

RECOGNIZING GWEN SANDERS AS
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Gwen Sanders, a North County San Diego resident, as my Constituent of the Month. Gwen has dedicated her life to giving back to our community and volunteering for a wide range of organizations throughout the region, including the North County Chapter of the NAACP, the City of Oceanside, the Communications Workers of America (CWA), and more.

As a longtime civil rights activist, Gwen received the NAACP Woman of the Year Award, the Oceanside Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award, as well as several recognitions for her community service. She has volunteered for the Oceanside Police and Fire Commission, the Community Relation Commission, and led a program to help local students pursue higher education. Gwen's long track record of public service goes on, and there is no question that her dedication to serving our community has made Oceanside and all of North County a better place to live. Gwen personifies John F. Kennedy's famous quote: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Gwen's public service is commendable, and it's important to note that she did all of this work while also raising two children, two grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. She is also a two-time breast cancer survivor, liver transplant recipient, and awaiting a kidney donor. I'm in awe of all that Gwen has accomplished in the face of these extraordinary challenges, and I am deeply grateful for her service. I am proud to recognize her as my Constituent of the Month.

CONGRATULATING MOHAWK
TRAILS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ON BEING NAMED A 2019 NA-
TIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Mohawk Trails Elementary School of Carmel, Indiana, in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure our children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am very proud that Mohawk Trails Elementary School is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 362 schools were designated as 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Of the 362 schools, Mohawk Trails Elementary School was one of only 12 Indiana schools to receive recognition, making this recognition all the more impressive. Under the guidance of a dedicated staff and dynamic Principal Jennifer Greene, the Mohawk Trails Turtles have become a beacon for success in youth education.

Mohawk Trails Elementary School is committed to providing a nurturing environment for the intellectual, physical, and social development of each child. This commitment to the well-being and development of the student body is led by a dynamic staff of teachers, working to shape the future through the lives they are positively influencing in their classrooms daily. The dedicated staff at Mohawk Trails engages students in meaningful educational tasks that promote thinking and reasoning and it is because of their hard work that Mohawk Trails Elementary School has been deservedly honored with this Blue Ribbon Award.

As an advocate for education and youth, I want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Mohawk Trails give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Mohawk Trails Elementary School. I am very proud of them.

RECOGNIZING MR. BRIAN GREER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize Mr. Brian Greer, upon his departure as Professional Staff Member, Readiness Subcommittee, House Armed Services Committee to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In this role, Mr. Greer was responsible for a portfolio consisting of Army readiness, training, logistics, and maintenance policies and programs; organic industrial base policy; the Defense Logistics Agency; civilian personnel and service contracts. Brian has served as a Professional Staff Member in the House Armed Services Committee since October of 2016. Prior to his time in the House of Representatives, Brian served as the Military Legislative Assistant to Senate Minority Leader Senator CHARLES SCHUMER, where he advised the Senator on defense, foreign policy and energy issues. Brian has also served as a Legislative Assistant for Representatives John Bocchieri, Parker Griffith, and DAVID SCOTT. Finally, Brian spent time working as a Special Assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs focusing on installations

and environment as well as operational energy plans and programming. His vast experience in defense policy, both on the Hill and in the Pentagon, has helped senior leaders make informed decisions for over a decade.

Brian is a native of Marietta, Georgia, holds a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs where he focused on international security policy and a Bachelor of Arts in international relations from the University of Virginia. Brian is also an avid supporter of the Atlanta Falcons.

Brian is married to Natalie, who continues to support him in his service to our nation.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Brian Greer for his dedicated service to the U.S. House of Representatives and to our Nation. We wish him the best as he moves on to his next role.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT GAZETTE
200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on its 200th anniversary of the first issue of the Arkansas Gazette.

As the state's leading news source, the Gazette has delivered reliable local, national, and international news for Arkansans for two centuries. Its first issue appeared on November 20, 1819.

The Gazette has also recently unveiled a convenient digital format of the latest news.

A new digital subscription to the newspaper provides access to a large package of news related to business developments, feature stories, and sports, which can be viewed using a phone, tablet, or computer.

This is a generation of advanced technology and it is important to produce easy-to-access journalism for newspaper readers.

I would like to extend my congratulations to President and General Manager Lynn Hamilton, and the entire Arkansas Democrat-Gazette team, and wish the company much continued success for generations of Arkansans to come.

JOHN J. MCGRAW, SR.

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, today I recognize East Tennessee Orthopedic Surgeon and U.S. Army Colonel John Jay McGraw, Sr. as he announces his upcoming retirement from OrthoTennessee.

Not only is Dr. McGraw known for his remarkable contributions to the medical profession and 34-year military career, but he has long been a community leader in East Tennessee where he has held public office and served on numerous boards.

In 2018, Dr. McGraw was appointed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Pain Management Best Practices Inter-