

never forget where he came from. Art lost his mother in a tragic car accident at the age of 13. His father, grandmother, aunts, uncles, and cousins were all there for him. They gave him support, strength, guidance, knowledge, understanding, and unconditional love.

Art remembers the struggles and sacrifices that were made by his family to have a better future. He is very grateful and appreciative of them. Art worked as a bouncer/bartender in his youth. He then started working in the electronics field not thinking it would last long, but he made a career out of it. He has grown and developed greatly. Art currently represents LCLAA (Labor Council for Latin American Advancement), UAW (United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America) Local 788, UAW Region 8, and the LGBTQ+ community by participating in events in the community. Art volunteered with LCLAA in the Osceola Housing Crisis Workshop with The Salvation Army. He also volunteers with the Central Florida Labor Council in the Citizenship Clinic helping members of the community become United States citizens. He does that in his family's memory to pay it forward and help others like his family obtain the American Dream. He also volunteers yearly for the Paralyzed Veterans Association Fishing Tournament. Art has gone to Tallahassee and Washington to lobby and fight for what's right. Never in his wildest dreams did he think he would be doing that and continues to fight the fight.

Art has held leadership roles such as chairperson of his local union and Florida State CAP (Community Action Program) vice chair for UAW Region 8. Art is currently holding multiple roles such as vice chairperson of the Bargaining Committee of UAW Local 788, UAW Region 8 Florida State CAP/PAC president, and he is a delegate of the Central Florida Labor Council and trustee on the Executive Board. Art has worked at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control as an inspector on the quality assurance side of the business since 2008. Art is a very passionate and proud individual. What he does he does from the heart. His family and the leadership roles he has had are what made him the man he is today.

#### HONORING GEORGE BADEN

### HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 27, 2023*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Baden, a veteran and public servant of Virginia's Seventh District, for his lifelong dedication to our Nation.

Over the course of his life, Mr. Baden has always answered the call to service. After growing up in rural Maryland as the youngest of five boys, Mr. Baden enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps to serve in Vietnam. During the Tet Offensive, Mr. Baden was called to action and bravely led his unit to safety after taking heavy fire from Vietcong and North Vietnamese Army forces.

Upon completing 13 months of service in the U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. Baden returned home and transitioned to civilian service, beginning his career working on HVAC systems in Federal buildings. By the end of his 37-year

career, Mr. Baden held the position of Supervisory Program Manager at the Defense Logistics Agency in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

In retirement, Mr. Baden has continued to look for ways to serve his community. For example, as a leader of the Virginia Chapter of Optimist International, an organization whose mission is to "to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs," Mr. Baden has played an extensive role in facilitating fundraising for the Special Olympics.

Outside of his military and public service careers, Mr. Baden would tell you that he is most proud to be a father and grandfather. Several of his children have followed in his footsteps, with careers focused on public service, charity organizations, and community building; he does not have to look far to see the impact of his legacy.

As a Member of Congress, I am proud to represent Virginians like Mr. Baden who have answered America's call to service. Our Nation is undoubtedly stronger because of his contributions, and I wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.

#### HONORING ANTONELLA ROCCO

### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 27, 2023*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Antonella Rocco, my fellow who is transitioning from my office to continue her mission.

A Florida native with Chilean origins, Antonella came to my office ready to change the American environmental system. While in my office, Antonella has pushed my transportation and infrastructure agenda to great lengths—from drafting legislation to promote homeowners' defense, to researching environmental data.

In our time together, I have recognized that Antonella is a force in environmental policy. Her passion has been powerful over the last year as we have fought for the lives of underserved and disadvantaged communities. Her commitment to environmental justice has led Antonella to work with a team of ecologists producing hydrologic and ground-elevation data for the Everglades and she will present her research at the annual Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration conference. Antonella has and will continue to make a difference and leave her mark on environmental policy as she continues to fight for a better system.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Antonella Rocco for her exemplary accomplishments, dedication to public service, and trailblazing leadership.

HONORING ANA L. CRUZ AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 27, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Ana L. Cruz moved from Puerto Rico to New Jersey right after Hurricane Hugo hit the island in 1989.

In June of 1990 and for the next 18 years, she worked for INROADS, Inc., a national organization that places minority college students in corporate internships. She worked for INROADS, Inc. in different capacities from administrative assistant to manager to acting regional director.

In August of 2008, she accepted the position of aide to City of Orlando Commissioner Tony Ortiz.

In June of 2016, she was hired as the new City of Orlando Hispanic Office for Local Assistance Coordinator. HOLA provides valuable information and referral services to bilingual residents and newcomers to Central Florida, connecting them with more than 100 government and community organizations to find jobs, senior housing, healthcare services, educational opportunities, and other resources.

After Hurricane Maria in 2018, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer deployed Ana to the Orlando International Airport's Welcome Center. This center was opened to assist the people affected by the hurricane. Under Ana's leadership, over 6,000 people were assisted and connected with services and resources.

In February of 2023, Ana partnered with the Orlando Center for Justice to provide guidance and assistance to immigrants that recently arrived in Central Florida by giving them an orientation and free legal assistance.

For her unwavering devotion to serving and helping the community, Ana has received many awards and recognitions such as Mayor Buddy Dyer's Leadership Award, WKMG News 6's Getting Results Award, Casa de Venezuela's Leadership Award, and the National Latino Peace Officers Association Volunteer Award. She has also been named as a Florida Puerto Rican Parade, Inc. Community Leader, among others.

Ana is a proud mother. Her daughter, Ana Lucia, graduated in December of 2017 from the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in early childhood development and education.

CONGRATULATING SALLY CHEN'S SERVICE TO THE NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

### HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 27, 2023*

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sally Chen, the New Democrat Coalition Senior Member Services Advisor. Sally is leaving the Coalition to work for the White House Office of Legislative Affairs.

During her 2 years with the Coalition, Sally played an integral role in growing our Member Services portfolio, amplifying our communications work, and ensuring that staffers from our

98 Member offices are connected to the resources and professional development opportunities they need to succeed in their roles.

In particular, Sally helped Member offices bolster their mail and constituent outreach programs and provided support to legislative staff in Coalition Member offices, helping them move their legislative priorities through committee and the House.

Having had the pleasure of working closely with Sally during my last five months as Chair of the New Democrat Coalition, I have seen firsthand how Sally's dedication, work ethic, and 'can do' attitude has elevated our Coalition to new heights.

Although her departure is bittersweet, I extend my sincere best wishes for her continued success at the White House.

#### SUPPORT FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF THE ARLINGTON HOUSE ESTATE FOR REDESIGNATION

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 27, 2023*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, to accompany the introduction of H.J. Res. 76, I am including in the RECORD statements and letters of support for the Redesignation of Arlington House from the descendants of the estate.

CONGRESSMAN BEYER: I am writing to express my support for the redesignation of the National Park Service site currently known as 'Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial' as the 'Arlington House National Historic Site.'

The memorial to Lee was established in two pieces of legislation 18 years apart. Public Law 84-1071, passed in June 1955, dedicated the memorial and stated that "Lee, whose name will ever be bright in our history as a great military leader, a great educator, and a great American." It went on to say that "he was a truly great man through the simple heritage of his personal traits of high character, his grandeur of soul, and his unflinching strength of heart." The 1972 legislation established public law 92-333 which gave the site its current name, 'Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial'.

I continue believe this redesignation is long overdue. The name Arlington House National Historic Site is not only inclusive, it is consistent with how the National Park Service manages and interprets this iconic, historic property.

I am a descendant and historian of the Syphax family. Syphaxes were enslaved on the Arlington House plantation by both Robert E. Lee and George Washington Parke Custis before him. Although I disagree with how the earlier legislation characterizes Lee, I disparage neither Lee nor the Custises. I do, however, work hard to give agency to the Syphaxes and all of the Arlington House plantation enslaved community. Their lives and stories are equally as important to the history of this site as is those who enslaved them. Their stories are educational, inspiring and uplifting. Their stories are intertwined with the Lees and Custises. The stories and history told completely can help our country better understand slavery at the Arlington House plantation and have the ability to help generate important and necessary conversations that can help repair and heal from a painful, divisive past.

This redesignation is important to the entire country, not just Arlington House de-

scendant families, the state of Virginia and Washington, D.C. It is important to all Americans. During the short time our on line petition (RedesignateARHO.org) has been collecting signatures, citizens from every state in the country and 9 other nations have expressed their support for the site redesignation.

I live in Loudoun County, VA. I intend to share this message with my own elected officials. Your colleague, Representative Jennifer Wexton, and Senator Tim Kaine, have both co-sponsored and sponsored legislation in the House and Senate, respectively. In addition, I will attempt to seek the support of Senator Mark Warner as a co-sponsor of the Senate legislation.

Thank you again Congressman Beyer for your leadership on this effort. Please don't hesitate to call on me if you would like to discuss this legislation further or I can help in some way.

Respectfully,

STEPHEN E. HAMMOND.

REPRESENTATIVE DON BEYER: I am writing in support of the legislation you plan to introduce to change the name of 'Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial' to the more neutral 'Arlington House, National Historic Site.'

The name 'Arlington House, National Historic Site' is much more appropriate, accurate, inclusive, and consistent with how the National Park Service manages and interprets historic properties.

As a direct descendant of George Washington Parke Custis and the great-granddaughter of Robert E. Lee. I own over 100 artifacts currently on display in the mansion and the museum—portraits, furniture, silver, documents, and ephemera. It has always been important to my branch of the Custis/Lee family to maintain close ties to Arlington House, despite our tragic history. Over the last 100 years, we have sought to provide a context for learning about the complicated history of the estate, in the hopes that visitors will be able to experience the house as more than just a mausoleum.

With the generous grant from David Rubenstein, the National Park Service has been able to update their interpretation of the site to include the perspectives of the enslaved who built and worked the plantation. The work that has been done here has been exemplary, and other institutions have taken note.

I have also been a member of the Family Circle of descendants of the enslaved and enslavers for more than a year, and although I was prevented from attending the reunion in April by health issues, I have found the group to be inspiring in these dark days of American politics. We can use as much thoughtful conversation and reconciliation as possible, and the group has proved to be a model for others who are trying to understand why some of our country's oldest wounds have never healed.

As other descendants have pointed out, this redesignation is important to the entire country and all Americans. In my opinion, this property should never have been named a memorial to Robert E. Lee in the first place—the 1972 legislation is directly related to the cult of the Lost Cause and should be seen as political backlash to desegregation. As Ty Seidule has pointed out in his important study, Robert E. Lee and Me, names matter, and this change is long overdue.

Thank you again for your efforts. Please do not hesitate to call on me if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely yours,

DR. SUSAN VOGEL.

REPRESENTATIVE DON BEYER: I am writing in support of the legislation you introduced

to change the name of the 'Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial' to the 'Arlington House National Historic Site.'

As a descendant of the Lee family, I was present at the recent Family Reunion, Finding our Voice, at Arlington House, in April of this year. I was very happy to see you there, supporting the redesignation to better reflect all the residents who lived at both Arlington House and at Arlington Plantation. It was a very moving day.

My direct ancestor, Richard Bland Lee, Robert E. Lee's uncle, was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from Loudoun County from 1796-1797. His enslaved people built and ran Sully Plantation, which is now called Sully Historic Site, in Chantilly, Virginia. I am glad it is no longer called Sully Plantation, and instead called a Historic Site. The same could be true for Arlington House.

Thank you again for your efforts. Please don't hesitate to call on me if you would like to discuss this further.

SARAH TARR FLEMING.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BEYER: I am writing to express my support for redesignation of the National Park Service site currently known as 'Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial' as the 'Arlington House National Historic Site'.

I am a direct descendant of both George Washington Parke Custis and Robert E. Lee and have been working with the National Park Service, Lee descendants and descendants of the enslaved people at Arlington to review the exhibition planning process. One of our most important goals is to ensure that future exhibits and interpretation honor all of the Arlington Family truths and narratives by including and genuinely presenting ALL descendants' voices.

Through this process, I have become acutely aware of the intrinsic barriers that might deter individuals from having any interest in visiting the site—the most obvious of these being the current name of the plantation house that was established in 1972. By representing itself as a memorial to Robert E. Lee, Arlington House is omitting and dismissing an incredibly significant part of its history. We, as Americans, have an opportunity—and more importantly—a responsibility to change this.

CUSTIS GLOVER.

CONGRESSMAN BEYER, I write to express my support for your legislation to redesignate the Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial in northern Virginia as the Arlington House National Historic Site. I feel that the current name glorifies a soldier who took up arms to maintain the institution of slavery. This place is so much more than a Lee Museum. Its name should reflect the lives of all who lived, worked, and died there, both enslavers and enslaved.

As a member of the Syphax family, my third great grandmother, Maria Carter Custis, was enslaved at Arlington House. She was the daughter of George Washington Parke Custis, original builder of the plantation. Maria married Charles Syphax in 1821 in the same parlor of the plantation house ten years before her half-sister Mary Custis married Robert E. Lee.

Telling the factual story of Maria, as well as all who labored there, would initiate a conversation about America's past and hopefully be the first step toward healing a badly divided nation.

Arlington House National Historic Site could be an example for other historic sites to present the complete, true stories of eighteenth-century America. The time is right for this legislation, and I heartily support it. I'm pleased that you do too.