

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SHERIFF JAMES
HAYWOOD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Sheriff James Haywood. Sheriff Haywood has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Sheriff Haywood is a native of Laurel, MS. He graduated from RH Watkins High School in 1973 and then attended the University of Southern Mississippi, graduating in 1977. In 1979, he graduated from the Mississippi Highway Patrol School and served as a Mississippi State Trooper from 1996 to 2003.

Following his tenure as a state trooper, he began his career as the Sheriff of Sunflower County, MS. His hard work and dedication have led to his reelection every four years since 2003.

Sheriff Haywood has been married to Deloris for 42 years, and they have four sons. He is currently a member of O'Neal AME Church, Indianola Men of Standards, the NAACP, and the Board of Sunflower Humphreys County Progress. Throughout his personal and professional life, he has shown unwavering dedication and commitment to his beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheriff Haywood for his longevity and dedication to serving the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call No. 336, on Monday, July 8, 2024. Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: Represent Floridians of the 2nd Congressional District of Florida. The Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act is long overdue and must be passed into law. This bill will support our coastal waters by designating the ancient cypress forest in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Alabama as the "Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary," and, prohibits the following activities within the sanctuary: cutting, removing, or any kind of subsurface salvage of the cypress trees; lowering certain devices (e.g. dredging) below the surface of the water; detonating explosives below the surface of the water; drilling or coring the seabed; and lowering, laying, positioning, or raising any type of seabed cable or cable-laying device.

I am wholeheartedly supportive of H.R. 897, the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act—as a Representative of a coastal district myself, protecting the forest (between 50,000 to 70,000 years old) is important to preserving the remains of this ancient riverbed. I appreciate the bipartisan effort to protect the forest under the 1972 Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act which would not only federally protect the forest, but also provide more resources for research and ways to sustainably increase eco-tourism opportunities. I also support that the bill provides specific exemptions to allow certain activities, including for: fishing, diving, mooring, or similar recreational or commercial activities; necessary operations of public vessels; construction or placement of artificial reef structures for the purpose of enhancing fishery resources, fishing opportunities, or recreational diving opportunities; and exploration, development, or production of oil or gas projects authorized before this bill's enactment.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 897 (Roll Call No. 336).

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDDIE
ELSWICK

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Eddie Elswick, who passed away on March 18th, at the age of 83.

Mr. Elswick was born on January 30, 1941, in Pike County, Kentucky. He was one of the first in his family to attend college, studying industrial arts at Berea College, before attending Ball State University, where he received his master's degree in education.

Mr. Elswick enjoyed a lengthy career with General Electric as a financial executive. He served as financial manager at several General Electric locations, and also negotiated government contracts. In 1980, his job brought his family to the Roanoke Valley.

He took his financial experience with him to public office. As a member of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors representing the Windsor Hills District, Mr. Elswick worked to review County contracts and examine local government expenses. He took pride in advocating for the County's rural areas like Catawba and Bent Mountain. He also championed securing funding for Glenvar Public Library.

Mr. Elswick's passions included bluegrass music, Corvettes, and the mountains. He served in the national guard, where he earned recognition as a sharpshooter. He was known to tinker with several cars and hunt for deer and bear.

Mr. Elswick is survived by his daughters, Jill Elswick and Wendy Huffine; son-in-law, David Huffine; and brother Fred Elswick.

I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Elswick over the years. He cared deeply for Roanoke County.

HONORING THELMA'S KITCHEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a family restaurant in Yazoo City, MS, recognized for their culinary delights of one of the Deep South's most basic staples, Fried Chicken.

To say Thelma's Kitchen is a family restaurant is an understatement. Owner, Thelma Burks opened the doors of Thelma's Kitchen in 2017, after she ran a nearby chemical plant's kitchen and a small snack bar in town that sold burgers, veggies and fried chicken lunches for local farmers. She now works with her son, three daughters, sister and a family blend to make the restaurant one to remember.

It has been noted that Thelma Burks came up with her fried chicken recipe while experimenting in her kitchen. A sack of flour, salt, pepper, plus two other seasonings she will not disclose, has customers coming back for more.

In her words, "It's just old-fashioned fried chicken," in the actions of customers, it is a trip worth taking to dine. Ms. Burks will not leave you with a sweet tooth, because she is also known for her pecan pie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Thelma's Kitchen, home of some of Mississippi's best fried chicken in the 2nd Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL KENNY
CUSHING

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colonel Kenny Cushing's honorable service to this Nation.

Colonel Kenny Cushing retired from our United States Air Force on June 1, 2024, after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 1996 and serving over 20 years on active duty, the Reserves, and in the Air National Guard. During his career, Colonel Cushing achieved many accolades and impacted our Nation in many ways. Kenny was a distinguished graduate from many of his Air Force programs to include being the Top Graduate from his intelligence officer school class and a distinguished graduate from the USAF Weapons School, the Air Force's "Top Gun".

Colonel Cushing served in increasing assignments of responsibility, to include multiple

• 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.

deployments, throughout his career. He concluded his career as the senior military officer assigned to the new Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) at the Department of Homeland Security. Handpicked by the Department of Defense during the initial creation of CISA by President Trump, Colonel Cushing led critical interagency coordination of national cybersecurity plans. During COVID, he led collaboration efforts between agencies, ensuring smooth flow of information, and informed vaccine distribution decisions. Colonel Cushing was the Commander of the Cyber Coordination Element for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security for historic President of the United States elections in 2020, laying the groundwork for successful elections protection. His talent and impact moved us years ahead in mission assurance, intelligence exchange, and cyber teaming.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Colonel Cushing's outstanding service. May God bless Kenny in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIG OAK BOYS' RANCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 50th anniversary of Big Oak Boys' Ranch in Gadsden, Alabama.

John Croyle founded Big Oak Boys' Ranch after working at a summer camp and meeting a little boy from New Orleans, Louisiana. The child's mother was a prostitute, and he was the banker and timekeeper for his mother. John ministered to this child about Christianity, and the following summer, the child shared with John how Jesus had changed his life. John knew his calling was to help children.

The Big Oak Boys' Ranch is known as a Christian home for children needing a chance, and it has certainly fulfilled its mission since opening in 1974. The Ranch has met the needs of over 2,000 children—giving them a Christian home and a chance to fulfill God's plan for their lives.

The Ranch started off as a single farmhouse serving five boys to seven ministry teams advancing the mission nation-wide. The Ranch follows these four promises: We love you, we will never lie to you, we will stick with you until you are grown and there are boundaries. The children find love, support, security and discipline within the promises.

A celebration will be held on Sunday, July 28th at the Big Oak Boys' Ranch to mark the 50th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this milestone for the Big Oak Boys' Ranch and thanking John for his tireless dedication to these children.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MR. ALVIN IVY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the retirement of Mr. Alvin Ivy of Trebloc, Mississippi. Ivy graduated from Houston High School in 1991. He attended Mississippi State University in 1995, where he enrolled in "Introduction to Broadcast."

For over two decades, Alvin Ivy has been an integral part of WTVA, skillfully capturing the essence of local life through his camera lens. From documenting school events and community festivals, to bravely facing severe weather, his commitment to visual storytelling is unparalleled.

Mr. Ivy has received many awards, including three Emmys, two of which he won this year for weather-related coverage. The first Emmy Ivy won was for the weathercast category in 2022 for the coverage of a 2021 tornado in Tupelo. The latest honors came during the 2024 Southeast Emmy Awards in the weathercast category, for the EF-3 tornado that hit Wren, Amory and Smithville in March 2023, and another for Weather News, for an interview series titled "Out of the Darkness," featuring interviews with a Wren woman who survived the tornado, but lost her husband and youngest daughter.

Beyond his professional achievements, Alvin Ivy remains deeply connected to his roots in Houston and Chickasaw County, using his platform to spotlight local events and issues that might otherwise go unnoticed.

In recognition of his exceptional career and steadfast dedication to our community, let us celebrate Alvin Ivy's achievements and contributions to the state of Mississippi.

HONORING TAMLA HUGHES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Tamla Hughes.

On April 20th Tamla was chosen as a state finalist for the 2024 Teacher of the Year award.

Tamla Hughes teaches 10th through 12th grade English. She is the president of the Zeta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Sorority and is a very active teacher and parent of the Natchez Adams School District.

With hard work and dedication, her philosophy is "As a teacher, I may not be able to change the world but if I can reach one child, perhaps that child can."

Natchez High has never had a Teacher of the Year from Natchez Adams School District advance to the next level.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tamla Hughes for her actions and achievements in the Natchez, MS community.

HONORING MR. RAY W. WRIGHT

HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to honor the exceptional life and service of my constituent, Mr. Ray W. Wright, as he celebrates his 100th birthday. Mr. Wright has not only witnessed a century of history but has actively shaped it through his dedicated service to our nation during World War II and his continued contributions to our community.

While America was embroiled in the middle of war on multiple continents, Mr. Wright took the opportunity to serve his country and joined the Army Air Corps in June of 1943. A month later, his basic training was cut short when he and his fellow soldiers embarked from New York Harbor in July of 1943, evading German U-boats as they crossed the Atlantic to arrive in Scotland.

After being assigned to Burtonwood Air Base Depot No. 3 near Warrington, England, Mr. Wright began operations repairing incoming B-17 and B-25 bomber aircraft.

Specializing in engine repair, Mr. Wright and the repair teams kept allied aircraft running even as the enemy forces fired CV-2 Rockets and ran Buzz Bomb Raids throughout the United Kingdom. Thanks to their efforts the war ended, and Mr. Wright was reassigned to the 325th Troop Carrier Squadron and rebased to Ansbach, Germany to maintain C-47 aircraft.

Following his service, Mr. Wright returned to civilian life but remained committed to his fellow veterans and his community. He became actively involved in the American Legion, where he dedicated his time and energy to advocating for veterans' rights and supporting initiatives to improve the lives of those who served.

Today, as we celebrate Ray W. Wright's 100th birthday, we reflect not only on his remarkable achievements but also on the profound impact he has had on our Nation and the world. His life is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of service to others. As we honor Mr. Wright, let us also reaffirm our commitment to upholding the values for which he and his fellow veterans protected for us all.

HONORING REV. JAMES D. TINDALL AND HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and respect to honor Bishop James Dennis Tindall, Sr. for his decades of service and advocacy to the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri. On July 16th, Bishop Tindall will be honored for his dedication to the community at the 99th Convention of the Metropolitan Spiritual Churches of Christ, Incorporated. As we celebrate Bishop Tindall, let us be continuously inspired by his incredible devotion to his work and his fellow humans.

Bishop Tindall, son of Lottie and Wallace Tindell, was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. A graduate of the local Manual High School, Bishop Tindall furthered his education and deepened his religious understanding at the University of Missouri Kansas City, Carver Baptist Bible College, Western Baptist Bible College, Columbia School of Broadcasting, and the KPRS School of Broadcasting. His knowledge and expertise have allowed him to become such an influential beacon of Kansas City's Christian community. The church has always been a part of Bishop Tindall's life, from being a member of the Highland Baptist Church to taking on important leadership roles in international church communities. At the young age of 16, Bishop Tindall joined the church he would later serve as their Presiding Prelate—the Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ, as a choir singer. As Bishop Tindall grew older, he served as Superintendent of the church's Sunday School and on the church's Trustee Board, sharing his gifts with the diverse members of the community.

The Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ, founded in Kansas City almost 100 years ago in 1925, is one of the landmarks of the Black Spiritual Movement. The church has long stood as a space to support and elevate members of marginalized groups. At the time, while other churches and the laws of this nation excluded countless people, the MSCC opened its doors to women and the LGBTQ+ community to make meaningful contributions to the development of the religious community. The church soon expanded past its Kansas City home and now boasts churches across the United States, Jamaica and even Ghana. Bishop Tindall's hard work and dedication to fulfilling the needs of his community was recognized in 1976, when he was officially ordained and appointed as Pastor for the Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ. After a mere two months, he was promoted to be the church's permanent pastor. Bishop Tindall's excellence and service catapulted him to higher leadership positions within the church. He was not only appointed to be Chairman of the Board of Directors of the MSCC but was also elevated to the position of Bishop. In 2009, he officially became the International Presiding Prelate of the Church, representing the Church's everlasting values on a global scale, and after 42 years of service to the Church, he became Pastor Emeritus. Throughout his numerous roles in the Church, Bishop Tindall has never wavered in his relentless service to God and God's creations.

The church is not the only place where Bishop Tindall exemplifies his passion for helping others. Bishop Tindall has served on the Jackson County Governing Board and as a County Legislator, advocating for the rights of community members through his involvement as Chair of the Justice & Law Committee and as a member of the Anti-Drug and Health & Environment Committees. In addition to over two decades of service in local government, Bishop Tindall is also the founder and President of the Urban Summit of Kansas City, a group dedicated to the advancement and advocacy of the city's urban community. Under Bishop Tindall's leadership, the Urban Summit has held weekly meetings with community members, fought for the urban core to play a role in city development, and uplifted countless people by providing them with a voice in their local government and beyond.

I cannot think of a more qualified recipient of this recognition than Bishop Tindall. As both his elected representative and fellow religious leader, I am incredibly honored to thank Bishop Tindall for his lifetime of devotion to God and his community. His work calls to mind Matthew 5:16—"Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." May Bishop Tindall's light continue to shine bright among the members of the Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ and the people of Kansas City, and may he continue to inspire and illuminate us all.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT JEFFREY NEAL SECRIST ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeant Jeffrey Neal Secrist's twenty-seven years of tireless work as a law enforcement officer and retirement from the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Sergeant Secrist has proudly served our home state of California for nearly thirty years. After beginning his training with the CHP Academy on March 24, 1997, Officer Secrist graduated on September 17, 1997, and was proud to continue his family's tradition of service when he accepted his assignment to the Baldwin Park area. He was soon chosen as a Field Training Officer and was assigned to train new officers reporting to the office for their first duty assignment.

After serving in the High Desert for over twenty years, Officer Secrist was promoted to Sergeant and was reassigned to Santa Fe Springs. Despite working in an extremely challenging and busy area, he made time to coach and mentor young officers on topics like proper report writing, investigating crime, and making the most of a successful career with the CHP.

Sergeant Secrist's service to California would not have been possible without the support of his family. His wife of nearly forty years, Gretchen, his four children, Austin, Lyndy, Jessica, and Emeline, and seven grandchildren have been instrumental in supporting his work for California. Sergeant Secrist's family and decades of service in law enforcement represents the best of what our district stands for, and Heather and I thank them for their dedication to our community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his selfless service to California, in commending him for his steadfast dedication to our community, and in wishing him many years of joy and peace in his well-earned retirement with friends and family.

HONORING MR. D'S OLD COUNTRY STORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a 140-year-old building in Lorman, MS, that is a restaurant that serves some of the best fried chicken in America.

The Old Country Store Restaurant, known as Mr. D's, who is the owner and operator, is a charming and rustic restaurant, nestled in the rolling hills of Hwy 61. Offering a unique heartwarming dining experience, the restaurant is known for its Southern cuisine, featuring classic comfort food like fried chicken, cornbread, collard greens, sweet potato pie, and a serenade at your table by Mr. D, himself, especially if dining with a woman. He just likes to cut up and have a good time.

Giving you the Old Country Store vibe, the ambiance is inviting, with the wooden floors, vintage décor, and cozy, welcoming atmosphere. Whether a local or a tourist passing through, the Old Country Store Restaurant is not only a place to fill your appetite, but also a place that gives you that rich history and traditions of the south. It's a must-visit for anyone seeking a true Southern culinary and cultural experience in the heart of Mississippi.

"It was my grandmother's recipe," he said. Davis, originally from Florida, bought the building after spotting it when dropping off his sons at nearby Alcorn State University. Starting off, Mr. Davis held social events for the college students there on Thursday Nights. He then decided to turn the store into a restaurant and opened in December 1999.

Restaurant tables are surrounded by the store-shelves and shelves of all kinds of antique items you can think of, as well as business cards pinned to the shelves from years of visitors. Visitors such as Oprah Winfrey, Matthew McConaughey, and many Mississippi governors have professed their love of the chicken following their visits.

Mr. D's Fried Chicken has been featured in numerous media outlets, including New York Times, The Food Network, Southern Living and more. He has also been featured in numerous local and regional media outlets, including newspapers and magazines.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. D's Old Country Store, home of the best friend chicken in America, located right here in Lorman, MS, in the 2nd Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CAPTAIN DANIEL MAIRONIS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Fire Captain Daniel Maironis for his twenty-two years of service with the Dearborn Fire Department in Michigan's 12th District Strong.

Fire Captain Maironis got his start in public service in 2002. After only one year of service,

he received the first of many Meritorious Company Commendations. In addition, he has been recognized numerous times for valor and lifesaving. Over the course of his public service career, Fire Captain Maironis has committed himself to continuous professional development, completing numerous certification programs in various rescue operations techniques and other technical programming.

Fire Captain Maironis has been an outstanding public servant to the communities served by the Dearborn Fire Department. Please join me in recognizing his twenty-two years of commitment to protecting our families' safety across Michigan's 12th District Strong as we wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHARLES BENJAMIN BAYSE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles Benjamin "Ben" Bayse and his 43 years of dedication to serving this country. Ben served as a Navy pilot in the United States Pacific Fleet during World War II and in the Korean War.

For his time and service during World War II, Ben was awarded multiple medals including the World War II Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. In 1949, he was one of the first Navy Pilots to land a jet on a carrier. He did this in a Grumman F9F Panther Jet Fighter during the earliest stages of catapult take-off and landing operations. As a reservist, he served as a Consulting Engineer and Maintenance Officer. He retired from the Navy on his 60th birthday in 1987 at the rank of Captain.

In addition to his service in the Navy, Ben dedicated his life to improve the United States education system. Mr. Bayse earned a Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, to which he then served 37 years as an engineering professor in higher education. He wrote two books regarding his time in the military and education system and the values that should be upheld in these great American institutions.

Ben Bayse was the embodiment of American ideals and exemplified at an extraordinary level what it means to be an American. Ben was willing to make any sacrifice, including the ultimate sacrifice, required to defend the values of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity to commemorate the life and service of a proud American, veteran, and family man, Charles Benjamin Bayse.

CELEBRATING MOUNTAIN LAKE
FIRE COMPANY AND LADIES
AUXILIARY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mountain Lake Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary on their 75-year anniversary. A team of 25 volunteers

including firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and first responders, the Mountain Lake Fire Company has generously supported the communities of both Liberty and White Townships during any and all kinds of emergencies. The Company was founded in 1949 with a single small fire truck, and over the past 75 years the Company has grown into a pillar of the community, from bringing townspeople together for their annual car show to educating children on fire safety. Reflecting on their dedicated service, it is no surprise that the Mountain Lake Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary is still thriving after 75 years. As a former volunteer firefighter myself, I am honored to have such dedicated first responders and community members in the 7th Congressional District, and I look forward to seeing them continue to flourish in years to come.

HONORING LINDA KEYS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, Ms. Linda Keys.

Linda Keys was born in July 1955 to the late Willie and Mary Phipps Keys. She grew up in a rural farming community where hard work and familial support were fundamental values. Being the youngest of seven children, Linda witnessed her parents' dedication firsthand. Her father worked tirelessly as a farmer to provide the necessities of life, while her mother juggled the roles of homemaker and wage earner, demonstrating an unparalleled work ethic.

Raised in Mississippi Linda's upbringing instilled in her a drive for academic excellence and a belief in the transformative power of education. She graduated from Quitman County High School (QCHS) in Marks, Mississippi, in 1973 and then pursued higher education at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1978.

Although Linda initially aspired to become an educator, her path took an unexpected turn when she was offered a full-time position at Ford Motor Company after completing internships. Embracing the opportunity Linda embarked on a career that required her to balance the demands of work, education, and motherhood with unwavering determination.

After the passing of her husband in 2012, Linda transitioned into a retired lifestyle until her mother's declining health prompted her to move back to Mississippi in 2015. It was during this period that Linda's compassion for the less fortunate was reignited, as she witnessed children enduring the bitter cold without adequate clothing.

Motivated to make a difference, Linda founded Mississippi Coats4Kidz in January 2016, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing coats, blankets, and other essentials to children living in poverty across Mississippi. Through her steadfast leadership and the support of various stakeholders, including grants, sponsors, and donors, Linda's organization has distributed over 100,000 coats to date offering warmth and hope to countless children in need.

Linda's philanthropic efforts have garnered recognition and accolades, including certificates of recognition from the Mississippi State Senate awards from organizations such as Men United and WMC Action News 5, and the prestigious Governor's Initiative for Volunteers of Excellence award in 2022.

In addition to her charitable endeavors, Linda is an active member of various professional and nonprofit associations, including National Association of Professional Women and the Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits. She is a devout believer in the power of faith and community and attends Pleasant Grove M.B. Church in Crenshaw, Mississippi, where she finds spiritual guidance under the leadership of Pastor Prez Jackson.

As Linda continues her mission to serve the vulnerable members of her community, her unwavering commitment to making a difference, one coat at a time, stands as a testament to the transformative impact of compassion and resilience.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Linda Keys for her service to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed one vote on July 8, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 336 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 897—Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act.

RECOGNIZING DR. STEPHEN
PAPPAS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Dr. Stephen Pappas. A lifelong Washingtonian, Stephen was born in 1930 to the late Steve and Georgia Pappas and was a proud graduate of Western High followed by his ophthalmology residency at Episcopal Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital. In 1961, Dr. Pappas completed his clinical fellowship in the retina service at Harvard's teaching hospital, Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary, in Boston. He returned to Washington as the first formally fellowship-trained retina specialist in the region. A deeply patriotic American, Dr. Pappas was honored to serve as Chief of Ophthalmology at the Naval Dispensary in Washington, D.C. from 1961 to 1963, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He later served as a civilian consultant at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda from 1968 to 1976. In 1963, he founded his solo ophthalmology practice, providing compassionate, state-of-the-art care. In 1978, he moved his growing practice, Retina Consultants, from the District to Bethesda. One of the founding members of the Washington Hospital Center Retina Clinic,

he supervised and trained generations of ophthalmology residents as a volunteer from 1963 to 1994. He was also assistant clinical professor in Ophthalmology at both GWU and Georgetown. He continued to value his professional relationships with mentors, peers, and mentees for his entire career and beyond. His distinguished career was marked by many local and national accolades. Despite these remarkable professional achievements, Dr. Pappas will most be remembered as a man of faith who was truly devoted to his beloved wife of 62 years, Virginia (Ginny) Nicoludis Pappas, as an incredible father to Dr. Stephen Pappas, Jr. (Michelle) and Adrienne Kalavritinos (Jack), and as a loving papou to his four grandchildren: John, Analiese, Mark, and Alexander. He was an active, early member of the St George Greek Orthodox Church in Bethesda, MD. Faith, family and friends were paramount in his life. His remarkable ability to connect through his warmth, sense of humor, and genuine caring will be remembered by all who knew him. May his memory be eternal.

CELEBRATING STELLA JIMENEZ

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the dedication and hard work of an outstanding employee, Stella Jimenez, as I bid her farewell as she moves on to the next step of her career.

Stella Jimenez brought a wealth of experience and an unwavering commitment to community service.

Stella's journey was characterized by her unwavering dedication to enact positive change.

In her capacity as District Director, Stella assumed a pivotal role in leading diverse initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of residents in Imperial and Riverside Counties.

Stella demonstrated a profound understanding of the community's needs and challenges. Her leadership, characterized by a unique combination of grace and effectiveness, garnered admiration and respect from colleagues and constituents alike.

Stella's dedication to community engagement was unparalleled. Whether it was championing the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument or ensuring full stakeholder engagement in Imperial County, she approached each initiative with unwavering determination and a genuine desire to make a difference.

Stella's influence extended to coordinating high-profile events, such as the Department of Homeland Security's visit to present the Outstanding Citizen by Choice Initiative Award by Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Under her guidance, these events not only achieved success but also carried a deeply personal touch, reflecting Stella's commitment to meaningful engagement and connection.

Collaborating closely with the staff of White House Senior Advisor Mitch Landrieu, Stella facilitated impactful visits to various sites.

Through her efforts, she fostered community dialogue and left a lasting impact, further so-

liding her reputation as a dedicated and effective advocate for change.

Stella's colleagues referred to her as someone who was always reachable, willing to advocate for them, and someone who went above and beyond to go across the aisle and work with local and state partners to help a constituent in need.

She empowered others to navigate challenges with newfound assurance and strength.

The impact of Stella's mentorship on many is immeasurable. Her guidance not only shaped others' professional trajectories but left an indelible mark on their personal development as well.

I am profoundly grateful for the privilege of working with Stella Jimenez.

Through her tireless efforts and unwavering passion, Stella Jimenez stood as a beacon of inspiration, leaving an enduring and profound impact on the communities she served. Her legacy continues to inspire others to strive for positive change and to make a difference in the world around them.

I look forward to seeing what Stella Jimenez does next and know that she will continue to inspire those around her.

HONORING KARMEN ASHLEE BERNARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and commend the remarkable achievements of Karmen Ashlee Bernard, a trailblazing student from Yazoo City High School.

Karmen has made history by becoming the first student from Yazoo City High School to fulfill all requirements for an Associate of Arts Degree from Holmes Community College before graduating high school. This monumental accomplishment is a testament to her exceptional scholarly abilities, relentless dedication, and unwavering perseverance.

Throughout her time at Yazoo City High School, Karmen has distinguished herself as a scholar of extraordinary caliber. Her participation in dual enrollment courses at Holmes Community College has not only showcased her commitment to academic excellence but has also set a remarkable example for future generations of students. Karmen's dedication is further evidenced by her consistent placement on both the President's and Dean's Lists at Holmes Community College, highlighting her tireless work ethic and intellectual prowess.

In addition to her academic achievements, Karmen has been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, an esteemed organization that recognizes high-achieving college students. This honor reflects her outstanding academic performance and commitment to the values of scholarship, leadership, and service.

Karmen has expressed deep gratitude for the opportunities provided by Holmes Community College, stating, "I am incredibly honored and humbled to have had the opportunity to pursue my academic interests at Holmes

Community College. Completing my associate's degree before graduating from high school has been a truly transformative experience, and I am grateful to God and for the support of my teachers, mentors, and family throughout this journey."

As Karmen prepares to begin her undergraduate studies at Prairie View A&M University in the fall, she will major in Chemistry with a concentration in Biomedical Sciences. Thanks to her dual-enrollment credits, Karmen will enter as a Junior, fast-tracking her path towards achieving her goal of becoming an orthodontist.

Karmen Ashlee Bernard serves as an inspiration to her peers and the entire community, embodying the values of scholarship, leadership, and perseverance. Her historic achievement at Yazoo City High School paves the way for future students to aspire to and achieve their highest academic goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Karmen Ashlee Bernard's exceptional accomplishments and wish her continued success as she embarks on her next chapter at Prairie View A&M University. Her story is a testament to the power of ambition and the importance of supporting our students in their educational endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM OF TIMBERLINE LODGE EMPLOYEES AND FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the extraordinary heroism displayed by Timberline Lodge employees and first responders from Hoodland Fire, Clackamas Fire, Estacada Fire, Portland Fire, Gresham Fire and the United States Forest Service.

In the middle of the night on April 18, 2024, a fire was detected in the attic of the historic Timberline Lodge on Oregon's iconic Mount Hood. Lodge staff jumped into action with fire extinguishers and safely evacuated guests who were staying at the Lodge, many of whom were roused from their sleep to be escorted out. Fire crews from around the mountain arrived in record time to battle the blaze and protect Timberline Lodge, a national historic treasure.

Constructed in 1937, Timberline Lodge stands on the south slope of Mount Hood at an elevation of 6,000 feet. Iconic and awe-inspiring in its architecture and design, it is a tribute to the rugged spirit of the Pacific Northwest. The Lodge was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1977 and is one of Oregon's most popular tourist attractions, drawing nearly two million visitors every year.

The quick thinking, bravery, and exemplary effort by both staff and first responders ensured that fire damage was limited to the attic and that all the guests made it out safely with no injuries reported. To think, we could've lost this national treasure if it wasn't for the courageous actions of a few brave souls. I am forever grateful for their response.

RECOGNIZING AUDRA COHEN-PLATA FOR OVER A DECADE OF SERVICE TO THE 2ND DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas; Audra Cohen-Plata has resided and is an active community member, dedicated public servant, and resident of Dane County, Wisconsin, and

Whereas; Audra fulfilled her duties as an intern in my legislative office as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during my tenure as an Assemblyman in the Wisconsin State Legislature, and

Whereas; Audra assisted as a trusted ally as I attempted my inaugural run to represent the 2nd Congressional District in Congress, and

Whereas; Audra dutifully served as a valued member of my Congressional staff for more than eleven years, and

Whereas; Audra undertook many responsibilities in my district office including, but not limited to, direct constituent assistance and success related to Veterans Affairs and Education, and

Whereas; Audra professionally and loyally performed her duties as Constituent Services Manager, and

Whereas; Audra serves as an inspiration and leader to her fellow colleagues and many residents of the State of Wisconsin.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Mark Pocan, U.S. Congressman for Wisconsin's Second District, do hereby express my appreciation to Audra Cohen-Plata for her many years of loyal service to myself, the 2nd District of Wisconsin, and our country.

HONORING JOHN L. BARNES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer in the realm of education and civil rights, John L. Barnes.

A native of Charleston, MS, John grew up about 10 miles north of Charleston and attended Sherman Creek Elementary School. He was also the valedictorian of his 1964 graduating class at Allen-Carver High School.

He courageously shattered racial barriers while pursuing his education at Mississippi State University (MSU). During his time at MSU, John encountered significant challenges due to racial prejudice and discrimination. As one of the first African American students at the university, he faced hostility, exclusion, and limited opportunities. Despite these obstacles, John persevered, contributing to the gradual transformation of MSU's campus climate. His courage and resilience paved the way for future generations of students seeking equal access to education.

His enrollment at MSU in 1965 marked a significant milestone, as he became the first

African American student to graduate from the university, June 2, 1968. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the MSU College of Arts and Sciences. His brother, Aaron, was the third African American to graduate from MSU. After graduating from MSU, he briefly taught at Allen-Carver School before embarking on his corporate career in New York City. His achievements as the first African American graduate from MSU and his subsequent professional path demonstrate resilience and determination.

While specific achievements beyond this groundbreaking moment may not be widely documented, John's legacy remains an inspiration for those who continue to fight for educational equity and social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing John L. Barnes for his dedication to advocacy in education, civil rights, his courage and perseverance.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COACH DOUG BLEVINS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Coach Doug Blevins, who passed away on March 9th, at the age of 60.

Coach Blevins was born with cerebral palsy. While his condition confined him to a wheelchair for his life, he was not deterred in pursuing a career in the sport of football.

As a student at Abingdon High School, Mr. Blevins served as a student assistant coach, specializing in the kicking game. He would continue his education at Virginia Highlands Community College, University of Tennessee, and Emory & Henry University seeking more student coaching opportunities. Coach Blevins would stay close to home, starting his own consulting firm and assisting prospective kicking talents at summer camps, clinics and more.

In 1994, Coach Blevins was hired to be a consultant for the New York Jets. He would go on to coach for several years in the National Football League, working for the Miami Dolphins and NFL Hall of Fame Coach Jimmy Johnson, New England Patriots and Minnesota Vikings. From 1995 to 2000, he served as kicking coordinator for the NFL Europe League. He earned the remarkable achievement of becoming the NFL's first-ever disabled coach.

Mr. Blevins' success as a coach caught the attention of many talented kickers dreaming of playing in the NFL. Modern-day kicking legends, Adam Vinatieri and Justin Tucker, are just two of 26 current and former NFL kickers and punters who were trained and mentored by Coach Blevins.

Coach Blevins' years of hard work and tutoring prompted a significant recognition from the NFL community: his nomination to the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame. Perhaps, someday he will be inducted.

Most recently, he served as the kicking specialist at East Tennessee State University (ETSU), his alma mater, and as a volunteer assistant on the football staff at Science Hill High School.

Coach Blevins' inspirational journey from Southwest Virginia to the NFL, and his con-

tributions to the sport of football, will not be forgotten—along with his kindness and compassion for others. Despite his lifelong disability, Coach Blevins followed his dreams of coaching football and helped scores of young football players develop and succeed in the sport. May his legacy live on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call No. 337, on Monday, July 8, 2024. Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: Represent Floridians of the 2nd Congressional District of Florida. The Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act must be passed into law. The Long Island Sound is a unique ecological resource for eastern Connecticut, Long Island and the surrounding regions. More than 20 million people live within 50 miles of the Sound's beaches.

I am supportive of H.R. 5441, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act—as a Representative of a coastal district myself, protecting this vast area on the East Coast will improve decades of high levels of pollution, dumping of dredged materials, and releases of untreated sewage that have put the Sound's wildlife population, fisheries, water quality, and surrounding communities at risk. The economic viability of the Sound, which annually contributes around \$9.4 billion to the regional economy, is dependent on activities like sport and commercial fishing, boating, recreation and tourism.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 5441 (Roll Call No. 337).

HONORING FREDRICK TIDWELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Fredrick Tidwell.

Fredrick "Fred" Tidwell hails from Grenada, Mississippi, where he was born to Tinal Lott Rias and Fredrick Tidwell, Sr. Fred graduated from Grenada High School in 2018, where he distinguished himself as the Vice President of the Class of 2018.

Deeply rooted in his community, Fred is an active member of Mt. Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church, where he serves as one of the youth leaders, demonstrating his commitment to both faith and leadership.

Continuing his education journey, Fred attended Northwest Community College, earning an associate of arts degree in 2020. He then pursued his passion for social work at the University of Mississippi, graduating with a Bachelor of Applied Science. Currently, Fred achieved another milestone by receiving his master's degree in higher education administration.

Driven by his aspirations, Fred envisions a future where he plays a significant role in higher education, aspiring to become Vice President of a Historically Black College or

University. With his dedication, leadership skills, and academic achievements, Fred is headed to make a lasting impact in his community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Frederick Tidwell for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.