

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MAJOR ART MILLER ON HIS MILITARY RETIREMENT

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of extreme gratitude for my previous Defense Fellow, Major Arthur Miller, or Art as he is well known, and want to congratulate him on his retirement from the United States Army. Major Miller, a commissioned field artillery officer, served as my Defense Fellow during the second session of the 117th Congress. He consistently demonstrated exceptional and effective leadership, dedicated service, and commitment to the legislative relationship between our branches of government.

As a Defense Fellow, Major Miller positively and directly influenced the Army, Department of Defense policy, program recommendations, and the Fourth District of Oklahoma. His carefully communicated advice reflected the depth and breadth of his considerable experience and affected future programs appropriations and policies that will carry the Army through the end of the decade. Selected for this assignment from hundreds of applicants, Major Miller represented the Army and Department of Defense with distinction. His professional conduct with Members of Congress, and senior government leaders while assigned to Capitol Hill is to be commended.

Major Miller is no stranger to a history of honorable service. As a field artillery officer, he served proudly in the 18th Field Artillery Brigade at Fort Liberty, NC, where he performed duties above his grade multiple times, including as the acting Brigade S4 during multiple brigade-level exercises and several functions in garrison, and as a Battalion S3 during 3–27th Field Artillery Regiments Cumulative Training Exercise for deployment to Operation Spartan Shield in 2019. As a Captain, Major Miller planned, synchronized, and executed over 20 training fire plans in the brigade's first externally evaluated Large Scale Combat Operations Exercise in support of FOCUSED READINESS.

Major Miller commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3–27th Field Artillery Regiment while deployed to Operation Spartan Shield and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 18th Field Artillery Brigade. Major Miller commanded the battery through COVID–19, meanwhile, his battery was recognized by GEN Michael Garrett, the commander of Army Forces Command, for having the best tactically emplaced area of operations of all units at the rotation.

As a junior officer, Major Miller excelled at every level in the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division from 2012 to 2015. Major Miller served with distinction as an executive officer in two formations and was then selected above all lieutenants in the brigade to serve as the adjutant for the 210th

Field Artillery Brigade before being selected to attend the Maneuver Captains Career Course, a unique and noteworthy honor given to only the most talented of young officers in our Army.

Major Miller is a proud member of the Military Officers Association of America, the Association of the United States Army, the United States Army Field Artillery Association, and is a recipient of the Honorary Order of Saint Barbara. His continued commitment to our Soldiers and their families will never go unnoticed and signifies the important degree of character in which he holds.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his distinguished service to our country, I wish him, his wife Cassie, children Emma and Arthur, and their shell-protected friends, Donatella and Leonardo, all the best in his retirement. It is well deserved, and our country owes him a wealth of gratitude for his service. God bless my good friend.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF THE LATE HONORABLE TAMMY MARIE STEWART

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Late Honorable Tammy Marie Stewart, the most senior judge on the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court bench. She passed away after a brief illness at the tender age of 53.

As a judge, Stewart won over attorneys on both sides of the aisle. The Old Testament scripture teaches us that the office of judge-ship in the tribal confederacy of the Israelites was centered in a covenant relationship with Yahweh and that judges arose as Yahweh saw fit to lead erring and repentant people to restoration. Knowing the work He would have our beloved do, God endued this beautiful soul with charisma, a spiritual power enabling her to judge and influence those she would encounter. He ordained her to be born to her earthly parents, Benjamin Armond Stewart, Jr., and Dianne Mary LeBlanc-Stewart, on Thursday, February 26, 1997, in New Orleans, Louisiana. This judge in training enjoyed a blessed and contented life with siblings Tracy and Benjamin III, where her life qualities and love of law were nurtured in her heart by her mother's service as an administrator in Traffic Court.

Her formative education began at Phillips Elementary. And as a student at Phillips Junior High, she was honored to carry the title "Miss Phillips Junior High." After graduating from John F. Kennedy Senior High School, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Southern University at New Orleans, where her grace, beauty, and intellectual prowess gave rise to her being elected Miss SUNO. Never one to stand on

her laurels, she pursued her goal and was granted her Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University College of Law, Columbus, Ohio.

"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor." Leviticus 19:15 ESV

Returning to her beloved New Orleans, she began her legal experience serving at the New Orleans Legal Assistance, Family Law Unit as a Summer Law Clerk, an Assistant District Attorney in the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office under Harry Connick, Juvenile, Magistrate, and Trial Divisions; an Associate Attorney at Hailey, McNamara, Hall, Larmann and Papale, L.L.P.; a Trial Attorney at Casler, Bordelon, and McGinty; and a Senior Associate at Spears and Spears.

Her judicial experience began in 2002 when the Louisiana Supreme Court appointed her; she served the First City Court of New Orleans as Judge Pro-Tempore until 2007. The Honorable Tammy Stewart served as an Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge since 2009, wherein she presided over juvenile cases involving delinquency, Families in Need of Services (FINS), and adoptions.

"Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:9 ESV

The Nationwide Registry of Who's Who in Executives and Businesses recognized Judge Stewart as an Honored Professional. Well-rounded and socially conscious, she was a former board member of Innocence Project New Orleans and a former adjunct professor of Criminal Justice at Southern University in New Orleans. Judge Stewart volunteered with the Louisiana SPCA, the Humane Society, and the Louisiana State Bar Association's Secret Santa Project, where she worked as a liaison with organizations such as Boys Hope Girls Hope and Head Start. Judge Stewart was also a member of the Advisory Committee to the Supreme Court for the Revision of the Code of Judicial Conduct and served as Judge Pro Tempore in First City Court (2003 through 2007); and was a member of the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church.

Professionally, she held memberships and affiliations in the Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana Judicial Council, National Bar Association, American Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Louisiana District Judges Association, Fourth Circuit Judges Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Metropolitan Area Committee, Leadership Forum Graduate Municipal Yach Harbor Corporation, former Board Member Association for Women Attorneys, Most Senior Judge of Juvenile Court of New Orleans National Association of Women Judges, National Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges, National Judicial College Project One: One-Family, One-Judge Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., and the Black Law Student Association.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

On Monday, July 24, 2023, at half past two in the morning, our Lord and Savior dispatched His angel to carry this beautiful soul home. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Eddie LeBlanc Sr., Florence LeBlanc, Benjamin Stewart, Sr., and Martha Stewart; her aunt Jenette LeBlanc, Uncle Larry O. LeBlanc, and her beloved dog Mocha.

Judge Stewart's memory will be forever cherished by her beloved son, Dylan Jackson, whom she shared with Calvin Jackson; her parents, Benjamin Armond Stewart, Jr. (Regina) and Dianne Mary LeBlanc-Stewart (Harry Albert); sister Tracy Stewart Hill (Gregory); brother Benjamin Armond Stewart, III (Rachel); Stepbrothers David Gillard, Daniel Gillard (Chanitra), and Dominick Gillard; Godchildren Tyler Phillip McMahon and Karina Angelique Brown; a host of aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, other relatives; good friends Glenn Jones, Andrea Foster, and Tina Haines; civic and judicial associates, and the legion of youth she represented.

Her life, legacy, and impact on our community will forever be remembered.

ITZEL CHAVEZ-SANDOVAL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Itzel Chavez-Sandoval for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Itzel has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Itzel, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Itzel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Itzel Chavez-Sandoval on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR COLONEL EDWARD MESCHKO

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Edward Thomas "Tom" Meschko of Whitesboro, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Colonel Meschko honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War.

In 1961, Colonel Meschko applied to the newly built Air Force Academy and was selected to join their seventh class. He trained as a fighter pilot and was stationed at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base and Bien Hoa Air Base in Vietnam. During his Air Force career, Colonel Meschko participated in 216 combat missions against North Vietnamese

forces in the F-100 Super Sabre jet fighter. Furthermore, he was a flight instructor and test pilot for over 36 models of the most advanced aircraft prototypes at the time, including the F-16 fighter aircraft.

Using test data gained through Colonel Meschko's experimental flights, the United States was able to transform the F-16 into a modern air superiority fighter that is currently in use by 25 countries. Through his extensive qualifications and expertise, Colonel Meschko became the Deputy Commander of Operations for F-16s located in U.S. bases throughout Europe. His efforts help bolster and strengthen our NATO allies' capabilities to defend against Soviet-led aggression. For his outstanding service, Colonel Meschko received numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit and Distinguished Flying Cross.

After returning to civilian life, Colonel Meschko worked as a senior engineer for Lockheed Martin and sought to be a test pilot on the prototype F-22 Raptor. As he experienced health complications that affected his ability to fly the F-22, he retired from Lockheed Martin after 10 years and later became the President and CEO of Fightertown Aviation, Inc., and a senior consultant for military contracts. In 2018, Colonel Meschko retired after decades of important contributions to the Air Force and aviation industry. I commend him for his selfless service and sacrifices to defend our great nation.

I am honored to represent Colonel Meschko in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE LOSS OF A GREAT MUSICIAN AND OUTSTANDING LIFE OF DAVID RUSSELL BATISTE, JR.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman, legendary drummer, and New Orleans musical prodigy David Russell Batiste, Jr. Born on December 12, 1965, Mr. Batiste was known for providing the backbeat in groups such as The Funky Meters, Papa Grows Funk, Vida Blue and other well-known Crescent City bands. After years of musical achievement, Batiste passed away on Sunday, October 1, 2023, at the tender age of 57.

Raised in a musical household, Mr. Batiste started behind the drum kit at the young age of 4. Additionally, he learned to play the keyboard, saxophone, guitar, and bass, officially taking a slot in the family band when he was only 7 years old. He and his brother, Damon, joined the Batiste Brothers Band when they were still in grade school. To avoid being confused with his father, David Jr. used his middle name, Russell.

At St. Augustine High School, Russell drummed for the school's Marching 100 marching band. After graduating in 1983, he attended Southern University, where he studied under the late jazz saxophonist, Edward "Kidd" Jordan. After 2 years, he left Southern to become the drummer for singer Charmaine Neville.

The brothers made their New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival debut in 1978 under the band name Young Gifted & Black. They returned the following year with the Batiste Brothers Band, launching a career that eventually landed them a spot with the Funky Meters, the reincarnation of the original New Orleans funk band, The Meters, featuring talents such as George Porter Jr., Brian Stolz, and Art Neville. Mr. Batiste was also a member of the all-star trio, Vida Blue, featuring Phish keyboardist, Page McConnell, and Allman Brothers Band and Dead & Company bassist, Oteil Burbridge.

As a solo artist, Batiste Jr. and the Orchestra from 'Da Hood released two full-length albums, including the 2000 self-titled set and 2003's The Clinic. In time, the musician climbed the musical ranks, receiving praise from iconic musicians such as Rolling Stones' front man, Mick Jagger.

Mr. Batiste frequently joined organ player, Joe Krown, and guitarist, Walter "Wolfman" Washington, to perform as the "Krown Washington Batiste Trio." The trio ultimately produced a live album titled, Live at the Maple Leaf, in 2008. Batiste carved out a legacy performing alongside Papa Grows Funk, Harry Connick, Jr., Maceo Parker, Champion Jack Dupree, and the late Robbie Robertson among other celebrated groups.

Until the musician's passing, he participated in weekly gigs every Sunday at Le Bon Temps Roule. Just last week, Batiste returned to his former high school to watch the football game, alongside other members of the class of 1983. Prior to the tragic news, Batiste was scheduled to perform three sets at NOLA Funk Fest with his band, the Gladiators, and Leo Nocentelli.

"He never was interested in accolades and money," stated his brother, Damon Batiste. "He wanted to make the music right. Russell loved New Orleans more than anything. He just wanted to be at the Maple Leaf Bar and Le Bon Temps Roule."

Following the artist's passing, family, friends, collaborators, and others shared memories of admiration for Batiste. Included was the musician's brother, Damon Batiste, who wrote, "It's a very sad day. I lost a brother, a friend, and a bandmate for life. We will share all details but remember fame and fortune mean nothing without having the ones that mean the most to share in your success."

Oteil Burbridge shared, "If you knew Russell Batiste, then you know there are no words to describe his talents or his insanely funny personality. Some people live with their knobs turned to 11. I'm pretty sure that I never laughed any harder than when we shared these times." The sentimental message also included thanks to Phish's McConnell for bringing them together in a jam session.

Legendary musician, Cyril Neville, chimed in via Facebook, writin: "Russell Batiste is a New Orleans root culture originator from one of the most prolific music families New Orleans ever produced. The only way to possibly be funkier than Russell is to be born a Skunk! One of a kind!"

Jon Batiste shared a heartfelt message. "He spoke his mind with conviction and didn't ever hold his tongue but somehow, in equal parts, with swagger and compassion. He could be both demanding and magnetic all at once, leaving an impression wherever he was. I've never had stories of a family member relayed

to me by strangers more than about Russ. He could always see the best in people and brought the best out in them, especially in other musicians. Every musician I've ever seen him on a stage with was in awe of him. It was The Russell Batiste University and class was always in session. I didn't fully realize it until later on in my life, but he was a flat-out genius. It's only because as a kid I just saw him as family. Also, you don't assume that you'll ever be up close to that kind of genius, let alone within your own family."

Musicians across the world are eternally grateful for the vision, guidance, and leadership of Russell Batiste. He will forever be remembered for all his contributions to advancing music in New Orleans.

RECOGNIZING PAT O'BANNON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Supervisor Pat O'Bannon. A dedicated leader, Pat's career has taken her from high school English teacher to journalist to Certified Planning Commissioner, and these public service perspectives enabled her to serve on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors for 28 trailblazing years.

Pat's composed and congenial leadership style, coupled with her attentive listening, have defined her as an outstanding public servant who genuinely cares about the community's needs. Since 1995, she has been a steadfast advocate for the people of Henrico, weathering elections and securing re-election six times, while making history as the first female member of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors.

Her commitment to public safety and support for those who protect and serve showcases her unwavering dedication. Initiatives like Tuckahoe Town Hall Meetings, which have been newly live streamed since 2020, highlight her innovative approach to transparency and engaging residents in vital discussions in every way possible. Pat's single-minded focus on every community concern, from reducing citizens' tax burdens, to significant public waste and water infrastructure improvements, to multi-phase investments in the county's beloved Tuckahoe Creek Park, reflects her dedication to enhancing the county's amenities and making it such a wonderful place to live. Furthermore, her work with VACO's Telecommunications and Technology Committee showcased her proactive approach to addressing the impact of technology on rural neighborhoods like those in Henrico County, an issue close to my heart.

In 2023, the Tuckahoe Creek Boardwalk was fittingly named "O'Bannon Way," forever commemorating her work for the community in preserving the beautiful Tuckahoe Creek Park. Pat's tireless service has left an indelible mark on Henrico County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Supervisor Pat O'Bannon for her 28 years of dedicated service and commitment to her dedication to her constituents and for keeping the spirit of community alive in her county and in my District. I wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.

JESSICA MENENDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jessica Menendez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jessica has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jessica, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jessica's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jessica Menendez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CELEBRATING THE THIRTIETH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP DARRYL SYLVESTER BRISTER

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate three decades of faithful, phenomenal leadership from an outstanding New Orleans Minister, Bishop Darryl Sylvester Brister.

Bishop Darryl Sylvester Brister is the Second Presiding Bishop in the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International and was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on September 26, 1966. He received his license to preach in 1989 and was ordained on May 1, 1992, under the administration of Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr.

On January 26, 1996, at the age of 29; he was consecrated to the highest position in the church, the office of a Bishop. He is the Apostle/Overseer of Beacon Light International Ministries and Senior Pastor and Teacher of Beacon Light International Baptist Cathedral New Orleans since 1993, where the membership exceeded 7,000 active members before Hurricane Katrina.

During Hurricane Katrina, church buildings in New Orleans were destroyed and most of the members of the Beacon Light Family were dispersed across the United States. Bishop Brister served tirelessly after the storm and worked to rebuild the Cathedral, which reopened coincidentally on August 29, 2014, exactly nine years after Hurricane Katrina. Beacon Light International Baptist Cathedral New Orleans is once again a thriving ministry in the city of New Orleans that continues rebuilding one day at a time.

Bishop Brister has ministered the Word of God in several countries and continents, such as Japan, Holland, Panama, Korea, Iceland, Africa, Trinidad, Tortola, and Europe. Bishop Brister attended Louisiana State University and later joined and received an honorable discharge from the United States Army. He received a Bachelor of Theology Degree from

McKinley Theological Seminary, a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies, a Doctor of Ministry, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Religious Studies from Friends International Christian University.

Understanding that ministry extends beyond the confines of the church building, Bishop Brister is a man on a mission to reach lost souls. As President & CEO of DSB International Ministries, a non-profit organization, Bishop Brister, reaches those incarcerated by providing them with spiritual reading materials and daily devotionals. The Darryl S. Brister Scholarship Fund supports graduating seniors entering college and assists high school students with the purchase of school uniforms.

Bishop Brister has received numerous awards, and his leadership ability has been recognized throughout the world. In April 2010, he was inducted into the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers. He was featured in the 1995 November edition of Ebony Magazine as one of the Top 50 Leaders of Tomorrow, the January 2000 issue of Upscale Magazine's Millennium Tribute to America's Most Outstanding Pastors, the September/October 2002 & 2005 issue of Gospel Today as one of The World's Most Loved Pastors, and the 2004 New Orleans City Business Success Guide. Most recently, Bishop Brister has been featured in the Who's Who of Houston, TX, and was featured on the cover of an edition of Epitome Magazine in 2013.

Bishop Brister has authored nine books that have ministered to thousands entitled, Exposing the Enemy, The Monster Within, Recovering from Ruptured Relationships, Don't Fight the Process, Talk To Me Afterwards, Look To the Hills, Living the Dream, Doing Right In A Wrong World and most recently Against All Odds: Turning Obstacles into Opportunities.

In March of 1999, Bishop Brister and the Beacon Light Mass Choir released their first CD entitled, It's All About Him. He serves as President and Founder of the Darryl S. Brister Bible College and Theological Seminary, which was established in August 1999, and is the Founder of the Beacon Light Christian Academy, which was established in August 2002. He is the Apostle/Overseer of the Beacon Light Baptist Church of Houma, LA, Beacon Light Baptist Church of Hammond, LA, Beacon Light Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, LA, Beacon Light of Haiti at New Orleans, and Beacon Light Community Church of Panama City, FL. Bishop Brister birthed Beacon Light International Cathedral of Houston, TX after Hurricane Katrina, which is currently in an inactive status.

Bishop Darryl S. Brister is married to Dionne Flot Brister and is the father of five children. He is a man of vision whose life embraces destiny and purpose. He is committed to serving God, dedicated to following wherever God may lead, and excited as God continues to do new things within his life and ministry.

The Greater New Orleans Community is blessed to have him as a spiritual leader to so many. I am proud to say I can call him a dear friend and prayer warrior throughout my entire political career, respecting the guidance and support he gives to me. I am forever grateful for his friendship, love, and guidance, and will forever carry his direction as I serve the Constituents of LA02. I congratulate him on thirty years of spiritual leadership and may he see many more years serving individuals across the country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JAMES PURCELL

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a constituent and dedicated public servant from my district, James "Jim" Purcell. Mr. Purcell passed away on November 28, 2023, at the age of 70.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, Jim graduated in 1971 from Archbishop Wood High School in Warminster, PA. After, he completed his electrician apprenticeship in 1975 and obtained a degree in energy efficiency. He would later go on to become an electrician for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local No. 98 for over 40 years.

Jim, a revered member of the Perkasio community, will forever be recognized for his exemplary commitment and public service to his community. Jim joined the water authority when he was 25 years old, and he had 41 years of service, including 23 years on the authority and 15 years on council where he served as Vice President of the Perkasio Borough Council for many years. During this period, Jim was instrumental in the development of Perkasio's public power policies and was recognized as providing outstanding public service throughout his life.

Jim will always be remembered as a loving Husband, Father and Grandfather and we are all incredibly grateful for the positive impact he has had on our community. Let us continue his legacy of public service each and every day.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM- MENDATION FOR CHIEF WAR- RANT OFFICER HERBERT RICH

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Warrant Officer 3 Herbert James "Jim" Rich of Sulphur Springs, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. CW3 Rich honorably served in the United States Army during the Gulf War.

From a young age, CW3 Rich sought to serve and represent our great nation on the global stage. He began his Army career as a truck driver and finance clerk before successfully completing flight training as a helicopter pilot. Initially, he served as a utility helicopter pilot and operations officer during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm to help stop Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

CW3 Rich later served as a commander of a helicopter company for the National Training Center before becoming a medical evacuation pilot in Alaska. In 1994, he also participated in Joint Indo-Pacific military exercises in Thailand. Without a doubt, his actions helped save many lives. For his meritorious service, CW3 Rich was awarded the Air Medal, Senior Aviator Badge, and several other awards.

After returning to civilian life, CW3 Rich has continued to make an impact in our community and dedicated himself to public service.

He currently volunteers as a fireman and assistant chief in his community. CW3 is also a member of the East Texas Marine Corps League Detachment 1357, in which he works to uplift and support fellow veterans while raising awareness for veterans' issues. I commend CW3 Rich for his selfless service and devotion to assisting those in need.

I am honored to represent CW3 Rich in Texas' 4th Congressional district. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES NAVY COM- MANDER LEONARD MERRIMAN III

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding New Orleans Serviceman, United States Navy Commander Leonard Merriman III. Commander Merriman was born on September 27, 1953, in New Orleans, LA, and was the only child of Mr. Leonard Merriman, Jr. and Mrs. Alberta Slocum Merriman.

Leonard attended Mary D. Coghill Elementary School and went on to attend the prestigious St. Augustine High School ("St. Aug.") in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he excelled and became a member of the football and track & field teams. Leonard quickly gained a reputation at school for his various competitive endeavors as a tough, "never-give-up", and fearless guy. This was never more on display than when Leonard would speed off to school at St. Aug on his motorcycle at 16 years old. Leonard would go on to graduate from St. Aug as a member of the class of 1971 and later that same year, he joined the United States Navy.

The Navy gave Leonard the adventure he craved and the structure that he needed. For Leonard, the Navy allowed him the opportunity to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland as a "Mid-Shipman." While at the Academy, Leonard also played football and became a world-class boxer in his weight class. He then attended the University of North Carolina Central where he earned his undergraduate degree.

Leonard also always had a dream of flying. While still in high school Leonard learned to fly planes by becoming friends with a Black Pilot who worked at Lakefront Airport near Pontchartrain Park. Armed with this knowledge when Leonard joined the Navy, he was presented with a golden opportunity, the choice to attend Navy Flight School at NAS Pensacola.

With that choice in hand, Leonard decided to attend flight school and became a Naval Aviator. He was then assigned for duty aboard the USS *Coral Sea* aircraft carrier. While in the Navy Leonard piloted the A-7 Corsair and the F-18 Hornet aircraft. During his service, he would achieve the rank of Commander and serve as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Mobile Maintenance Facility 0582. In his civilian career, Leonard decided to continue to fly for commercial airlines as a pilot for TWA, MESA,

U.S. Airways, and American, just to name a few.

Leonard was involved in many activities and organizations. Some of these included, being a member of Progress Lodge No 16, Prince Hall Affiliate, the National Black Pilot Association, Son of a Saint, The St. Augustine High School Alumni Association, The Silverback Society, the National Rifle Association (NRA), and Director of the Future Airline Pilots of New Orleans.

On October 19, 2023, Leonard went to be with his Heavenly Father. He was predeceased in death by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Merriman, Jr. He leaves behind three children: his eldest son, Leonard "Lenny" Merriman IV, and his wife Jeanine Young Merriman, daughter Lucretia Merriman, and his youngest son Leonard "Leo" Merriman IV. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Charlotte Merriman, and Myles Leonard Merriman, who were the absolute apples of his eye, and a host of other relatives and friends too countless to mention.

His legacy will live on through the bonds of friendship he made over the years and all those whose lives he touched. He will be remembered as a man who would defend you, was never too busy to help others, would strike up a conversation with almost anyone, and a Naval circumnavigator twice over.

At a young age, his family moved to a new home in Pontchartrain Park, and the Merriman family joined Bethany United Methodist Church located in Pontchartrain Park, which remained his home church throughout the remainder of his life. A celebration of life is being held today at Bethany United Methodist Church.

I was honored to have Leonard serving in the Louisiana Second Congressional District Military Academy Nomination Committee. His commitment to the Service Academy program assured key nominations of candidates for appointment to four of the five U.S. service academies: U.S. Military Academy (USMA), West Point, NY, the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), Annapolis, MD, the U.S. Air Force Academy (USFA), Colorado Springs, CO, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), Kings Point, NY. The Greater New Orleans Community has suffered the loss of an incredible gem. I am proud to say I was able to connect with him during my tenure as Congressman. I truly respect the guidance and support he gave. I am forever grateful for his commitment to our youth, and guidance to our program. I will forever carry his direction as I serve the Constituents of LA-02. May he forever rest in peace.

KATHERINE NOLASCO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katherine Nolasco for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Katherine has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Katherine, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will

guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Katherine's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Katherine Nolasco on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my deep concern with H. Res. 894 and the way it fails to address the rise in hate speech and threats occurring in our country and around the world. Over the last several weeks, the House has rightly made efforts to condemn antisemitism and show support for the Jewish people. However, this resolution does not seriously address the rise in antisemitism in any tangible way, and the actions of the Majority to treat this issue as an opportunity to confuse and sow division is redundant, devoid of meaning, and ultimately harmful to the cause of rebuking hate in all its forms.

Congress must take meaningful steps to fight against antisemitism. We can do this by stepping away from political games and fully implementing the Biden Administration's National Antisemitism Strategy, a whole-of-government approach to fighting antisemitism in the United States.

I also want to underscore the importance of prioritizing the safety of Jewish, Palestinian, and Muslim communities. The resolution before us today is silent on the concurrent rise of anti-Arab hate and Islamophobia happening in America, and by failing to include all instances of bigotry stemming from the conflict, we are missing an opportunity to condemn hate in all its forms.

In Congress we must be open to discussing and disagreeing about challenging topics, including about Israel and Gaza. I remain committed to condemning hate speech and the violence it inspires and believe that any actions considered in the House must also do so. For these reasons, I must vote present on this resolution.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PHILIP M. BAPTISTE, JR.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a native of my Congressional District, often referred to as "The Leader in Firsts", Mr. Philip M. Baptiste, Jr.

Philip M. Baptiste was born and raised in New Orleans, LA and dedicated himself to serving and bettering New Orleans' urban

community. Baptiste attended two Historically Black Universities, Dillard University of New Orleans, and Atlanta University School of Social Work.

Baptiste lived a lifetime of firsts; in 1967 he was appointed by Mayor Victor Schiro as the city's first black mayoral aide. In a 1996 interview with Data Newsweekly, Baptiste said "I was the only Black in City Hall at that time." That position would open the doors for other black Louisianians to follow. Baptiste was also the first Black man to serve the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in New Orleans. As President and Owner of Philip M. Baptiste Insurance Agency, Inc. which handled all lines of general insurance, i.e. Life, Fire, Casualty, and Hospitalization, Baptiste became one of the first Black citizens to hold such a license in the State of Louisiana.

Baptiste was recruited by the U.S. Army on February 6, 1950, and honorably discharged on May 25, 1950 after completing the 14 week basic training program.

Conceivably, Baptiste's greatest passion was his love for the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club. A member for 40 plus years, Baptiste once served as the organization's Recording Secretary and obtained the status of "Honorary Lifetime Member" and a Zulu Hall of Fame Member. In the 1980s, Baptiste organized the 1st Motor Patrol group of riders and became a welcoming presence every Mardi Gras Day on his scooter. As the official narrator for the annual Zulu Coronation Ball, in typical Baptiste fashion, he created a unique toast for coronation and other official Zulu events; "All Hail Sip, All Hail Sip, All Hail Swallow!" Anyone present at his toast will never forget how Baptiste went deep in the Merriam-Webster dictionary to describe King Zulu 1994 as "being in all his splendiferousness."

Zulu's official historian noted that Baptiste is responsible for design changes to the organization's official medallion from a dull bronze to a bright gold color, as well as for securing Fischer's Jewelry as the maker of the official King's ring. Baptiste is also credited with leading and supporting many of Zulu's fundraising activities for its charitable activities.

During the time Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, Baptiste had served as Executive Director of Opportunities Industrialization Center of Greater New Orleans (OIC of GNO) for approximately 35 years. Founded in 1971, the entity's mission is to train and place the unemployed and under-employed individuals into unsubsidized jobs in New Orleans by helping them to overcome barriers to economic opportunity and social justice. Baptiste assumed the leadership helm in February of 1972, taking the Manpower program from the threat of termination to one of the more successful programs under the OIC of America umbrella.

Under Baptiste's leadership, he guided the entity through important initiatives including CETA City of New Orleans Home Energy Rehabilitation, Office of Community Affairs LIHEAP, DOE/PVE Home Weatherization, Housing and Community Development Home Weatherization and Minor Repairs, JTPA City of New Orleans Carpentry, Department of Social Services DOE/PVE, LIHEAP, State of Louisiana Governor's Special Grant, and a Re-entry and Work Release programs in partnership with the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriffs Office which provides training in construc-

tion trades in the areas of carpentry, electrical work and plumbing for prison inmates preparing to return to society. He was one of the first to introduce the GED program to participants of OIC, thus helping hundreds to complete that high school education.

A close friend of New Orleans' first Black mayor, the late Ernest "Dutch" Morial, Baptiste, along with Leah and Dooky Chase, were the first financial contributors to Dutch's campaign fund during his run for mayor. A 1950 graduate of McDonogh 35 High School, Baptiste had known Dutch Morial since their days together at the school where Morial was a quarterback and Baptiste was a water boy on the football team. Baptiste was also an early supporter of the elder Morial's son, Marc Morial who served as Mayor of New Orleans from 1994 through 2002. As a member of the Louisiana Federation of Electors (LIFE), one of the most powerful Black political organizations in New Orleans, Baptiste remained politically active for decades. Countless other African American elected officials would come to learn that they could count on Baptiste's support as well.

Baptiste's social and civic affiliations support his theory of reaching out to the community. Baptiste was a member of the Board of Directors, Southwestern Providence, KAPPA ALPHA PSI Fraternity (pledged in 1954, Beta Gamma; Polemarch from 1969 through 1970) and member of the New Orleans Alumni Chapter, Solicitor to Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, and eventually Honorary Deputy, Parish of Orleans for contributing and participating in the Orleans Parish Grand Jury. Baptiste was the founder and First Vice-President of Frontiers International, Past President of Toastmasters International, Dryades Street YMCA, the Urban League of New Orleans, and the NAACP among others.

Always a believer in self-improvement, Baptiste continued to receive training to help improve his management skills; including courses such as Management Skills Development Course sponsored by General Electric Management Development Institute, Executive Directors Management Training Course I, II, III and IV (OAMT) Opportunities Academy of Management Training OIC/America, Management Certificate in Non-Profit Organizations, IBM Community Executive Program and IBM Management Development Staff Program and others.

Baptiste's work has earned him many honored awards and certificates: Individual Achievement Award Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity 1975, Street YWCA Century Club 1976–1978, National Consumer Information Center Award 1974–1975, Honorary Citizen Certificates (Baton Rouge, LA, Albuquerque, New Mexico and Saginaw, Michigan), State of Texas House of Representative Congratulation Certificate 1977 and Certificates of Merit City of New Orleans 1972–73, 1977, the 1996 Joseph "Scoop" Jones Trailblazer for the month of December, 2001 Mayor's Division of Housing & Neighborhood Development Golden Hammer Award are just a few awards of recognition collected in his repertoire.

Baptiste died June 21 in Atlanta after a lengthy illness. He was 91. He and his wife Nell, who died in 2021, relocated to Atlanta after Hurricane Katrina. Prior to that, he spent his entire life in his hometown of New Orleans. Baptiste once said that he would like to be remembered by these words, "I came, learned,

served, and passed on to others." Most who know Baptiste would agree that he has accomplished his goal.

The Greater New Orleans Community has lost a gem. I credit much of my political successes to him because of his guidance and support. I will forever carry his direction as I serve the constituents of LA02. May he forever rest in peace.

HONORING CYNTHIA MURRAY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman Mike THOMPSON, to recognize the outstanding tenure of Cynthia Murray as President and CEO of North Bay Leadership Council (NBLC).

Born in New York, Cynthia grew up in New Jersey where she earned a BA in History from Rutgers University. After relocating to Marin County, California in 1978, Cynthia began her substantial and impactful career in public service, community advocacy, and professional leadership in the North Bay.

Over a span of 15 years, Cynthia honorably served the people of Marin County as Novato City Council Member, including one term as mayor, and Marin County Supervisor. Known for her passion and fortitude, Cynthia played a pivotal role in creating greater transparency and accessibility to local government, advancing public health services, and bolstering countrywide emergency response initiatives.

As President and CEO of North Bay Leadership Council, Cynthia successfully shaped NBLC into an influential advocacy organization to address the issues impacting employers and their employees in the North Bay. Under her direction, NBLC became an effective champion for public policy issues including comprehensive quality education from preschool to higher education, workforce development, public transportation, affordable housing, and workforce retention. Known for her ability to foster collaboration and promote equity, Cynthia successfully brought together stakeholders from the public, non-profit, education, and private sector to address and solve challenges in the North Bay. Her leadership has been vital to the region's advancements in economic development and prosperity, as well as environmental sustainability.

Outside of her many professional accomplishments, Cynthia's volunteer work is far-reaching, and she never shies away from thorny issues. She serves on many boards including the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, First 5 Sonoma County Commission, Sonoma County Health Action Council, Marin Schools to Careers Partnership, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Policy Advisory Council. She also is chair of the Marin County Housing Crisis Action Group.

Cynthia has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to education and mentorship to future generation of leaders by serving as an adjunct professor at Dominican University and Sonoma State University. As a fearless advocate for labor and education, Cynthia has been awarded numerous accolades in recognition of her achievements, including the 2010 Women in Business award by the North

Bay Business Journal, and the 2017 Champion for Children award by the North Bay Children's Center, among others.

Mr. Speaker, the indelible positive contributions of Cynthia Murray cannot be overstated. With an outstanding record of public service spanning over three decades, Cynthia has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to enhancing the lives of the residents and employees of the North Bay. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her legacy of accomplishments which will benefit the region for generations to come.

KAYRA RODAS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kayra Rodas for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Kayra has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Kayra, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Kayra's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Kayra Rodas on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR SPECIALIST KELVIN HICKS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Specialist Kelvin Hicks of Lamar, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Specialist Hicks honorably served in the United States Army in the Iraq War and the Global War on Terrorism.

Since he was a young man, Specialist Hicks knew he wanted to serve his country and contribute to a greater cause. In 2000, Specialist Hicks joined the Army and served as an Automated Logistical Specialist at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was deployed to Iraq and Kuwait, where he was tasked with the management of military equipment and timely deliveries of crucial supplies for our troops.

After returning to civilian service, Specialist Hicks has continued to make an impact on his community in many ways. He worked as the Safety and Security Director for Marriott Hotels & Resorts and as a Child Welfare Specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Here, Specialist Hicks devoted much of his time and efforts to supporting a teenager that was placed under his care. Even when faced with overwhelming odds, including homelessness, Specialist Hicks made numerous sacrifices to ensure that his ward's needs are being met. His willingness to put the

needs of others above his own is an extraordinary display of courage and selfless service.

Specialist Hicks currently serves as the Upward Bound College Prep Program Coordinator at Paris Junior College where he helps students from low-income families pursue postsecondary education. In addition, he is an inspirational speaker and takes opportunities to mentor and advocate for our youth so that they will be successful. Specialist Hicks is a devoted man of faith, and he serves as the Chaplain and Associate Minister at the St. Paul Baptist Church in Paris. I commend Specialist Hicks for his devotion to uplifting and empowering our students.

I am honored to represent Specialist Hicks in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING A GREAT HUMANITARIAN AND OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS OF MR. RAYMOND M. "RAY" FRITZ

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and blessing to the Greater New Orleans Community, Mr. Raymond M. "Ray" Fritz. He was born on November 30, 1945, in New Orleans, Louisiana to the late Rosemary Favre. He grew up in the 7th Ward of New Orleans, attending Corpus Christi Elementary School.

Mr. Fritz's mother and grandparents, Mr. Joseph Favre and Mrs. Cecilia Milanes Favre, supported him and helped shape him into the honorable man he is today. His mother worked three jobs to provide him with the opportunity to attend St. Augustine High School. Allowing him this opportunity was important to her because she wanted Mr. Fritz to attend a school that was designated for the education of young men from African American families of New Orleans who embrace a willingness to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and grace. In addition to his mother and grandparents, his uncle, Dr. Anthony Favre played an instrumental role in his life.

Upon completion of his secondary education in 1963, an instructor at the high school, Father Phillip Berrigan, SSJ saw something special in him and urged him to go to St. Benedict's College in Atchison, Kansas. Father Berrigan even helped him acquire financial support. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Mr. Fritz completed a degree in Finance, and later completed double master's degrees in finance and taxation. He put his Finance degree to use and has worked for many well-known corporations like Shell Oil, Xerox, Clarify, Inc. and Terayon, Inc., to name a few. He was even involved in taking both Clarify, Inc. and Terayon, Inc. public.

Mr. Fritz has travelled the world and has seen extreme poverty firsthand. In his heart, he wanted to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, and he chose to focus his efforts on his hometown. He vowed not to allow mothers and their sons to be subjected to the hardships he and his family faced when

he was young. He created a 4-year scholarship fund at his beloved Alma Mater, St. Augustine High School. To date, he has gifted over \$1 million in advancing the education of African American males attending St. Augustine High School since the year 2000. To further benefit his beloved High School, Mr. Fritz has donated \$500 thousand to renovate the school library.

Mr. Fritz's generosity did not stop there. He decided to address the increasing homelessness by working with the Corpus Christi—Epiphany Parish Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in New Orleans. The mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is "a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need." Their service provides aid in the form of intervention, consultation, or through direct financial or in-kind service. His generosity has provided over \$200 thousand to date to this organization and continues.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Corpus Christi—Epiphany Parish built a Community Resource Center to provide a facility that serves the needs of the Greater New Orleans Community. This center recently became the home of the New Orleans Public Library REACH Center, as an extension of their current African American Resource Collection (AARC). The REACH Center is a new initiative from the library that will feature a community event and resource center, free coworking space, and a public art gallery. This initiative is guided by a strong focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion and aims to be a thriving community center that empowers individuals and businesses to reach their full potential. The Community is blessed to have Mr. Fritz as a major donor revitalizing a multipurpose property to serve the City of New Orleans.

Mr. Fritz is a gracious life partner to Cheryl Feldman, proud father to his two sons—Derek Fritz and Dorjan Fritz, loving grandfather of five, and doting great-grandfather of two.

The Religious Order of the Josephite Fathers and Brothers, alumni and students at St. Augustine High School and parishioners of Corpus Christi—Epiphany Catholic Church are eternally grateful for the vision, guidance, and philanthropic generosity of Mr. Raymond M. Fritz. He will be forever remembered for all his contributions to improving the lives of those in the community and advancing the student's education.

CELEBRATING MR. JOHN ROBERT
McGRATH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. John Robert McGrath Sr.'s 100th birthday and honor his service in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Born and raised in a small town outside of Pittsburgh, Mr. McGrath made the decision to join the U.S. Navy in 1942 to fight for his country. Following the end of the war, Mr. McGrath earned a degree from the University of Pennsylvania before beginning his career as a mortgage banker.

Although his service to his country came to a close, his service and generosity to his com-

munity continued throughout his life, as he was known to make soup for the elderly and care for the sick. Mr. McGrath has always been a dedicated husband and father and is beloved by his large family, with ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He currently lives in Roswell, Georgia.

It is an honor to celebrate Mr. McGrath on this incredible milestone, and I am proud to be his Representative. I wish him and his family many more happy years to come.

KOI ANNINO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Koi Annino for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Koi has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Koi, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Koi's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Koi Annino on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CON-
STANCE "CONNIE" MARRIOTT
SELICO

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding businesswoman, former Civil Rights Movement Activist as a Freedom Rider, and Algiers Matriarch, located in my Congressional District and often referred to as a mastermind of all things New Orleans, Mrs. Constance "Connie" Marriott Selico.

Constance "Connie" Marriott Selico went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the age of 90. At the time of her passing, she was the Chief Executive Officer of Murray Henderson Funeral Home and a retired educator of the Jefferson Parish School System. Connie, as she was fondly known, was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Lillie Winnfield and Charles Marriott. At six months, Connie was brought to New Orleans, Louisiana, by her mother and was reared by her Godmothers, Lillian Henderson Dunn and Erma Henderson Gibbs. In 1948 she was united in holy matrimony to Leo Selico of Gretna, Louisiana. To this union, five children were born: Leo, Jr., Lee Andre, Alex, Christopher, and Shelita. Leo and Connie enjoyed life to the fullest, honoring their wedding vows until he died in 1992.

Connie was baptized at an early age by her Godfather, the late Reverend G.B. Franklin, at the family church, First Free Mission of Al-

giers, where she was a member for many years. While there, she worked on numerous committees. In 1995, she moved her membership to Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of Marrero under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Brown, Jr. During her tenure at Morning Star, and she worked as Chairman of the Pastor Anniversary Committee and a member of The Senior Stars. Her love of both churches and her faith provided her with a caring and fulfilled life. Connie attended McDonogh No. 32 Elementary School, L.B. Landry Jr./Sr. High School and was a proud graduate of Gilbert Academy. She furthered her education by attending Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She later attended Southern University in New Orleans and earned certification in Special Education. Never one to sit back and take it easy, Constance was adequately known as a trailblazer and a doer, as was witnessed by her many activities and achievements.

While working on her certification, she actively participated in the Civil Rights Movement as a Freedom Rider, helping organize protest marches and voter registration drives. She was a part of the first group of Black teachers hired in the Jefferson Parish Public School System, where she taught for 33 years. Constance also holds the honor of being among the 100 Black and the oldest funeral director in New Orleans. From the age of 90 years until her demise, she served as Owner/Chief Executive Officer of the Murray Henderson Funeral Home. Connie spent all her adolescent years and most of her adult life at the family funeral home founded by her great Uncle Murray Henderson in 1909.

On August 29, 1978, after completing an apprenticeship under her Godmother Erma, she received her Funeral Directors license from the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. Connie was a member of the Gilbert Academy Alumni Association, Crescent City Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, 100 Black Women of Funeral Services, Jefferson Federation of Teachers, and Louisiana Teachers Retirement System. Connie was preceded in death by her husband, Leo Selico, Sr., two sons, Leo Selico, Jr., and Lee Andre Selico, Sr., her mother, Lillie Winnfield Thompson, her Godmothers Lillian H. Dunn and Erma H. Gibbs, a sister Faye Anderson, a son-in-law James Forges, Jr., a daughter-in-law, Carolyn Joseph Selico Dunn, and her grandmother Ernestine Henderson Winnfield.

Connie leaves to cherish her memories two sons Alex Selico Dunn, Sr. (Janet), Christopher Selico (Sharon)—a daughter Shelita Selico Forges, a foster son Harold Anderson, and a daughter-in-law Edwina Selico, 13 grandchildren Ryan, Leo III (Jill), Lee Andre, Jr., Christen, Fabian and Brandon Selico, Felician S. Robinson (Corey), Alexis Buffington (Jeremy), Alex Selico Dunn, Jr., (Kristen), Alexandra Selico Dunn, James III, Jonathan, and Constance Forges, a cousin/sister Valencia L. Williams, a sister-in-law Melanie Johnson.

She is also survived by 19 great-grandchildren, 18 great, great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

The Greater New Orleans Community has suffered the loss of an incredible gem. I am

proud to say I was able to connect with her throughout my entire political career, respecting the guidance and support she gave. I will forever carry her direction as I serve the Constituents of LA02. May she forever rest in peace.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BILLY SOLLIE

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the twenty-eight years of service to Lauderdale County, Mississippi, from Sheriff William D. 'Billy' Sollie. Born and raised in Meridian, Mississippi, Billy graduated from Meridian High School in 1973. After his graduation, he entered law enforcement in June of 1974. On March 28, 1975, Billy graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy and started his duties serving in and around Meridian, Mississippi.

His service to the community was recognized in 1982 when he was promoted to Patrolman II in January of that year and then in June to Detective. His work extended to the schools in the community when he was assigned and trained as the first D.A.R.E. Officer in the City of Meridian.

Through the years, Billy was promoted to Lieutenant, Assistant Chief and Deputy Chief, and he retired in 1994 as the Chief of Police. Upon his retirement from the police force, Billy served as the Security Coordinator for Meridian Public School system. In 1995, Billy won the race for Sheriff of Lauderdale County.

After becoming Sheriff, Billy served as the Second Vice President, First Vice President, and President of the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association and is currently commissioned by Governor Tate Reeves as a member of the State Jail Standards and Training Board.

Billy has been a fixture of the Lauderdale County community serving in various capacities, on boards, and in volunteer roles throughout his time as Sheriff. I am proud to recognize Billy's career of service and dedication to the Meridian and Lauderdale County community, and I wish him the best in retirement.

STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I will vote Present on H. Res. 894, a resolution that aims to condemn antisemitism throughout the world. Several of my Jewish colleagues voted Present as well.

I strongly agree that Congress must condemn all forms of antisemitism. The House of Representatives has voted in favor of several resolutions condemning antisemitism since

Hamas's horrific October 7th attacks on Israel, multiple of which I've supported and cosponsored. However, this latest resolution, H. Res. 894, contains overly broad language that weaponizes the real scourge of antisemitism and uses Jewish people as pawns to play partisan political games. For this reason, I could not support the resolution.

For example, H. Res. 894 suggests that "anti-Zionism is antisemitism." While some forms of anti-Zionism are antisemitic, there are many members of the Jewish community that identify as anti-Zionist. Lumping together factions of the Jewish community as "antisemitic" is clearly problematic.

Some language in H. Res. 894 also appears to be a veiled attempt to police the free speech of Americans who have demonstrated in favor of human rights for Palestinians. Again, while some demonstrators have disturbingly engaged in antisemitic actions that should rightfully be condemned, H. Res. 894 is too broad.

H. Res. 894 also fails to condemn antisemitic acts from those on the far right, including white nationalists who have increasingly promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories and have threatened the lives and livelihoods of Jewish Americans.

Let me be clear: I unequivocally condemn all forms of antisemitism, and I am appalled by the significant rise in antisemitism we've seen in recent years and especially after Hamas's October 7th terrorist attacks on Israel. If the House Republican majority were serious about tackling antisemitism, they would support President Biden's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, would quit trying to defund the Office of Civil Rights for Title VI enforcement which protects Jewish students and would increase funding for the High-Risk Nonprofit Grant Program to secure Jewish institutions as a start.

That's why I've cosponsored H. Res. 907, introduced by Representatives NADLER, RASKIN, and GOLDMAN. H. Res. 907 thoughtfully and powerfully condemns the rise of antisemitism in the United States—including on college campuses—and calls on Congress to support the above substantive actions to tackle antisemitism, which congressional Republicans have so far refused to do. Had H. Res. 894 been written as carefully as H. Res. 907, I would vote in support.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CLAUDE AUNDRAY STEWARD, SR.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a native of my Congressional District, often referred to as a mastermind of all things New Orleans, Mr. Claude Aundray Steward, Sr.

Claude Aundray Steward was born to Freddie Stewart and Elfreda Arnold Stewart on a beautiful Wednesday, February 12, 1941. He took pride in being a son of Uptown New Orleans and was able to receive his education in his hometown. Claude graduated from the historic Walter L. Cohen High School in 1959 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from

Southern University. He then went on to serve in the United States Army until he was honorably discharged. Claude was a Life Member of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure club, which is known for its famous Mardi Gras parade, as well as for its members' commitment to giving back to the Greater New Orleans community and positively impacting the lives of those in need.

Mr. Stewart began his career in government at the United States Post Office, eventually transitioning into a variety of different positions in the field. In the evenings he would spend his time immersed in politics, and through God's favor, he became a political mastermind. Claude spent time working as an Accounting Analyst for the City of New Orleans's HUD Program at the New Orleans City Hall under the auspices of Mayor Moon Landrieu, Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial, Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, and Mayor Marc Morial. After his illustrious career at City Hall, Mr. Stewart took on the position of Administrator for the Small Business Incubator at Southern University at New Orleans, where he worked until Hurricane Katrina ravaged the region.

The period after Hurricane Katrina was a trying time, but Mr. Stewart remained optimistic, rebuilt his home, and was eventually able to return to his hometown which he loved so dearly: New Orleans, Louisiana. Claude continued working in government, as he accepted a senior position with the then Orleans Parish Clerk of Court, Kimberly Williamson Butler.

After so many years working for the government, no one would have expected Mr. Stewart to change careers. However, God said, "I have a wonderful new chapter for you." Claude retired from a nearly 50-year successful career in politics, and took on what was supposed to be a "temporary", six month position as Director at the New Orleans Council on Aging Lower 9th Ward Senior Center. He had been appointed by Senator Jon Johnson "just to get the program off its feet", however six months at the Lower 9th ward Senior Center quickly became eleven years. Under his guidance, the center won several awards, and was celebrated in the city of New Orleans as the best Senior Center, with record-breaking attendance. Change-makers from all across the state visited his center participants in order to present their legislative plans. Among these were his favorite visitors—his "adopted son," Senator Wesley Bishop, and his "adopted nephew," (then State Senator) Congressman TROY CARTER.

On Monday, June 26, 2023, Claude Aundray Steward, Sr. was surrounded by his family as he peacefully transitioned from this Earthly life. He left a host of treasured family to mourn: his wife of 57 years, Elaine Warrick Steward; his sons, Claude Jr. and Clinton Sr.; his two daughters-in-law, Ora and Kayron; his five beloved grandchildren, Clinton Jr., Ciara, Braelynn, Katherine and Chennai, as well as Coda, his soon-to-be-born sixth grandchild; his dearest cousins Darrel Ann Stewart, Gerbera Smith, and Rufus Arnold; and his dear godchildren, Tiffany Howard Finister, Winfred Warrick, and Shonna Smith.

Mr. Stewart was preceded in death by his parents, Freddie and Elfreda Stewart; his great-grandmother, Harriet Jones; his dear grandmothers, Victoria Variste and Clara Houston Arnold; his siblings, Freddie Stewart, Harold Stewart; and Caroline Stewart, and

his in-laws, Alberta Baxter, David and Ruby Brown, Arthur and Ida Farria, and Jerald and Martha Warrick.

Claude was a member of True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, where he was baptized in 1990 by Rev. Donald Jeanjacques, and where he held various leadership positions. Claude was also a recent recipient of various awards throughout his professional career, including Congressman TROY CARTER's Lifetime Achievement Award. Claude will be deeply missed by his co-workers, friends, and family. He has touched many lives, both near and far.

The Greater New Orleans Community has suffered the loss of a great gem. I credit much of my political successes to his guidance and support. I will forever carry his direction as I serve the constituents of LA02. May he forever rest in peace.

ALAYNA MCCALL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alayna McCall for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Alayna has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Alayna, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alayna's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Alayna McCall on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING DOUG HOUSE FOR HIS INDUCTION INTO THE QUAD CITIES AFL-CIO HALL OF FAME

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Doug House of Rock Island, Illinois on his induction into the Quad Cities AFL-CIO Hall of Fame.

Doug has spent many years dedicated to a life of service. Whether that was showing support on the picket line to working people, joining the National Guard, or now as he's come out of retirement to be a member of my very own staff, Doug has shown what it means to be an exemplary member of our community. Doug spent time as a member of UAW Local 281, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 537 & 150, and he is a 35-year member of Laborers Local 309.

While dedicating his life to service, Doug has made it a priority to find balance with the things that matter most to him. Family always came first, but he found a way to balance his love of his work, political activism, and enjoying a home life filled with family and friends.

He has many interests including hot rods, collecting John F. Kennedy and other political memorabilia, hunting, and fishing. It is an honor to have him in as a member of my staff and community. Doug deserves all the accolades and honor from this induction into the AFL-CIO Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Doug House again formally on the honor of being inducted into the Quad Cities AFL-CIO Hall of Fame, and I join the rest of the community in thanking him for all he has done for the residents of the Illinois 17th District and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MRS. MAUREEN ROSARY O'DONNELL SCHEUERMANN

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding New Orleans Matriarch, Mrs. Maureen Rosary O'Donnell Scheuermann. Born in New Orleans on October 7, 1933, to the late Francis and Eunice Ohlmeyer O'Donnell, Mrs. Maureen is often referred to as a mastermind of all things in New Orleans.

Maureen was a devout and faithful Catholic and lifelong parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, located in Uptown, New Orleans. At the time of her death, Maureen was the parish's longest-tenured parishioner. Mrs. Scheuermann passed away peacefully at Touro Infirmary on Friday, October 6, 2023, the eve of her 90th birthday. Born on the Feast of the Holy Rosary, she celebrated the Feast of St. Francis only two days before gracefully transitioning.

Maureen began her career as a secretary at Loyola University where she met the love of her life, "Rags" Scheuermann, the University's Baseball coach at the time. A charming prelude to their story unfolded as she gifted him a four-leaf clover before a baseball game. The pair later married on June 20, 1959. In 1974, Rags co-founded the Delgado Community College athletic department where Maureen became the Dolphins' first fan. In the following 50 years, she would serve as a devoted mother and grandmother to three generations of Dolphins, as well as a leader in Rags' New Orleans Boosters Summer Baseball League.

Maureen's dedication to the team resulted in decades of trips to the All-American Amateur Baseball Association (AAABA) National Tournament in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where she was named an honorary citizen. Her baseball bonds created lifelong memories and cherished friendships. Maureen's constant supporting presence at Kirsch-Rooney Stadium earned her the nickname "the First Lady of New Orleans Baseball." Maureen and Rags used the game of baseball to bestow indispensable values upon three generations of Scheuermanns.

Maureen worked as an employee of the City of New Orleans for more than thirty years where she held several titles at City Hall until her retirement in 1991. Most notably, Mrs. Scheuermann served as secretary to four Mayors: Victor H. Schiro, Maurice "Moon" Landrieu, Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial, and Sidney J. Barthelemy.

Maureen was the loving mother of Maureen, Emma, Joe (Shelly), and Ed (Stephanie) and devoted grandmother of Tyler, Nataly, Parker, and Peyton. She is also survived by her brother, Francis O'Donnell, Jr., nieces Kathy Barbazon (Clem) and Karen Meyer (Gordon), and grandnephew Brett Barbazon. Maureen was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 38 years, Louis "Rags" Scheuermann, who passed away in 1997, as well as her loving mother, her sister, Claire O'Donnell, her brother John O'Donnell, and her grandniece, Katherine Hickham.

Maureen was eternally grateful to Velma Smith, Glenda Ingram, and Wendy Cordova for their dedicated caregiving over the past nine years, as well as the physicians and staff of Touro Infirmary.

Maureen will be remembered as a light to all who knew her throughout the many seasons of her. Her motherly "MawMaw" wisdom, faith, hope, and joy touched the lives of everyone who met her. Her Funeral Mass was celebrated by New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, retired Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes, and nine other priests, on Friday, October 13, 2023, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, in New Orleans.

On a personal note, Maureen was everyone's mother, grandmother, and best friend. When I arrived at New Orleans City Hall as a very young man, working for then, Dr. Alfred "Al" Stokes, Executive Assistant to then Mayor, Honorable Sidney J. Barthelemy, I found the most loving, caring, walking encyclopedia of everything New Orleans.

The Greater New Orleans Community has suffered the loss of an incredible gem. I am proud to say I was able to connect with her throughout my entire political career, respecting the guidance and support she gave. I am forever grateful for her friendship, love and guidance, and will forever carry her direction as I serve the Constituents of LA-02. May she forever rest in peace.

PERSECUTION OF THE BAHÁ'Í OF IRAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the government of Iran's long, ongoing, and brutal campaign of terror against the Bahá'í continues unabated.

Of course, the government of Iran is one of the most brutal, cruel, and repressive in the world, truly one of the "worst of the worst." The victims of its terrorism abroad include entire countries threatened by the wars, proxy wars, and terrorism it directs, including in most Middle Eastern countries.

Within Iran, the regime terrorizes its own citizens—here we will remember the savage persecution of Christians, and the women blinded by the hani Revolution Guard Corps in the protests that followed the death of Mahsa Amini. To some degree everyone living in Iran is a victim of this government. Yet we must also specifically remember the Bahá'í.

Mr. Speaker, the Bahá'í religion initially developed in Persia. Iran is home to about 300,000 Bahá'í—which makes it the largest

Bahá'í community in any country in the world. The Bahá'í International Community at the United Nations Office in Geneva published *The Bahá'í of Iran—A Persecuted Community*, which revealed that since the current regime took power in 1981, over 200 Bahá'ís have been executed, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs on account of their religion.

In the last year, the persecution has intensified, resulting in grave human right violations. The number of arrests of Bahá'ís has only increased, and even included that of a 90-year-old man who had previously served 10 years in prison. The Bahá'í's center of faith is in the city of Haifa, Israel, which the Iranian government uses as a pretext to classify Bahá'ís as Israeli spies and execute them for committing the spurious crimes of conspiring with the "Zionist regime".

Although the Iranian government persecutes all who are not Shi'a Muslims, since Bahá'í are accused of heresy and group apostasy, they are singled out for particularly savage repression. The Iranian government has denied them access to universities and even in some cases, prohibited them from graduating high school, while also consistently denying Bahá'í's the opportunity to open and own businesses.

In 1982, the Iranian government seized the Bahá'í's cemeteries and holy places—and only over ten years later did it allocate them a 20,000-square-meter plot of land in which to bury their dead. As time has passed, that small parcel of land no longer suffices—and finding a place to bury loved ones has become a daunting task. Reportedly, government agents are stationed at the entrance of the cemetery to prevent visitation, and the government has taken control of the buildings used for burial ceremony activities.

In September 2023, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) reported that "Iranian authorities have arrested scores of Bahá'í's across Iran, taken them to locations that were initially undisclosed, and sentenced them to excessive jail terms as the government has attempted to restrict internal dissent in response to protests."

Mr. Speaker, it is sad to say that neither in respect of human rights of the Bahá'í or in any other respect has the government of Iran reformed or even improved its human rights record. But Congress has remained firm in their support of the Bahá'í. Since 1982 Congress has repeatedly passed resolutions expressing support for the religious freedom rights of the Bahá'í's in Iran.

The Iranian government must stop the arbitrary arrests of members of the Bahá'í community. We must continue to speak out and hold the government accountable for the destruction of life and property belonging to people of Bahá'í faith.

ALI ALCALA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ali Alcala for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Ali has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Ali, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ali's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Ali Alcala on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING CORTEZ POLICE
SERGEANT MICHAEL MORAN

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life, sacrifice, and service of Cortez Police Sergeant Michael Moran, a true American hero who laid down his life in service to our great country and to his community. Sergeant Moran was fatally shot during a traffic stop on November 29, providing a tragic end to a life of great dedication and service.

Sergeant Moran answered the call to serve our nation as a Marine for nine years, including two tours in Iraq, before joining the Cortez Police Department in 2012. His life was marked with selflessness, courage, and love, always putting others before himself. He was a man of honor, and his presence was a source of hope and encouragement to all. His smile lit up even on the toughest days. He was known for his integrity and his mentorship of the officers who looked up to him, instilling in each of them the value of trust. Those close to him say they will remember him for his humor and dedication to serving his community. Sergeant Moran was a respected leader and a true friend, always ready to lend an ear or offer words of encouragement. While Sergeant Moran's passion was law enforcement, his top priority was always his family, and his passing tragically leaves behind two daughters and countless friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Moran was an incredible gift to this world and a shining example for all Americans. He touched countless lives and was a blessing to everyone who had the honor of knowing him. His career was marked with an unwavering willingness to put everything on the line in service to our nation and the safety of his community. I urge all Americans to join me in honoring Cortez Police Sergeant Michael Moran for his selfless sacrifice and service to his fellow Americans. Sergeant Moran dedicated his life to serving others. His passing is an immeasurable loss for us all, and he was the best that Colorado's Third Congressional District had to offer.

RECOGNIZING THE JACKSONVILLE
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MILITARY LOUNGE

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when I'm traveling to and from my home in Florida, it al-

ways lifts my heart to see men and women in uniform at the airport. We have all seen those incredible videos . . . the moment when a deployed service member comes home to the loving embrace of a child or a spouse. Mr. Speaker, tell me you don't get choked up when you see one of those videos. Our Nation's armed forces are full of heroes who go where duty calls, and so, whether headed to deployment, or making their way home, you are know they are defending our great freedoms.

That's why today, I stand before you to recognize the new Jacksonville International Airport Military Lounge. This is a place where service men and women can feel at home, even when they are headed for a long road ahead.

This home away from home for active-duty military includes all the amenities of home, and a very special display of the flags of all branches of the military, and the POW/MIA flag, to remember those who may never come home again.

This Military Lounge is a reality due to the dedication of the North Jacksonville Rotary Club, the Veterans Council of Duval County, the NE Florida Green Beret Chapter 88 of the U.S. Army Special Forces Association. Several other veterans-civic-governmental organizations assisted in recruiting volunteers to staff the lounge.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the Jacksonville International Airport on the grand opening of their new Military Lounge and thank them for their ongoing efforts to help our veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

ANGEL NOEMI RODRIGUEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angel Noemi Rodriguez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Angel has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Angel, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Angel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Angel Noemi Rodriguez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR FRANK
KUNTZ

HON. KIM SCHRIER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service and accomplishments of Mayor Frank Kuntz, who for the past 12 years has served as the Mayor of Wenatchee, Washington.

Upon entering office, Mayor Kuntz inherited an incredibly difficult situation, as the city faced dire financial challenges. Thankfully, Mayor Kuntz, an accountant by trade, put his professional expertise to good use and worked with Republicans, Democrats, and Independents to restore Wenatchee's financial standing. Moreover, Mayor Kuntz's effective, thoughtful leadership has allowed the city to expand and invest in several development projects that have helped the local infrastructure and economy.

It has been a true pleasure to work with Mayor Kuntz over the past 5 years. His North Star has always been how best to serve the people of Wenatchee. We have shared this goal and worked together in a bipartisan manner to finally make the Apple Capital Loop a reality. Mayor Kuntz and I have also worked together to address crime and the fentanyl epidemic, prevent catastrophic wildfires, and support agriculture, rural economies, and local healthcare. I will miss serving alongside Mayor Frank Kuntz but will continue to cherish our friendship. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. DOCK J. AND
CARRIE THOMAS JORDAN

HON. VALERIE P. FOUSHEE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of two civil rights leaders and educators, Dr. Dock J. Jordan, and Carrie Thomas Jordan, who helped shape the education system in Durham and Alamance counties, leading the way for future generations in North Carolina.

Dr. Jordan, the son of a former slave, persevered in a deeply segregated environment in rural Georgia. Despite attending just three months of school yearly, Dr. Jordan graduated high school, and later from Allen University in 1892. During his time at Allen University, Dr. Jordan would go on to receive his law degree, eventually passing the bar in South Carolina in 1892 and in Georgia in 1904.

Following stints as the Professor of Literature at Morris Brown College, Dr. Jordan co-authored, "An Appeal for the Colored Schools in the State of Georgia" with W.E.B. Dubois in 1901 to appeal to the white Georgia legislators and defeat a bill that would close one-half to two-thirds of Black public schools in the state. This was an important step towards highlighting gaps in education, as only 15 percent of public-school property was owned by Black schools, despite 48 percent of the school population being represented by Black children.

In 1917, Dr. Jordan was placed on the United States watchlist when the Raleigh Independent published his letter criticizing President Woodrow Wilson's administration. The letter explained the brutal treatment of African Americans during the 1917 East St. Louis Riots and accused President Wilson of disregarding the feelings and rights of African Americans and not valuing them as humans. This letter would resonate deeply within the African-American community and placed a further spotlight on the mistreatment of Black Americans at the time.

Dr. Jordan's academic career would continue until 1939, serving as the President of Kittrell College in North Carolina from 1902 to 1912. From 1912 to 1920, he served as the director of the Teaching Training Department at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro. And from 1918 to 1939 Dr. Jordan was a professor and the chair of the history department at State Normal School in Durham, now known as North Carolina Central University.

Dr. Jordan's wife, Carrie Thomas Jordan, was as equally dedicated towards advancing African-American education. Growing up in a family with deep ties to educators, Carrie Jordan uniquely emphasized spelling, geography, and nature study during her time as a school administrator. Mrs. Jordan served as the superintendent of colored public schools in Durham and is credited with the construction of twelve new schools, as well as hosting the first commencement exercises in Durham County for African American students.

Mrs. Jordan's new commencement tradition for Durham County's African-American schools became a key pillar for the local community. The county commencements were a time that the Black community could gather and celebrate their achievements, academic or otherwise. Carrie Jordan would later note that these academic achievements were proof to both the Black and White communities of the strength, potential, and resilience of the Black community.

The accomplishments, progress achieved, and contributions to African American students by Dr. Dock J. Jordan and Carrie Thomas Jordan should not go unnoticed. The Jordans were educational powerhouses, contributing immensely to the advancement of African American education in Durham County, Alamance County, and what is now North Carolina's 4th District, as a whole.

BELEN ANGUIANO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Belen Anguiano for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Belen has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Belen, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Belen's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Belen Anguiano on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING
LEGISLATIVE CAREER OF
RANDAL L. GAINES

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and dear friend, Randal L. Gaines. He is a product of St. James Parish, a parish I serve in Congress. Gaines has distinguished himself as an attorney, public servant, and military leader. He formerly served as a tax attorney for the Internal Revenue Service, Assistant City Attorney for the City of New Orleans, and Associate Director of the Criminal Justice Department at Southern University Baton Rouge. He has played key leadership roles in some of the most significant military actions and crises in this nation's history. While serving as a captain with the 159th MASH, one of the first military units to enter Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, Gaines coordinated the evacuation of over 300 wounded American soldiers from the combat zone. Lt. Colonel Gaines was also awarded the Louisiana Cross of Merit for leadership and bravery in coordinating the rescue and evacuation efforts of over 30,000 evacuees from the Louisiana Superdome during Hurricane Katrina. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Gaines served as Military Advisor and Medical Support Coordinator for Task Force Orleans. Gaines also served on the Southern University Board of Supervisors. He serves as Vice Chairman for Elected Officials for the Louisiana Democratic Party.

In November 2012, Gaines was elected as Louisiana State Representative, District 57. During that term, Gaines was elected with the highest winning percentage of all the State Representative and Senate races in Louisiana. He recently served on a significant Black Entrepreneurship Panel member during the City of Birmingham's Empowerment Week, honoring the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing.

During the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)'s celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, Gaines was awarded SCLC's National Chairman's Award for his leadership and dedicated service to the organization and for being a primary factor in why the organization continues to effectively advance the cause of civil rights and social justice. SCLC was founded and led by Dr. Martin Luther King, with membership that included Jessie Jackson, Ambassador Andrew Young, Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, Joseph Lowery, and many other notable civil rights leaders. He was recently appointed to the position of Vice Chairman of SCLC's National Board. Randal has three children who are his life, Randal Jr., Ariel, and Brienna Gaines.

Louisiana and the Democratic Party were blessed to have this incredible gem in Baton Rouge fighting to make our State a better place. I am proud to say I was able to work alongside him through many challenges throughout my political career in state government, respecting the guidance and support he continues to give. I will forever carry his direction as I serve the Constituents of LA-02.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DANIEL CROSS**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Daniel Cross, a resident of Rankin County and a dedicated public servant of the State of Mississippi for over 30 years. Beginning as a volunteer firefighter while still in high school, Daniel has dedicated his entire life to the service and protection of others. His valuable leadership, academic, and personal skills obtained as a graduate of Northwest Rankin High School, the University of Memphis, and the National Fire Academy not only launched him into a career as a professional firefighter with the Reservoir Fire Department, but also propelled him in advancement within the fire service to senior fire instructor, instructor chief, and deputy director of the Mississippi Fire Academy.

Concurrent with Daniel's distinguished fire service career, he also trained and served as a reserve deputy for the Rankin County Sheriff's Department and was elected to the Rankin County Board of Supervisors, ably serving Rankin County for 8 years. Some examples of Daniel's contributions to the fine service include his long tenure on the Mississippi Minimum Fire Standards and Certification Board, his leadership on the Mississippi state response team during Hurricane Katrina, his design and development of the curriculum for the Mississippi Executive Fire Officer Program, and his role as chief architect of the Mississippi Fire Academy Emergency Medical Technician Training Program.

Daniel is a member of Pinelake Baptist Church and devotes all his spare time to little league coaching and to his beloved wife, Julie, and their two sons, Layne and Clayton. I thank God for public servants like Daniel Cross and am honored to recognize him upon his retirement after thirty years of unselfish and immensely meaningful public service to others. I wish him much success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 692; YEA on Roll Call No. 693; YEA on Roll Call No. 694; YEA on Roll Call No. 695; YEA on Roll Call No. 696; and YEA on Roll Call No. 697.

ERICA REED

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Erica Reed for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Erica has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Erica, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Erica's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Erica Reed on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CELEBRATING FIRST RESPONDERS
IN GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA**HON. RICHARD MCCORMICK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to the Red, Blue and You initiative that celebrates and honors the first responders of Gwinnett County, Georgia. The community event, organized by local business owners, held its 8th annual celebration on November 16, 2023. The brave men and women first responders honored at the event are the first line of defense for people in distress, and often do not receive the recognition and support they deserve. I want to thank these dedicated public safety heroes for serving their communities every single day. Their work makes a difference and impacts all those in our community. God bless each and every one of them. Semper Fidelis.

HONORING FRANK THORNTON ON
HIS RETIREMENT**HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Frank J. Thornton for his 28 years of service on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors representing the Fairfield Magisterial District. Frank is a history maker, becoming the first African American elected to the Henrico Board of Supervisors in 1995 representing the Fairfield Magisterial District. He was elected as the Board's chairman for the sixth time in January 2023 and will complete his tenure with his retirement at the end of this year.

A native of Richmond, Mr. Thornton co-founded and served as president of the Henrico Civic League. His academic accomplishments include a bachelor's degree from Virginia Union University and a master's degree from American University. Mr. Thornton retired in 2014 after a distinguished 40-year career as a professor of French at Virginia Union, where he earned accolades such as the Teacher of the Year award. Mr. Thornton left an indelible mark on his students, community members, and our Commonwealth.

In 1987, Mr. Thornton initially sought election to represent the Fairfield District, and though unsuccessful, he played a pivotal role in a successful federal lawsuit alongside the Henrico Civic League and the American Civil

Liberties Union. This lawsuit challenged and overturned Henrico's magisterial district lines, with the court ruling against county officials who had ensured that Black residents were the minority in every district.

As Henrico County Supervisor, Mr. Thornton demonstrated unwavering commitment to the residents of the Fairfield District. Under his leadership, initiatives were implemented to expand the Greater Richmond Transportation Company (GRTC) bus service to Short Pump, construct several libraries and recreation centers in the county, and expand access to public health services.

Beyond his local responsibilities, Mr. Thornton extended his public service to various organizations, including the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization, the Capital Region Collaborative Organizing Council, and the Maymont Foundation Board of Directors, among others.

Virginia's Fourth Congressional District has been privileged to benefit from the passionate and devoted advocacy of Mr. Thornton for civil rights and social change. Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Thornton for his outstanding leadership and extend my best wishes for a fulfilling retirement from the Henrico County Board of Supervisors. His legacy, marked by tireless dedication, will undoubtedly endure.

HONORING THE LATE CLAUDE
MORSE OF COFFEE COUNTY,
TENNESSEE**HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. DesJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Claude Morse, who sadly passed away November 12, 2023. Tennessee has long been known as The Volunteer State for a reason, and no one I have met personified the spirit of that motto more than Claude Morse.

Claude was a selfless example of volunteerism, and not the kind of symbolic of volunteerism that simply amounts to adding his name to a group. When a need and a project arose, Claude was never just a worker; he was a planner, an organizer, a manager, and a participant.

Morse was actively involved with several nonprofit organizations throughout Coffee County. Honor Flight, Project Appleseed and the Arnold Community Council are just a few of the organizations to which Morse devoted his time and efforts.

As President of Honor Flight Middle Tennessee, Claude worked tirelessly to take eligible World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans on a free trip to see war memorials in Washington, DC. It remains my great honor to personally welcome as many of these heroes as I can when they come, and it was always a special treat to get to spend time with Claude as well.

Over the past several years, Claude has sponsored hundreds of hero veterans and hundreds of hours of work to see it accomplished. Yet to him, it was simply time well spent to recognize those who deserved it.

In addition, Claude also was a long-time member and President of the Arnold Community Council, a group that promotes, protects,

and preserves the Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) in Tullahoma, Tennessee and to facilitate interaction and cooperation between the complex and surrounding communities. Claude and many of his colleagues would spend time every year visiting the Tennessee Congressional delegation, other key members of Congress, members of the Tennessee General Assembly, and officials with the Department of Defense to advocate for and advance the mission of the facility. His group would also sponsor awards for AEDC personnel, the annual AEDC veteran's picnic, the ACC job fair, the Honor Flights and the AEDC children's Christmas party.

Claude was also a committee member for Wreaths Across America, an organization that places wreaths on fallen veterans' graves during Christmas.

He was also a natural candidate for public service and was selected as a Commissioner for the Coffee County Government. He was a recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Star Award for all his efforts and selected as an AEDC lifetime achievement fellow.

I am proud to represent a community that has the utmost respect for all the men and women who have served our country with valor and honor as members of our armed forces. Claude never took a day off in making sure that we always prioritized that commitment to all of those who have served, are serving, and will serve. I will miss Claude and his hard work, and most importantly, his friendship and support. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in paying respect to Claude Morris for a lifetime of service to country and community, and I ask this institution to join me in sending the deepest sympathies to all his family and friends.

**CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF JIMMY AND
HAVA MCCLINTOCK**

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 50 years of marriage between Jimmy and Hava McClintock of Heath, Texas. They have made significant contributions to our community and are longtime advocates for the U.S.-Israel alliance.

Jimmy is a native Texan, while Hava was born in a small town outside of Tel Aviv. They first met each other in Israel, where they married in 1973. For seven years, they lived in Israel. In 1983, Jimmy and Hava moved to Rockwall, Texas, before settling in Heath.

During their many years together, Jimmy and Hava have made it their life's mission to advocate for our shared Judeo-Christian values. Since 1976, they have organized private and congregational tours to Israel. These tours have strengthened the friendship between communities and highlighted Israel's important struggle for peace and security.

Furthermore, Jimmy and Hava are board members of their local chapter of the Friends of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), where they provide material support to the IDF and support Israel's right to defend itself. They also serve on the boards of God's Grace International and Netivvah, where they coordinate

humanitarian assistance for Holocaust survivors in Israel and those in need. I commend Jimmy and Hava for working diligently to aid those facing difficult circumstances so that they will not be overlooked.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Jimmy and Hava McClintock's impressive milestone. It is truly wonderful to commemorate their five decades of happiness and joy, and here's to many more. May God Bless them.

HONORING ANN DUBAY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize the enduring work of Ann DuBay on the occasion of her retirement from Sonoma Water.

Ann began her long-standing career in public service in 1981 as a seasonal firefighter at the California Department of Forestry. She then pursued the California State Fellowship Program and subsequently assumed the role of policy consultant at the California State Senate's Office of Research. Returning to her roots in Sonoma County, Ann became the Vice-President and Government Affairs Coordinator at the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, before transitioning to a distinguished career in journalism as an editorial writer and columnist for nearly a decade at the Press Democrat.

Ann was hired by Sonoma Water in 2008 as Public Information Officer, and she became the Community and Government Affairs Manager there in 2018. In these roles Ann demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the community and sustainability at Sonoma Water. Ann's good deeds extend to the greater region through her work as the administrator for the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and Petaluma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency, while also spearheading outreach and communication for all Sonoma County Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

In addition to her professional commitments, Ann has played a pivotal role in several community organizations. She served as Board member for the Ceres Community Project. And she is currently on the board of directors for the Congregation Shomrei Torah in Santa Rosa, where she was president from 2020 to 2022. In addition, she volunteers with Riebli-North Firewise Community as well as the California Groundwater Coalition where she helps guide water suppliers throughout the state meet the water supply needs of California residents.

Notably, Ann is more than a public servant; she is a mentor and inspiration to many. When she and her sister simultaneously faced breast cancer, Ann exhibited exemplary strength and determination. Ann is also known for her love of reading, biking with her husband Jeremy Olsan, and spending time with her son Jake.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that Ann DuBay has been an extraordinary public servant making meaningful contributions to the community

through both her professional and volunteer work. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her legacy of accomplishments which will benefit Sonoma County and the region for years to come.

**RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF MS. LANAE CARRINGTON**

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Lanae Angel Lynn Carrington. Ms. Carrington is guided by a sense to better her community and has always demonstrated her ability to overcome complex challenges and situations.

Lanae was born in Baltimore, Maryland and moved to Pennsylvania with her mother and siblings in 2013. An AAU Student Athlete of the Year, Lanae was also named Suburban One Female Athlete of the Week and SOL Student Athlete of the Week. Lanae has consistently made All Team for Track and Field each year of her high school career while simultaneously maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Lanae will be continuing with Track and Field at the collegiate level and has been fortunate enough to be awarded with the opportunity to attend Lehigh University where she will be competing at the Division One level.

We are all incredibly proud for the positive impact Lanae has on our community and wish her the best of luck in her bright future ahead.

**HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE OF SERVICE OF KATHLEEN
M. WILBUR**

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a remarkable woman who dedicated her professional career to making the state of Michigan, its government, its institutions, and its character stronger and better. Kathy Wilbur was a fierce advocate and a devoted public servant in both government and higher education, and brought her two passions together in the role she held for the past five years at her alma mater, Michigan State University. I was fortunate enough to call her my friend, and as her sudden passing leaves a deep hole of grief for so many, it is fitting that we pause to reflect on all she gave to our state.

Kathy began her career in the Michigan Legislature, where she served as chief of staff to former Senator Bill Sederburg. From the start, she was known for her prowess in communications and policy issues, and she went on to serve in the administration of former Michigan Governor John Engler, heading up three different departments during her tenure—the only woman in Michigan history to do so. In the early 2000s, she began the next chapter of her career with our state's public universities, first at Central Michigan University where she served as interim president, vice president of advancement and external relations, and vice president for government relations.

But of the many titles Kathy held over her decades-long career, one the closest to her heart was Spartan. Kathy was a super-alumna, holding not one, not two, but three degrees from MSU: a bachelor's degree in Journalism, a master's degree in higher education administration, and a Ph.D in the same, and even served one term on the university's Board of Trustees. In 2018, she joined Michigan State University's staff, where she served as senior vice president for government relations. Under her tenure, the university secured funding and support for landmark projects, including the Engineering and Digital Innovation Center, the MSU greenhouses, and the MSU Apple Academy. Her steady hand helped guide the university through good times and bad, driven by an unshakable faith in the power of higher education, clothed in green and white.

Over the years, Kathy was a mentor to so many, and I personally benefited from her knowledge and her wisdom. Her door was always open, her invitation to coffee sincere, her cup of kindness bottomless. She graciously shared her experience with all, and was truly invested in seeing others succeed. From Kathy, I learned what it means to advocate, and the power of active listening. Her life was a testament to the power of getting things done, and the role one person can play to make positive change. I send my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved Kathy, particularly her husband, Tom, their four sons, Tom, Will, Sam, and Ray; her granddaughter, Mary; and the entire Michigan State University family. Kathy Wilbur's accomplishments, her passion, and her compassion will live on in our hearts and on the banks of the Red Cedar in East Lansing.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF BESSIE RODRIGUEZ

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Bessie Rodriguez of Dallas. Bessie was a loving mother who used a tragic experience to effect meaningful change in the name of Justice here in North Texas.

On July 24, 1973, Bessie's life changed forever, when her 12-year-old son, Santos, was fatally shot by Dallas law enforcement. Santos meant everything to Bessie. However, she turned tragedy into action. She used the death of her son to start a movement to boost accountability and transparency in the police and community relations here that is still being felt in North Texas today. Just this year, Dallas commemorated the 50th anniversary of Santos' murder by holding multiple events to push for justice. The commemoration of this solemn anniversary would not have been possible without Bessie's work.

I once again rise today to commemorate Bessie's legacy. I am praying for her extended family during this time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LT. HOPE KIRKENDALL

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss and honor the legacy of a World War II heroine from Lakeland, FL, Lt. Hope Kirkendall. She passed away at the age of 103, carrying her spiritedness, heart of service and witty sense of humor until her final days.

During World War II, Lt. Kirkendall was a nurse in the U.S. Army and was one of the first women to land in Normandy shortly after the Allied Forces' D-Day invasion. She arrived one month after the initial invasion and achieved the rank of first lieutenant, working around the clock with her surgical team to care for soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifices in the Battle for Brest and the Battle of the Bulge.

Decades after her service, Lt. Kirkendall recounted getting involved in military life because she was young and wanted to see everything. She certainly achieved that goal. Among her adventures, Kirkendall traveled in an ambulance convoy, using a gas can for a seat. She moved with field hospitals, taking in the wounded near the front lines. And amongst the chaos and the tragedy, she said she found a home.

In 2017, Lt. Kirkendall received the French Knight in the Legion of Honor award for her expertise and bravery during bombings and in the line of fire. Lt. Kirkendall went on to raise five children after the war and continued her duties off the battlefield caring for patients who needed psychiatric assessments. She is survived by two siblings, five children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Sadly, we are losing more of the greatest generation each day. May Hope rest in peace. She is truly an American hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, I missed votes due to testing positive for COVID-19. Had I been present, I would have voted on NAY on Roll Call No. 692; NAY on Roll Call No. 693; YEA on Roll Call No. 694; YEA on Roll Call No. 695; YEA on Roll Call No. 696; and PRES on Roll Call No. 697.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILLY"
COOKE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William "Billy" Cooke, who passed away peacefully in his home in Tappahannock, Virginia on November 26, 2023.

Billy was born in Tappahannock, and attended Tappahannock High School, where he played centerfield on the baseball team. He served two years in the U.S. Army before returning to baseball at Randolph-Macon College. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1959 before returning to Essex County, where he became a prominent member of his community. Throughout more than 30 years, he served as a deacon, clerk, and Adult Sunday School teacher at Howard's Baptist Church, helped found the Tappahannock Little League, and served four terms on the Essex County Board of Supervisors, among countless other achievements.

Billy was a kind and easygoing man who enjoyed watching PGA tournaments and Atlanta Braves games with his family. He was often found in his office at the Essex Concrete Main Office, where he worked, or at the Hobbs Hole Golf Course. He never missed an opportunity to catch up with family and friends, or to dance with his wife whenever they found an open floor with music.

Billy is preceded in death by his brother, Frank and dear friends Willie Cleaton, Alec Dillard, and James Moore. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Betty Cooke; his brother, Gene Cooke; his sons, William Cooke and Stephen Cooke; several nieces and nephews, and his devoted caregivers from Riverside Hospice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in honoring the life of Billy Cooke and his service to the people of Essex County.

HONORING CW5 SCOTT GRONOWSKI
FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE IN
DEFENSE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Warrant Officer (CW5) Scott Gronowski on his retirement and to honor him for his many years of dedicated service in the defense of our Nation.

Scott enlisted in the Army as an infantryman in 1989 and undertook one of the most remarkable and decorated military careers I have seen. While serving as an infantryman, Scott attended Airborne School and Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He eventually went on to serve in the 2nd Battalion of the prestigious 75th Ranger Regiment. In 1997, he completed the Special Forces Qualification Course, earning him the coveted Green Beret. Scott went on to become a Warrant Officer in 2002 and served in numerous leadership and educational roles within the Army. His remarkable career culminated with his appointment as the Command Chief Warrant Officer for 1st Special Forces Command, where he served from April 2021 until June of 2023.

Throughout his career, Scott deployed on numerous occasions in support of U.S. operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. As a result of his bravery, Scott received many medals and distinctions including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Assault Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, among many others.

All of these accomplishments merely scratch the surface of Scott's illustrious military career. CW5 Scott Gronowski's dedication to the U.S. Army and the United States is both commendable and inspiring. I know I speak for the whole of our community when I wish Scott the very best as he begins this next chapter of his life. I thank Scott for his courage and sacrifice.

Mr Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Scott Gronowski on his retirement and thanking him for his decades of dedicated service to our military and Nation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 12

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine communities in crisis, focusing on what happens when disaster recovery funds are delayed.

SD-192

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 1840, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, S. 3392, to reauthorize the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act, S. 3393, to reauthorize the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, S. 644, to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies, and other pending calendar business.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine Coast Guard Academy whistleblowers, focusing on stories of sexual assault and harassment.

SD-562

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine cleaning up the C-Suite, focusing on ensuring accountability for corporate criminals.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine S. 1281, to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconcili-

ation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and S. 1742, to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on Iran and its proxy threat to U.S. policy and personnel post-October 7.

SVC-217

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Publishing Office.

SR-301

DECEMBER 13

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Space and Science

To hold hearings to examine government promotion of safety and innovation in the new space economy.

SR-253

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine the impact of algorithms on competition and consumer rights.

SD-226