

The Greater Denton Arts Council traces its roots back to 1967, when the Denton Chamber of Commerce formed a Fine Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee to demonstrate its support of the arts. In 1969, this committee became an independent entity and renamed itself the Greater Denton Arts Council (GDAC), becoming the umbrella organization for area arts, cultural and educational entities.

To address the need for a permanent arts facility in Denton, an ad hoc committee began planning in 1973 to reach that goal. A lease was finally negotiated by the GDAC in 1981 to convert several existing industrial buildings located at the southwest corner of East Hickory St. and South Bell Ave. Renovations began in 1984 to convert the warehouse located at the southwest corner of the intersection into what would become the Center for the Visual Arts (CVA). The CVA opened to the public with its first art exhibition in the Meadows Gallery. In 2014, the CVA was subsequently renamed the Patterson–Appleton Arts Center.

The GDAC also renovated the Campus Theatre building in the 1990s, converting the 1,200 seat movie house into a 300 seat live theatre and performance venue. In doing so, the GDAC preserved the unique late-deco design features of the structure and established a suitable local venue to support performing organizations.

In the decades since its inception, GDAC venues have provided local Denton County audiences with high-quality permanent and temporary exhibitions for local and national artists. Additionally, the GDAC has served as an umbrella organization for collaborative efforts with area universities, the Denton Independent School District and the City of Denton, including programs such as the “Get Started with the Arts” program to introduce Denton elementary students to classical music, visual arts, professional theater, ballet and opera.

GDAC has been an integral part of the annual Congressional Art Contest since 2003, serving as host of the annual High School Art Contest for the 26th District of Texas. Each year the GDAC has staged the exhibition and hosted the recognition reception for hundreds of North Texas students, their parents, and teachers following this professionally-judged contest.

As the GDAC meets for the presentation of the Community Arts Recognition Award (CARA) to this year’s recipients, I extend my deepest appreciation on behalf of the constituents of the 26th District of Texas. The commitments of those recognized this year, along with the past and future honorees, are well-deserved for their role in support of educational and cultural mission of GDAC and the artistic and cultural presence that makes Denton, Texas such a unique place to call home.

HONORING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
THE NATIONAL RECONNAIS-
SANCE OFFICE, MAJOR GENERAL
STEPHEN DENKER

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Deputy Director of the National Re-

connaissance Office, Major General Stephen Denker.

General Denker is retiring after a long and impressive career in the Air Force. Though his Air Force assignments have taken him around the world, three of those assignments have been in Colorado and his family has called Centennial home for the past three years. General Denker looks forward to returning “home” to Colorado and spending more time with his wife Corinne and sons Ben and Jake. Jake will graduate from Grandview High School this spring. Like his father, Gen. Denker’s older son Ben, is serving in the Air Force and has accepted the demanding challenge of training to be a Pararescueman and their motto “That Others May Live”.

General Denker was born in Illinois and moved to Wisconsin in 6th grade. He earned his commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer’s Training Corps and a Bachelor’s degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities Institute of Technology as well as a Masters of System Management from the University of Southern California.

During his career General Denker has served in a variety of acquisition, operational, command and staff assignments in the United States and overseas. A true space professional, nearly all of his 32 year career has been dedicated to acquiring space capabilities and leading other space professionals in support of the Intelligence Community and Department of Defense. General Denker held multiple commands at the squadron, group and wing level and was responsible for the development of leaders across the Air Force as the Commandant of Air Command and Staff College and the Vice Commander of the Spaatz Center.

As the Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, General Denker has been critical to coordinating national space capabilities like the National Space Defense Center. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have appreciated both his expertise and candor in his appearance before the Strategic Forces subcommittee on space issues.

While I’ll miss seeing General Denker before the committee, I look forward to seeing him back home in Colorado. On behalf of my House colleagues, I take this opportunity to thank Major General Denker for his service to the nation and wish him well in retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND
GOZIE E. PENSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and birthday wishes to a dedicated man of God and community servant, Reverend Gozie E. Penson, who is celebrating his 100th birthday at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 26, 2018 at the Holiday Inn located at 197 East Broad Street in Athens, Georgia.

Reverend Gozie E. Penson was born on May 31, 1918 in Fayette County, Georgia. He is a product of the Peach County School System and a member of Henry Hunt High

School’s graduating class. After graduating from high school, he attended Morehouse College and earned a Bachelor’s of Divinity degree from Howard University’s School of Religion.

Rev. Penson received a calling to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to migrants in Pocomoke City, Maryland and Belle Glade, Florida through the National Council of Churches. He later served with the Presbyterian Church in Tuskegee and Montgomery, Alabama as well as the Urban League in Washington, D.C.

Throughout his life, Rev. Penson was an active member of several civic organizations where he poured his time and energy including Tuskegee’s Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Committee for Good Government, Oenology Club, and the Tuskegee Civic Association.

Acts 20:35 says, “I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Truly, Reverend Penson has abided by this scripture, understanding his calling and purpose to serve God’s people and his community.

Reverend Penson has accomplished many things in his life, but none of these would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his late wife, Claudine, and their children, Merryll, Elvin, and Nari.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia’s Second Congressional District, in recognizing Reverend Gozie E. Penson for his selfless service to God, his church, and humankind. We extend our best wishes to him as he, his family, and friends celebrate his 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO THE JONES FAMILY,
TRIPLE J ENTERPRISES, INC.

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, Robert H. Jones, his wife Margaret A. Jones, and their family are known in the Marianas and throughout the Western Pacific for their successes in business. They are also known for the vision and heart with which they have used their personal successes for the benefit of the communities where they live and do business.

Born in North Carolina, Robert (“Bob”) Jones moved to Guam in 1957 to work for the company his brother Kenneth had started—Jones & Guerrero, Incorporated. Bob would work alongside Ken for the next 24 years, rising to be Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the company.

In 1984, though, he struck out on his own and established Triple J Enterprises on Guam, a reference to the Jones’ three children—Julie, Jeff and Jay. Starting with a Subaru distributorship he bought from Ken the company did well, later venturing up two years later to Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands.

From the inception, it was a family business: Margaret did the buying, handled advertising and public relations, and was the company treasurer. Sister Georgia J. Stafford also lent