

Please join me in thanking Master Sergeant Donald W. Jackson for his bravery and distinguished military service to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 151ST ANNIVERSARY OF GREATER SAINT PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 151st Anniversary of Greater Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in West Columbia, South Carolina.

I am grateful for the strong leadership at Greater Saint Paul AME Church, including Reverend Dr. Tobie H. Pollock, Reverend Rosalyn G. Coleman, Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, and Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. I appreciate their dedication to spreading the word of God in our community, making an impact in the lives of so many people.

Established in 1816, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church holds the distinction of the inaugural African American denomination organized in the United States. The church played a significant role in the African American community, championing civil rights and evangelizing. Over 200 years later, the AME Church continues to serve many people throughout our communities.

Greater Saint Paul will be celebrating their anniversary on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

RECOGNIZING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE 2023 CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM ANNUAL DINNER

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centreville Immigration Forum on the occasion of its 6th Annual Dinner. The theme of this year's gala is "Celebrating a Community United for Justice" and will recognize the rich diversity of cultures in Northern Virginia. The Centreville Immigration Forum has done tremendous work in Northern Virginia to support our immigrant community by implementing sustainable programs that provide immigrants in need with the means to improve their lives and become more integrated into the community.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity. In Fairfax County, nearly 1 in 4 residents are foreign born. More than 200 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the Nation. Our variety of cultures and heritages do not divide us; they make us stronger.

Three exceptional individuals will be honored during this gala who have gone above and beyond in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their country of origin, has full access to the benefits and opportunities this commu-

nity and our nation provide. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the following 2023 Annual Dinner honorees.

MS. ANNABEL PARK

Annabel Park is a Korean American documentary filmmaker, political activist and community volunteer. She shined light on the struggles of immigrants in America through her documentary 9500 Liberty which was an interactive project, allowing viewers to comment and give direction to the production. It highlighted the struggles in Manassas and Prince William County in 2008 through 2009, when some leaders passed laws to make life difficult for immigrants. The story of building community in the face of bigotry inspired Centreville to organize in the years following. Ms. Park went on to co-produce the Story of America documentary series about voting rights across the country.

MR. HASSAN AHMAD

Hassan Ahmad is the principal and founder of HMA Law Firm. He is fluent or proficient in eight languages in addition to English, and this gives his clients comfort when telling their stories. His perspective on immigration as a means to prosperity is borne from his belief in unity in diversity, advising nationals of 117 countries around the world for nearly 20 years. He is a strong voice for justice and writes and speaks fearlessly against laws and policies that limit the lives of immigrants. He is an expert on the roots of anti-immigration organizations. About one-third of his practice is devoted to asylum cases.

MONICA SARMIENTO

Monica Sarmiento is the Executive Director for the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights (VACIR), an organization dedicated to the defense of dignity, power, and quality of life for all immigrant and refugee communities. She is from the DC metropolitan area and is Salvadoran-American. She was the founding Executive Director of VACIR and built it into a coalition of immigrant rights groups with a respected voice in the Virginia General Assembly. She organized lobby days, press conferences, and campaigns that led to Driver Privilege Cards, increased language access to public information, and in-state tuition for all high school graduates.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these individuals are noteworthy not only because they are rooted in an appreciation for our region's cultural and ethnic diversity, but also because they help to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

HONORING REYMUNDO ESPINOZA

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Reymundo Espinoza upon his retirement. He has worked to provide healthcare for those in need for 48 years throughout California and Arizona.

Mr. Espinoza was raised in the small desert town of Coachella, California, where farming was the predominant industry. Upon gradua-

tion from Coachella Valley High School, he attended Stanford University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He received his Master of Public Health degree, specializing in Hospital Administration, from UC Berkeley in 1975.

Since 1987, he has served as CEO of the Gardner Family Health Centers. For 37 years, his vision for health equity and his commitment to access for the most vulnerable and underserved in our community have yielded impressive results:

Growing Gardner from a single clinic to thirteen sites (including two mobile units).

Increasing patients served from 8,000 to nearly 45,000 while providing high quality comprehensive medical and behavioral healthcare including prevention and education, early intervention, treatment, and advocacy services.

Participating in the Healthy Kids Initiative to ensure all children who are part of low-income households in our community could have access to a health coverage program.

Being a Founder, Chairperson and Board Member of Community Health Partnership health centers, a consortium of community clinics that advocate for and create healthcare access to low-income populations in Santa Clara County.

Co-Founding the California Primary Care Association to advocate for and create healthcare access to low-income populations in California.

During the Pandemic, Gardner Family Health Centers held the first community large-scale COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinic in Santa Clara County. From April 2020 to June 2021, approximately 12,000 individuals were tested, and 26,000 COVID-19 vaccinations were provided.

He has received many awards and recognition for his leadership in healthcare. For example, in 2023 he was awarded the Silver Medal Jefferson Award for expanding quality affordable healthcare so the South Bay's underserved can live healthier lives. In 2023 he received the Latinx Business Leadership Award from the Silicon Valley Business Journal.

His vision and legacy remain an inspiration and guiding light in these challenging but hopeful times. His expertise, good judgment, skillful leadership, and compassion have made him an outstanding member of our community. I consider him a valued colleague and friend and I join the community of Silicon Valley in honoring him and wishing him well in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate a milestone of profound significance—the 150th anniversary of the charitable endeavors of the Sisters of Providence.

For a century and a half, this venerable institution has been a bedrock of our community, demonstrating unwavering resilience and fostering a culture of compassion and service.

In Holyoke's industrial infancy, the Sisters began their mission, filling a void by providing essential care to the underprivileged, setting a firm foundation of charity that resonates deeply with the principles of the American Dream.

Their presence in our community has led to a myriad of invaluable initiatives; from establishing hospitals and nursing homes to spearheading programs that cater to the needs of the homeless, the Sisters have acted as an embodiment of selfless service and as a symbol of hope and healing in the Holyoke community since 1873.

As they celebrate this significant milestone with the symbol of the "Tree of Hope," I am reminded of the spirit of togetherness that has been a cornerstone in the journey of the Sisters of Providence. This celebration is not just a reflection of a rich history, but a beacon lighting the way for future generations, illustrating unity, healing, and boundless possibilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with heartfelt pride and admiration that I extend my congratulations to the Sisters of Providence as they mark 150 years of selfless service. As we honor their past, let us also embrace the future with a spirit of optimism and a commitment to nurturing a society grounded in their principles of love, empathy, and service.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINE HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing October as National Spine Health Awareness Month.

In the U.S. 100 million people suffer from neck or back conditions every year according to the CDC. Back pain is the number one cause of missed workdays, the leading cause of job-related disability and pain in the U.S., and the most common non-cancer related reason for an opioid prescription in the U.S. In addition, those with back and neck pain are four times more likely to become clinically depressed.

The National Spine Health Foundation located in my district in Reston, Virginia, is the only national patient-centered non-profit dedicated to helping patients overcome debilitating spinal conditions and take back their lives. During the past 5 years, the Foundation has renewed its commitment to and has developed award winning patient education, advocacy, and research work to give patients the tools they need to make informed decisions about their spine health and navigate their own treatment journeys with confidence.

I would like to congratulate the National Spine Health Foundation on its award-winning year in patient education and clinical research. NSHF received a 2023 Digital Health Award for its patient education videos, the E Healthcare Leadership Award for best healthcare podcast, and the Global Spine Congress award for best research paper for work on examining augmented reality for improving spine surgery. In addition, NSHF received the best paper award from the Inter-

national Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery for their work on the nation's only prospective, multi-center spine robotic surgery study.

The Foundation is strongly committed to spine health research. Patient reported outcomes have been part of the fabric of NSHF since its inception. As they are deeply invested in supporting evidence-based health care decision making, it is important to be part of the process of creating the evidence. Their cloud-based research tool called 'Spine-online' enables them to conduct multi-center studies and partner with research teams both in the U.S. and internationally. Active studies are currently occurring on robotic surgery, enhanced surgical recovery, augmented reality, genetic basis for personalized spine treatments, stem cell therapy, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the importance of good spinal health, supporting individuals who suffer from spinal issues, and thanking the NSHF and the health care providers who help not just in October, but all year long.

RECOGNIZING TAMMY VAN DYKE

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the distinguished career of retiring Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners Principal, Mrs. Tammy Van Dyke.

Mrs. Van Dyke has held several leadership roles throughout the education system in Northeast Wisconsin. Prior to assuming the role of Principal at Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners, Mrs. Van Dyke was the Principal at Nicolet Elementary School in Green Bay. During her time at Nicolet, she played an instrumental role in improving leadership skills in students and developed the LIONS (Leaders in Our Neighborhood and School) Club, which provided opportunities for students to interact with guest speakers, learn, and organize events for the school.

Throughout her impressive career, Mrs. Van Dyke has been committed to bettering the lives of her students and their families. Her knowledge and leadership led to the growing enrollment rate at Green Bay Area Public Schools, which played a significant role in the recruitment and retention of both gifted teachers and students at Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners. Mrs. Van Dyke's expertise and knowledge will surely be missed by her students, peers, and the entire Green Bay community.

While Mrs. Van Dyke is leaving behind a notable legacy that will be admired by educators for years to come, I am confident that she will continue to be a valuable member of the Northeast Wisconsin community. Her dedication to Northeast Wisconsin has been truly remarkable, and I extend my sincere thanks to Mrs. Van Dyke for her years of service. Mrs. Van Dyke's distinguished career is deserving of the highest degree of recognition, and I wish her all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING RONALD E. MYERS

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Ronald E. Myers, upon the auspicious occasion of his retirement on October 1, 2023 after 32 years of service as Director of Maintenance for the Graham Capitol Corporation.

Mr. Myers enlisted in the Army on October 31, 1978, after graduating high school in Lower Dauphin. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and became qualified as a helicopter mechanic at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Then-Sergeant Myers specialized in the UH-1/Iroquois ("Huey") aircraft (his favorite), the critical aircraft for troop and logistics transport, and direct combat gun support capabilities. Sergeant Myers' performance and duty as a mechanic of these premier and complex aircraft was critical to the Army mission.

After his service in the active component Army, Sergeant Myers honorably served in the Pennsylvania National Guard, wherein he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6) and continued to serve our Nation for 22 years. In May 1991, after his military retirement, he transitioned to the civilian/private sector, wherein he became Director of Maintenance for the Graham Capital Corporation flight department, now culminating his duties after 32 years on October 1, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I'm privileged to commend former Staff Sergeant Ronald E. Myers for his tireless and selfless service to our communities, Commonwealth, and Nation. I wish him Godspeed, and great health, prosperity, and happiness in his future adventures.

HONORING OFFICER JAMES BROWN

**HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer James Brown for his devotion to Eastern North Carolina as a police officer. Officer Brown has served for more than 65 years within the Jacksonville Police Department and received the lifetime achievement award from NC Project. Recently, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Officer Brown at the Homeland Heroes Banquet, an event recognizing first responders and law enforcement.

Residents of Jacksonville witness Officer Brown's dedication to his community every day as he manages traffic and leads local students across the City's busiest neighborhood streets. He is undoubtedly a man to admire as he is the oldest serving officer in Jacksonville's police department. In fact, he is thought to be the most senior serving officer in the United States.

I would be remiss if I failed to honor Officer Brown's service to our Nation during WWII. Those who continue their service in law enforcement after military deployments, like Officer Brown, are special people and among our Nation's heroes.