

TRIBUTE TO SUSANA REYES—28TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Susana Reyes of Glendale, California.

Susana graduated magna cum laude from Saint Paul College with a degree in Communications. She earned a Civic Engagement Leadership and Management certification from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Anderson School of Management and a Government Purchasing and Contract Administration credential from George Washington University.

Susana Reyes has dedicated her life to working on issues that impact the environment, both in her personal life and professional career. As a Sierra Club leader and activist, she is an advocate for the greater Los Angeles community in environmental justice issues. Ms. Reyes supported the successful battle against a large residential development in the Verdugo Mountains of Glendale and helped pause the Glendale gas plant expansion in favor of exploring clean energy alternatives. She was the Political Chair of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, a member of their National Political Team, and served on the Sierra Club's Political Action Committee. Susana was an elected member of the Sierra Club National Board of Directors where she served as Vice President, was elected to the Board's Executive Committee and currently is the national volunteer co-lead for the Clean Transportation for All campaign. In addition to her service with the Sierra Club, in 2019, she was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to the Board of Commissioners of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) making her the first Filipino-American LADWP Commissioner.

Ms. Reyes is the founder and CEO of AgilEngines LLC, a consulting and advocacy firm with a focus on civic engagement strategies and community outreach. Prior to this, she was a Senior Sustainability Analyst at the Los Angeles Mayor's office, where she played an essential role in launching the first Sustainable City Plan and was responsible for securing a \$1.7 million grant from the California Air Resources Board for the first-ever electric car share program specifically designated for low-income communities. Previous positions also include serving as Manager of the City of Los Angeles Facilities Recycling Program and Human Resources Director at the LADWP.

For her outstanding accomplishments, Susana has received the City of Los Angeles Career Service Award, the Sierra Club Political Service Award, the Sierra Club Phil Bernays Award, the Rotary Club Bay Area Women Leaders Award, and the Women in Business Environmental Leader Award.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of Califor-

nia's 28th Congressional District, Susana Reyes.

YOUTH, PEACE, AND SECURITY ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Youth, Peace, and Security Act, the first comprehensive legislation that would prioritize the inclusion of youth in conflict resolution.

There are more than 1.8 billion youth in the world. Whether here in the U.S. or abroad, youth populations have long been at the forefront of building peace in their communities by creating youth-led movements, organizations, and networks to mitigate negative effects of conflict and to prevent recurring cycles of violence. Inclusive peace processes are proven to more holistically address the root causes of violence and lead to more sustainable peace.

Not only is it important to include youth in conflict resolution for the sake of inclusivity, it has also been proven to lead to more sustainable peace. For example, Somali Youth Learners Initiative ("SYLI") was created to improve Somali youths' access to education and to promote civic engagement. After learning leadership and nonviolent conflict resolution skills through the program, the students were able to implement their own youth-led community projects and communicate effectively with politicians about policies that impact youth. Youth who gained access to improved secondary school and civic engagement opportunities through SYLI and the community projects were 65 percent less likely to demonstrate moral or material support for political violence.

My bill will codify the roles of a Youth Coordinator at USAID and Youth Points of Contact in relevant bureaus; integrate youth consultation into program design; and provide financial and technical assistance to youth-led initiatives in pursuit of conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The Youth, Peace, and Security Act is a once-in-a-generation shift in U.S. foreign policy that would bring youth voices to the table in conflicts around the world. In countries facing conflict, it will be the young people who will bear the burden of sustaining peace over generations, leading their society from reconciliation to prosperity.

I am thrilled to be joined in leading this bill by my colleagues, Representatives SUSAN BROOKS, DEAN PHILLIPS, and JOHN CURTIS, and am grateful to our other colleagues who have supported this introduction. My bill is also endorsed by over 35 non-governmental organizations. I urge the House of Representatives to join me in passing this important legislation.

CHRISTIAN MAERZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christian

Maerz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christian Maerz is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christian Maerz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christian Maerz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD BLACKBURN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the late Howard Blackburn of North Wilkesboro, North Carolina for his recent induction into the Wilkes County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Howard Blackburn epitomized a life of excellence and service. He served in the military during World War Two and the Korean war. Howard Blackburn influenced thousands of lives through his leadership in education and agriculture. Through his work at Wilkes Community College, where he served as director of the life sciences program, Mr. Blackburn helped thousands of students develop farming skills.

Howard Blackburn is perhaps best known throughout Wilkes County for his contributions to beekeeping. He helped found the Beekeepers of Wilkes, and personally served as an instructor and mentor for decades. He helped many, many other people understand the importance of bees to our lives. He always maintained the highest standards of meticulous conduct and expected others to strive to the same level of excellence. Howard Blackburn is a shining example of service that we should all seek to emulate.

SALUTING THE EXTRAORDINARY CAREER OF MIKE STANFORD

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I salute the extraordinary career of Mike Stanford as he retires from a lifetime of civic involvement. Mike devoted nearly four decades of incredible service to communities throughout the State of Texas through his career in the television industry. With his "what can I do to help?" spirit and high-minded vision, he's made Central Texas a model for child-focused community outreach.

A pillar of the Texas community, Mike has devoted years of selfless service to help those