

the life of my dear friend, Rich Hadley, who passed away on March 19, 2023. My prayers are with Rich's wife Rita, his family, and all who loved him as we mourn his passing.

Rich was a trusted friend and pillar of our community. For 21 years, he led Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI), the Inland Northwest's largest chamber of commerce. During his tenure, Rich demonstrated an unwavering commitment to growing jobs and business opportunities, not only in Spokane, but all across Eastern Washington and the Inland Northwest region.

His leadership at GSI was defined by a passion to make Spokane a better place, and he succeeded, leaving behind a legacy that will carry on for years to come. Rich's visionary leadership helped champion Spokane's University District and Washington State University's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine.

As a former U.S. Navy air intelligence officer during the Vietnam War, Rich cared deeply for our men and women in uniform and our nation's veterans. He worked tirelessly to forge a strong relationship between the business community and officials at Fairchild Air Force Base, and he played a critical role in making Fairchild the integral part of Spokane's community it is today.

Mr. Speaker, Rich Hadley was a man of integrity and high principle. His humility and his impact on Eastern Washington and his country will long be remembered. Above all, he lived an amazing life that deserves to be celebrated. In honor of his legacy, passion, and contributions that inspired so many, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rich Hadley. May God grant him eternal peace in His kingdom.

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 FAIRFAX COUNTY STUDENT PEACE AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 13, 2023*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2023 Fairfax County Student Peace Awards.

The Fairfax County Student Peace Awards began with one high school in 2006 to encourage high school aged students to think about peace as both a means and an end, and to recognize young people who work as peacemakers. By 2013, the program was being offered in every public high school in Fairfax County, as well as in many private schools.

Participating high schools choose one Junior or Senior, or one student group active in promoting peace or removing the causes of conflict. Examples of outreach include committing to peace by engaging in activities that strive to end conflict, either locally or globally, promoting the understanding of divisive issues and situations to bridge differences, and working to resolve conflicts among students or members of the community who feel isolated or alienated.

I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of this year's Student Peace Award winners:

Filmon Meaza, Annandale High School; Debora Hornig, Centreville High School; Ella Ostlund, Chantilly High School; Ella Duncan-High, Edison High School; Adan Eftekhari,

Fairfax High School; Lucia Patino Iporre, Falls Church High School; Ash Bulmer, Hayfield Secondary School; Amanda Green, Herndon High School; Girl Up, Justice High School; Nadine Elosta, King Abdullah Academy (KAA); Jessica Sim, Lake Braddock Secondary School; Bureen (Bree) Yagana, Langley High School; Mohamed Karim El-Gaili, John. R. Lewis High School; Matthew Sullivan, Madison High School.

No Place for Hate, Marshall High School; Saehee Perez, McLean High School; Amare D'Agostino, Mount Vernon High School; Aaliyah Garnett, Mountain View High School; Frank Marquez, Quander Road School; Jaeda Lawton, Robinson Secondary School; John Claude Shaffer, South County High School; Urooj Khattak, South Lakes High School; Social Change Club, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; Sarah Salama, West Potomac High School; Muqtader Zahid, West Springfield High School; Cameron Kasper, Westfield High School; UNICEF Club, Woodson High School.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these young people are the building blocks of a more peaceful and tolerant world. I commend them on their efforts and dedication and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each award recipient and thanking them as well as Fairfax County Public School System and sponsor organizations for all they have done for our community.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF GORDON OLSON

**HON. YADIRA CARAVEO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 13, 2023*

Ms. CARAVEO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Gordon Olson on his well-deserved retirement from the City of Thornton's Fire Department.

Chief Olson dedicated 40 years to protecting our community. I know I join every resident of Thornton in deep gratitude for his service and sacrifice on our behalf.

His accomplishments, dedication, and tireless labors in pursuit of protecting lives, will be remembered fondly for years to come. Our first responders put their lives on the line each day and for that we are all grateful.

From COVID-19 to wildfires, emergency workers have continued to answer the call to service and their efforts should never go unnoticed. Chief Olson's achievements are numerous, and he is an inspiration to those who may wish to follow in his footsteps.

As he enters a new phase of his life, I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MR. DARREL FETTIG

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 13, 2023*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and service of Darrel Fettig with United Airlines. After forty-four years of service and nearly three decades

of helping travelers visit our nation's capital, Darrel is retiring this week.

Darrel was born in Bismarck, North Dakota, to Matt and Agnes Fettig, one of nine children. He left Bismarck at 18 and went to "airline" school.

His first job was with a regional airline as a ramp agent in Peoria. In 1978, he went to work for the pre-paid desk for Continental Airlines in Denver, and then he moved to Salt Lake City. Darrel skied as much as he could in-between shifts and still has lasting friendships from the seven years he spent in Salt Lake City.

Darrel then came to DCA on a temporary position as a trainer for Continental Airlines. He liked D.C. so much he applied for and got a job as a customer service agent at DCA. Following his time at DCA, Darrel went to the city ticket office in Washington, D.C. for about 10 years, and he was recruited to join the Continental Airlines' Government Affairs team in 1995. Darrel's service spanned major events such as the September 11 attacks, a merger with United Airlines, and global repatriation flight efforts at the start of the 2020 COVID Pandemic.

Throughout his tenure, Darrel has assisted thousands of travelers in Washington, D.C. ensuring the best travel experience between Washington and home each week or assisting with travel changes and challenges—all with a smile and wonderful customer service.

Darrel met his husband Joe working for the airline and they have been together for nearly 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Darrel Fettig for his dedication to the greater travel community and wishing him a happy retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION TAX CREDIT ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 13, 2023*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Restaurant Revitalization Tax Credit Act. This legislation creates a tax credit to offset restaurants' payroll tax liabilities and help the industry stay afloat as it rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The restaurant industry was uniquely devastated by the pandemic, at one point accounting for a quarter of all job losses. The pandemic cost restaurants and bars more than \$280 billion in sales and left devastating impacts on the entire food supply chain. 90,000 restaurants have permanently closed and hundreds of thousands more have significantly scaled down their operations.

Created in the American Rescue Plan Act, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund provided \$28.6 billion for restaurants, bars, food trucks, caterers, tasting rooms, and taprooms to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Within days of opening the Fund, the Small Business Administration received requests for more funding than was available and was forced to close the application portal on May 24, 2021, leaving 177,000 applicants without any aid.

My Restaurant Revitalization Tax Credit Act provides restaurants who applied for, but did

not receive, aid with long overdue support. Despite months of steady job growth and families dining out again, restaurants and bars are still under a mountain of debt from years of anemic business in wave after wave of the pandemic. I appreciate the support of my colleague DEAN PHILLIPS (MN) on this legislation and I look forward to working with him to provide the support our independent restaurants so desperately need.

RECOGNIZING WVIA FM FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 13, 2023*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a remarkable milestone in the history of our region. For fifty years, WVIA FM has been serving Northeast Pennsylvania with excellence and distinction as the region's National Public Radio affiliate.

Throughout its half-century of service, WVIA FM has been a beacon of cultural enrichment and community engagement. Today, WVIA FM is also dedicated to providing unbiased news, in-depth reporting, and thoughtful commentary to help shape our region's understanding of the world around us.

As the leading provider of cultural programming, WVIA FM offers a rich variety of music, theater, and arts programs that have enriched the lives of countless listeners. From classical music to jazz, from Broadway shows to local theater productions, WVIA FM has been a trusted source for high-quality cultural programming that reflects the diversity of our community.

Perhaps most importantly, WVIA FM has been a vital force for community engagement and outreach. Through partnerships with local schools, community organizations, and other institutions, WVIA FM has been able to connect with audiences of all ages and backgrounds, helping to foster a sense of unity and civic pride that is so important to the success of our region.

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of WVIA FM, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and thanks to the entire staff of this remarkable organization. Your commitment to excellence, your dedication to public service, and your tireless efforts to enrich the lives of your listeners are truly an inspiration to us all.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the National Public Radio network for their ongoing support of WVIA FM and public broadcasting in general. Your commitment to quality journalism and cultural programming is a vital asset to our nation, and we are all richer for it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of WVIA FM, and in expressing our gratitude for the remarkable service this organization has provided to our region. We look forward to many more years of excellence and innovation from this valuable public resource.

LAO NEW YEAR

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 13, 2023*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Lao New Year, which will be celebrated between April 14, 2023, and April 16, 2023. Lao New Year is considered the national holiday of the country of Laos. Nationwide, Lao Americans organize festivals to bring their communities together in celebration of Lao New Year through the month of April and even early May.

Lao New Year has been celebrated for thousands of years and is historically rooted in, and unique to, Lao legends and traditions. During each of the three days that Lao New Year is observed, Lao people participate in various practices and ceremonies. The first two days of Lao New Year are dedicated to home and family. Day one tasks involve cleaning and organizing one's home. On day two, families will gather for a traditional "baci" ceremony, during which people wish one another peace, prosperity, and happiness while tying white threads around each other's wrists. Food and other goods are prepared on day three to take to the local temple as offerings to the monks.

The final day of Lao New Year is typically celebrated at the temple, where activities include classical dance performances, beauty pageants reflecting the legend of an ancient king and his seven daughters, food vending, as well as Lao goods and merchandise. The atmosphere at the temple celebrations is that of an overall uplifting of Lao Americans connecting to their culture and heritage.

Lao New Year unites Lao people through a rich history of traditions and celebrations that evoke shared feelings of release, renewal, and resolutions for the coming year. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this global celebration.

HONORING ZACH MERRILL

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 13, 2023*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Zach Benjamin Merrill of Aberteen, Ohio, who recently passed away after a long battle with cancer at the age of 37.

Zach was a proud Marine who served his country bravely in Iraq with his brothers in Lima Company. On May 11, 2005, 15 members of Lima Company were killed by an IED. Zach lost friends and brothers during his service and again survived an IED attack in August 2005.

In September of 2016, Zach was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia. Throughout rounds of chemotherapy and treatment, Zach never wavered. He continued to fight for his life until the very end.

Zach is an example of the patriotism, sacrifice, and commitment we associate with the finest examples of our nation's military. We are all safer because of his dedication to this country and we will miss him.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 13, 2023*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department on the occasion of its 75th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and to thank its volunteers for filling an essential role in keeping our community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than seven decades it has provided lifesaving fire suppression, fire prevention, and emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Burke and the surrounding communities. It also provides, houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment, provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership, and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the county's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in cooperation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. I am honored to recognize the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as Officers or as members of the Board of Directors and to include their names in the RECORD:

- Board of Directors:
- President—Ian Dickinson
- Vice President—John Powers
- Secretary—Maria Suarez Ortiz
- Treasurer—Larry Bocknek
- Director—Kathleen Beer
- Director—James Stahlman
- Director—Kenneth Senn
- Officers:
- Chief—Keith O'Connor
- Deputy Chief—Tina Godfrey
- Deputy Chief—John Hudak
- Captain—Melissa Ashby
- Captain—Kevin Grottle
- Lieutenant—Caitlin Edwards
- Sergeant—Gavin Kuzemchak
- Sergeant—Noah Bilger

In addition to the men and women who have generously assumed the responsibilities of serving as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department is also presenting awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exemplary service during the last year:

- Rookie of the Year—James Stahlman
- Officer of the Year—Gavin Kuzemchak
- EMS Officer of the Year—Noah Bilger
- Career Member of the Year—Charles Arntson
- Founders Award—Charlene Murphy
- Administrative Member of the Year—Matt Bryant
- Administrative Member of the Year—Tonya McCreary
- Chief's Award—Thomas Warnock
- President's Award—Larry Bocknek

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 75 years of service and in thanking all of the