

talents from an early age. She pursued those talents and studied commercial design in her country of birth while continuing to make art.

Sulin eventually moved to Hawaii for two decades, where she learned how to make three-dimensional floral designs out of clay. Her ceramic flowers were a hit and soon she was setting up shop at shows to sell her works of art.

Ms. Sue moved to Sugar Land in 2015 where she began teaching art at schools before opening up her own studio where she has had immense success privately instructing students. Three of Sulin's students were among the 40 winners selected from over 3,900 submissions in the 2019 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest.

Sulin embodies what it truly means to be an educator. She fosters creativity and love for the work that she and her students do and is a stellar example of the inspirational power that teachers have.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second District of Texas, I thank Sulin Huang for inspiring so many with her art.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
JOSEPH GIULITTO

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Judge Joseph Giulitto, who has been named the 2019 Circle of Caring Honoree by the Hattie Larlham Foundation. Each year, Hattie Larlham honors an individual for their long-time support of and commitment to the Hattie Larlham Foundation and to the community.

Judge Giulitto was born in Bitritto, Bari, Italy and arrived in the United States at the age of 11. This was the beginning of his impactful legacy as a proud Portage County resident.

He is a graduate of Ravenna High School and Kent State University, graduating cum laude in 1958. He graduated with an L.L.B. from Case Western Reserve School of Law in 1961. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in May 1961 and opened his private law practice in Ravenna in July of that same year.

For nearly a decade, Judge Giulitto served as Prosecutor and Law Director for the City of Kent. In 2005, Judge Giulitto was elected Judge of the Portage County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations Division. He retired on January 1, 2011 but continues to serve as a Visiting Judge by appointment by the Ohio Supreme Court.

Judge Giulitto holds a lengthy record in civic involvement, which includes past or present membership in: the Ravenna Jaycees, Ravenna Rotary, the Board of Directors for First Federal Savings and Loan in Kent, Ohio, the Board of Trustees of Robinson Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, the University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees, the Portage County Bar Association (President, 1997–98), the Ohio State Bar Association and the Ravenna Elks.

In 2012, Judge Giulitto was awarded the Norm Sandvoss Memorial Humanitarian Award by the Portage County Bar Association for his dedication to the standards of the practice of law, and his integrity and commitment to helping others in his community.

Judge Giulitto also previously served as a Board Member and Legal Counsel for Hattie Larlham. Judge Giulitto was a founding member of the Sugar Bush Golf Classic, which began in 1986 as a fundraiser for the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities in Mantua. Since its inception, the Sugar Bush Golf Classic has raised over \$1,000,000 for Hattie Larlham. Over the years, the money raised has funded the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities renovations, a toy tech library, a sensory playground and nature walk, an education center, a pediatric ventilator program and Hattie's Creative Arts.

It gives me great pleasure that Judge Giulitto is being honored by Hattie Larlham for his dedication and service to our community. His service and philanthropy are truly unmatched, and I thank him for all he has done. Portage County, and our region, owe Judge Giulitto an enormous debt and our eternal gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID P.  
HIGGERSON

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and retirement of David P. Higgeson, Director of Field Operations at the Laredo Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He is a great friend, and I sincerely appreciate his service.

Mr. Higgeson was born and raised in Gary, Indiana. He attended St. John's Military Academy, Canal Zone College in Panama, and Valparaiso University where he was awarded an associate degree in Accounting. He then chose to serve in the U.S. Army, and was honorably discharged in 1971. Thereafter, he worked as a Customs Inspector in the Panama Canal Zone for seven years, until the treaty of Panama. Mr. Higgeson was then transferred to Laredo, Texas as a Supervisory Inspector. He continued to hold various leadership roles, including Port Director in Hidalgo, Texas and Director in the El Paso and Tucson Field Offices, totaling forty-nine years of experience in the federal government.

As Director, Field Operations for Laredo Field Office, Mr. Higgeson was responsible for 8 international ports of entry and the Machinery, Center of Excellence and Expertise (CEE) processing nearly 59.4 million people, more than 21 million vehicles, over 3.5 million commercial trucks, and over \$194 billion in international trade in 2018.

He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the 2018 DHS Secretary's Leadership Award and the South Texas Railroad Strategic Problem-Solving Initiative—Commissioner's Strategic Problem Solving Award.

Mr. Higgeson is married to Maria Teresa Higgeson and is the father of five wonderful children. In his free time, he is an avid reader of military and historical tomes. After retirement, Mr. Higgeson plans to spend time with his family and play some golf.

Madam Speaker, I have known Mr. Higgeson for many years now and I have always appreciated his friendship and dedication to his work. I am honored to recognize his

service and I wish him many more years of happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 RECIPIENT  
OF THE DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN  
AWARD

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I take this time to recognize the recipient of the 2019 Distinguished Citizen Award, presented annually by the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization will host a celebratory dinner on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Each year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council presents the Distinguished Citizen Award to an individual whose selfless efforts have had a positive impact on their communities in Northwest Indiana and across the state. This year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council will honor Mr. Donald Fesko, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Community Healthcare System and the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana. Under Don's outstanding leadership and guidance, these successful organizations have received numerous local, state, and national accolades.

In addition to his outstanding career, Mr. Fesko gives of his time and efforts to several organizations that serve the people of Northwest Indiana and beyond. He is on the Board of Directors for Peoples Bank, the Advisory Council of Indiana University School of Medicine, the Board of Directors for Hospice of the Calumet Area, and he is President of the Cancer Research Foundation, Inc. Don is also actively engaged with the Munster High School Booster Club. For his dedication to such worthy causes, Mr. Fesko is worthy of the highest praise.

Throughout Mr. Fesko's remarkable career, he has received several honors and awards. In 2009, Don achieved Fellow Status in the American College of Healthcare Executives. He was also presented the Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award, recognizing him as the 2012 Young Healthcare Executive of the Year. In 2013, Mr. Fesko was appointed Chairman of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority by then Governor Mike Pence. Additionally, Don was honored with the Executive Regent's Award for the State of Indiana, bestowed upon him by the American College of Healthcare Executives in 2014.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. Donald Fesko. Don continues to serve as an exemplary leader for the community of Northwest Indiana, and he is undeniably deserving of the 2019 Distinguished Citizen Award. His exceptional devotion to the region and to the wellness of our community will have a positive impact for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YEMEN AMERICAN BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Yemen American Benevolent Association. Its meaningful work in Michigan is worthy of commendation.

Established in 1969, the Yemen American Benevolent Association (YABA) was created to support targeted communities. YABA endeavored to strengthen families, grow a sustainable regional economy, promote environmental protections, cultivate leadership, and encourage mutual respect for all. Since its inception, YABA has been dedicated to its mission and offers services like immigration assistance, Arabic language classes, fax services, and tutoring, to name a few, to achieve its goals. The association's efforts truly make a difference and positively impact the communities it serves.

The Yemen American Benevolent Association has been a valued part of our Michigan community for half a century. Although YABA's dedicated work continues to uplift targeted communities across Michigan, the association especially supports Dearborn and addresses the community's changing needs. Through its efforts to create links between people and the services they require, YABA has helped the Yemeni-Arab-American community in Dearborn thrive. YABA's wide range services prove to be an indispensable resource for many, and I deeply appreciate the association's tremendous work in our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the Yemen American Benevolent Association. For half a century, YABA has been an essential part of our Yemeni-American community. We are grateful for its impact and wish it continued success ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLORADO SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE RUBEN VALDEZ

**HON. JOE NEGUSE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, today I stand with the State of Colorado in mourning the loss of an historic and iconic public servant—Colorado Speaker of the House Ruben Valdez.

Born in Trinidad, Colorado, Speaker Valdez left school at the age of 15 to find work and support his mother and family. He later received his high school diploma through a GED program and used this experience to motivate his passion for expanding education opportunities to all Coloradans.

Early in his career, Speaker Valdez joined the United Steelworkers of America and rose through the union ranks. He eventually became the President of Steelworkers Local

5099 in Denver where he fought alongside his fellow union members for countless protections for workers throughout Colorado and the United States.

Speaker Valdez was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1970, representing west and southwest Denver. In 1975, he became House speaker, Colorado's first Latino Speaker. Throughout his time in the State Legislature, Speaker Valdez was a strong advocate for workers, consumer protections and equity in education.

Speaker Valdez's involvement in politics remained constant throughout his life, even following his historic Speakership. Amongst many accomplishments, he served as a Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Transportation under President Jimmy Carter and worked as Executive Director of Colorado's Department of Social Services and Department of Labor and Employment. In his later years, he worked alongside his granddaughter as a lobbyist in the State Capitol, continuously pushing the legislative body toward justice and equity.

Throughout his many years of service, Speaker Valdez created a legacy of which his family, friends, and supporters should be so proud. It is a legacy that will no doubt continue to influence lawmakers and Coloradans alike, for generations to come.

For me, Speaker Valdez was a personal hero whose commitment to our state and to justice in our legislative process we can only hope to emulate. I join my Colorado community in mourning the loss of this thoughtful and empathetic leader, and send my deepest condolences to his entire family.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. ROSA SLADE GRAGG

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Rosa Slade Gragg, a woman who represented and championed the civil rights of Black women of the City of Detroit.

Dr. Rosa Slade Gragg worked as an English teacher before she became involved with civil rights advocacy. She quickly became an outstanding advocate for the advancement of Black women's rights. She was eventually appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to serve on the Board of the National Volunteer's Participation Committee of Civil Defense. Dr. Gragg also worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as an active and vocal champion of the civil rights movement. In addition to her advocacy, Dr. Gragg founded the Slade-Gragg Academy of Practical Arts in 1947, the first Black vocational school in Detroit. More than two thousand women and returning veterans were trained at the academy, the first Black owned and operated business on Woodward Avenue in Detroit. Over the years, Dr. Gragg accumulated a number of honors and recognition for her work to advance civil rights and served as an advisor to three United States Presidents.

We owe a debt of gratitude for the hard work and dedication of Dr. Rosa Slade Gragg. It is with great honor that I ask my colleagues

to join with me in honor of her memory and upon the dedication of a street named to acknowledge her civil rights activism.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I join the community of Mount Moriah Baptist Church in the Cliffwood section of Aberdeen, New Jersey in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the church. Through its long history, Mount Moriah Baptist Church has provided a spiritual center for prayer and fellowship to the community.

The church property was purchased from Gelhaus White and Charles H. White in 1914 and deeded in 1919. While the church members worked on raising money to erect the building, they held services in each other's homes. The church, originally named Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, was led at the time by Reverend J.W. Coakly and five additional trustees, T.M. Lester, Joseph Boles, Bearl Smith, Fred Coakly and Edward D. Causy.

Today, Mount Moriah Baptist Church remains a close-knit congregation. Its 60 members are led by Pastor Eddie Aikens and board members Deacon Marvin Fisher, Trustee Deputy Maor Robert Swindle, Financial Secretary Van Lane and Treasurer Betty Duncan. Throughout its long history, the church's spiritual leaders, Board of Trustees, staff and members have endeavored to carry on its mission of faith and service.

Madam Speaker, once again, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Mount Moriah Baptist Church as it celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. This incredible milestone is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF VERO BEACH

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, October 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Vero Beach, an iconic and vibrant seaside town full of rich history and culture in my district that I am proud to celebrate. Known locally as the "Hidden Jewel of the Treasure Coast", Vero Beach continues to showcase the unique wildlife, scenic coasts, thriving local businesses and the hardworking people of Florida.

First settled in the 1800's, Vero Beach's original pioneers paved the way for the prosperity the city enjoys today. One of the most notable early settlers, Henry T. Gifford, owned and operated a citrus grove business in addition to establishing the area's first mercantile store that doubled as a post office, express office and railroad ticket office. The story of how the town got its name "Vero" is often attributed to his wife Sarah who suggested the settlement be named the Latin word for "to speak the truth."