

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING FEMALE LEADERS
WHO SHE LEADS AMERICA IS
HONORING AS CHRISTIAN
WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 30, 2022

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and highlight the work of some extraordinary female leaders in our country who are being honored by She Leads America as "Christian Women of Distinction."

For my constituents back in Michigan, I try and lead by example through my faith and commitment to public service. But many times, people don't look to Washington for their role models. Fortunately, it does not take long to find others guided by their strong moral compass, faith, and commitment to selfless public service. Today, I honor some of these women, who through their tireless dedication, have shattered glass ceilings and touched the lives of countless individuals around the world. For my part, I remain committed to defending religious freedom here in Congress to ensure each of these women, and all of my constituents, never have to compromise their religious beliefs in order to conform to whatever the trending culture is at the moment.

One of these women, Nancy "Honeytree" Miller, is a global ambassador for Christian Music. Raised in a family of classical musicians, she recorded her first album in 1973. Known as the "First Lady of Jesus Music," she was one of the pioneers of Christian contemporary music. Over her 49-year career, she has recorded 17 albums in 3 different languages. After her "Jesus Music" era, Nancy became an ordained minister and developed a specialized ministry to singles, while continuing to write and record. She ministered in prisons for a time alongside Prison Fellowship. After marriage and family, she developed an international focus, ministering in several countries and recording albums in Spanish and Urdu. Not only has she been an enduring presence to her generation, but she continues to inspire young Christian artists in Pakistan and Latin America.

Madam Speaker, I hope these women, such as Nancy, know full well the impact they have had on countless lives. These women are trailblazers, and the example they have set will be followed by people of my district, and many other Americans, for years to come. I thank each of them for their passion and commitment. This honor is well-deserved.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 30, 2022

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Hispanic Heritage

Month to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in Central Washington, and around the United States.

Hispanic Heritage Month is about recognizing the history of our Hispanic neighbors, and honoring the hardships endured to create a better life for future generations. In Central Washington, our Hispanic neighbors strengthen our communities through their strong family values, cultural diversity, and incredibly hard work ethics. Our region could not prosper without the Hispanic farmers, police officers, teachers, and soldiers who support our society.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring our Hispanic American friends, families, and neighbors and in recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF
FORMER SENIOR CONSTITUENT
SERVICES ADVOCATE LAURA
RUDE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 30, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the work of Laura Rude, my former Senior Constituent Services Advocate in Rock Island, Illinois.

Laura has given nine years of dedicated service to the communities that make up Illinois' 17th Congressional District. She oversees our Congressional Record program, where she writes and edits submissions, and has nearly doubled our output per year during our final term in Congress. Laura has also written over 3,000 congratulations letters to constituents on my behalf. During her time in our office, Laura successfully closed over 2,500 cases, encompassing every single type of casework and working with every federal agency. She is truly a jack of all trades.

Laura, who received her Master's Degree in Social Work from Illinois State University, is truly the "do-it-all" caseworker. She is profoundly kind and understanding when assisting constituents, and has handled every type of miscellaneous case that others would consider out-of-the-box or difficult. One of her most memorable cases was assisting Laura Thomsen, who contacted our office because she was approved for Social Security Disability Insurance in November 2021, and had waited past the 120-day wait period to receive her benefits. Laura swiftly contacted the Social Security Administration on Ms. Thomsen's behalf and kept her updated on the case. Finally, on July 14, 2022, the Social Security Administration released the \$71,317.81 in backpay that was owed to Ms. Thomsen. This is a lifechanging amount of money for anyone, let alone someone who was unable to work due to a disability. Without a doubt, Laura has made a significant difference in the lives of countless constituents.

It is because of kind and dedicated leaders such as my former Senior Constituent Services Advocate, Laura Rude, that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to, again, formally celebrate the exceptional work of Laura Rude.

HONORING ZACH LEKSE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 30, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Zach Lekse, an Investigations Sergeant with the Martinez Police Department. I have named Mr. Lekse as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Contra Costa County in California's 5th District as a result of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

Mr. Lekse began his career in law enforcement shortly after graduating from the University of Oklahoma in 2001. For nearly ten years, he served with the Pleasant Hill Police Department as a detective, defense tactics instructor, and SWAT team member before joining the Martinez Police Department in 2014. There he began as a Police Officer before becoming a Narcotics Task Force Officer, Patrol Sergeant, and most recently, an Investigations Sergeant.

During a suspicious vehicle stop in early 2019, Mr. Lekse discovered a small amount of methamphetamine and learned from the driver that a mid-level dealer was living and operating near the Martinez Police Department. Noting that the dealer was on probation, Mr. Lekse coordinated a search that resulted in the seizure of 1/4 pound of methamphetamine, a loaded handgun, and \$5,000 in cash. Continuing with his investigation, Mr. Lekse connected the dealer to the Guzmán family cartel of Mexico and ascertained key information about their operation.

Over the course of several months, Mr. Lekse worked with the FBI to lead a massive multi-agency effort resulting in multiple drug seizures and 12 indictments. In total, numerous firearms, approximately 100 pounds of methamphetamine, heroin, illicit mushrooms, \$23,000 in cash, and \$80,000 of assets were seized. Through his determination, leadership, and investigative prowess, Mr. Lekse successfully coordinated a complex investigation into a drug trafficking organization that largely evaded justice for 7 years.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. Lekse for his persistence and investigative skill. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.