

Orange County is home to a vibrant Vietnamese community, which I am proud to represent. An estimated eighty percent of nail salon businesses in California are owned by Vietnamese proprietors, who had to close their doors due to the pandemic. Many owners and manicurists face day-to-day struggles as they try to keep their businesses afloat while providing for their families.

Despite facing financial hardships and day-to-day challenges of this pandemic, the Nailing It team has embodied the spirit of kindness and compassion through these-times. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Nailing It for America team in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

ZACHARY McMILLAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Zachary McMillan for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Zachary McMillan is a 12th grader at Bollman Technical Education Center/Legacy High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Zachary McMillan 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 Zachary McMillan for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 102ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 102nd anniversary of Azerbaijan's Republic Day. On this day in 1918, Azerbaijan emerged from autocracy to establish a Parliamentary Republic. Today, it shines as an example of freedom in a region of the world historically plagued in the darkness of repression and inequality.

Republic Day honors the declaration of independence from the Russian Empire. While the rise of the Soviet Union would undermine its sovereignty once again within two years, the achievements in state building Azerbaijan made in those two years are a testament to the abilities of a free Azeri people.

In 1991, Azerbaijan emerged once again, seizing the opportunity presented to them, declaring its right to govern itself and live free. This symbolic emergence ensured the world that this was a continuation on the freedom

and progress assembled between 1918 and 1920.

Since then, our nations have worked strongly together to promote energy security, increase bilateral trade and investment, and counter terrorism and transnational threats. It has been my great honor to aid in the maintenance of strong ties between our nations, and I look forward to furthering our cooperation to continue to bring peace, security, and stability to the region.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan and its people for its proud history in the pursuit of freedom and its commitment to developing solutions to modern problems. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this day and wish another century of strength and prosperity on Azerbaijan.

PANDEMIC HEROES
COMPENSATION ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, and founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Coronavirus Taskforce, I rise in strong support of the Pandemic Heroes Compensation Act, a bill that would create a compensation fund for all essential workers and personnel who have been injured or impacted by COVID-19.

Modeled after the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, the fund would provide compensation for injuries to any individual, or the families, across all essential industries who were deemed an essential worker and required to leave their homes to perform their services and became ill or died as a result of COVID-19.

Every day we learn more about the unprecedented impact that the COVID-19 virus has had on American lives across the nation.

To date, there are more than 1,676,401 confirmed cases, over 98,000 dead, including 54,509 cases and 1,506 deaths in my home state of Texas, and 10,921 cases and 221 deaths in Harris County.

On top of that, by taking the necessary measures to slow the pandemic and 'flatten the curve' so as not to overwhelm the nation's health care system, economic activity in the United States has experienced a severe shock to the system.

More than 40 million initial unemployment claims in the past month alone.

In addition, on March 23, 2020, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) dipped to 18,321.62, which is even lower than it was on Election Night 2016, and far below the 19,827 mark where it stood on January 20, 2017.

In other words, Madam Speaker, all the gains that were made to the stock market and heralded by this Administration as evidence of its genius have been wiped out, depleting the retirement savings and 401(k) funds of millions of ordinary Americans.

We will overcome this crisis and become better and stronger for it.

But we must never forget who waged the battle to contain the pandemic, risking their lives and livelihoods on the frontline.

Courageous first responders, transit workers, brave healthcare workers, fearless gro-

cery store clerks and delivery workers, as well as many other federal, state, local and tribal employees who have been deemed essential workers.

These workers are risking their health and safety to continue to provide essential services to their communities and our families.

As recently as April 2020, the Center for Disease Control reported that over 9,200 health care professionals have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 27 have died from the virus.

Research shows that essential workers often work in low-wage positions that require risky face-to-face interactions without adequate protection; they are disproportionately African American or Hispanic.

They are most at risk of illness during the COVID-19 pandemic, but in many cases, least able to afford the financial setback that can result from any interruption in work.

When a loved one becomes ill on the job, the cost of healthcare and lost wages can create additional burden on families.

Madam Speaker, we have a moral and patriotic obligation to stand behind them and their families by ensuring their financial stability.

Now, more than ever, our essential workers need help and I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass the Pandemic Heroes Compensation Act.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF GWEN KANIA, PRESIDENT OF THE TIOGA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the retirement of Gwen Kania, President of the Tioga County Chamber of Commerce.

Gwen came to the Chamber in May of 2008 as the Director of Operations and in January of 2014, she became the President and CEO of the Tioga County Chamber of Commerce. During her time with the Chamber, Gwen put into action a Computer Management System that streamlined processes. She also organized Career Day and the Tioga County Job Fair. For three years, she administered the On The Job Training Grant from the New York State Department of Labor.

Gwen was also in the public eye, facilitating the Chamber's traditional events and ribbon cuttings, providing service to the community. One highlight Gwen enjoyed most in recent times was the Chamber's Centennial Celebration and Gala in 2019. For several years, Gwen was also the Leadership Tioga Program Manager and Facilitator.

The Tioga County Chamber of Commerce will greatly miss Gwen and her efforts there have not gone unnoticed. However, her retirement is well deserved. I thank Gwen for all she has done during her time at the Chamber.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to congratulate Gwen on her retirement and her twelve years of invaluable service to the Tioga County Chamber of Commerce and dedication to improving the Tioga County community.