

CONGRATULATING LISA
LOCKHART OF CIRCLE, MONTANA
FOR CAPTURING HER THIRD
TITLE AT THE AMERICAN RODEO

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, Montana rodeo competitors are the best in the world. In March 2023, Montana's own Lisa Lockhart demonstrated our state's rodeo prowess in front of 42,000 spectators at The American Rodeo, capturing her third national barrel racing title in the process.

Lisa attended high school in northeast Montana just up the road from my ranch in Glendive and displayed a natural talent for rodeo at an early age. Before joining the professional circuit, she distinguished herself as a student-athlete on the Montana State University rodeo team and raced on the family ranch with her two sisters.

Lisa dominates competitions nationwide, winning barrel racing competitions at the National Finals Rodeo in 2014 and 2016. But it wasn't until the founding of The American Rodeo in 2014 that her career really hit its stride.

Lisa made all of Montana proud when she brought home the inaugural barrel racing title at The American Rodeo. A feat only matched by her second victory the following year. Lisa's third victory this year solidifies her position as a barrel racing icon and serves as a reminder that she is an unrivaled talent in her sport.

All of Montana is grateful to Lisa for reaffirming our state's dominance in rodeo. Lisa's determination and grit will undoubtedly encourage many young Montanans to enter the arena and follow in her footsteps. I'll continue to watch her impressive career as she continues to cast a long shadow over rodeo.

I encourage everyone to join me in congratulating Lisa Lockhart for her third victory at The American Rodeo, and it is my privilege to acknowledge her achievements in the U.S. House of Representatives.

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY,
LAMBDA CHI OMEGA CHAPTER

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Lambda Chi Omega Chapter for its 45 years of dedication and commitment to the State of Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.

Founded on the campus of Howard University on January 15, 1908 in Washington, D.C., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is the oldest international Greek-letter service organization established by college-educated African American women, with over 300,000 members in over 1,000 chapters worldwide. Forty-five years ago, the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Lambda Chi Omega Chapter followed in their founders' footsteps to start a chapter in Hawaii.

Coined as the "First Chapter of the Pacific," Lambda Chi Omega established a legacy of leadership, service and community involvement that has significantly impacted the lives of the people of Hawaii. The vision, dedication and leadership of the founding members in establishing a legacy of sisterhood, scholarship and service continues to impact in Hawaii today.

The commitment to excellence and service by Lambda Chi Omega Chapter's founders is deeply rooted in the legacy of charter members Annie Briscoe, Sharon Brown, Dale Buffalo, Bessie Crawford, Ella Edwards, Geraldine Hale, Barbara Hayman, Dorothy Henry, Barbara Jones, Sandi (Lakin) Sumbry, Lorene McLaurin, Georgette Moon, Ada Morgan, Virginia Payton, Lorna Peck, Donna Poindexter, Jane Sayles, Marjorie Singer, Edith Smith and Dannis Thompson.

Through their unwavering commitment to education, health, economic empowerment and social justice, the chapter's members have made an important difference in the lives of Hawaii's residents. In addition, their contribution to the community serves as a testament to the power of collective action and the positive impact that can be achieved when people come together for a common cause.

Additionally, we must pay tribute to Bettye Jo Harris, one of the chapter's pioneers and long-time community activist who has been a leading figure in the fight for civil rights and equality in Hawaii. Through her tireless work on behalf of all minorities, the underserved and the needy, she has spearheaded civil rights advances in Hawaii, and her contributions are worth commending here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Today, I formally recognize the outstanding service and dedication of the members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Lambda Chi Omega Chapter. Let us all commend them for their tireless efforts and selfless commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of others, and let us all wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN ADAN
"CHERRY" COVARRUBIAS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Adan "Cherry" Covarrubias, the Commodore for Commander, Joint Strike Fighter Wing, at Naval Air Station Lemoore, on the occasion of his Change of Command and retirement. CAPT Covarrubias is a native of Buena Park, California, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in History from the United States Naval Academy in 1998. Two years later, in December 2000, he earned his Naval Aviator Wings of Gold. Over a Navy career spanning twenty-five years, CAPT Covarrubias has served his country with honor. During his first Fleet tour, he flew the F/A-18C Hornet with VFA-113 the "Stingers" at Naval Air Station Lemoore in California until 2005. During this tour, he deployed on board USS *Abraham Lincoln* with Carrier Air Wing Fourteen from 2002 to 2003, where he com-

pleted a 10-month combat deployment and flew combat missions during Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM, and conducted opening night strikes during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In 2004 he completed a second deployment onboard USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN-74). CAPT Covarrubias completed several operational assignments, serving with VFA-125 the "Rough Raiders" in 2005 as an F/A-18 flight instructor; Carrier Air Wing Nine in 2007 as CAG landing signals officer and Assistant Operations Officer aboard USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN-74); and VFA-146 the "Blue Diamonds" in 2009 aboard USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN-76). CAPT Covarrubias completed an assignment to the Joint Staff, J3 at the Pentagon where he served in the National Military Command Center from 2011 to 2013. He later was assigned to Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tennessee where he managed all naval aviation manpower resourcing for commanders and below. CAPT Covarrubias commanded several strike fighter squadrons during his time in service. From 2014 to 2016, CAPT Covarrubias served as the executive officer and commanding officer of VFA-146 the "Blue Diamonds". During this tour he led the squadron to a successful transition from Legacy Hornets to Super Hornets, earning the coveted Carrier Air Wing Eleven Golden Wrench award, a top honor on the flight line. In 2018 he was assigned to Eglin Air Force Base to serve as the commanding officer of VFA-101 the "Grim Reapers" and led the deactivation efforts of the Navy's first F-35C Fleet Replacement Squadron. In 2019 CAPT Covarrubias returned to NAS Lemoore to take command of the Navy's F-35C Joint Strike Fighter training command, VFA-125 the "Rough Raiders". In 2020, CAPT Covarrubias was named Commodore of the Joint Strike Fighter Wing at NAS Lemoore, in command of all U.S. Navy F-35C squadrons. Under his leadership, a new \$100 million state-of-the-art aircraft hangar was opened in 2021 to house VFA-97 and VFA-147, the U.S. Navy's only F-35C fleet squadrons. CAPT Covarrubias also oversaw the U.S. Navy's first-ever forward deployment of the F-35C in 2021 with VFA-147 the "Argonauts" of Carrier Air Wing Two onboard USS *Carl Vinson*. CAPT Covarrubias earned several personal awards during his service including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Medals (one with a combat "V"), four Navy Commendation Medals (one with a combat "V"), a Navy Achievement Medal, and various campaign, service, and unit awards. He has logged over 2,000 flight hours in the F-18 Legacy and Super Hornet as well as the F-35C. Not only is CAPT Covarrubias a highly decorated naval aviator, but he is also a fixture in the community—whether as a volunteer football coach for Sierra Pacific High School or serving on my office's Service Academy Nominations Board. CAPT Covarrubias exemplifies what it means to serve, and his dedication to our country is an inspiration to all Americans. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating and honoring Captain Adan "Cherry" Covarrubias during his Change of Command and for his years of service to our country.

HONORING BARBARA AND LOUIS
PARREIRA

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 20th anniversary of the Merced County Spring Fair's Little Hands Exhibit. Merced County is a rich agricultural region, providing the world nutritious, healthy, and safe food.

Merced County has celebrated our agricultural heritage, our youth, education, and our region since 1890, first as the Miller-Lux Picnic, evolving into the Merced County Spring Fair, one of the largest county fairs in California.

Merced County's success would not be possible without the tireless work of Barbara and Louis Parreira. For over 70 years, the Parreira's have volunteered their agricultural knowledge and know-how to educate our youth, establishing the Merced County Spring Fair Little Hands Interactive Exhibit with other community leaders.

Modeled after the Indiana State Fair's exhibit, the Little Hand Exhibit debuted in 2004, providing interactive, hands-on, agricultural experiences for children between the ages of 2 and 10.

Since its conception two decades ago, Little Hands has provided interactive learning experiences for over 15,000 children annually, with a total number of 300,000 unique experiences since its start in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Barbara and Louis Parreira's efforts in starting Little Hands, their decades of volunteer work, and 20 years of agricultural education through the Little Hands' exhibit.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF KEVIN HESCH

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow and a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the impactful life and legacy of Mr. Kevin Hesch of Groton, Connecticut. Kevin tragically passed away at the heartbreaking young age of 39 on April 4, 2023, as the result of a motor vehicle accident. Mr. Speaker, as someone who knows his family, I can attest that they are good people, who are beloved by friends and coworkers. His passing is a tremendous loss for all who came into contact with the Hesch clan.

Kevin was a true blue southern New England success story. Born to loving parents Lori and Kurt Hesch of Groton, Kevin grew up in southeastern Connecticut. He attended Groton schools and graduated from Fitch High School in town before attending the UConn School of Business. After getting his degree, he followed his father's footsteps and began his stellar career at General Dynamics Electric Boat's Finance Department based in Groton, joining the ranks of our state's elite submarine ship-

yard and largest private employer. His contribution to Electric Boat's mission, to protect our Nation with unmatched undersea based deterrence, was unrivaled. The quality of his work was recognized with promotion after promotion, most recently with his designation as Manager of Finance.

It is worth sharing, Mr. Speaker, that Kevin had an even greater degree of loyalty to the roots he and his family had sewn together in their local community. Kevin met the love of his life, Heather, who he married in 2012. Together, they had brought into this world five children—Alexander, Mackenzie, William, Emilia and Abigail. Kevin's ability to be his own unique and loving character has already passed onto each of them. Though this is an arduous battle for the surviving family, we can find solace in his strength and dedication, which will ultimately pass the test of time through each and every one of them.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin was an outstanding individual. These tragedies are so harsh on a community, particularly considering all those that knew him from Fitch, UConn, Electric Boat, and his local community. We cannot hope to fill the void that is left in Kevin's place, which is why we are all the more thankful of how purposeful he was with his time and presence. His story and good-natured personality will surely live on through others. To further reflect the source of strength that he was before the local community, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest condolences to his parents Lori and Kurt, his wife Heather, and his beautiful children at this time of sorrow.

COMMENDING THE STAFF AND
STUDENTS AT CANYON RIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today alongside my esteemed colleagues, Senator MIKE CRAPO and Senator JAMES E. RISCH, to commend the students and staff of Canyon Ridge High School for their outstanding achievement in being named a National Banner School by Special Olympics. This recognition is a testament to the school's unwavering dedication to fostering a welcoming environment where all students, regardless of ability, are valued.

Canyon Ridge High School has demonstrated a commitment to excellence by meeting and surpassing the ten standards necessary to receive this prestigious award. Through the implementation of a three-component model, which includes Special Olympics Unified Sports, strong youth leadership, and whole school engagement, Canyon Ridge High School has truly set a high bar for education.

The school's commitment to Unified Sports, where students with and without intellectual disabilities play on the same team, is exceptional. From soccer in the fall, to basketball and bowling in the winter, and track and pickleball in the spring, these sports serve as a shining example of bringing people together.

Furthermore, Canyon Ridge High School's Student Council has shown outstanding lead-

ership by planning the 2022 Junior Prom, decorating the school for every holiday, planning assemblies, service projects, and other school-wide activities. The "Take the Lead" class, which allows students of all abilities to create a senior-like "passion project," is yet another example of the school's commitment to fostering leadership and empowerment among its students.

Finally, Canyon Ridge High School's whole school engagement efforts ensure that every student is part of the school's culture. From the "Pennies for Possibilities" service project to the school-wide assemblies that recognize the Unified Sports players and the "HAWK" Awards, all students are given the opportunity to feel valued and respected.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in commending the students and staff at Canyon Ridge High School for their tireless efforts in achieving this tremendous honor. They have truly set the standard for empowering education, and we are proud to recognize their achievement today.

OAK HILL 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Village of Oak Hill, Ohio. Since its founding in 1873, the Village of Oak Hill has remained a pillar of Jackson County for nearly 2 centuries.

Six Welsh families found themselves stranded along the Ohio River in 1818, choosing to settle in the area Oak Hill was established in 1832 in the hopes that it could become the new Jackson County seat.

In the mid 1800s, the Village of Oak Hill became a Midwestern transportation hub, and included new switch railroad stations and new roads to connect the village to Portsmouth.

Throughout its storied history, the Village of Oak Hill thrived as a crossroads town, connecting people to new areas of the mid western region. I am honored to represent the Village of Oak Hill, an area of the state with such a rich history and strong community.

Again, I want to congratulate the Village of Oak Hill on celebrating its 150th Anniversary and recognize their historical significance in Southern Ohio. May they continue to prosper over the next 150 years.

HONORING MILJENKO "MIKE"
GRGICH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the founder of the Napa Valley's Grgich Hills Estate and the proclaimed "King of Chardonnay", Miljenko "Mike" Grgich as he and his family celebrate his milestone 100th birthday.

Mr. Grgich was born in 1923 in Croatia. He studied agronomy and chemistry at the University of Zagreb in Croatia, establishing himself as a talented student of his field and as