

Bruce), Minister Romney Rice-Dunn (spouse-Minister Fred Dunn), and Minister Bryttani Rice. His legacy also lives on through his many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and countless other cherished family members and friends.

The educational background of Dr. Rice and his beloved wife, the late Apostle Dr. Doris V. Rice, speaks volumes about their commitment to ministry and service. Both graduated from Rhema Bible Training College in Tulsa, Oklahoma and received Family Counseling Degrees from National Lewis College. Their dedication to theological education culminated in the attainment of Biblical Studies Doctorate Degrees from Pillsbury Bible College.

For over 40 years, they served as shepherds of the house of Victory Christian Outreach Church, nurturing a membership that at one time exceeded 500 members. Their leadership extended to the broader community, where they organized years of outreach events serving families, children, and youth with food, clothing, childcare, family counseling, and utility assistance. In times of crises, their church provided a safe refuge for families in need.

As Senior Pastors, Church Administrators, and Community Leaders, Dr. Lee F. Rice and Dr. Doris V. Rice dedicated themselves to partnering with local churches to share the Gospel and provide a safe place for worship. Their church became a cornerstone of the community, hosting annual events such as Octoberfest, Be A Blessing, and the Easter Egg Hunt. Their contributions were recognized by the University City School District, which lauded Victory Christian Outreach Church as an outstanding community contributor.

Pastor Lee and Pastor Doris have also had a profound impact on my life. They were my personal pastors for many years as well as my employers, and their daughter Daphne, who now serves as the current pastor, has been my very close friend since we were teens. Their other daughters, Romney and Bryttani, are like sisters. I am proud to have had the privilege of working at their preschool for a decade, and where I grew to love the important and lifesaving role that childcare providers have in our community.

In honoring the life of Apostle Dr. Lee Rice, we celebrate a man of faith, integrity, and compassion. His legacy of service and devotion to God will continue to inspire generations to come. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him and may his spirit of love and generosity continue to shine brightly in our community.

RECOGNIZING JACK ASBURY

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, Jack Asbury, who is lovingly known as the "Batman of Spring Hill". Mr. Asbury is a father who knows what it is like to have kids in the hospital. He decided to dedicate his time outside of being an EMT by turning into Batman and visiting kids in hospitals and cancer centers. He also works with bullied kids

and even adults going through hard times. This man has seen the most horrific things in life, yet still makes time to bring light into people's darkest moments. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Mr. Jack Asbury has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

RECOGNIZING CHANHASSEN FIRE CHIEF ANDREW HEGER

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 2024*

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Heger, who was recently sworn in as the Chief of the Chanhassen Fire Department.

Andrew began his career as a firefighter in 2001 in his hometown of Victoria, and after 15 years of service to the department became the city's first full-time fire chief. But after more than two decades of service with the Victoria Fire Department, Chief Heger was ready for a new challenge.

When he got the offer to serve as the Chief of the Chanhassen Fire Department, Andrew jumped at the opportunity. Chief Heger was officially sworn in as Chief earlier this month and will be leading a crew of 26 paid-on-call and 10 full-time firefighters.

Being a firefighter isn't just a job, it's a calling. It's about being there for people when they need help the most, whether it's a fire, a medical emergency, or just lending a helping hand.

For over two decades, Chief Heger has served communities in Carver County with dedication and bravery. Chanhassen is fortunate to have such a qualified and experienced leader at the helm of its fire department. I have every confidence that Chief Heger will continue to build upon the department's strong foundation and work to ensure the safety of the Chanhassen community for years to come.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SENECA COUNTY'S BICENTENNIAL

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 2024*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bicentennial of Seneca County, Ohio. The values of the pioneers and settlers who overcame the challenges faced during the early years of the county's history have persisted throughout the past 200 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of county residents have made Seneca County an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

Native American tribes inhabited Seneca County before Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas. Initially, these tribes were the mound builders, but they were followed later by the Seneca and Wyandot tribes. European

settlers arrived in the region after General William Henry Harrison established Fort Ball in 1813. In 1824, the Ohio Legislature enacted legislation creating Seneca County and named it after the original tribes that inhabited the area.

In the 1830s, agriculture spurred commercial activity throughout the county. With the construction of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad, the county began to build its economy and population. Currently, the county encompasses roughly 553 square miles and has a population of over 55,000. The county is an asset to the great State of Ohio through its many contributions in the fields of manufacturing and agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, by remembering the 200th Anniversary of Seneca County, community members recognize the outstanding achievements, maintain the pioneer attitude, and strive to better their county through the principles on which it was founded. I thank and congratulate Seneca County on this significant milestone.

CELEBRATING HELEN BANDYKE, DEARBORN'S ROSIE THE RIVETER

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 2024*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Helen Bandyke, Dearborn resident and one of Michigan's Rosie the Riveters, as she celebrates her 103rd birthday.

During World War II countless women like Ms. Bandyke from across the Nation and right here in Southeast Michigan took over jobs that had been previously performed by men and held our country down during extremely trying times. Ms. Bandyke proudly worked at Chrysler's DeSoto Plant in Dearborn in 1942 while her husband served overseas. She was among those strong women who blazed the trail for women in the workforce. I am so proud of Ms. Bandyke and her incredible contribution to our Nation's labor movement and our history.

Please join me and the people of Dearborn and Michigan's 12th District Strong as we honor Ms. Helen Bandyke and wish her the happiest of birthdays.

HONORING MIRIAM URRA

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 2024*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to pay tribute to Miriam Urra, an exemplary leader whose dedication and tireless efforts have profoundly impacted Allapattah for decades. Born in Las Villas, Cuba, Miriam's journey to Miami in 1961 marked the beginning of a life dedicated to service and strengthening her community.

After graduating from Miami Senior High, Miriam pursued higher education at Miami Dade Community College and Florida Memorial College, setting the stage for a career defined by compassion and commitment. Miriam's professional journey began in the optical field before she and her husband, Orlando Urra, established their own business.

A leader, paratrooper and Prisoner of War in the first battalion of the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front Bay of Pigs operation, Orlando Urra remains nothing short of a hero and a legend in the Cuban South Florida community. A beloved friend and personal source of inspiration as he was, it is a surprise to no one that his wife, Miriam, should have taken up his mantle with equal strength, vigor, and dedication.

In 1981, Miriam's path took a pivotal turn as she embarked on a new role with the City of Miami, serving as a Counselor for the Entrant Assistance Program. Through her work, Miriam provided invaluable support to refugees, such as the Cuban Marielitos who sought refuge in our South Florida community, offering counseling, referrals, and guidance to ensure their successful integration into society.

Miriam's dedication to community development only grew stronger as she transitioned to the Department of Community Development, City of Miami, where she served as a Community Involvement Specialist. In this capacity, she tirelessly advocated for residents, disseminating information about vital city programs and services while championing citizen participation in policymaking processes.

Following the passing of her beloved husband, Orlando, Miriam retired from the City of Miami and embraced a new chapter as the Executive Director of Allapattah Community Action. Under Miriam's leadership, Allapattah Community Action has flourished, overseeing vital programs for the elderly and childcare while also championing affordable housing initiatives. Her visionary approach and unwavering dedication have transformed lives and uplifted communities.

Miriam's influence reaches well beyond her professional achievements. As a pillar of our community and a cherished friend, she embodies the essence of what makes Allapattah great. Serving as a true leader and mentor to countless individuals, myself included, it's with great pride that I recognize her today.

In recognition of her outstanding service and unflinching dedication, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to Miriam Urra for her exemplary leadership, love, and commitment to South Florida.

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#### RECOGNIZING BRENDAN PARDUE

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brendan Pardue for being named the Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance's 2023 Distinguished Citizen.

Brendan was raised in Cañon City and has spent his life in Colorado. He attended Regis University and graduated with majors in history, philosophy, and religion and then went on to earn his master's degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Northern Colorado.

In 2005, Brendan purchased the Gibson Mansion and spent years restoring the house and reviving a historic part of Cañon City. Since completing the restoration, Brendan has offered free use of the house to nonprofit organizations for fundraisers and other events. He has also restored 12 other historic build-

ings in the area. Brendan's readiness to assist his community is one of many reasons why he is a fitting recipient of the Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance's recognition.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Brendan Pardue for earning this award and thank him for his long standing dedication to our community.

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#### RECOGNIZING BETTY BURKE

### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Betty Burke, who volunteers countless hours each week helping others. Betty Burke believes that one person can make a difference in this complicated world. Nearly 20 years ago as a Rotarian, Betty partnered with Farmworkers' Self Help Inc. to establish a mentoring program for young daughters of migrant workers. The Rotary Program ended in 2020, but Betty continued the program. She invested time, resources, and money to make certain weekly gatherings at the Clubhouse would continue to broaden the girls' horizons. The best estimate for the time she spent with them is a remarkable 5,400 hours.

Betty was also a founding member of San Antonio Rotary Club, served as President for two terms, and Assistant Governor for one. She spearheaded Rotary's taking over the Rattlesnake Festival. Along with others, Betty started a Farmer's Market, which created a wonderful sense of community. Additionally, she helped create St. Leo's Pasco County Fair Community Booths, made a giant gingerbread house for the St. Leo/SLU Christmas Village, and continues to support St. Leo. Betty also works to help children in foster care establish a sense of belonging as they transition from placements and works with partners to make sure their primary needs are met.

It is clear that Ms. Betty Burke has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

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#### HONORING SILVIA DIEZ

### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 2024*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize Silvia Diez, a community leader who has utilized her platform to amplify new voices and celebrate the strength and resilience of women in Southwest Florida.

Silvia first began her career in 2000 in the communications and media industry in the United States after graduating from a prestigious university in her native country of Argentina. Throughout her career, Silvia has been a dynamic force in the media, overcoming a variety of challenges, and redefining industry standards. Silvia was the host of the first local Spanish-language television show "Que Pasa SW Florida" on the Comcast Net-

work, and for 19 years, was the editor of the first leading Hispanic newspaper in Southwest Florida, *Nuevos Ecos*. Currently, Diez is the Journalist and Marketing Director of *El Mensajero*, the leading Spanish newspaper in Southwest Florida, and the host of the show *Power Latino TV*, a platform that highlights Hispanic businesses in Southwest Florida.

Silvia is devoted to ensuring that every woman in both Collier and Lee counties has the opportunity to reach their full potential. This commitment has culminated in her current role as owner and CEO of "Mujeres Emprendedoras" ("Women Entrepreneurs"), a business initiative that brings together talented and resilient women seeking to own their own businesses. In 2022, her passion for empowering women and inspiring change was recognized by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Florida, and she became a finalist in the "Women of Distinction" Awards.

Aside from being a trailblazing Hispanic entrepreneur, Silvia is a proud mother whose son, Emiliano, is currently in the Marine Academy. As a mother, she keenly understands and has sought to meet the needs of the children in the surrounding community. Every year, Diez dedicates her time to organizing a "3 Kings Day" toy drive for the children of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Silvia continues to build a lasting legacy of generosity and love through her drive to serve. Her relentless desire to foster strong leaders and build thriving communities has contributed to numerous successes for residents in Southwest Florida and my district.

Mr. Speaker, as a true leader in her community, Silvia Diez has proven her unwavering commitment to expanding opportunities for those in our community through her leadership and acts of selfless service. Today, in honor of this outstanding individual who has dedicated her time and expertise to our Southwest Florida community, I thank Sylvia for her invaluable contributions and work in advancing the futures of thousands of Floridians.

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#### RECOGNIZING FREMONT OEM AND DOT

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fremont County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and Department of Transportation (DOT) for their life-saving work to keep roads clear and restore power during a record-breaking winter storm in March of 2024. This harsh winter storm brought over thirteen inches of snow and caused major power outages throughout the county.

Staff from the Fremont County Office of Emergency Management, led by Emergency Manager Mykel Kroll, and the Fremont County Department of Transportation, led by Director Mike Whitt, worked overtime and over weekends throughout inclement weather conditions to clear roadways and restore traffic to over 700 miles of mountainous roadways in the county. Together, they freed an elderly woman who had been trapped in her car by the snow, secured housing for a family who were victims of a fire, restored power to a residential care