner and utilizing all instruments of national power to safely recover hostages. We appreciate that commitment and were grateful when the FBI announced last

April a \$1 million reward for Austin's safe return. We are aware that the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell has been engaged with efforts to secure his release for several years.

Madam Speaker, it has now been over four years since that Presidential Policy Directive was finalized, and we strongly urge the President and State Department officials to personally ensure that the U.S. government galvanizes its efforts and employs all appropriate means to secure this young man's safe and expeditious return to the United States.

WAR EMERGENCY PIPELINE
HISTORICAL MARKER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the November 11, 2019, dedication of an Illinois State Historical Society Historical Marker for the Completion of the War Emergency Pipeline in 1943 from Longview, Texas, to Norris City, Illinois.

Before the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and entry of the United States into World War II, 95 percent of the crude oil delivered to east coast oil refineries was transported by tanker ships, with 90 percent of that from Texas oil fields. In 1942, oil tankers from the Gulf of Mexico were being sunk by German submarines at the rate of three per day. A committee appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt recommended an overland pipeline be built from Longview to Norris City.

Work began at Longview on August 3, 1942, and a dedication ceremony at Norris City was held upon completion, February 19, 1943. Newspapers and radio stations recorded the event; the newsreels were shown prior to movies in theaters all over America. The first day, 60,000 barrels of crude oil flowed into Norris City. The first trainload left Norris City the night of the dedication with 96 oil tankers.

Fifteen 80,000-barrel storage tanks and three loading racks had been built. 13,500 barrels of crude oil were received hourly on this pipeline between February 19 and September 1, 1943. The railroad hauled 124,193 tankers of oil out of Norris City. The War Emergency Pipeline put 3,500 people to work.

Madam Speaker, the pipeline's impact on the war effort was tremendous, enabling the safe and timely transport of oil vital to the allies during the height of wartime service. I want to extend a warm thank you to the Enbridge-Texas Eastern Company and The Illinois State Historical Society for collaborating to ensure an important piece of this nation's history is preserved for future generations.

HONORING MARK BORBA FOR 2019
AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR
IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mark Borba on the occasion of