

worked as a lineman, and his mother who stayed home to care for Tony and his six siblings. After graduation he volunteered to serve his country in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to serve on a destroyer based at Norfolk, VA. After an honorable discharge, he pursued further education and acquired an associate degree in Fire Science and Technology. He married his wife, Noreen, in 1987 and moved to Ledyard where they raised four children. His time in the naval service and his training in fire science, led Tony to pursue a career as a firefighter at the Submarine Base fire department. Unsurprisingly, he took to the task, and he continued to work at the Submarine Base as a firefighter for over 20 years. Mr. Speaker, the mission of the subbase department is very specialized, given the highly complex and value of A large fleet of fast attack submarines homeported there. Tony handled that portfolio with highest degree of professionalism and proficiency it required. Not one to settle for just that task, Saccone took it upon himself to take a second job at the Gales Ferry Fire Company, where he also excelled and has since tirelessly served his community up to this day.

Chief Saccone's involvement in both fire departments extended beyond the details of his job description. He rapidly accelerated through the ranks and became the Fire Captain at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base and Chief of the Gales Ferry Fire Company. His leadership skills are exhibited in his character; as Captain and Chief of these departments, he prioritized mutual trust, respect, and communication between him and the crews. He led by example, expecting the same excellence of his team as of himself. His organizational skill proved to be an asset when Chief Saccone managed a \$250,000 budget for Gales Ferry and balanced it each year since beginning his position as Chief in 2008. It is through the leadership of Saccone that Gales Ferry and the Submarine Base Fire crews can provide high quality service to their communities.

As a natural leader, Chief Saccone recognized his potential to extend his service to his community and town from a political position. He was voted to the Ledyard Town Council, where he fearlessly advocated for the community as a whole and the Gales Ferry Fire Department. I had the honor to get to know Chief Saccone when he and I, from 2011 to 2021, worked together to advance the bipartisan Fire Police Fairness Act. Through his tireless advocacy alongside my office, Chief Saccone witnessed the signing of this bill by President Biden on November 18, 2021 at the White House in Washington, DC. From 2017 to 2018, Chief Saccone and I began that legislative journey to extend police officers' death benefits to fire police officers. This legislation will ensure all firefighters' families get federal survivor benefits after serious injury or fatality. His passion and knowledge of the challenges first responders face were essential to secure successful passage of this law—even in the midst of a highly polarized Congress. This was a resounding bipartisan victory that reflected Americans' endless support for first responders.

It was also a pleasure and honor for Chief Saccone to accompany me at President Biden's State of the Union Address in 2022. He is the true example of a selfless leader, someone who expects nothing more of others than the best, while expecting even more from

himself. He raises others, is a team player, and an individual of incalculable quality. Chief Saccone's involvement in his community and country reflects his commitment to American democratic values. For the sake of America, I hope that citizens see Chief Saccone's story and continue his legacy as unswerving champions of American democracy. Chief Saccone's newly found free-time will undoubtedly be dedicated towards his wife Noreen; four children, Anthony Jr., Julia, Lucas, and Emilie; and his children's respective families. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief Saccone's career.

HONORING THE CASS CITY JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trysten Gruber, Jr., the Junior Cass City Citizen of the Year, whose exceptional academic record, dedication to community service, and outstanding leadership in athletics are complemented by his remarkable character and commitment to personal development.

Trysten's academic journey is marked by a consistent record of high honors, demonstrating his commitment to excellence. His engagement in community initiatives, such as organizing blood drives and participating in environmental cleanups, showcases his strong sense of civic responsibility and desire to contribute positively to our community.

In athletics, Trysten has proven himself as a natural leader, serving as the football team captain and earning accolades including the Golden Helmet Award and First Team All-State honors. His achievements in wrestling and track further underscore his athletic ability and dedication.

Beyond the realm of sports, Trysten's involvement with the Boy Scouts of America, peer mentoring, and the National Honor Society highlight his well-rounded talents and his unwavering commitment to personal growth and community service. His attainment of the Eagle Scout rank and active participation in the National Honor Society are a testament to his exemplary character and leadership skills.

Today, we celebrate not just Trysten Gruber, Jr.'s past accomplishments but also the potential he embodies for future success and positive impact. His journey serves as a powerful reminder of the values that strengthen and enrich our community and nation, and I am proud that he was selected as the Cass City Junior Citizen of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 105, and YEA on Roll Call No. 106.

HONORING SANDY SEARS

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandra "Sandy" Sears, an outstanding leader in the Greater Miami community.

Ms. Sears received a master's degree in management in 1975 from Northwestern University, Magna Cum Laude. In 2007, she attended the Wharton School CEO Program for Health Care Leadership.

Ms. Sears is a retired senior executive in the Jackson Health System. She served for 39 years in senior level leadership, retiring as the Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Jackson North Medical Center. Ms. Sears developed the affiliation agreement between Jackson North and the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, which distinguishes Jackson North as an academic community hospital. Ms. Sears is now continuing her commitment to public service in the capacity of Special Advisor, U.S. Congressional House of Representatives.

Ms. Sears serves with various organizations, including the Miami Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and she serves as a member in the Miami-Biscayne Bay chapter of the Links Incorporated. She is also a member of the executive committee of the Vice Provost's Council at Florida International University which is a community relations board on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Ms. Sears is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Black Heritage Planning Pillars Award for her contributions to the upward mobility of the African-American community throughout the years. She has been named one of the "Outstanding Black Leaders in Dade County," recognized for outstanding community services and leadership by a number of agencies such as Dade County Black Affairs, King of Clubs Greater Miami, Miami-Dade County Health Department, recognized as Outstanding Woman of Distinction and Caring, recognized as One of South Florida's Most Accomplished in Health Care, recognized as an Outstanding Pioneer in Health Care, and in 2013, she was named one of South Florida's Top 50 Most Powerful Business Leaders by Legacy Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ms. Sears for all she has achieved. She exemplifies the high quality of volunteerism and civic leadership that we aspire to instill across the country.

HONORING J. MCCAULEY BROWN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special Kentuckian, J. McCauley (Mac) Brown. Mac lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. Brown earned a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a Master of Business Administration from George Washington University. While he was in college, he worked