

child care and the urgent need to address the childcare cliff effect to create better opportunity for families. At the Wilkie House you can see his determination and dedication not only in tackling big projects like significant infrastructure improvements to the building and playground, but also in little things like walking kids to their parent's car at the end of the evening to say goodnight.

Like many small non-profit leaders, John dedicates an immense amount of time and effort, wears many hats, and maximizes limited resources to make his programs successful. During workdays that regularly last nearly 12 hours, John works on grants, community outreach and engagement, assisting families in overcoming barriers, and accessing resources and administration. He's constantly working on growing funding to keep up with the increase in numbers so the Wilkie House can serve more children. With all that and more on his plate, he still spends time with the kids during afterschool activities and cites it a source of great joy.

Established in September of 1917, the Wilkie House initially served as an extension of the War Recreation Board for Black Officers at Fort Des Moines, making it one of the oldest African-American community-based organizations in the state of Iowa. Today the organization's rich history is carried forward through the mission of developing character and esteem in young people through promotion of academics, building social skills, health, and recreation. The nonprofit serves nearly 400 youth ages 5–18 years and their families during the fiscal year, with the majority of participants coming from low-income families and diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has presented significant challenges to John and his team. The Wilkie House was one of the first organizations to reopen and stay open throughout the summer and for virtual learning support in the school year. They adapted to facilitate safe, full-day school year programming during virtual learning days so youth participants could better understand and complete their academics, receive tutoring and daily meals, and fulfill critical social needs through recreational and social skill building activities. It would be impossible to measure the kind of positive impact this program has had on our community during such a difficult time.

Despite the additional challenges, John and the Wilkie House team have continued to provide after school programming so kids can have snacks and dinner, engage in active and creative activities, and receive tutoring and homework assistance. They maintain summer programming with trips to the park and the zoo, volunteer opportunities, and work with youth on growth areas like problem solving, coping with change, independence, compassion, and career readiness. John also helps the Wilkie House maintain its position as a community hub by hosting evening and weekend events that bring people together for meals, fun activities, sporting events, and even musical performances from groups like the Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corp.

Before stepping up to his current role, John worked as a coordinator of a federal grant at the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families. He spent time in higher education and worked internationally in non-profits to help families living in extreme poverty, including those in slums, orphanages, and children liv-

ing on the street. Giving back to those in need, particularly young children, has been the highlight of his career.

Individuals like John Douglas who prioritize service over self in order to create a better life for individuals and better community for all their neighbors, especially those who are underserved and underrepresented, are commendable for so many reasons. Not only has he had an immediate and positive effect on the kids and families he serves through the Wilkie House, but the whole of Des Moines is better off because of his ongoing efforts. I'm proud to count John as a neighbor and thank him for his dedication. It is my honor to name him our Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING MONA SHORES' SAILORS FOOTBALL STATE TITLE

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Mona Shores' Sailors on their incredible second consecutive D-2 football state title at Ford Field in Detroit, MI.

This team has shown a great level of resilience and skill throughout this past year. Notably, the Sailors put together a perfect season despite the challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, boasting a 12-0 record, which is the best record in school history.

I would like to congratulate each player and coach of the Mona Shores' Sailors who played an integral role in capturing the state title:

Players: Keondre Pierce, Larry White, Gary Humphrey, Landon Thalman, Khyree Hamel, Demetri Roberson, Mark Konecny, Eli Farnum, Keegan Dekuiper, Dahmir Farnum, Minh Nguyen, Benjamin Payne, Jeff Lenartowicz, Elijah Johnson, KeWaun Farnum, Brady Rose, Karsen Marihugh, TaVonie Jackson, Drew Sandberg, Stephen Koziak, Sam Wahlberg, DJ Caviness, Bryce Sikkenga, Jesse Love, Theartric Theus III, Mason Klos, Kemper Millis, Dauson Trigg, Cody Crites, Luke Emmons, and Andrew Grimm.

Coaches: Matt Koziak, Aaron James, Brian Sikkenga, Greg Vargas, Dave Check, Kyle Brott, Tyler Vanbergen, Mike Koziak, Thom Grimm, and Chris Hilliker.

Team Support: Jack Nummerdor, Dan Shroeder, Jason Dykstra, Rick McAdams, Jimmy Merrill, Patrick Lamay, Carson Koziak, Braden Koziak, Payton Koziak, and Samuel Sikkenga.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Mona Shores Sailors on their second consecutive Division 2 football state title, and for being a Michigan symbol of resilience in the face of this ongoing pandemic.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIANNA "GEORGIE" CARTER-KRELL IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize Georgianna "Georgie" Carter-Krell, whose dedication to our nation's veterans, amidst her own personal tragedy, has had a significant impact on our country and South Florida.

Born in Massachusetts on August 25, 1932, Georgie and her three children moved to Florida in the 1960s, and they quickly found themselves living in Hialeah. Georgie's only son, Bruce Wayne Carter, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1968 to defend his nation during the Vietnam War. Private First Class Carter served in Company H, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, and was killed in action on August 7, 1969 in the Quang Tri Province. At the young age of nineteen, PFC Carter put the lives of his fellow soldiers ahead of his own, and, when ambushed, used his own body to shield his men from an enemy grenade. He was buried with Military Funeral Honors on August 25, 1969 at the Vista Memorial Gardens in Miami Lakes, Florida.

PFC Carter's heroic act quickly reached the White House, where, in 1971, Bruce was posthumously awarded our nation's highest recognition, the Medal of Honor. In the years that followed Bruce's death, Georgie truly turned her grief into action and became an advocate for our veterans. Initially, she volunteered with her neighbor at the Miami VA hospital and assisted those who had strokes or other injuries which prevented them from feeding themselves. They quickly became known as the Silver Spoons and traveled throughout the nation to VA hospitals promoting this program. Georgie became an integral member of the American Gold Star Mothers, where she served as the National President twice, in 2001 and 2008. With the help of former Congresswoman, and my good friend, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, the Miami VA Hospital was renamed the Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center in 2008.

While Georgie became a steadfast voice for those who needed her most, she continued to regret that her son was buried in Florida and not at Arlington National Cemetery. As a result, Georgie worked with my team and me to have Bruce's remains transferred to Arlington, and, on November 4, 2020, PFC Carter was laid to rest with Military Funeral Honors at Arlington National Cemetery. This act served as an important reminder to all that a soldier's life is always valued, no matter how much time has passed.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to know Mrs. Carter-Krell and I commend her for her dedication to preserving her son's memory and her unwavering support for our veterans. Georgie is a true patriot and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

ADVANCING AMERICA'S DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS WITH THE
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to promote the strategic partnership between the United States and the Arab Republic of Egypt. I find it of the utmost importance to advance diplomatic relations with a nation that has proven many times to be a dedicated friend to the United States and our allies.

It's no secret that the Middle East is a complicated region with divisions deeply rooted in ancient conflict dating back thousands of years. Egypt has been a proven partner to the U.S. foreign policy goals in the region, with the hopes to end these conflicts and bring peace to a region that so desperately craves it. Without Egypt's partnership, the fight against terrorism and the strive for curbing proliferation would not be possible. I've always said that trust is a series of promises kept. The Arab Republic of Egypt has proven time and time again that they can be a trusted ally and friend to the people of the United States.

Egypt has been, and will continue to be, a beacon of hope for all nations across the Middle East and North Africa and a leader for prosperity, culture, and education for other nations to follow. Using this foundation to advance interfaith tolerance and freedoms, I have long been inspired by the Egyptian people, their freedoms, and their diligence to make the region and world a better place for their children. I am of the belief that the Egyptian government and the Egyptian people have played a vital role in the success of American foreign policy in the region over the recent decades.

Under the leadership of President Trump, the U.S. and Egypt became even closer allies in the fight against terrorism. I hope that the Biden administration will support the Egyptians as much as President Trump did during his time in office.

Regional peace is a goal of not only myself, but the people of the United States, Egypt, and many other nations across the globe. Therefore, it's critical that we recognize the sacrifices and efforts that Egypt has played in the regional peace agreements that have surfaced under recent years. Ever since the 1979 peace treaty with Israel, Egypt, and the United States, both nations have proven to be effective regional partners.

Madam Speaker, I'm thankful for the close friendship that the U.S. shares with Egypt. I hope that we can continue to advance this great relationship with our friends in the Middle East. I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the strategic partnership between our nations and to continue to advance our shared goals going forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA
HELSEL

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Virginia Helsel on re-

ceiving the Blair County Chamber of Commerce's George Award, which recognizes an individual's volunteer efforts that have improved life in Blair County. A nurse by trade, Virginia started God's Little Offerings in her garage to help Blair County families in need. Though the organization originally provided only holiday meals, it has expanded to assist with other necessities.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Virginia on this accomplishment and thank her for her service to the Blair County community.

RECOGNIZING LEONOR TOMERO
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE
UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND
APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY OF DE-
FENSE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Ms. Leonor Tomero for her years of service to the United States Congress and congratulate her on her appointment to serve as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Leonor has committed her professional career to advancing dialogue on nuclear non-proliferation and arms control within the non-profit world, amongst our international allies and partners, and most notably, with the Departments of State and Defense. She has been a strong advocate for taking a common-sense approach to rethinking our reliance on nuclear weapons—one of the only true existential threats to humankind today. Though she started her congressional career as a Senate staffer, something we try not to hold against her, Leonor has spent the last 10 years as a valuable member of the House Armed Services Committee's professional staff.

From 2010 to 2021, Leonor supported the Strategic Forces Subcommittee's oversight of national security space, nuclear weapons, nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear clean-up, and missile defense issues. Leonor's work with committee members helped the committee conduct proper oversight of both programmatic and policy aspects of strategic deterrence and increased understanding regarding the delicate balance of strategic stability. Leonor's commitment to advancing space from a national security standpoint culminated in the establishment of the Space Force, which despite the previous administration's boasting, was truly a bi-partisan effort that emanated from the HASC Strategic Forces subcommittee.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House Armed Services Committee, I extend our deepest appreciation to Leonor for her dedicated service to the committee, the Congress, and the military and civilian personnel of the Armed Forces. We wish her well as she continues her public service at the Pentagon with the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, on March 11, 2021, I missed the vote on the Motion to Recommit for H.R. 8. If present, I would have voted no.

CELEBRATING ELISA DE LA VARA

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the faithful service and hard work of Elisa de la Vara, who will retire this month after nearly fifty years of service to the people of Arizona. Born and raised in the small border community of Somerton, Arizona, Elisa has dedicated her life to following her father's example by giving back to her community.

Elisa most recently served as Chief Community Officer for the Arizona Community Foundation. In this role, she oversaw the investment of nearly half a billion dollars in grant funding to community organizations across Arizona and brought diverse voices and perspectives together through her work with the Latinos Unidos Initiative, the Black Philanthropy Initiative, the Asian Pacific American Women's Giving Circle, and the Native American Initiative. She also led the Foundation's affordable housing initiative and rural philanthropy work, where she developed innovative solutions to make sure more Arizona families had access to housing.

Elisa has also served in many other roles including as District Director for my distinguished predecessor, Congressman Ed Pastor, Special Assistant to Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt, Executive Vice President for Chicanos Por La Causa, and Assistant to the President of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Elisa's work often focused on housing. She opened and led Fannie Mae's Arizona Office and she developed and hosted Arizona's first Spanish language real estate television show on Univision entitled *Bienvenido a Mi Casa*, which was devoted to informing and educating viewers on the rights and responsibilities of home ownership, including the mortgage process.

Throughout her distinguished career, Elisa rightfully earned many awards and recognitions. I would like to share my deep appreciation to Elisa for her years of service to our Congressional District, to our community, and to all of Arizona, and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BYRON DONALDS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I was meeting with National Guard personnel in my