

Additionally, she takes the time to inspire and mentor her colleagues, helping them to harness their own skills, knowledge, and passion to serve their community. Catherine is also the founder of the Davis Schools Foundation, which has helped every school in Davis and thousands of children over the years. She has also given her time and support to such organizations as 100 Women Who Care, the Yolo Crisis Nursery, and the Yolo County Food Bank. Catherine is a fierce advocate, caring friend, loving mother, and inspirational leader whose dedicated service to her community has changed countless lives in Yolo County.

Diana Fuentes-Michel is a dedicated advocate not only within the Yolo and Sacramento regions, but throughout the entire state of California. For years, Diana has applied her skills and expertise in higher education policy to ensure that migrant, low-income, and moderate-income students from the state of California can pursue a higher education. Diana has also been instrumental in ensuring that upwards of 50,000 undocumented students can attend college by ushering in California's Dream Act Application. Diana also contributed to the establishment of the bilingual career and college fair called Steps to College: Paseo de la Universidad, which was the first of its kind in Yolo and Sacramento counties. Diana's work as an establishing member and volunteer for the Chicano-Latino Youth Leadership Program has provided thousands of California's young Latinx with the opportunity to visit Sacramento, stay on college campuses, and participate in state government affairs. She has also volunteered her time with Cien Amigos where she helped to raise funds for the nonprofit that serves 300 students and helps administer the organization's yearly scholarship program. Diana is an inspirational leader whose dedicated service to her community has changed countless lives in our community and throughout the state of California.

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

**CELEBRATING THE INSTALLATION  
OF DR. MATTHEW GIORDANO AS  
THE FOURTH PRESIDENT OF  
VILLA MARIA COLLEGE**

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the installation of Dr. Matthew Giordano as the Fourth President of Villa Maria College on Friday, November 15, 2019.

Villa Maria College is a private, co-educational, Catholic college providing the support and resources needed to give students the opportunity to learn and grow with a culturally diverse population that lives its ideals of truth, charity, and unity.

Dr. Matthew Giordano, the first male, layperson president in the college's history, assumed the role of interim president in July 2018 following the retirement of Sister Marcella Marie Garus, Villa's legendary forty-year leader. Since that time, the College launched three new academic programs including flexi-

ble business, game design and software development proactively responding to heightened employment opportunities in these growth industries. Scholarship eSports has also found a home at Villa Maria College.

This visionary leader is not only responding to the marketplace of today but ensuring the college's future growth as he and his team are creating a new strategic plan, introduced new models of governance and is developing strong connections between the Villa Maria family of students, faculty and staff.

Prior to his selection, Giordano served as vice president for academic affairs from 2012 to 2018. During that time, he played a pivotal role in planning and implementing the college's creative blueprint resulting in major enrollment growth and increased retention, launching new academic programs, including an honors program, and helping to secure grant funding in support of student success, including a \$1.8 million Title III grant.

Dr. Giordano brought his passion for teaching English and gift for student engagement to Villa in 2005 and became chairperson of the liberal arts department in 2009.

It is especially noteworthy that while he is working within the beautiful, stately walls of the Villa Campus, Dr. Giordano understands that the college is strengthened when the surrounding neighborhoods are strengthened. An anchor institution and community asset linking the borders of the city of Buffalo and the town of Cheektowaga, Villa's new president is committed to open dialogue with local leaders and elected officials to develop partnerships and initiate collaborative relationships in support of its students and neighbors.

Dr. Giordano has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Philosophy from Binghamton University and both a Master of Arts and doctorate degree in American Literature from the Ohio State University. He successfully completed the Executive Leadership Academy of the Council of Independent Colleges and the Felician Leadership Institute this past year.

He follows in the footsteps of true Felician leaders as Villa Maria College was founded in 1960 by Mother Mary Annette Guzowski and the Felician Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province. Through extensions of charters, National and State Accreditations and significant program expansions offering real world experiences, Villa Maria College at almost sixty years of service remains a vital center of educational energy as it embraces the academic, social and careers goals of its students.

Madam Speaker, I take this time to congratulate Dr. Matthew Giordano on his installation as President of Villa Maria College. This new era in the college's history will begin with a true celebration witnessed by his wife, Jennifer Desiderio, their three daughters and the extended Villa Maria Community. We extend our best wishes for continued success as he leads this unique institution of higher education into the future.

**HONORING JAMES AND DELIA  
NETTO'S 60TH BIRTHDAYS AND  
40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. and Mrs. James and Delia Netto on the special occasion of their 60th birthdays and 40th wedding anniversary. They are wonderful members of the community and have been an inspiration for all married couples.

James and Delia Netto were born in Hanford, California—he on May 17 and she on December 30—in 1959. They come from proud Portuguese families originating from the Azores Islands. James and Delia met in church and quickly realized they had found the loves of their life. They were married on September 1, 1979 at Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Laton, California. The Nettos are the proud parents of two daughters, Danae Koprivetz and Diandra Vantrease.

Together, James and Delia founded Double N Dairy and Netto Trucking. James and his brother, Frank, then started Netto Agriculture, Inc., where Delia served as Chief Financial Officer. James now owns Penny Newman Grain Company, serving as Vice President of Sales and Production.

James and Delia are known for their service and generosity in the Central Valley of California. They were awarded the St. John Bosco Friends of the Youth Award in 2011 for their contributions to St. Rose-McCarthy Catholic School in Hanford, California. Additionally, James serves on the St. Vincent de Paul Center Board of Directors in Hanford and the couple support the Poverello House, Candle Light Guild, Saint Agnes Holy Cross Center, Make-A-Wish Foundation, among other organizations.

The Netto's favorite pastime is spending time with their family and friends, including their daughters, sons-in-law Jeff and Troy and beloved grandchildren Emma, James and Sloane. They also enjoy traveling.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in celebrating my friends James and Delia Netto as they celebrate their 60th birthdays and 40th wedding anniversary. I join their family and friends in celebrating this milestone occasion.

**TRIBUTE TO PARKER OVERTON**

**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 Parker Overton of Grimesland, North Carolina. Mr. Overton was recently presented The Order of the Long Leaf Pine on October 22nd. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is the highest award for state service granted by the Governor. It is presented to persons for exemplary service to the state of North Carolina and its communities that is above and beyond the call of duty and which has made a significant impact and strengthened North Carolina.

Mr. Overton, who grew up on Greenville, is the founder of Overton's, the world's largest

catalog of watersports and boating supplies from 1975 to 2003. He is chairman-elect of Greenville Utilities Corporation, chairman of the Board of Vidant Health Foundation, founding director and former board member of Metrics Pharmaceuticals, founding member of Select Bank and Trust Greenville and Select Bancorp, former president of the N.C. State Veterinary Foundation, member of the Advisory Board for the East Carolina University Chemistry Department and was instrumental in securing funding for the ECU School of Dental Medicine.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring this great citizen of the state of North Carolina.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS AND CONSUMERS FAIR CREDIT ACT

### HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2019*

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Veterans and Consumers Fair Credit Act, which extends important protections to all consumers.

In 2006, Congress imposed an interest rate cap on many consumer loans, including payday products, for active-duty servicemembers and their dependents via a bipartisan amendment known as the Military Lending Act. This rate cap has proven successful in cracking down on usury and preventing predatory lending from trapping active-duty military families in a cycle of debt.

We know that the Military Lending Act has preserved access to credit while protecting consumers from predatory payday lenders. Some states have extended these proven protections to all their residents, but my constituents in Illinois remain vulnerable to payday loans, debt collection, vehicle repossessions, and more.

Veterans and consumers deserve the same protections from vicious debt traps that active-duty service members receive, and the Veterans and Consumers Fair Credit Act will do just that.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF RODNEY KROPF

### HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2019*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ozark Organic Feeds and founder Rodney Kropf for the completion of their new \$13 million expansion project. Rodney was able to use savings from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to expand his feed operation, investing an additional \$10 million into the new project.

As a poultry farmer for over 36 years, Rodney knows a thing or two about hard work. Ozark Organic Feeds was incorporated in Dallas County a little more than a decade ago. Today the new 10,000 square foot facility in-

cludes four storage bins that hold over 700,000 bushels of grain.

Ozark Organic Feeds uses state-of-the-art technology to produce precision organic animal feed blends for 2.5 million hens throughout the United States. Output from their new plant operations is now yielding 2,400 tons of grain a week, enough to fill 100 to 110 semi-trucks.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Rodney Kropf for his hard work and hope my colleagues will recognize that tax cuts lead to economic growth.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF NAVAL VETERAN, LT. HENRY ROSS PEROT

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2019*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today during this week commemorating veterans in memoriam of Lt. Henry "Ross" Perot, of Texarcana, Texas.

When I learned of Ross Perot's passing this summer, I was saddened by the loss of a passionate and determined American patriot.

Ross Perot was a one of a kind American. His swashbuckling, Texas vintage and 'can do' spirit was irrepressible. He lived the life he chose full steam ahead. His life of service was attributed to the love that he had for our great nation, and for that of his fellow service members who make the most honorable sacrifice to serve in our armed forces. He exhibited fierce loyalty to his family and friends, and his love of our nation was encapsulated in his famous catchphrase, "It's just that simple." On this Veteran's Day, let us remember and honor Ross' military career as a Naval Officer, and the thousands upon thousands of people and institutions he helped throughout his life—most often privately with no fanfare.

From a young age Ross strove for excellence. At twelve years old he joined the Boy Scouts of America, and within a year of joining he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. This is the most prestigious title achieved by very few young men who participate in the program, which develops character and a strong foundation toward a life in public service.

A proud and grateful graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Class of 1949, Ross served as a Lieutenant (j.g.) in the Navy for four years. While at the Academy, Ross was elected Student Body President, and also aided in the development of its honor system. He was assigned to the destroyer USS *Sigourney* (DD-643), and was then later reassigned to the aircraft carrier USS *Leyte* (CVS-32).

Ross was also an agent of action and gave tremendous support to veteran's organizations such as the Vietnam Prisoners of War, and the Son Tay Raiders. He most notably advocated for the hundreds of former war prisoners left behind at the end of the Vietnam war. Exhibiting the mantra of "no man left behind," Ross fought to alleviate the afflictions of his brothers and strove to provide them with better nourishment and medical treatment. He was truly a beacon of light at a time of utter darkness for so many in the military.

A man of fierce determination, Ross lived every day to its fullest. His candidacy in 1992

and 1996 for the presidency of the United States created a thunderbolt in American politics. His founding of the Reform Party brought new issues forward to the public—fair trade was among them with his firm prediction that NAFTA would create a great sucking sound of U.S. jobs outsourced to penny wage nations. That proved correct. Trade deficits with U.S. trade partners have not been balanced since and, on balance, have been increasingly larger every year. He predicted the political thunderbolt this would spawn.

Though many pundits put forth highly critical and piercing commentary regarding this businessman turned presidential candidate, Ross Perot's persistence drew attention to America's diminishing industrial base and the risks posed to the nation's innate strength as to growing U.S. government debt. By the year 2000, his drive had helped move the nation to balance the annual budget and begin paying down its long-term debt. That is, until 9/11. In response to his critics who charged him with being crazy, Ross' answer was to jubilantly dance across the stage with his wife Margot to the great Patsy Cline's love anthem "Crazy," to the sheer delight and spontaneous applause of his audiences.

One cannot reflect on Ross' life without mentioning his astounding business prowess. He established many business ventures and cutting-edge firms such as founding the Electronic Data Systems (EDS), which became a leader in record processing. He also invested in Apple founder Steve Jobs' NeXT computer and software company, which helped shape our current technological age. One of Ross' most impressive ventures was his namesake, Perot Systems. Perot Systems helped streamline record keeping for government, manufacturing, banking, insurance, and most notably health records by digitization and automation. Before being purchased by Dell, Perot grew his business to be a Fortune 1000 company with offices in over 25 countries, with more than 23,000 employees, and annual revenue of \$2.8 billion.

His business successes gave way to his unwavering support of private gifts of health and medical support to veterans and civilians, many of whom were strangers. One such instance was the National Medal of Honor Museum, a museum which he donated in an effort to highlight the sacrifice and bravery of American Medal of Honor recipients. His contributions to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center surpassed \$100 million. Perot wanted this funding to be used for the indigent and uninsured, or ill veterans and armed services members. He also donated \$2.5 million in seed money to fund research for returned veterans after the Gulf War suffering from neurological symptoms.

As we remember the life of Ross Perot during this Veteran's Day week, we remember his infectious laugh and how he was no one's fool. He will be deeply missed by his friends and family. My thoughts and prayers are with both the Perot and Birmingham families, his wife Margot, their five children Ross Jr., Nancy, Suzanne, Carolyn, Katherine, and their nineteen grandchildren. May his legacy of patriotism and service live on. And may he be granted eternal peace, though I suspect he is already rearranging heaven's accoutrements.