

good for those in need through their crafting talents.

For several years the team has been using their crafting abilities for good by creating and donating items to different organizations in the community including chemo hats for cancer patients, blankets and pillows for patients at Arkansas Children's Hospital, and socks and scarves for the homeless just to name a few.

Recently Stitchers Mending Hearts has gone above and beyond during this public health crisis by donating more than 3,000 masks to health care workers and other organizations in their community.

This initiative has shined a light on how creativity encourages positive attitudes and can unite the public even amidst a health crisis.

I congratulate Rena Edwards and the team at Stitchers Mending Hearts for using their talents in a way that brings the community together.

RECOGNIZING SOURCE VERO  
BEACH

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 2020*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges in each of our communities, but it has shown us what we have to be grateful for and who we should be grateful to. Today I would like to recognize a local homeless outreach ministry, The Source Vero Beach, whose volunteers have been working tirelessly to provide essential services to the needy in Indian River County, during this pandemic.

The Source has been a community leader since its establishment in 1995 as a homeless ministry that provided free meals and Bible Study sessions in Indian River County. They have since grown into a comprehensive assistance center that prides itself on providing essential services to people from all walks of life, no matter background or struggle. Whether it be a free dinner, clothing, counseling, showers, access to a telephone, or just a listening ear, they have welcomed anyone and everyone into their care. Now more than ever, the community relies on their assistance.

While The Source faced its fair share of hardship during the pandemic in continuing many of these essential services, they saw an opportunity to invest in and give hope to those who have been recently displaced from work, developing a new culinary training program that feeds the community. This program called "Dining with Dignity" provides these individuals with 18 weeks of hands-on kitchen training, knife skills, financial literacy, interpersonal skills, and a weekly stipend. Upon completion of the program, participants receive a State of Florida ServSafe/SafeStaff certification, a graduation bonus, and job placement within the restaurant industry.

This back-to-work program has seen major success so far, providing life-changing training to fight chronic unemployment caused by COVID-19, while delivering over 550 meals a day, 7 days a week to the needy. To thank for the development and implementation of the program, is Executive Director of The Source, Mr. Anthony Zorbaugh, along with the rest of the outreach staff who are dedicated to serv-

ing our community, no matter the challenges they face.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to please join me in recognizing the staff of The Source Vero Beach for their altruism and public servant hearts. Our community will be forever grateful for their investment and service to those who need it most.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL BRAD  
COOPER'S SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY  
AS THE SECRETARY OF THE  
NAVY'S CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE  
AFFAIRS

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 2020*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to both recognize and congratulate Rear Admiral Brad Cooper for his service as he concludes his tour as the Secretary of the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs. In this capacity, he oversaw and led a team of 40 Naval officers, sailors, and civilians helping set departmental priorities and advancing the shared understanding of what our Navy continues to do in support of our Nation.

I have had the distinct pleasure of getting to know Brad through my role as Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee in various CODELs and oversight hearings. Last year alone, he personally accompanied me, and many other members of Congress, to the United Kingdom, Iceland and Norway to see first-hand how the Navy was conducting anti-submarine operations in the High North and to see the awe-inspiring work that our sailors were doing on the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) off the coast of Florida. In various office calls and oversight engagements, the quality of assistance given has been unrivaled. Simply said, my office, the House Committee on Armed Services and this entire chamber is better off due to Admiral Cooper's service.

A career surface warfare officer, Admiral Cooper has served in various ships including destroyers, cruisers, and aircraft carriers culminating with command of USS *Russell* (DDG 59) and USS *Gettysburg* (CG 64). To help articulate the caliber of officer that Brad is, I will share this anecdote: Every year, the Navy awards the Battle E to the best ship in a given squadron. Brad, and the phenomenal teams he helps build, have achieved this award ten times.

During his recent tenure as Chief of Legislative Affairs, Brad has served admirably through significant change while keeping the Navy's Capitol Hill posture even-keeled through the tenures of multiple Navy leaders. His staff has flawlessly executed Congressional Delegations throughout the world, supported hearings, and negotiated the NDAA while considering military, political, and budgetary priorities. His team works flawlessly, and is my, and many of my colleagues, staff of choice when dealing with defense issues.

I believe Brad's success is built on his understanding that what makes this country great is the ability to establish and keep relationships. This fundamental approach to his craft has gained respect and admiration in

both chambers of Congress and on both sides of the aisle. He has worked with us to broaden the Navy's outreach beyond just those members of defense committees. His efforts, solidified alongside those of the Navy's senior leaders, exposed the House of Representatives to the great work our sailors are doing around the globe each and every day.

As Admiral Cooper continues his Naval service, it is my hope that he may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States Navy as Chief of Legislative Affairs. I would like to send him, his wife, Susan, and their children, Bradford and Katie, my very best wishes for continued success in Norfolk and their future endeavors.

Well done Admiral. Fair winds and following seas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT  
SILVA

**HON. TJ COX**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 2020*

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in Honor of Robert Silva who passed away on May 13th. He served as Mayor and Councilmember in Mendota, California and was a pillar of the community. Mr. Silva was a lifelong resident of Mendota and attended Tranquility High. After high school, Robert joined the Army to serve his country. He was a husband, father, grandfather, and devoted member of the Mendota community.

During his years as a city official, spent every day improving lives in the community he served. He was a champion during the recession years where the economy and numerous droughts severely impacted the agricultural industry and Mendota's farmworker community. He fought to bring back businesses and his efforts resulted in the restart of stalled construction of a federal prison and a scheduled groundbreaking of a solar-energy farm. Mr. Silva never stopped advocating for his community and in his last years as Mayor he was able to secure a donation for the Mendota Boys and Girls club that prevented it from closing. Ensuring that the children of Mendota retained a safe place where they could learn, play, and grow as well as be provided with a daily nutritious meal.

As one of the founders of the Latino Water Coalition Mr. Silva made sure that the voice of his community, and indeed the voice of all the Fresno Westside communities, was heard, and their needs brought to the attention of the media. He proudly defended his community because he knew that even though they are smaller than other communities, his was made up of hardworking people who were just as deserving as any other. The City of Mendota chose to honor Mr. Silva in 2018 for his service to the City as the longest serving mayor by dedicating a newly built plaza in his honor.

The Mendota community has experienced an immense loss, but his spirit lives on through the lives he touched. He was a man of great integrity whose dedication and contributions to the Mendota community are innumerable. He will always be remembered, and his leadership will be missed. Mr. Silva leaves behind his wife Mary, their children and grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING MELINDA STENTOFT  
OF SCOBAY

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 2020*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Melinda Stentoft of Scobey for providing Eastern Montana's health care providers with personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Let me start of by saying Melinda wants everybody to know she doesn't think she deserves this recognition. She said, "I just honestly felt like it needed to be done."

That speaks volumes to the type of person Melinda is. She owns a boutique in Scobey, Montana. Once the COVID-19 outbreak forced everyone indoors and businesses, like hers, to close their doors, business really started picking up on line. In fact, her numbers doubled in the past two months.

But through all this success, she saw the harsh reality of the coronavirus and its impact on her community, state, and nation. When health care providers indicated they had an immediate need for PPE, Melinda realized there was a way she could help.

Melinda's boutique sells cloth masks to the public. She says everyone was ordering them, so she pledged to help with Eastern Montana's health care PPE shortage. For every five masks her business sold, she would donate two to health care systems like Daniels Memorial in Scobey, Roosevelt Memorial in Culbertson, and the Billings Clinic. Thanks to her efforts, hundreds of masks will be delivered to protect providers.

This unprecedented time has reminded Melinda of her childhood when, she says, people were so close, and the sense of a tight-knit community came back because of the outbreak. Instead of rushing all the time, Melinda feels people are taking more time to talk to each other, and she loves how people have found their own way to help.

Madam Speaker, for identifying the needs of her community and selflessly giving back, I recognize Melinda Stentoft of Scobey for her Spirit of Montana.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF EL NUEVO DÍA NEWS-  
PAPER

**HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 2020*

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize an important anniversary in Puerto Rican journalism.

Fifty years ago, what is today the leading newspaper in Puerto Rico, El Nuevo Día, was launched under the direction of the late editor Carlos Castañeda. It was his vision and leadership that transformed one of our older regionally-oriented papers into a major islandwide publication, marking a new era in the Puerto Rico press.

During its half century of existence El Nuevo Día newspaper has been home to valued and respected reporters, commenters,

photojournalists, analysts and writers. I congratulate each one of these distinguished individuals who have helped make El Nuevo Día newspaper what it is today—from the many figures long established when the paper came into existence, to those who made their careers reporting for El Nuevo Día newspaper, to those who have moved on to other outlets, to those who are just getting started. It is their collective efforts that have kept the record of moments of joy and of pain, of achievements and challenges, of history in the making, often pioneering new ways to cover daily news, politics, economics and business, sport and cultural events. Even today, as we face this on-going pandemic, El Nuevo Día newspaper continues to find innovative ways to bring timely news to the people of Puerto Rico and beyond.

A dynamic free press is essential to a dynamic free society and its role is vital in the process of informing the people and of maintaining accountability, especially in times of uncertainty. I wish to congratulate the Ferré Rangel family and the whole family of El Nuevo Día newspaper, past and present, on this anniversary, and extend my best wishes to continue a path of success.

RECOGNIZING AARON BAXTER

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 2020*

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize Aaron Baxter for his outstanding work in the ICU at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Aaron began his career in health care at UAMS in 2015 as a patient care technician after working in the energy and manufacturing sectors. While working as a patient care technician, Aaron attended nursing school and obtained his RN.

With the current pandemic, Aaron has taken on yet another role in his unit, working as both a COVID nurse and a docifier, where his role is to help colleagues make sure they are properly using and removing their protective equipment.

His previous experience working with high voltage powerlines and steel fabrication has provided him with the ability to carefully monitor and identify safety issues during this process.

Aaron's superiors say that he is a team player who stands out due to his high regard for patient care and safety.

I thank Aaron for his dedication to protecting the health of Arkansans during this time. He, and frontline workers like him, are vital to us overcoming COVID-19 as a nation.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL  
MARITIME DAY

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 2020*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize May 22nd as National Maritime Day. On this occasion, we are especially

proud of Michigan's status as a maritime industry powerhouse, which we owe to the many men and women who drive commerce on our beautiful Great Lakes. According to the American Maritime Partnership, this industry provides Michigan's economy with an annual \$2.8 billion, in addition to \$703.6 million in worker income and 12,140 jobs.

Michigan's First District features more coastline than any other congressional district in the contiguous United States, and is home to the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, which continues to supply our waterways with the next generation of Merchant Marine officers. We have no shortage of reasons to celebrate this day and the proud maritime traditions of the Great Lakes.

While the circumstances of today and our nation's fight against the coronavirus make it difficult for anyone to participate in festivities, National Maritime Day 2020 is celebrated in spirit by our brave essential workers who are—at this moment—navigating ships, running ports, and operating locks. And as of this month, there are now those who are building a new lock in the Soo Locks complex. This historic milestone, as well as the jobs, growth, and security that will come with the new lock's completion, are well worth celebrating on this commemorative day.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring National Maritime Day and the millions of individuals across the Great Lakes who maintain our national security by keeping our nation's economic engine running, even in these most trying times.

KAY MARTINEZ-ACOSTA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 2020*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kay Martinez-Acosta, who after 30 years of teaching, is retiring. Kay's dedication to education in the Jefferson County School District and to the State of Colorado has made a significant impact on students which will last for years to come.

Kay Martinez-Acosta was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. Growing up, Kay was known for being an exceptional student and avid reader. She was committed to her chosen career path at a young age. Kay always knew she wanted to be a teacher. After she graduated from Marycrest High School in 1986, she received a scholarship and enrolled in the teacher's program at the University of Northern Colorado. She received her bachelors degree in Elementary Education in 1990 and did her student teaching with Denver Public Schools. In 1991, Kay accepted her first elementary school teaching position with Jeffco Public Schools and remained with the district throughout her career. She taught at Eiber Elementary School, Sierra Elementary School and has been currently teaching at Vanderhoof Elementary School for 24 years!

In 1992, Kay married her husband Lee Acosta and they moved to Arvada, Colorado and raised two daughters, all while maintaining her teaching career and continuing her education. In 1999, Kay received her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Development