

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANN  
MCGUINNESS

## HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2022*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of an extraordinary woman's rights leader and advocate, Ann McGuinness, of Selkirk, New York. Ann passed away peacefully and surrounded by family on August 3, 2022, following an aggressive, and courageous battle with cancer. Ann's life and achievements will be celebrated and remembered on September 28, 2022, in Washington, DC, where she did so much work to advance privacy rights and delivery of women's health care based on science and medicine.

Born in 1957 and raised in Newington, Connecticut, to Edward and Catherine McGuinness, Ann's life was initiated and guided by her Connecticut origins. Her proud, Connecticut-Catholic upbringing—and with it an instilled affinity for social justice—was reinforced by her earning a political science degree from the College of St. Joseph in West Hartford, Connecticut. By that point, through her tenacious demeanor, she had already discovered what would ultimately grow into her life-long passion: advocating for women's reproductive rights.

Her tireless advocacy and passion can be observed in every step of her life's story—no matter what Ann was doing, she always tied it back to advancing equal rights for women. The earliest stage of her career prior to obtaining a master's in public administration from Columbia University, was with the National Women's Political Caucus. She continued her political advocacy by campaigning on Tim Wirth's campaign for Senate. Upon then Senator Wirth's successful electoral bid, Ann, equipped with her experience and passion, made a career transition to work for NARAL Pro-Choice in 1987, a mission which she remained dedicated to for 17 years. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of knowing Ann personally, particularly in her earliest years of political activism. She was very bright, very principled and had a great sense of humor. Her husband and soul mate William "Chip" Reynolds was a perfect match and they supported each other's social activism as well as their commitment to growing and raising a beautiful family.

Having built up roughly two decades of experience and a network in reproductive rights advocacy, Ann transitioned her career again in 2006, this time lending her unmatched expertise to Planned Parenthood's fundraising arm. She approached her senior role at Planned Parenthood with the same sense of ferocity that she brought to every other project. What caused her to be most successful in her role, however, was her penchant for connecting with young people and her steadfast belief in affording reproductive rights for all that energized her to pour limitless energy into the mission. Relentless in her pursuits to ensure equal access to reproductive rights, Ann left Planned Parenthood in 2018, working to form the Contraceptive Access Initiative in 2020—an effort which was purposed towards ensuring contraceptives were available to women without barriers.

Madam Speaker, we have all come to know Ann McGuinness as a champion of community,

inspiring and convincing others to become philanthropists and donate hundreds of millions of dollars toward a cause fundamentally important to her and the lives of women across the country. We would be hard-pressed to find an example of someone more unwavering in their commitment to a cause. Of her critical work, nothing may have been more important to Ann than mentoring and recruiting youth on the issue of reproductive rights. For, over the decades, Ann McGuinness had not only solidified the legacy and strength of a post-Roe America, but has now undoubtedly inspired brigades of activists to carry the torch, as we collectively fight to not just regain, but expand even further women's reproductive rights. This legacy will hopefully provide solace for the loss her husband, Chip Reynolds, children Nora Reynolds and Nicholas Reynolds and siblings, Patrick McGuinness, Timothy McGuinness and Mary Kate Hallisey have and will endure. Those of us in public office can and should contribute to that effort to honor her memory. To that end, Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ann McGuinness.

SUPPORTING H.R. 8542—MENTAL HEALTH JUSTICE ACT OF 2022; H.R. 6448—INVEST AND PROTECT ACT OF 2022; H.R. 4118—BREAK THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE ACT; AND H.R. 5768—VICTIM ACT OF 2022

## HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the four public safety bills that the House is considering today.

Crime, and in particular gun violence, continues to be a major problem affecting every community in our country. The annual cost of gun violence alone is more than \$280 billion.

This Congress has already taken the most significant action in 30 years with the enactment of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to reduce gun violence.

Today, we take another step forward to strengthen public safety by passing four bills that will keep our communities safer.

Together the bills will save lives by increasing grants for police training and recruitment for small police departments which often lack the resources they need.

They will fund the deployment of mental health crisis response units and evidence-based community violence intervention programs—two strategies that have been used very successfully in my district.

And they will provide funding so local law enforcement can solve homicide and non-fatal shootings.

I would like to thank Representatives HORSFORD, DEMINGS, GOTTHEIMER, and PORTER for their leadership on these bills.

I urge my colleagues to put party over politics and vote YES on each of the public safety bills being considered today to reduce crime and save lives.

HOMETOWN HERO—LAWRENCE  
THORNS

## HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2022*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lawrence Thorns as our Texas-24 Hometown Hero of the week. Lawrence is a North Texan who has gone above and beyond to ensure the next generation of Texans are equipped with the necessary tools for greatness.

Lawrence is a hard worker in his community, especially with his local church—Forest Hill Church of Christ. His work in his church community has directly impacted the lives of North Texas students.

Since 2016, Lawrence has been supplying back to school supplies for local schools and shelters, ensuring the students have everything they need to pursue an education and achieve their dreams. This year alone, Lawrence supplied over 230 bags of school supplies to students.

On behalf of our entire community, I'd like to thank Lawrence for his selfless dedication to the next generation. I look forward to seeing the impact his work will have on our students.

## HONORING STEPHANIE BAPTIST

## HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2022*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephanie Baptist, a district staff member of mine who runs and manages the Jacksonville office for the 18th District of Illinois.

Since coming to Congress, my office has prided itself on providing top-notch constituent services with four offices in our 19-county district. We all know this would not be possible without great staff in our districts, helping constituents with casework and being the front line of communication with our communities while we are here in Washington, D.C.

For the 18th District of Illinois, which includes many rural areas in central and west central Illinois, this is extremely important with long distances between towns and cities. In Stephanie's case, she manages our Jacksonville office by herself. Stephanie joined the office several years back, replacing Barb Baker, a longtime community advocate and a staff member who sadly passed away. To say Stephanie had big shoes to fill after Barb would be an understatement; however, she filled them incredibly well.

Stephanie served with professionalism and an unmatched dedication to the community, particularly during the extraordinary times that we have faced over the past two and a half years during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stephanie served as the point person for our office on IRS casework and SBA issues over the last several years, which was not easy given the challenges our communities faced. Throughout it all, Stephanie handled her work with grace, compassion, and resilience.

Sadly, because of our redistricting in Illinois, our Congressional District will no longer have Jacksonville and our office downtown.