

another infectious disease, or a natural disaster, this legislation also requires states to offer all voters the ability to vote by absentee ballot. Finally, this legislation requires that states offer prepaid self-sealing postage to voters who vote absentee in order to reduce the risk associated with infection at post offices.

It is critical that we take a broad view of the response to COVID-19 and ensure that our elections are safe, secure, and accessible to all.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANAN AMERI  
AS SHE IS NAMED THE 2020  
ARAB AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Anan Ameri as she is named the 2020 Arab American of the Year by ACCESS. Dr. Ameri's lifetime of community service and activism is worthy of commendation, and we are proud to recognize her achievements today.

Anan Ameri is a pillar of Washtenaw County. For over forty years, she has dedicated her career to advocating for social justice and equity, upholding immigrant rights, and preserving Arab American stories. Dr. Ameri, an author, educator, and activist, is especially known in our community as the founding director for the Arab American National Museum. Thanks to her steadfast leadership and revolutionary vision, she secured the museum's Smithsonian affiliation, making it the only Arab American organization in the prestigious network. In addition, Dr. Ameri is the national president of the Palestine Aid Society of America and was inducted to Michigan's Hall of Fame for her extraordinary efforts in 2016.

Today, we celebrate Anan Ameri for her lifetime of service to her community. Born in Damascus, Syria and raised in Amman, Jordan, Dr. Ameri understands the daily trials and tribulations immigrants experience. As such, she has advocated for their voices and continues to fight to ensure their rights are upheld. Beyond her career in activism, she also has served as a mentor to young woman. She has nurtured women to pursue their dreams, strive for excellence, and embrace their heritage. Dr. Ameri truly embodies the hopes and dreams of immigrants coming to America and has made a difference in our Michigan community. Her years of service have impacted the lives of many, and her continued dedication provides a lasting example for what we should all endeavor to accomplish—to effect change, be compassionate community members, and do all we can to make a difference in the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Anan Ameri. Her decades of selfless service make her a deserving recipient of the Arab American of the Year Award. I am grateful for her lasting impact and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

ETHAN PERINN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2020*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ethan Perinn for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ethan Perinn is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ethan Perinn 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 Ethan Perinn 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2020*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on February 11, February 12, and February 13 because I attended funeral services for my district staffer, Barb Baker. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 57; NAY on Roll Call No. 58; YEA on Roll Call No. 59; NAY on Roll Call No. 60; YEA on Roll Call No. 61; YEA on Roll Call No. 62; YEA on Roll Call No. 63; YEA on Roll Call No. 64; YEA on Roll Call No. 65; YEA on Roll Call No. 66; YEA on Roll Call No. 67; YEA on Roll Call No. 68; NAY on Roll Call No. 69; and NAY on Roll Call No. 70.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA WEBER—  
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 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, Barbara Weber of La Cañada Flintridge, California.

Born on a military base in Southern California, Barbara Gillis grew up in several states, including Massachusetts, Ohio, Michigan and Texas. Graduating as the Valedictorian from Ladycliff College in Highland Falls, New York, Barbara majored in math and minored in chemistry, and earned a job at Bell Labs in New Jersey where she met her hus-

band, Bill. Barbara and Bill moved to Pasadena, California in 1967 where Bill was employed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). After teaching kindergarten at a local school, Ms. Weber soon joined the staff at JPL.

Barbara was one of the few women working at JPL in 1969, and she single-handedly changed their maternity policy regarding pregnant employees by working until her due date. She stayed at JPL until 1974, when she and Bill bought their house in La Cañada Flintridge. Ms. Weber then took classes in computing and accounting at Pasadena City College and began consulting for local businesses.

Barbara's volunteer work in the community is extensive. She has served on the boards of several La Cañada Flintridge Parent-Teacher Associations, assisted with various La Cañada Unified School District bond measures and was a classroom volunteer at Paradise Canyon Elementary School. Other organizations that have benefited from her volunteer service include Huntington Hospital, La Cañada Newcomers Club, the Assistance League of Flintridge and Caltech Women's Club, and she is a founding member of the Caltech Women's Investment Club. In addition, Ms. Weber is a Eucharistic Minister at St. Bede the Venerable Church, where she was a leader in the Peace and Justice Ministry, and since 1984, has been an active member of St. Bede's Skidettes which prepare and deliver daily lunches to the homeless at various shelters in the Los Angeles area.

Barbara and her husband, Bill enjoy spending time with their three children, Billy, Christa and David and seven grandchildren.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Barbara Weber.

HONORING ANNIE VIRGINIA  
JOHNSON RICE

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2020*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Annie Virginia Johnson Rice and celebrate her 100th birthday.

Annie Virginia Johnson Rice was born in Brightwood, Virginia on March 12, 1920. She was the sixth of 11 children born to the late Ernest and Louise Johnson and educated in the Madison County School System. She received her early Christian education at the Chestnut Grove Baptist Church, where she was baptized in the Robinson River.

Annie moved to Washington, D.C. as a young woman and soon developed a keen appreciation for many of Washington's cultural attractions.

Her life's work was caring for her children and late husband. She was the adoring wife of the late James A. Rice and a devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great, great grandmother.

She is similarly committed to her church and community. Annie is a long-time member of Simms United Methodist Church and has served as a communion steward, church