

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LLOYD RICHARDS

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this esteemed body to honor the late Lloyd Richards, who left an indelible mark on our society through his groundbreaking career as a director, producer, performer, and educator.

A giant of the American Theatre, Richards was a groundbreaking talent who smashed the color barrier on Broadway for African American directors and became the first Black director to direct a Broadway play.

Before becoming one of the most important figures in American theater during the 20th century, he survived poverty and hardship during the depths of the Great Depression. At the age of only 13, he worked in a barbershop to help put food on the table for his blind mother and his four siblings.

During World War II, Richards halted his studies at Wayne University to serve his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps' division of fighter pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen. He then moved to New York City in 1947, and despite roles for African American actors being incredibly hard to come by, he landed roles on Broadway and on the radio. It was during this time that Richards started his illustrious career as an educator and developed what would become a lifelong friendship with one of his early acting students, the great Sidney Poitier.

Richards would go on to direct Poitier in the landmark original production *A Raisin in the Sun*, which opened at Broadway's Ethel Barrymore Theater on March 11, 1959. The production became an artistic and commercial success on Broadway, and Richards became the first African American to be nominated for the Tony Award for Best Direction.

Richards went on to become one of the most respected and innovative directors in the industry. He helped to bring the works of playwrights such as August Wilson, Lorraine Hansberry, and Athol Fugard to the stage, shaping the landscape of American theater in the process.

Beyond his contributions to the world of theater, Lloyd Richards was a dedicated and passionate educator. As the dean of the Yale School of Drama, he nurtured and inspired generations of talented artists, instilling in them the values of integrity, hard work, and dedication.

I am grateful that thanks to the incredible advocacy of the Committee to Celebrate Lloyd Richards, the corner of 47th Street and Broadway in Manhattan will be co-named "Lloyd Richards Way" on June 29, 2024. This is a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to the art of theater and left behind a legacy that continues to inspire and influence artists worldwide.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Lloyd Richards and in cele-

brating his contributions to American theater. May his name and his legacy continue to inspire future generations of artists and educators for years to come.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
THE WARWICK MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FUTURE CITY TEAM

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Warwick Middle School Future City Team on their recent success at the Future City Competition in Washington, D.C.

The Future City Competition invites students from across the country to showcase their innovative research and design. Students have the opportunity to develop engineering projects that address the critical, complex, and real world needs of communities across the globe.

This year's Warwick Middle School team placed third in the national competition with their model of Sydney, Australia. Additionally, the team won the special award for "Most Sustainable Food Production System." A fitting recognition considering their familiarity with the rich agricultural heritage of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

It fills me with great hope when I see the innovation and creativity displayed by the next generation. These Warwick Middle School students demonstrate the hard work and determination needed to become the leaders of tomorrow.

They have made all of us in the 11th District extraordinarily proud. Congratulations to the Warwick Middle School Future City Team on their success, and I wish them all the best in the future.

NATIVE AMERICAN ENTREPRE-  
NEURIAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2024*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7102 the "Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act."

H.R. 7102 creates an Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) within the Small Business Administration.

I am a long-time member of the Congressional Native American Caucus as well as the Congressional Small Business Caucus.

I understand the need for Native Americans to have an advocate within the Small Business Administration.

The Native American business community as well as families would be positively impacted by the passage of H.R. 7102.

This bill would draw attention to the resources that are available to tribal business owners through the (SBA) and oversee economic and entrepreneurial relationships with the Small Business Administration.

The goal is to produce economic development within tribal communities by educating Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations about programs administered by other Federal agencies.

The passing of H.R. 7102 would allow the Office of Native American Affairs to:

Work with Indian tribes, Alaska Native corporations, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and small businesses owned by individuals who are members of those entities on entrepreneurial development, contracting and capital access programs to establish or expand their small business concerns and promote economic development in Indian Country.

Formulating and promoting policies, and enhancing existing programs, so they better address the entrepreneurial, capital access, business development and contracting needs of tribes and Native businesses, including by collaborating with high-level officials of SBA and other federal agencies.

In addition, the (ONAA) will be able to provide financial and other assistance directly to deploy training, counseling and other educational outreach, workshops, supplier events.

Additional important assistance would include access to the SBA's entrepreneur and contracting programs to facilitate Native contractors' participation in SBA's various small business contracting programs, facilitating and improving access to SBA's various loan programs, loan guarantees, disaster assistance, and other capital access programs.

Finally, ensuring tribal consultations are conducted to solicit input and facilitate discussion of potential modifications to SBA programs and procedures.

It is imperative that H.R. 7102 is passed because Native Americans will have an advocate and the economic and entrepreneurial tools it needs to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEREK  
JOSHUA ABBOTT

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep respect and heartfelt remembrance for one of Mississippi's courageous National Guardsmen, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Derek Joshua Abbott, who tragically lost his life when Apache Helicopter, Tail Number 52630, went down near Booneville, Mississippi Friday afternoon of February 23, 2024.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Derek Joshua Abbott, a 42-year-old Maintenance Test Pilot served in Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 151st

• 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.

Lakota Medical Evacuation unit. Derek was no ordinary soldier; he was a seasoned veteran of 21 years, marked by acts of bravery, an expert aviator, and above all, a devoted family man. With over 3,000 flying hours under his belt, Derek's mastery of Army aircraft was unmatched. His accolades, including the Air Medal for valor and the Combat Action Badge, spoke volumes of his courage and skill in the face of adversity. Outside of his military service, Derek pursued his love for flying by working as an Emergency Medical Services pilot. With expertise in navigating the skies, he played a crucial role in delivering swift medical assistance to those in need. Derek's commitment to service and skill in the air left a lasting impact on the lives he touched.

Beyond his military prowess, Derek was a man of faith, a loving husband to Brandi, and a doting father to Chandler, Breanna, and Greyson. His family extended beyond blood, embracing exchange students Sarah Mirshahidi and Pauline Schult as their own.

Hailing from Itawamba County, Derek cherished his roots in Fulton, Mississippi, and held a deep love for his state and country. His unwavering dedication to duty and his ultimate sacrifice make him a true American hero and a source of pride for Mississippians everywhere. In these trying times, let us hold dear the memory of our fallen comrade and stand in solidarity with his grieving family. May Derek's legacy of honor and service endure eternally in our hearts and minds.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
LIFE AND LOSS OF A GREAT  
COMMUNITY LEADER EDGAR  
LAWRENCE "DOOKY" CHASE III

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and New Orleans icon, Edgar Lawrence "Dooky" Chase III. He was born in New Orleans on May 10, 1949, to Edgar L. "Dooky" Chase Jr. and Leyah "Leah" Lange Chase. Mr. Chase was known for his role as an educator and a leader in our community. After years of mentoring, guiding, and serving others, Dooky passed away on February 21, 2024.

Mr. Chase grew up in the Tremé neighborhood, alongside his three sisters, Emily, Stella, and Leah. As owners of the renowned establishment Dooky Chase's Restaurant, Dooky's family has stood as a symbol of tradition and responsibility in our community. It was his family that instilled in him deep-rooted values and faith, which pushed him to become a force for all good in our society.

Chase's dedication to social progress was evident from a young age, through his efforts to promote voter registration with the NAACP's Youth committee in the 1960s. In 1967, he graduated from Jesuit High School, where he formed part of the first integrated class. He continued his path as a pioneer for social justice at Loyola University New Orleans, where he served as the first African American Class President. He then pursued a master's in business administration at Columbia University, followed by a law degree at Loyola University New Orleans.

After serving as Captain in the Marine Corps and working at Price Waterhouse Coopers, Dooky served as a faculty member and administrator at Dillard University in New Orleans. His commitment to serving others was evident throughout his 20 years at this institution, which culminated in a role as the Dean of the Business School. After years of mentoring students through this role, he decided to retire. However, this retirement did not last long, as Dooky graciously accepted a request by Dillard University to return as Vice President of Facilities to manage the school's rebuilding following Hurricane Katrina.

In addition to his achievements in his education and career, he served on numerous boards, commissions and councils throughout his life, some of which include the Chase Family Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League, New Orleans Public Radio (WNOE), Touro Hospital, The New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute (NOCHI), Metropolitan Crime Commission, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana, Inc., The New Orleans Opera Association, City of New Orleans Municipal Employees Retirement System, New Orleans Botanical Gardens, the Bureau of Governmental Research, Loyola University Board of Trustees, City Park Improvement Association, Inc., New Orleans Public Belt Railroad, Board of Trustees of Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, New Orleans Museum of Art, Millennium Port Authority of Louisiana, State Board of Economic Development, and State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

An avid reader, Dooky was enthralled with historical research, and storytelling. He was also a deeply spiritual, devout Catholic; often reflecting on the role his faith played in his philosophical commitments, and perspective on all aspects of life, if you were one of the lucky ones, you were able to get a glimpse of the book he was working on—"Running on Raindrops", a trilogy of historical fiction. His other works in progress included event planning for the Chase Family Foundations' annual Juneteenth celebration and fundraising events, and project management of the restaurant's Historic Upper Room renovations of the Dooky Chase Restaurant, where many Civil Rights Leaders met to discuss many of the country's segregation issues.

Mr. Chase had much to be proud of, yet his greatest source of pride was that which he felt for his family. On December 23, 1973, Dooky married the love of his life, Alva Jean, and in 1975, they welcomed twins Travis and Trevor into their lives. Seven years later, in 1982, they welcomed their third son, Edgar "Dooky" IV. The three boys went on to have their own children, who gave their grandfather the nickname "Big Daddy."

Edgar was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar "Dooky" L. Chase, Jr. and Leyah "Leah" Lange Chase, his sister Emily Chase Haydel, brothers-in-law Wayne Reese Sr. and Gary Darensbourg. He is survived by his loving wife, Alva Jean Darensbourg Chase. His sons Travis Chase and Trevor Chase, Edgar "Dooky" Chase IV. Grandchildren: Caitlin and Zoe Chase; Ava and Trevor Chase, Jr.; and Sidney Chase and Edgar "Vito" L. Chase V. Daughter-in-law, Gretchen Fauria Chase, as well as former daughters-in-law, Chastity Haydel Chase and Minaxi Desai Chase. His sisters Stella Chase Reese and Leah Chase

Kamata. Brother-in-law James V. Haydel, Jr., Brother and Sister-in-law Glenda and James "Jimmy" Llorens, and Sister-in-law Phyllis Darensbourg and a host of nieces and nephews from the Haydel, Reese, Kamata, Darensbourg and Llorens families.

Edgar "Dooky" Chase, III was an inspiring and compassionate man. He mentored thousands of young people in Louisiana's Second Congressional District and was at his mother's side running the World Famous Dooky Chase Restaurant. My prayers are with the Chase Family as they continue to carry on the Chase Family Legacy. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING 25-YEAR ARMY  
VETERAN SHELLIE WILLIS

**HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 25-year Army veteran Shellie Willis, a Pierce County-based leader in the veterans' advocacy space who empowers veterans to put the skills and knowledge they gained serving our nation to work in the civilian workforce.

As Founder and CEO of the Redefining You Foundation, Shellie shepherds a team of skilled life coaches and workforce development professionals to help transitioning servicemembers and their spouses reenter civilian life. With special attention to supporting female veterans, Shellie's organization provides professional and personal development training, connects retired servicewomen to job resources, and builds bespoke programs to help reorient and redefine the lifestyles of those seeking direction after their military careers. Shellie's spirit of service extends to her role as Senior Director of Collective Impact at WorkForce Central matching jobseekers with employment opportunities throughout Pierce County.

With the South Sound's significant active duty and veteran population, Shellie's work plays a critical role in putting transitioning servicemembers on pathways to post-service success. I commend Shellie's service to our country and our community and am proud to have her as my Constituent of the Month.

CONGRATULATING SUSAN SUBER,  
WINNER OF DISTRICT 1 YOUNG  
MARINE OF THE YEAR

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding young woman from my district, Susan Suber, who was recently named the District 1 Young Marine of the Year for a second year in a row. Young Marines District 1 is a region that encompasses 9 Northeastern U.S. states. Susan is a member of the Spartan Young Marines located in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, is a resident of Pipersville, Pennsylvania, and is currently a junior at Central Bucks East High School. Suber will proudly represent Division 1

in competition with five other division winners for the title of National Young Marine of the Year, the highest honor bestowed by the Young Marines organization nationally.

The Young Marines is a national non-profit youth education and service program for boys and girls, age eight through high school graduation. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork, and self-discipline, so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Suber joined the Young Marines at age nine and she currently holds the rank of Young Marine Sergeant Major. Over her eight years in the program, Suber has attended all three leadership schools available from Young Marines, and went on to teach leadership at some of these schools as an alumna.

Outside of Young Marines, Suber is busy with many hours spent as a Toys for Tots Mentor and Youth Ambassador. In this position she helped to inspire and teach fellow Youth Ambassador's not only about the program but how they can get more involved in the campaign and grow as leaders. This past year she was named one of the Youth Ambassador Mentors of the year on behalf of the Toys for Tots organization. In addition to her Toys for Tots national leadership, she is also a leader in her high school's vocational education program, assisting the school with teaching plans and curriculum development.

After high school, Suber plans to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps in the field of aviation. I wish her the best of luck in her endeavors, and I know that she will serve her community and country well.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 29, 2024, AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution, with my colleague, Rep. RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. Our resolution supports the designation of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February. I am pleased that this resolution has been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and am thankful for their leadership on these critical issues over many years.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. More than half of those struggling with rare diseases—defined as affecting less than 200,000 people—are children. Sadly, many rare diseases and conditions are serious, life-threatening, and lack effective treatments. These are not just statistics: I am sure most of us know at least one family member or friend who has been affected by or struggled with the unique challenges of rare diseases.

Moreover, as we observe Black History Month, it's important to know that African Americans and other minorities are especially vulnerable to rare diseases, including Sickle Cell Anemia and Sarcoidosis. These diseases

and conditions—including Thalassemia and Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) amyloidosis—disproportionately affect African Americans. Despite these unique obstacles, African Americans have an inspiring tradition of both combatting rare diseases and improving medical science.

One great example is Dr. Charles Drew, an African American scientist who helped found the modern "blood bank," which helped dramatically expand blood transfusions. A faculty member at Howard University, Dr. Drew's pioneering work in blood transfusions took place against the backdrop of segregation and discrimination. During his time overseeing the Red Cross's blood plasma donation program, Dr. Drew was prohibited from donating his own blood because of the color of his skin. Despite these obstacles, Dr. Drew's work improved the practice of blood transfusions, which is now a lifeline for many individuals struggling today with rare diseases. The examples of Dr. Drew and countless other researchers, physicians, nurses, activists, and patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More work needs to be done to bring attention to the needs of those who struggle with rare diseases, and to celebrate their courage. That's why Rep. HUDSON and I are reintroducing this important resolution. Each year, many individuals with rare diseases and their loved ones celebrate Rare Disease Day to share their stories and educate communities of researchers, health professionals, governments, and community organizations about how rare diseases affect them.

More than 100 countries observe Rare Disease Day. Our resolution expresses support for the designation of the last day of this month as Rare Disease Day. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting Rare Disease Day's designation on the last day of February to better champion people with rare diseases. I urge the House to support this resolution.

DOCUMENTED HISTORY OF THE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AT ROSEWOOD, FLORIDA

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, the state of Florida commissioned Professors Maxine D. Jones, Larry E. Rivers, David R. Colburn, William R. Rogers, and Tom Dye to write and submit to the Florida Board of Regents a documented report of what occurred at the site of Rosewood in Levy County Florida during the first week of January, 1923.

The findings of that report can be found at: <http://edocs.dlis.state.fl.us/fldocs/regents/rosewood.pdf>.

CELEBRATING EL PASO ELECTRIC

**HON. TONY GONZALES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an important milestone in my district. Today, El Paso Electric is unveiling Newman Unit 6—a cutting edge, 228 megawatt natural gas combustion turbine generating power plant. This state-of-the-art facility will replace three older, less-efficient units with a robust energy supply equipped to meet the growing needs of the El Paso region.

Situated at the Newman Power Station in El Paso, TX, this project exemplifies El Paso Electric's dedication to enhancing energy reliability and minimizing wasteful practices. By utilizing modern natural gas technology, this project will optimize gas usage and reduce water consumption by an impressive 600 million gallons annually.

Additionally, alongside maintaining a robust natural gas power supply, this initiative makes significant investments in renewable energy. Such diversification is integral for fostering a resilient power grid fit for the demands of the 21st century.

Supporting a strong energy sector is a key priority of mine in this Chamber. I fundamentally believe that energy security is national security and that safeguarding jobs, such as those generated by this project, is paramount. Witnessing the fruition of this development fills me with pride.

I applaud El Paso Electric for their unwavering commitment to bolstering energy reliability and security in the El Paso region. Their tireless efforts ensure that our energy grid remains strong and can keep our lights on around the clock.

HONORING COLONEL ELVERT L. GARDNER

**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I, along with the people of St. Louis, rise today to honor the exceptional career of Colonel Elvert L. Gardner. This March, Col. Gardner will retire with over 30 years of active duty military service.

Col. Gardner is a St. Louis native who graduated from Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School in 1988. He was commissioned in May 1993 through the Reserved Officer Training Corps at the distinguished Detachment 015, Tuskegee University, home of the Tuskegee Airmen. Upon receiving his commission as Second Lieutenant in 1993, Col. Gardner spent 26 years in the U.S. Air Force before transferring to the U.S. Space Force. In 2015, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel, further signifying his excellent leadership and resolve.

As the Director of Space Strategy, Policy, and Plans at U.S. Space Force headquarters and the Pentagon, Col. Gardner consistently dedicated himself to supporting national security objectives. Other examples of his commitment to supporting our Nation include his roles

as Space Force Service Chair, National Security Studies Department Chair, and Assistant Professor at the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. In each of these positions, Col. Gardner has distinguished himself as an individual who leads with full intention to serve the community at large.

Col. Gardner has demonstrated exceptional leadership, courage, perseverance, and hope throughout his career. His retirement is a well-earned milestone over the course of his professional life. We thank Col. Gardner for his remarkable service to our country, and I know his beloved niece, our dear sister and friend, Cora Faith Walker, would be incredibly proud of her uncle and his outstanding career. On behalf of Missouri's First District, I send my heartfelt congratulations to Col. Gardner on his retirement after 30 years of service in the U.S. military.

#### CELEBRATING GENERAL EDWARD GREER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the distinguished life and extraordinary military career of General Edward Greer, a remarkable individual whose legacy has left an indelible mark on our nation, as he approaches his 100th birthday.

Born in the coal-mining town of Gary, West Virginia, General Greer's journey began at West Virginia State College in 1942, where he enrolled during an era of racial segregation. However, his education was interrupted by World War II, leading him to serve in the 777th Field Artillery Battalion, an all-Black unit. By the war's end, he had risen to the esteemed rank of Master Sergeant. Returning to civilian life, General Greer resumed his studies at West Virginia State College, where he met and married Jewell Means. Their union, forged on May 31, 1948, endured for more than 72 years.

Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Regular Army in 1940, General Greer sought stability in the military, serving with distinction for 33 years. His early assignments in Japan coincided with the outbreak of the Korean War, where he earned the Silver Star for valor. Promoted through the ranks, General Greer's military career traversed Germany, Oklahoma, Kansas, and the Pentagon, witnessing the Army's integration and earning promotions to Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel. His family grew to include three children: Michael, Kenneth, and Gail.

In 1970, Colonel Greer served in Vietnam before becoming a trailblazer in military history. Selected for promotion to Brigadier General in 1972, he joined an esteemed group of Black officers, contributing to the integration of the Army's general officer ranks. Retiring in 1976 after 33 years of dedicated service, General Greer made El Paso his home. With his beloved wife Jewell, he became an active member of the community, engaging in real estate sales and contributing to various civic boards.

The Greers' post-Army life was a testament to their commitment to service and community.

It is with profound gratitude and respect that we honor General Edward Greer's legacy, a legacy that exemplifies the highest ideals of duty, honor, and love for our great nation, and wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP CARLTON PEARSON

#### HON. RO KHANNA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the selfless life of Bishop Carlton Pearson who passed away last November at the age of 70. Bishop Carlton Pearson was an evangelist, ministry leader, author, and award-winning singer. He was raised in San Diego, California with five siblings. He is survived by them, his wife, and his two children.

An expert in many crafts, his congregation often praised his diverse passions and the limitless communities impacted by his work. He preached what he called a gospel of inclusion. He saw all human life as an integral part of a broader community. He was welcomed in Synagogues, Islamic groups, Atheist and Agnostic organizations, and a variety of other spiritual communities. He felt a mandate to strive for peace through an emphasis on inclusion in spirituality and interfaith fellowship.

I commend him again today and emphasize his teaching that we don't have to go along to get along. That we can mind many of the same things without necessarily having the same mind about everything. We honor the life of Bishop Carlton Pearson, the legacy he left won't be soon forgotten. I include in the RECORD this Rolling Stone Magazine memoir about how he has inspired generations to come.

#### HOW BISHOP CARLTON PEARSON INSPIRED A GENERATION OF SINGERS AND GOSPEL ARTISTS

(By Meagan Jordan)

Bishop Carlton Pearson, a renowned preacher, singer and composer, known for his Live At Azusa albums, died on November 19 after a battle with cancer in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

His theology, known as the "gospel of inclusion," preached against homophobia and embraced the LGBTQ community, but cost him his congregation and approval within the evangelical community. However, his message of inclusion and his denial of hell has become a model, and his impact in gospel music continues to inspire new generations of artists.

"He has an album of hymns that people would sing in the Black church for communion like 'I Know It Was The Blood,' or his version of 'Precious Memories,' gospel artist and former Destiny's Child member Michelle Williams tells Rolling Stone, referring to Pearson's Live At Azusa 2: Precious Memories album from 1997. "He amplified those songs and made them mainstream for church."

Pearson was born and raised in San Diego, California, where his father and grandfather were preacher men in a storefront "heaven or hell" Pentecostal church. After graduating high school, he attended Oral Roberts University, an evangelical Christian University, where Oral Roberts, a white preacher who had the leading religious television broadcast in the Seventies, was the school's founder. Roberts mentored Pearson as he navigated the ministerial realm.

Pearson left the school before graduating in 1977, starting his own church, Higher Dimensions. With over 6,000 members, it would make him one of the first Black mega church pastors, bringing Black churches into a mainstream space in the Nineties and 2000s.

"In the Seventies, here in the West, the church was on a decline," says Larry Reid, a pastor, media personality and friend to Pearson. "You had evangelistic campaigns all over the U.S., but it was fading away and Black people were not leading it. We were the musicians and the singers. But Carlton Pearson created a stage called Azusa and brought Black Christians in and the white stations would play clips from his platform."

Pearson's Azusa Conferences, which were inspired by the 1906 revival that took place on Azusa Street in Los Angeles, were a hybrid of preaching and music. It gave preachers, like Joyce Meyers, Michael Pitts, Bishop T.D. Jakes, and gospel heavyweights, such as Donnie McClurkin, the Clark Sisters, and the late Lashun Pace, agency and a platform to showcase their talents and introduce them to a wider audience of people. The conference, which was held at Pearson's old university, Oral Roberts, would host thousands of guests. For those who could not attend, they were taped and sold via VHS, which gave way to many successful careers in television ministry and gospel music.

"I had always known his music for many years before I became an artist," says Ricky Dillard, a renowned gospel artist and composer, known for his choirs and directorial abilities. "He had a choir with him and that was influential to me. He was out here doing it at an A-1 level, so everyone was a fan. If you're a gospel music lover, there's no way that you could not have heard the music of Bishop Carlton Pearson."

Pearson's album The Best of Azusa. . . Yet Holdin' On is a staple in the Black community. On the 14-track album, featuring songs from his Azusa conference days, he has an oratory track called "Mother Sherman Story," in which he recounts a question an elderly mother from his home church would ask him, even as dementia began to set in: "You yet holding on?"—The album's title.

"That meant many things," explains Williams. "It meant keep holding on to your faith and also meant keep holding on to your morals and your standards."

In the late Nineties, Pearson—who not only studied his bible but also studied its roots, foundations, and original language of Hebrew—came to a realization that would shake the foundation of his faith and his social standing within the church.

"When my little girl was an infant, I was watching the evening news and the Hutus and the Tutsis were returning to Rwanda from Uganda,?" Pearson recalled on an episode of This American Life from December 2005. "I'm watching these little kids with swollen bellies, their skin is stretched. . . Their hair is kind of red from malnutrition and they have flies on the corner of their eyes and mouths."

Pearson thought of his baby, who is now 27 year-old Majeste Pearson—a pop and gospel singer—and his big screen television and the plate of food he was in the middle of eating. Knowing the culture of the people on the screen and assuming they were not all Christian, he said, "God, I don't know how you can call yourself a loving, sovereign God and allow these people to suffer this way and just suck them right into hell." Pearson heard a voice saying "Can't you see they're already there? That's hell. You keep creating that for yourselves, I'm taking them into my presence." Pearson had a realization: "We do that to ourselves and to each other," he recalled in the podcast episode.

The next Sunday, he shared his revelation to his congregation, urging them to stop

telling people that they weren't "saved." Instead, he wanted them to send a message that they were "safe with God."

But this new theology of inclusion and universalism marked his downfall within the evangelical mainstream. Congregants left the church. Preachers like T.D. Jakes spoke out against him; Jakes told Charisma Magazine, a popular Christian publication, that Pearson was wrong and had incorrectly interpreted the Bible. Many churches and leaders turned their backs on him. He lost his church, both its members and the building. He was banned from hosting the Azusa conference at the Oral Roberts institution and Roberts, his former mentor, remained silent. At the time, Pearson was also running for the Mayor of Tulsa, the city with the worst race riot in 1922 known as the Black Wall Street massacre. He lost.

"I told Carlton that if he told them he believed there was no such thing as hell and damnation, he will reduce this weapon of fear based religion, which is the foundation of religious institutions money," said Bishop Yvette Flunder, a friend of Pearson and a same gender loving preacher and singer who sung with The Hawkins Family. "His colleagues and the College of Bishops that he was a part of put him on blast and said he was a heretic and excommunicated him."

Charisma Magazine didn't let the issue rest. According to Reid, they wrote about Pearson for two years, demonizing his theology and teachings.

"He was deeply hurt and felt betrayed," his children Majeste and Julian Pearson wrote in an email to Rolling Stone. But Pearson stood by his beliefs. "He internalized a lot of it, resulting in him becoming physically sick. Around that time, he had his first bout with cancer. We were nine and 11 when we knew it was our last service."

While no longer popular in the mainstream church, Pearson's ministry continued through his church New Dimensions, where he preached against homophobia and embraced the LGBTQ community as members. He challenged scriptures used to demonize and oppress their existence. He also authored books like The Gospel of Inclusion and God Is Not a Christian, Nor a Jew, Muslim, Hindu. . . . God Dwells with Us, in Us, Around Us, as Us. He also was a minister to many in person.

"Bishop Pearson's ministry was a mirror for me," says Dillard. Back in 2005, Dillard had met Pearson leaving an event and felt inclined to give him a ride back to Atlanta.

"Something very powerful happened in our moment together. I was seeking God in a different way and I had come up with translations that I needed confirmation from. I felt low in spirit that I was not meeting the standards of the Word of God. Bishop said something to me that changed my life that day. He said 'As others have judged you, you have now taken on their judgment and you are judging yourself.' It spoke to my heart."

#### RECOGNIZING LEAP OF KINDNESS

##### HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce's Leap of Kindness Day, on February 29, 2024.

Leap of Kindness Day was started in 2016 by the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce and has taken place on February 29th each Leap Year since. The goal of the day

has always been to spend the extra day we are given every four years doing acts of kindness. This initiative has spread throughout the U.S., Canada, and Ireland to help those in need.

Leap of Kindness Day offers community members a chance to do something kind for someone else. It motivates organizations, businesses, and communities to donate clothing, food, and money to local not-for-profit organizations.

This day keeps communities rooted in their values and spreads love to neighbors. Growing up in Ulster County, I have seen how giving, dedicated, and kind my neighbors in the Hudson Valley are to those around them. I hope that everyone can take part in such a great initiative, participating alongside their communities to help others, not just today but every day as we all work to spread more kindness.

I want to recognize Ward Todd and Jess Davis, President and Vice President of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce, for their work to make Leap of Kindness Day such a meaningful day for our community.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

##### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly, Azerbaijan.

On February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women, 63 children, and 70 elderly people—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than 100 children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were entirely killed. This was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians during the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

Although a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, it is my hope that Armenia and Azerbaijan can come together and find peace. Long-term peace, security, and regional cooperation would greatly benefit the region and the world. As Azerbaijanis throughout the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, I hope they can find peace amidst this tragedy.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GERALD "JAY" CIMINO

##### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the God-honoring life and generous impact of a Pikes Peak community stalwart—Gerald "Jay" Cimino, who died of natural causes on February 24, 2024, at the age of 87. Jay truly was a pillar of the Pike's Peak region, both as a well-known business innovator in the automobile industry as well as a be-

loved and visionary community builder. Jay's leadership of the Phil Long dealerships impacted the automobile industry across the state of Colorado and his love for others led to the creation of numerous veteran-focused groups such as Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center.

Born in Trinidad, Colorado, Jay joined the Marine Corps out of high school. Following his service to our Nation, he moved back to Trinidad and attended Trinidad State Jr College and finished his bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of Denver in 1960. Wasting no time after graduation, Jay married his wife, Emily, and they took an active role in their community. Jay became General Manager of Phil Long Ford in 1975 and rose up the ranks to President and CEO of the Phil Long Family of Dealerships. Throughout his time in the automobile industry, Jay lived out the exemplary values of community and customer service as no one had done before him. This emphasis on community service was the basis for how Jay used his time to make and do better for everyone around him.

Jay invested in the economic growth of his hometown of Trinidad as well as his adopted home of Colorado Springs throughout his time at Phil Long Ford. Whether it was bringing automobile dealerships to new communities, creating academic scholarships, or helping build community-focused buildings, Jay took great pride in providing new opportunities and services for others.

Perhaps Jay's most impactful initiative was his creation of Mt. Carmel Health, Wellness and Community Center, Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence of Colorado, and Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center which provides access to medical care and career change resources to our community and specifically our veterans. Jay truly modeled for all of us how to properly serve in the most caring and generous way for those who have served our nation.

Jay and his wife Emily of more than fifty-five years enjoyed the blessings of their four children and eight grandchildren. The legacy of the Cimino family continues to have an impact in the Pike Peak region following in the steps of Jay's vision and passion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring and celebrating the exemplary life of Jay Cimino whose fingerprints on the Pike Peak region will remain for the rest of time.

#### HONORING KENNY AND TRACEY BARR

##### HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenny and Tracey Barr for their fifteen years of service to Northeast Indiana's homeless veterans at Shepherd's House.

Shepherd's House is a not-for-profit facility in Fort Wayne, Indiana founded in 1998 to house homeless veterans who struggle with substance abuse and mental health issues. It has been described as a "lighthouse" and a "beacon of hope in a sea of isolation" by the veterans who have benefitted from their work.

The Barrs serve on staff currently as Directors of Veteran Outreach and Intake Specialists. For twelve of their fifteen years there,

they lived in a small apartment at the Shepherd's House with the veterans they served. This "ministry," as they have referred to it, has not made them wealthy, yet they have pledged to continue supporting our homeless veterans for years to come.

In Tracey Barr's own words, "The men and women have sacrificed so much for our country; we want to do whatever we can." In tending to those who fought for American freedom, they, too, are serving our country. It is this selflessness and devotion to duty that have made Kenny and Tracey pillars of their community and earned them the respect of all who know them.

REMEMBERING U.S. AIR FORCE  
GENERAL EARL T. O'LOUGHLIN

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember U.S. Air Force General Earl T. O'Loughlin, who passed away November 10, 2023, at the age of 93 years old. General O'Loughlin was a distinguished four-star general, who commenced his military journey during the Cold War in 1951.

An exceptional pilot, he navigated various aircraft, ranging from the B-29 to the KC-135. Over the course of his career, he accumulated approximately 6,000 flying hours, including 224 combat hours. Beyond his military achievements, Earl was a devoted husband to Thelma Bentley, a loving father to his daughter, Kris Rudin, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and a cherished friend.

The general emphasized the mantra "freedom isn't free" throughout his entire life. Among his numerous accolades are the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, and Air Force Commendation Medal adorned with four oakleaf clusters.

In the hearts of the Tucson community and the residents of District 6, General O'Loughlin remains a true hero.

We extend our gratitude for his dedicated service, and I am eternally thankful for his contributions.

RECOGNIZING MOLLY MILLER'S  
ELECTION TO THE INTER-  
NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND  
ENGINEERING EDUCATORS ASSO-  
CIATION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Molly Miller on her election to the presidency of the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association.

Molly is an experienced technology educator at Penn Manor High School who is dedicated to the ideal of technological literacy among students. In an ever-changing world, teachers like Molly prepare students for careers and life beyond the walls of school that will be defined

by the rapidly developing technological revolution.

Molly's recent election to the presidency of the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, where she will serve during the 2025–2026 term, comes after years of working with the Association's Pennsylvania board.

In her new role, Molly will oversee 1,500 members worldwide, ensuring that the next generation's innovative skillset will accommodate the needs of the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Molly for her dedication to her students and preparing them to enter the technological workforce. I wish her all the best in her new position, in addition to her work at Penn Manor High School.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE  
BRADY BILL AND BRADY BACK-  
GROUND CHECKS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of 30 years of Brady Background Checks.

The landmark Brady Bill, championed by Jim and Sarah Brady, was enacted 30 years ago on February 28, 1994.

This historic legislation established our nation's background check system for guns sold at licensed firearms dealers.

The Brady Bill is named after Reagan White House Press Secretary Jim Brady.

After Jim Brady survived a bullet to the head during the 1981 assassination attempt of President Reagan, he and his wife, Sarah Brady, knew our country urgently needed common-sense solutions to prevent guns from falling into the hands of those who intend to cause harm.

Since its enactment, the Brady Bill has blocked almost 4.9 million prohibited gun transactions.

Thirty years later, the Brady Bill continues to save countless lives each day because background checks work.

As we celebrate enduring milestones that have transformed our country, I cannot help but remember the lives that have been selfishly lost to inaction and negligence.

So, in addition to celebrating the success of the Brady Bill, I would like to take a moment to urge the passage of an additional, necessary piece of gun violence prevention legislation—H.R. 52, The Kimberly Vaughan Firearm Safe Storage Act.

This bill was named after Kimberly Vaughan, a 14-year-old girl, who was among the ten lives we lost during the devastating Santa Fe High School shooting on May 18, 2018.

H.R. 52 will establish best practices for firearm storage to protect children from improperly stored or misused firearms and establish a grant program for local government and nonprofits to distribute safe storage devices.

In particular, the Attorney General is directed to establish voluntary best practices relating to safe firearm storage and publish them on a website and in print.

Secondly, it will require most weapons to have a clear written notice on the packaging

that says, "Safe Storage Saves Lives" and how to obtain the best practices established by the Attorney General.

Additionally, the bill will provide grants to states and local governments with a ten-year, \$10 million grant program to distribute safe storage devices.

As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, member of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, and co-founding member of the Children's Caucus, gun violence prevention and the protecting of children is deeply important to me.

And so, in highlighting the importance of passing bills, such as H.R. 52, we must also reflect and remember the lives of those lost to senseless gun violence.

Kimberly Vaughan loved cats, Harry Potter, and regularly took trips to the library.

She was drawing geometric shapes in her first period art class when she was tragically killed by a 17-year-old student who was on a shooting rampage.

That student ultimately massacred 8 students, 2 teachers, and wounded 13 others at Santa Fe High School in Texas.

It was the worst school shooting since 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida just two months prior.

The shotgun and the .38 caliber pistol the shooter took to school belonged to his father and were available to him at his home.

Firearm injury is the leading cause of death for children and young adults in the United States.

Although American children are "twice as likely to be shot and killed as they are to die drowning," there are more safety regulations for pools than gun storage according to a report by Everytown for Gun Safety.

Every year, almost 20,000 children are shot and killed or wounded by a firearm, and 3 million are exposed to gun violence.

One in three U.S. households with children have firearms and firearms accounted for nearly 19 percent of childhood deaths in 2021, a 50 percent increase since 2019.

On average, 9 minors are killed by improperly stored or misused guns every day.

In my home state of Texas, more than 4,000 Texans are shot and killed each year.

Safe storage practices are critically important to keep firearms away from dangerous individuals and to keep children and families safe from senseless gun violence.

In the last decade, nearly 2 million firearms have been reported stolen.

Between 2010 and 2016, police recovered more than 23,000 stolen firearms that were used to commit kidnapping, armed robberies, sexual assaults, murders, and other violent crimes.

An estimated 4.6 million minors live in homes with at least one unlocked, loaded firearm; on average, 9 children are killed by improperly stored or misused guns every day.

The passage of the Brady Bill reminds us that bold action to prevent gun violence is possible.

Americans should be safe from gun violence in their homes and neighborhoods.

Americans should not be shot at Super Bowl parades.

Americans should not be shot in their schools.

Americans should not be shot at their places of worship.



It is simply unconscionable that guns are now the leading cause of death of children and teens in America.

Just two years ago, I joined Congress in passing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the first major gun violence prevention law since the Brady Bill.

Already, this legislation is saving lives, but we need bolder action. It is long past the time to do something about the epidemic of gun violence in our nation? The nation that prides itself on protecting our children and the future generations. If we want to protect Americans, we must start by learning how to effectively store guns in the homes that choose to have them.

Americans want more than thoughts and prayers.

They want action.

Gun safety is a nonpartisan issue that requires a bipartisan solution.

Over 90 percent of Americans—including Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike—want to expand the Brady Bill and pass universal background checks so that we can end the scourge of gun violence.

A majority of Americans want an assault weapons ban, extreme risk laws, and support for community violence intervention.

Data for Progress finds 49 percent of voters support changing Senate rules so Democrats can pass gun control legislation.

This includes 76 percent of Democrats, 43 percent of Independents, and 24 percent of Republicans.

Put simply, Americans deserve sensible action to end this epidemic.

The Brady's legacy lives on today in the gun violence prevention organization named after them.

We must remain persistent in the fight for a safer America that is free of gun violence.

I will continue to work with colleagues to end this epidemic.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BRYAN ANDREW ZEMEK

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan Zemek, a Mississippi National Guardsman, who tragically lost his life when Apache Helicopter, Tail Number 52630, went down near Booneville, Mississippi Friday afternoon of February 23, 2024.

Bryan Zemek, at 36 years old, served his country with distinction for nearly two decades, demonstrating his courage and skill as a Standardization Instructor Pilot for Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation

Regiment in Tupelo, Mississippi. His extensive experience included over 2450 flying hours in the Apache helicopter, showcasing his expertise in aircraft gunnery, weapon systems, combat arms, operations, and tactics.

Beyond his military service, Bryan was a devoted family man, leaving behind his beloved wife Robyn and their four children, Ayden, Logan, Swayze, and Avery. He was not only a skilled aviator, but also an outdoorsman, marksman, and even a private plane owner. His love for boating, aviation, and serving as

a civilian Emergency Medical Services pilot reflected his adventurous spirit and commitment to helping others.

Bryan embodied the values of faith, family, and patriotism. His dedication to his home state of Mississippi and to the United States of America exemplifies the true essence of an American hero. As we reflect on his life and legacy, let us hold his memory dear in our hearts and express our profound gratitude for his selfless service and ultimate sacrifice.

In this time of sorrow, we offer our unwavering support and comfort. May his legacy endure as a beacon of courage and honor, reminding us of all the sacrifices made by those who serve our nation. God bless Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan Andrew Zemek, a proud Mississippian, and a true American hero. May he rest in peace, and may his spirit continue to inspire us all.

#### CELEBRATING THE 95TH BIRTH- DAY OF FORMER STATE REP- RESENTATIVE THOMAS JASPER

#### HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand to honor Former State Representative Thomas Jasper, a gentleman near and dear to the citizens of New Orleans and Louisiana's Second Congressional District, as he celebrates his 95th Birthday.

Native New Orleanian Thomas Jasper was born on February 23, 1929. An ambitious and promising young man that attended Booker T. Washington Sr. High School in the 2nd Congressional District. After high school, he served in the United States Armed Forces and later graduated from Southern University at New Orleans. He is a notable accountant and professional, serving in several key administrative positions in city and state governments. He proudly and successfully served the Lower Nine Housing Development Corporation, Minority Business Development, and Louisiana State Office of Minority Affairs under the leadership of former Louisiana Governors Edwards and David Treen and former City of New Orleans Mayor Sidney Barthelemy.

In 1976, he was elected to serve as Louisiana State Representative to House District 102 in the Lower Ninth Ward. He was a co-founding member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. He completed his tenure in 1980. He consistently demonstrated servant leadership acumen by being elected to the New Orleans State Central Democratic Committee and Democratic National Convention as a delegate.

From 2016 through 2021, it was an honor to have his support and insight as my trusted Advisor during my term as Louisiana State Senator. Mr. Jasper also was my trusted Advisor during my tenures at Councilman of District C in New Orleans, Louisiana from 1994 to 2002.

Avid community leader Mr. Jasper can always be found helping others in the community, advising on business development, and providing referrals to resources.

A pillar of Mr. Jasper's family upbringing is the biblical teachings regarding service to all God's children. As a young man and throughout most of his adult years, Mr. Jasper was a

member of the Historic Second Baptist Church, serving as a Sanctuary choir member under Rev. Thomas Nelson Washington. A man dedicated to the will of God, he was regularly found in Sunday school, singing in the Choir and being a guest soloist on church programs across the city, and he continues to do so today. Currently, he worships at the First Agape Baptist Church, where he serves as a senior deacon and treasurer under the ministry of the Rev. Eddie M. Payne. Mr. Jasper loves to minister in song. He favors the older spirituals like "I'll Tell it Wherever I Go" and "King Jesus Will Roll All Burdens Away" but is most inspired by "What a Blessing in Jesus I've Found."

His favorite scripture is Romans 8:38–39 is his message to his children and grandchildren—"Be prayerful, have faith and trust in God, and let nothing separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus."

Mr. Jasper is the son of Samuel and Louise Jasper, devoted husband of Florence Harrell for 74 blessed years, and has reared three children, Gwendolyn Jasper Barnes, Nedra Jasper Alcorn, and the late Rev. Glenn Thomas Jasper. He is the proud grandfather of six grandchildren and doting great-grandfather of eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Jasper is a mighty man of service, and today, he continues to serve as my purpose-driven mentor and father figure. He has encouraged me through all of my dreams throughout my career. He is genuinely a patriarch to many who continue to cross his path and will always be a part of my journey as I lead the constituents of the 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana. He is my dear friend and mentor, and I hope to be the mentor to others as he has been for me.

On this day, I wish my dear friend a Happy and Blessed Birthday, and may he see many more.

#### HONORING INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE RENEE PACK

#### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Indiana State Representative for House District 92, Renee Pack. Prior to joining the Indiana General Assembly, she served in the United States Army for five years, where she trained and served as a behavioral specialist and was also certified in drug and alcohol counseling. Her training in the Army led her to a lifetime of service in our local schools, as a small business operator and now at the Indiana Statehouse.

Since being elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 2020, Renee Pack has led with courage and strength. She has become a champion for a more equal, and just environment for residents of her district and all Hoosiers. Her service in the Army has led her to where she is today, serving as the Ranking Member on the Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee. She also serves on the Committees on Commerce, Small Business and Economic Development, and Children and Human Affairs. She has invested her years in public service to uplift those in need, strengthen veteran services in Indiana, and advocate for equality under the law.

Her service and training in the Army still have a lasting impact on her public service today. Her collective experiences inspired her to author Indiana House Bill 1188, prohibiting lifetime limitations for Medicaid recipients receiving treatment for substance abuse and addiction.

Each month, our office recognizes women veterans who are often overlooked and underrepresented, especially women of color. African

Americans have a long history serving our country, as the National Museum of African American History and Culture recognizes “From the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror, African Americans have served in the United States military. In defending their country, they hoped to earn freedom and citizenship and contribute to a changed America where racial equality was possible.”

On this last day of Black History Month, I am proud to honor State Representative Renee Pack for her service to our country by giving her the Shelia Corcoran Hoosier Women Hero Award.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing State Representative and Hoosier Women Hero, Renee Pack.