

confident the leadership he has displayed in his decades of service will be followed in the Lapeer community for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE BLACK STUNTMEN AND WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I rise to take note of the history and accomplishments of the Black Stuntmen and Women's Association (BSA). For 55 years, their pioneering efforts paved the way for all minority stuntmen and women to contribute their talents to the American entertainment industry. They have helped assure that television, movies, and other media, which have a global reach, truly reflect our nation.

Founded in 1967 by Eddie Smith with co-founder Alex Brown and the group's first president Ernie Robinson, members would meet after their regular jobs in a park in Compton, California, to train and perfect their stunts in Hollywood. At the time, Caucasian stunt doubles in dark makeup nearly always stood in for Black actors during filming. By organizing together and working with Black actors who wanted more realistic stunt doubles, they effectively pressured producers and directors to change their practices and open the doors to their work.

These were hard-fought battles. BSA filed 32 lawsuits to shed light on systematic discrimination in the film industry. With the help of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and attorney Margaret Ryan Kreeger, BSA won all 32 cases, including a 1976 judgment that ordered major studios to abide by federal mandates against discriminatory hiring, a major victory in an industry that saw itself outside such legal mandates. BSA's efforts ended the common practice of "paint down" to match a double to the actor's skin tone, while they also broadened and changed the landscape of the film industry.

Forcing more equitable studio hiring practices not only cracked open the door for Black stunt doubles, but also increased Black and minority participation in many other roles behind the camera, including cinematographers, set and lighting designers, costume and makeup designers, even directors and producers.

BSA's groundbreaking work deserves recognition, especially now that many early members have retired or passed away. While much work remains to assure real equality of opportunity, I commend the BSA for their continuing fight for a Hollywood that reflects all of America.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR GRACE VARGAS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent the late Honorable Grace Vargas for her countless

years of dedication to the Inland Empire as the former Mayor of Rialto.

Grace served her community for nearly 35 years and shined as a trailblazer for women of color throughout the Inland Empire. As a single mother of seven children, Grace moved from Yuma, Arizona, to Fontana, California, in 1959. She joined the California Employment Training Act (CETA) program, gaining new skills and turning towards a life of public service for the City of Rialto.

She began her career in 1979 with the City Clerk's office, later transferring to clerk for the Rialto Police Department and the City Treasurer's Office. She was elected to the City Council in 1998, where she served for two years.

In 2000, Grace Vargas was elected Mayor, becoming the first woman and first Latina to hold that position. She served as Mayor for 12 years, retiring in 2012. During her tenure, she accomplished several crucial economic development projects, such as Renaissance Rialto and a new senior center. Her legacy would later be memorialized as the city established the center as the Grace Vargas Senior Center in 2016.

Her work in Rialto and the Inland Empire uplifted residents and businesses, leaving an impact that will be felt for decades to come. Grace's coworkers and friends gave her the nickname "Amazing Grace," exemplifying her dedication and influence on the community. Grace Vargas will be missed in the Inland Empire, but she will remain in our memory through her contributions to the community.

Today, Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Honorable Grace Vargas on the House floor for the contributions she has made to the greater community of the Inland Empire. May she rest in peace and her family find comfort during this time.

RECOGNIZING ILIR ZHERKA

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ilir Zherka's service as Executive Director of the Alliance for International Exchange. For nearly seven years, Ilir has devoted himself to advancing person-to-person exchanges and fostering greater global connectivity. During that time, the Alliance has forged deeper relationships between its members and federal officials, and federal funding for educational and cultural exchange programs has reached record levels.

Ilir's tenure coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, which derailed countless exchange opportunities and threatened the short-term viability of any international linkages. Under Ilir's steady hand, however, the Alliance helped expand on line programming and worked to ease barriers to participation.

Ilir also recognizes the role that exchanges play in strengthening global democratic networks. I commend the Alliance's work to promote freedom and American values within the international exchange community as a means for reversing the global decline of democracy.

While the exchange community will feel his absence, Ilir's legacy will endure through new and fortified international relationships. I join

the Alliance in thanking Ilir for his years of steadfast service, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Inspector General Act of 2022, which would create an independent Inspector General (IG) for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB). The FRTIB administers the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the retirement savings and investment plan for federal employees.

On June 1, 2022, FRTIB launched a new system with the goal of modernizing TSP's recordkeeping, improving customer service and bolstering cybersecurity. There have been widespread problems with the new system, including account access, account balances, missing or incomplete information in accounts and hours-long wait times to reach customer service.

As of December 2021, TSP had approximately 6.5 million participants and \$838,052,933,000 in assets, making it the world's largest defined contribution plan. Federal employees dedicate their careers to serving our country, and they deserve a retirement savings and investment plan that provides top-tier customer support and security.

While the Employee Benefits Security Administration has the audit responsibility for the FRTIB, as it does for all private sector 401(k) plans, there is currently no IG for the FRTIB. The problems with the new TSP system are evidence enough that the FRTIB needs an independent IG.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION OF WAUKEELA CAMP FOR GIRLS

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100 Anniversary Reunion of Waukeela Camp for Girls, located in Eaton, New Hampshire. Established in 1922, Waukeela Camp for Girls has been a home away from home for campers and staff alike for over 100 years.

Waukeela has enshrined its sense of community with treasured traditions and open arms to all, which has built a life-long community that endures even years after leaving camp. It is no easy feat to keep a small business running for 100 years, and I congratulate Waukeela's current and former owners and staff on this accomplishment. Waukeela is also remarkable for the ways in which they give back to our larger Mount Washington Valley community, and we are grateful for their work.