

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MS. SARAH JANE
GORDON CHAMBLISS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer, Ms. Sarah Jane Gordon Chambliss. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a strong desire for change.

Born in Claiborne County, MS, on November 3, 1937, the first of eight children, Sarah Jane Gordon Chambliss became the only daughter of Elder Anthony M. Gordon and Mrs. Bennie Lee Hamilton Gordon. She graduated from Claiborne County Training School in May of 1955. From 1955 to 1959, she studied at Jarvis Christian College, in Hawkins, TX from which she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. The desire to teach English drew her back to Mississippi where she became teacher of English and Department Head at Quitman County High School in Marks and later at Delta Center High School in Walls.

During the summer of 1968, while pregnant, she attended Auburn University in Auburn, AL. In 1973, she moved back to Port Gibson from Memphis, TN, where she had lived since 1961. She obtained employment with Port Gibson Bank (now River Hills Bank) for two years, becoming the first Afro-American female teller in Port Gibson. From 1974–1978, while working full time, she studied at Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS, where she earned her Master of Science degree with honors in 1978.

Ms. Chambliss taught in the Claiborne County Public Schools from 1973 to 1992, when illness forced her to retire. During her tenure she founded COM BAAC, Inc., a behavior modification organization. Since retirement, she has also founded the local writers' guild.

She married A.C. Chambliss on December 24, 1959. God graciously gave them two children, Steven Douglas Chambliss and Vanessa LaRose Chambliss Thomas.

Her religious convictions are strong. She served as Pine Grove Christian Church's choir president from 1973 to 2014 where she also serves as a deaconess. She is an evangelist, a songstress, and a pianist—having served as musician for several local churches. Some of her work has been published in the following anthologies: Poetic Voices of America, The Space Between, Odyssey, and Best Poets. Her published books are In the Light of Darkness and Almighty Love, Almighty Light; and she is awaiting publication of the fourth—In Knowing, Know This. Her published play is "A People Wandering in the Wilderness." Pertinent honors are as follows: Listed in Who's Who in America's Colleges and Universities, Who's Who Among America's Teachers, and STAR Teacher (1986).

In August 1994, she was a recipient of The International Poet of Merit Award presented to

her by the International Society of Poets in ceremonies held in Washington, D.C. In March 1996, she was inducted into the International Poetry Hall of Fame. She has travelled to many places reciting her inspirational and anointed poetry and sharing other God given knowledge and wisdom. She emphasizes that she has done nothing, completed no chores of her own volition but by God's will with the extension of His divine grace. Although a retiree, she seizes every opportunity to share her experiences and continues to educate anyone who will spend the time to listen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an esteemed author, Ms. Sarah Jane Gordon Chambliss, for her hard work in the field of education and accomplishments in the arts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, due to a religious commitment, I was unable to vote on September 9, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 401, and YEA on Roll Call No. 402.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family health concern, I was not in Washington, D.C. on September 9, 2024, and, as a result, I missed two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 401, and NAY on Roll Call No. 402.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES "CHARLEY" ROYER

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Charles "Charley" Royer, a trailblazing leader and visionary, who passed away on July 26. His impact on Seattle and the Pacific Northwest will be remembered for generations to come.

Born in Medford, Oregon, in 1939, Charley began his career as a TV journalist, becoming a trusted household name, before transitioning into public service to become Seattle's only three-term mayor from 1978 to 1990. As mayor, Charley was the region's biggest

cheerleader, leading the city's cultural and economic revival during his time in office. His visionary leadership not only addressed immediate challenges but also laid the foundation for Seattle's future for decades to come.

Under Charley's guidance, Seattle saw the development of key infrastructure projects that define the city today, including the downtown transit tunnel, the West Seattle Bridge, and an affordable housing levy that's become a national model for providing dedicated, local funds to build and maintain low-income housing. After his time in office, Charley continued to shape Seattle as a civic leader. He was one of the strongest voices in transforming the downtown waterfront from a double-decker highway into the city's welcoming front porch to be enjoyed and open to all. His impact extended beyond infrastructure; he was a steadfast advocate for social justice, LGBTQ+ rights, public safety, and environmental sustainability.

Charley Royer was more than a public servant; he was a friend and a guiding force whose influence will be felt for generations. We are grateful for his contributions and will cherish his legacy of service and commitment to Seattle and the Pacific Northwest.

HONORING CASON BRINKLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated efforts of aviation student enthusiasts, Cason Brinkley.

Cason, a 16-year-old resident of Cleveland, Mississippi, is the son of Carl Brinkley, a retired aviation and logistics instructor from Delta State University, and Markeita Brinkley, the Special Education Director for Cleveland Public Schools.

Cason Brinkley, an 11th grader at Cleveland Central High School, recently attended the Saint Louis University Aviation Summer Academy June 9–14, 2024. This program invited promising students entering grades 11 and 12 to explore various areas of study and career paths in aviation. The program selected 20 students out of over 100 applicants for the six-day, five-night residential camp, and Cason was one of the top students to attend. While there, on June 10, 2024, Cason made the First Alert Live News, in Saint Louis, Missouri, in the story, "Aviation Summer Academy returns to St. Louis Downtown Airport." On Monday, July 15, 2024, Cason Brinkley, who recently turned 16 and is now eligible to solo under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards, undertook his maiden flight at KPMU (Panola County Airport) in Batesville, Mississippi. He was mentored by his Certified Flight Instructor (CPI), Ken Taylor, the owner of New Heights Aviation—one of the state's premier flight schools dedicated to nurturing aspiring aviation enthusiasts like Cason.

• 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.

In the week leading up to the flight, Taylor informed Cason's parents that he was ready for solo flight after successfully completing his final safety sessions, including controlled stalls that he had to master. Following this, he was cleared to take to the skies on his own. While not yet official, an investigation is underway to confirm that Cason Brinkley made history as the youngest African American to solo a plane at the age of 16 in Mississippi on Monday, July 15, 2024. During this flight, he completed his scheduled solo and earned his first pilot-in-command hour.

Currently, Cason boasts an impressive 3.82 GPA on a 4.0 scale. He is actively involved in various extracurricular activities, including the Technology Student Association, National Student Beta Club, Student Council, and National Honor Society. Additionally, Cason is a mentee in the Kappa League program of the Cleveland (MS) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Outside of academics, Cason participates in football, bowling, and track at Cleveland Central. He finds time to volunteer, particularly with his mother's special needs students, and expresses his musical talents by playing the organ and singing at his church and other venues when invited.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cason Brinkley for his dedication and hard work for his milestone moment in performing a solo flight on his 16th birthday.

HONORING THOSE LOST IN THE AUGUST 8, 2023 WILDFIRES ON MAUI

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, on August 8th, Hawaii gathered to observe the one-year anniversary of the fires on Maui and in Lahaina.

Today, as Congress reconvenes, I rise to honor and remember the family and friends we lost.

They are beloved mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, grandparents and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, friends and life partners. Their ages span almost a century, from our youngest keiki just 7 years old to a cherished kūpuna aged 97.

Many had lived their entire lives in Lahaina. Others chose to make Lahaina their home, having come from faraway places across the United States and abroad, like the Philippines, Mexico, and Scotland. One was on vacation from Pollock Pines in Northern California, in the district of my colleague Congressman Kevin Kiley.

Today, I rise to include in the RECORD all 102 of their names. While they no longer walk among us, they will never be forgotten by the family and friends they left behind, by our community, or by this Congress, as their names will forever be remembered:

Louise Abihai, 97; Laurie Allen, 65; June Anbe, 78; Angelica Baclig, 31; Narciso Baylosis, Jr., 67; Vanessa Baylosis, 67; Melva 'Honey Girl' Benjamin, 71; Luz Bernabe, 64; Maurice "Shadow" Buen, 79; Buddy Joe Carter, 85; Kirk Carter, 44; Edimede Pavian Castillo, 35; Rex Cole, 64; Lydia Coloma, 70; Salvador Coloma, 77; Allen John Constantino, 25; Leticia "Letty" Constantino, 56; Theresa Cook, 72; Juan de Leon, 45; Marilou Dias, 60.

Virginia "Vergie" Dofa, 90; Bette Jo Dyckman, 73; Robert Dyckman, 74; Jeanne Eliason, 57; Po'omaika'i Estores-Losano, 28; Keyiro Fuentes, 14; Alfredo Galinato, 79; Douglas Gloege, 59; Donna Gomes, 71; Michael Gordon, 68; George Hall, III, 67; Carole Hartley, 60; Claudette Heermance, 68; Roxanne Ibara-Hinau, 68; Rafael Imperial, 63; Lawrence "Buddy" Jantoc, II, 79; Coleen Jones, 59; Morris Kaita, 74; Richard Kam, 88; Mark Kaminsky, 59.

Paul Kasprzycki, 76; Valerie Kauffman, 78; Albert Kitaguchi, 62; Joseph Lara, 86; Bibiana "Bhing" Lutrania, 58; Rogelio Mabalot, Sr., 68; Michael Mahnensmith, 80; Lynn Manibog, 74; Douglas Matsuda-Boucher, 65; John "Thumper" McCarthy, 74; Michael Misaka, 61; Antonia "Toni" Molina, 64; Michael Morinho, 61; Tim Nakamoto, 69; Todd Nakamura, 61; David Nuesca, Jr., 59; Carolyn Ono, 73; Matsuyuki Osato, 83; Pablo Pagdilao, III, 75; Tau Ponali, 66; Bernard Portabes, 75.

Gwendolyn Kanani Puou, 83; Junmark Quijano, 30; Felimon Quijano, 61; Sharlene Rabang, 78; Rebecca Rans, 57; Alfred "Alfie" Rawlings, 84; Eugene Recolizado, 50; Justin Recolizado, 11; Maria Victoria Recolizado, 51; Dale Ann Richter, 66; Rodolfo Rocutan, 76; Lee Rogo, 76; Conchita Sagudang, 75; Danilo Sagudang, 55; Edward Sato, 76; Joseph Schilling, 67; Anthony "Tony" Simpson, 43; James Smith, 79; Leslie Smith, 80; Jonathan Somaoang, 76; Floyd St. Clair, 75.

Janet St. Clair, 75; Freeman Tam Lung, 80; Terri Thomas, 62; Carlo Tobias, 54; Revelina "Rebing" Tomboc, 81; Fa'aoso Tone, 70; Malu'fonua Tone, 73; Salote Tone, 39; Tony Takafua, 7; Franklin "Frankie" Trejos, 68; Nicholas "Nick" Turbin, III, 71; Linda Vaikeli, 69; Angelita "Angie" Vasquez, 88; Adela Villegas, 53; Joel Villegas, 55; Leroy Wagner, 69; Clyde Wakida, 74; Glenda Yabes, 48; Todd Yamafuji, 68; Glenn Yoshino, 75.

The Maui Police Department also maintains a list of two people still unaccounted for as of February 13, 2024. They are:

Robert H. Owens

Elmer Lee Stevens

As we continue our work to recover and rebuild Lahaina, may the happy memories of those we lost carry our community forward and inspire us to live each day in their honor.

HONORING DQUAN WILSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Fire Chief Dquan Wilson.

Here is to a first responder who would gladly give you the shirt off his back. Chief Wilson selfless acts of bravery recently got him recognized by the Washington County Mississippi Emergency Operations Center.

He is passionate about saving lives and guiding children and citizens to take safety precautions while enjoying life. Whether it's through his leadership as a Fire Chief or as a DJ making people happy, Chief Wilson continues to motivate and have a positive influence on the citizens of Leland and the surrounding areas.

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

HONORING THE GOLDEN VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the exceptional achievement of the Golden Valley Historical Society (GVHS) as they commemorate fifty years of serving our community.

Founded in 1974, the Golden Valley Historical Society has tirelessly worked to find, preserve, and disseminate historical knowledge about the city of Golden Valley, Minnesota. The GVHS has dedicated countless hours to collecting oral and video histories, photographs, and three-dimensional objects in pursuit of this mission.

In 1997, the GVHS acquired Golden Valley's oldest church as a permanent home and collections repository. This site has become a vital gathering place for the community of Golden Valley.

The City of Golden Valley has issued a proclamation recognizing Saturday, September 14th as "Golden Valley Historical Society Day." I am proud to join the city in recognizing the Golden Valley Historical Society for providing this essential service to our community for the past 50 years.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LUCIO "CHIO" GONZALES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incomparable spirit and extraordinary life of Lucio "Chio" Gonzales; a true icon whose legacy transcends the ordinary.

Born on December 15, 1931, to Claro Sr. and Francisca Guzman. Chio was not just a man, he was a force of advocacy, embodying the essence of California's oldest civic traditions.

A native of Blythe, California, Chio settled in the Central Valley after spending his early years working as a migrant farmworker in the region's rich agricultural fields. He met his late wife Butter in the historic farmworker community of Delano in 1946. It was love at first sight for both Butter and Chio, and their love would endure for all the years to come as they married on November 24, 1956. The couple took over ownership of the People's Market in 1969, and the two worked together side by side managing the grocery store in Delano for over 40 years.

The Gonzales family formed a strong bond over the years with the Filipino Community of Delano. They served as advocates and allies for the inclusion and representation of Filipinos in Delano civic life. Their efforts played an instrumental role in electing the first Filipino American to serve on the elected body and worked to ensure the success of Delano's Philippine Weekend community celebration for the last 45 years. Chio engaged in a rich tapestry of civil service activities for the improvement of the community he loved so much. He founded the local chapter of the Mexican-

American Political Organization, aided the founding of the Ideal Club, and helped register people to vote at his market. Additionally, Chio served in a variety of different capacities through his memberships in the Delano City Planning Commission, St. Mary's School Board, Kern County Board of Trade, Delano Elementary School Board, and the Department of Corrections Citizens Advisory Committee.

His love for life was not only confined to politics and community service but also translated to the field with a lifelong passion and loyalty to the Dodgers. Lucio also loved playing golf with his sons and enjoyed attending church every Sunday with his beloved wife Butter.

In Chio's passing, we celebrate a life that embraced adventure, challenged norms, and left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on in his family; daughter Hedi and sons Eddie and Anthony. May we draw inspiration from Chio's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn the loss of this remarkable Californian.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Lucio "Chio" Gonzales.

HONORING DR. CAROLYN MYERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Dr. Carolyn Myers.

In recognition and appreciation of selfless leadership and service to the Natchez-Adams community. Dr. Carolyn Myers is the CEO and Founder of the Seeds of Change Resource Foundation. Dr. Myers has dedicated several years of her time and talents to helping others, and her impact on our community has been profound.

During the Covid pandemic, Dr. Myers worked tirelessly to arrange food and supply giveaways for those in need. Everything from chicken to sanitizer arrived by truckloads, totaling thousands of pounds, and numerous volunteers helped ensure that this needed assistance made it safely into the hands of the Natchez community.

Acting on her passion for the homeless and the mentally ill, Dr. Myers began work in December 2021 on a new group home to provide housing and assistance to individuals in need in the Miss-Lou area. Once completed, this beautiful home on Claiborne Street will serve as a "safe haven" for those with nowhere else to turn.

Funding for the project has come from "Bikers on the Bluff," an annual event started by Dr. Myers that has now become a popular draw for bike clubs from all over Mississippi and surrounding states. Additional funding has been derived from numerous tour excursions to historic places, from Jackson to Washington.

Dr. Myers has also appeared on the silver screen as a cast member of the 2022 ABC miniseries "Women of the Movement."

Dr. Myers' slogan is a verse from Hebrews which says, "Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God

is pleased." On the 16th day of June 2022, Dr. Myers was presented with a key to the city by Mayor Dan Gibson and the Board of Aldermen.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 9, 2024 due to a family emergency and, as a result, I missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 401 (H.R. 1157), and YEA on Roll Call No. 402 (H.R. 8333).

HONORING THE ARC OF UNION COUNTY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate The Arc of Union County for their 75 years of service in New Jersey's 7th Congressional District.

The Arc is a non-profit organization headquartered in Springfield, NJ, dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Serving more than 1,000 adults and children, the Arc engages with individuals, their families, and public and private entities to ensure that all people associated with the organization lead a productive, and enhanced life.

As we reflect on the work the Arc has done for the past 75 years, their lasting impact on our community is clear. I am honored to have such an amazing organization in the 7th Congressional District, and I look forward to what is to come.

REMEMBERING BENTLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize Bentley High School, Livonia's first public high school. While the building no longer exists in its physical form, its space holds many special memories for many of the 12th Congressional District residents and alumni.

Livonia Township experienced population growth in the 1940s, which drove home the need for its own public high school. Before then, its school-aged population was served by seven small school districts without a high school. With the people's approval, construction of the new high school began on November 8, 1946. The school was named for school board president George N. Bentley, and it

hosted its first classes on September 15, 1947, in spite of ongoing construction. Ninety-five students comprised the school's first graduating class on June 15, 1950, just a few weeks after Livonia was incorporated as a city.

Over the ensuing years, Bentley High School was expanded multiple times to accommodate the changing needs of a growing student body. The school proudly boasted an extensive library, wood shop, auto shop, swimming pool, and music rooms. Due to declining population, Bentley High School was closed in 1984, though it lived on a community center until 1999.

Please join me and the 12th Congressional District in recognizing Bentley High School, as the community of Livonia and alumni celebrate the legacy and memories of this historic place.

HONORING DR. MARIE DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Dr. Marie Davis.

Dr. Marie Davis was born in Natchez, MS, 68 years ago and she currently resides in Chesapeake, Virginia. Her reflection of all the beautiful smiles of her hometown people prompt her to be a change in her hometown people lives.

Dr. Davis presided over many community projects such as being a sponsor for the drive thru turkey and trimmings, donation of household supplies, hygiene products, and the ham and eggs Easter giveaways.

During the year 2023, a storm swept through Natchez and Dr. Davis was informed that some homes were without electricity for days, homes had busted pipes, and inoperable hot water heaters. Dr. Davis sent a generous donation to the Salvation Army and AJFC agency.

Dr. Davis' love for the seniors continues to radiate her heart so she connected with a longtime friend and ex coworker Alfredia Knight, together they made plans to take the elderly out to eat numerous times.

Dr. Davis sponsored haircuts, shaves, and other requested needs. During a holiday visit to Natchez in December, she met with her friend Diane Good, the owner of a Performing Arts Center. During this visit, Dr. Davis purchased all the string and wind instruments, equipment, and décor for the center. Inspired by a vision, she connected with Jacqueline Marsaw and her group of grieving mothers and fathers, treating them to dinner and providing donations and gift cards to the members.

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

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S 16TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FIRE
AND RESCUE EMS AWARD RE-
CIPIENTS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire, rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District. First responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Often, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call." Twelve years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement. On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following honorees, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district: Associate Service Award: Private Citizen Jake O'Brien of Hillsborough County Dedication and Professionalism Award: Senior Telecommunicator Lisa Kalmbach of the Manatee County Emergency Communications Center, Deputy Chief Jose Prado, Captain David Raasch, Company Fire Captain Andrew Capeletti, Fire Captain Nico DiNova, Fire Inspector Ryan Gould, Battalion Chief Jeffrey Landis and Captain Scott VanDeBoe of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Unit Citation Award: Captain Rondalfo Rodriguez and Driver/Engineer Jose Obradovich of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Battalion 6-C, Charge Paramedic James Bryant, EMT Monica Ramos, and District Chief Robin Thayer of Manatee County EMS, Fire Chief Tim Geer, Lieutenant Lionel Harrison, Engineer Louis Chiocchio, Engineer Jacob Barwick, EMT Thomas Ferrett, EMT Jared Gould; and Firefighter Bo Gurskis of the Bradenton Fire Department, Fire Chief Joe Sicking, Assistant Chief Joel Baker, Battalion Chief Blair Pontious, Captain Donald Bunch, Captain Ben Miller, Engineer Justin White, Engineer Michael Davila, Firefighter John Mueller, and Robert Barber (Logistics) of the North River Fire District, Division Chief Michael Williamson, Lieutenant Payton Edwards, Firefighter James Howard, Firefighter Aaron White, and Firefighter Liz Alvarez of the Parish Fire District, Deputy Chief Paul Wren, Lieutenant Adam McDaniel, Firefighter Isaac Libby, and Firefighter Connor Reilly of East Manatee Fire Rescue, Chief Angel Herrera, Chief Jeffrey Landis, Captain Jeffrey Hartner, Captain Pete Dzuibinski, Driver/Engineer Freddy Miller, Driver/Engineer Stan Hyatt, Driver/Engineer Jerome Mancillas, Lieutenant Eric Kotala, Fire Medic John Maltby, Fire Medic Lucas Haislop, Fire Medic Vinny Mortellero, Fire Medic Matthew Holubik, Fire Medic Adam Hayward, Fire Medic Scott Shedd, Firefighter Angel Rengifo, Firefighter Jared Ladd of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Pilot Alex Myers, Flight Nurse Caitlyn

Buell, and Flight Paramedic Kyle Miller of Aeromed Career Service Award: Assistant Chief Jane Herdn of the Longboat Key Fire Department, Chief (retired) Edward Cleveland and Fire Commissioner Derrick Warner of the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District, and Jimmie Hamrick, Jr. of Manatee County EMS.

CONGRATULATING GENRIETTA
CHURBANOVA

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Genrietta Churbanova, a Little Rock native.

Genrietta was named Princeton's 2024 valedictorian, not solely for ranking the top of her class, but embodying the absolute best Princeton has to offer.

Joao Biehl, Chairman of Princeton's anthropology department, agrees that she is the most exceptional student that has come through his department in the last two decades.

Genrietta was also named as Schwarzman Scholar for 2024, which is awarded to those who want to deepen their understanding about China's political, business, and technological impact on the rest of the world.

Genrietta stated that growing up in Arkansas kept her grounded and helped enable her to go far and achieve her goals.

I am proud to call Genrietta an Arkansan. Her accomplishments and drive have made her more than deserving of this honor, and I am eager to watch her journey in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, due to official business regarding the upcoming anniversary of the September 11th attacks in my state, I was unable to participate in voting on the passage of H.R. 8333 and H.R. 1157. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 410, and YEA on Roll Call No. 402.

HONORING DAVID PEYTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions of David Peyton, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, whose dedication to public service and tireless efforts have positively impacted countless lives.

David Peyton graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1984, laying the foundation for his journey of academic excellence and professional success. In 1988, he obtained his

Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Alcorn University, where his passion for science and community service flourished. Continuing his academic pursuits, Mr. Peyton earned a Master's degree in Public Health Policy and Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1994, solidifying his commitment to improving public health outcomes and advocating for effective policy solutions.

Throughout his esteemed career, Mr. Peyton served with distinction at the Mississippi State Department of Health in Communicable Disease Prevention, from 1989 until 2019. In this role, he demonstrated exemplary leadership, managing grants with budgets exceeding \$2 million and overseeing a workforce of over 60 employees. His dedication to public health and disease prevention has undoubtedly saved lives and strengthened communities across our state.

In addition to his public service, Mr. Peyton is a visionary leader in the non-profit sector, serving as President and CEO of Gateway Solutions, Inc., an organization dedicated to addressing pressing community issues and promoting social change. Furthermore, he is the founder of Peyton Unlimited LLC, a consulting firm committed to providing innovative solutions to complex challenges facing our society.

Most recently, Mr. Peyton was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Supervisors for Yazoo County, a testament to his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of his fellow citizens. One of his first acts of business was organizing Yazoo Day at the Capitol, in collaboration with Joseph Thomas Jr., highlighting the rich heritage and vibrant culture of Yazoo County to state officials and legislators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring David Peyton for his exceptional achievements, steadfast leadership, and dedicated service to the people of Mississippi. His remarkable contributions have left an indelible mark on our state, and he serves as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF JEFFERSON HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of Jefferson High School.

Established in 1949, under the leadership of its first principal, Mr. J.M. Whitaker, Jefferson High School has been the institution that has provided an excellent education to generations of students from the South-Central community. Better known as the 'Silver Foxes,' students and alumni proudly represent Jefferson all throughout El Paso, the country, and the world. From Ricardo Samaniego, our El Paso County Judge, Alberto Almanza, an Olympian who competed in 1960 and 1964, and numerous of veterans and servicemembers who have served in all branches of the military in pursuit of liberty and justice. Jefferson has a saying 'once a fox, always a fox'—and Jefferson students and alumni are always proud of their community and where they come from.

I would also like to recognize all the teachers, faculty, and staff of Jefferson for their dedication and tireless work to enrich the lives of students, empower them to become productive citizens, and leaders in their communities. It takes a village to educate and raise children and without their work, Jefferson High School would not be able to operate.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring Jefferson High School for their 75 years of educational excellence and its profound impact on the lives of countless students, families, and the broader community. Long live Jeff (Viva la Jeff).

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
CONGRESSMAN BILL PASCRELL

HON. MIKE CAREY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, who passed away last month after serving nearly three decades in Congress.

It was a privilege to serve alongside Bill on the Ways & Means Committee. Though we sat on different sides of the aisle, Bill's warmth, humor and dedication to his constituents can be a source of inspiration for all of us.

Bill was born in Paterson, New Jersey. America's first industrial city. Through the years he saw his community grow and change, but like the city's great falls, he remained a steadfast engine for progress.

I got to know Bill during events with the Italian American caucus, where we could talk about our shared heritage over glasses of Primitivo and Montepulciano. In the spirit of those days, I would like to share a message in memory of this great man and his legacy: "My friend, you will not be forgotten. (Amico mio, non sarai dimenticato)."

HONORING DR. CALVIN MOON

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the selfless service and incredible accomplishments of Dr. Calvin Moon, a United States Navy Veteran, who passed earlier this month.

Born in Yardville, Calvin spent his life in southern New Jersey. After graduating from Bordentown High School, he served in the United States Navy Submarine Service as a Petty Officer First Class Radar Operator on the Razorback Submarine in World War II. His bravery during his service played an integral role on the Pacific Front. After his service, he returned to New Jersey and earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural research from Rutgers University. Calvin then continued his studies at the University of Pennsylvania earning a doctorate of veterinary medicine in 1952.

Calvin was also a devoted veterinarian practicing in his hometown. While he began his career at the Wood Veterinary Hospital, he later helped launch the Hamilton Veterinary Hospital. Additionally, Calvin was a key player in

establishing the Columbus Central Veterinary Hospital and served 20 years as their Medical Director, in addition to his service as a diplomat with the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. His devotion to ensuring the beloved pets of families were taken care of was an inspiration to all those who knew him.

Outside his professional work, Calvin was an active member of his community. Having served on the Northern Burlington High School Board of Education and as scoutmaster for Troop 55 in Crosswicks, Calvin received the Father of the Year Award in Chesterfield, New Jersey. In addition to all those contributions, he was also a radio operator for Mercer County Emergency Service, a member of the Rutgers Oral History Society, the Base Commander of the New Jersey South Submarine Veterans, and Honorary Life Member of the USS Razorback Association. I commend him for his deep roots in our community, and for his desire to uplift youth, veterans, and all of his neighbors.

Calvin was, at his core, a loving husband to June Ann Moon. In their 76 years of marriage, the Moons had four children, seven grandchildren, and now five great-grandchildren.

While many community members locally know Calvin and his positive impact in our community, today I'm proud to honor his tenure as a veteran of the United States Navy, a valued member of our community, and as a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. We are fortunate to be able to carry on his legacy of service and to have his life's work as inspiration in our community.

HONORING GERALDINE GRAMMER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Mrs. Geraldine Grammer. Mrs. Grammer has been a champion of education and community service, and dedication to Bolivar County, surrounding counties and the State of Mississippi.

Mrs. Grammer is a retired educator and had redirected her life to one of service in helping people everywhere. She is a resident of Shelby, Mississippi, and president of the Alcorn Bolivar County Alumni Chapter of Alcorn State University. She recently received the Frank Dobbins Chapter President of the Year award for 2024. Mrs. Grammer joined the Alcorn State University Bolivar County Alumni Chapter in 2016 and in 2019 she became the chapter's president. Since becoming president, she has devoted countless hours toward working with the various committees to involve parents and high school students in applying for scholarships. They have awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships and provided students with beginning college gifts, such as printers, laptops, hampers, luggage, towels and essentials to start college life.

Mrs. Grammer's outlook and passion for education has had a profound impact on not only Shelby but the surrounding communities as well. Her continuous progress that as a community and state are making enforces the fact that she is focused on protecting the well-being of the community and that our local students are prepared for college life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Geraldine Grammer for her outstanding dedication, compassion and advocacy in her community. Her selfless service to her community, surrounding areas in the MS Delta, and the Alcorn State University Bolivar County Alumni Chapter are commended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, due to an issue with my staff getting me my vote card, I was unavailable for Roll Call No. 401. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 401.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL IN HONESDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a remarkable and historic milestone for a cherished institution in the Eighth Congressional District of Pennsylvania: the 75th Anniversary of Congregation Beth Israel. Located in Honesdale, a picturesque borough nestled in the hills of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Congregation Beth Israel holds the esteemed title of being the oldest continually operating synagogue in America still in its original building.

In September of 1849, amidst the backdrop of thousands moving westward in search of new opportunities, eleven pioneering men gathered in a modest home on Main Street in Honesdale. In the flickering light of kerosene lamps, they made a commitment that would profoundly shape our community. They pledged to form a Jewish congregation to serve the members of the Jewish faith, laying the foundation for what would become a beacon of faith and perseverance.

By 1856, these visionaries celebrated the first services held in their new building on Court Street. This structure has withstood the test of time, continuing to serve as a spiritual home for generations. It truly is a testament to the resilience and dedication of the Jewish community in Honesdale.

Today, Congregation Beth Israel remains a living symbol of Northeastern Pennsylvania's rich heritage and bright future. Exemplifying this fact are the descendants of three of the congregation's original eleven families, who continue to play an active role in the synagogue's life and mission.

As we mark this 175th Anniversary, we celebrate not just a historical milestone but the vibrant, enduring spirit of Congregation Beth Israel. The synagogue is not only a cornerstone of our community's religious life but also a living testament to the dedication and faith of its members. The echoes of prayers and songs that fill the pews today are a reminder of the deep roots and unwavering commitment of this congregation.

It is with great pride and admiration that I recognize Congregation Beth Israel's 175 years of contributing to our community and to the broader American tapestry of religious and cultural diversity. The history and ongoing vitality of this institution serve as a powerful reminder of the strength and unity found in faith and community.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Congregation Beth Israel on this historic anniversary. I thank them for all they have done and continue to do for the Jewish community of Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District. May their congregation continue to thrive and inspire for many years to come.

HONORING THE 17TH PRESIDENT
OF FLORIDA SOUTHERN COL-
LEGE, DR. ANNE B. KERR

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Anne B. Kerr, who recently retired from her role as the 17th president of Florida Southern College. Her dedication to academic excellence and a quality campus life experience transformed Florida Southern into one of the best liberal arts colleges in the South.

Dr. Kerr developed her interest in education during her psychology studies at Mercer University. She then earned a master's degree in counseling and a doctorate in higher education administration from Florida State University. Prior to her tenure at Florida Southern, Dr. Kerr held executive roles at Rollins College and the University of Central Florida before serving as the University of Richmond's Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Dr. Kerr's 20-year tenure as Florida Southern College's 17th president was the second-longest in the school's history. Her steadfast leadership yielded the college's highest enrollment numbers and academic ranking. The college became a top producer of Fulbright Scholars in the Nation, a prestigious scholarship for students pursuing studies abroad. To house Florida Southern's monumental growth, the college added 22 new buildings, expanded 20 others and restored many of the famed Frank Lloyd Wright buildings.

Dr. Kerr also helped expand Florida Southern's academic offerings by adding 19 new graduate degree programs, including the Barney Barnett School of Business and Economics, the first named school on campus. Other new programs were added in accounting, education, nursing and physical therapy. On the eve of her retirement, she also announced the emergence of a new undergraduate architecture program, with a graduate program to follow in 2028.

Dr. Kerr declared at the start of her tenure she wanted FSC to be "recognized as one of the nation's small, preeminent colleges." It is safe to say she exceeded her vision. Dr. Kerr's success was driven by her faith and the fulfillment brought by seeing her students achieve their dreams. We are lucky she intends to continue to inspire future generations, returning to Florida Southern in Spring 2025 to teach a leadership course in the Barnett School of Business.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Kerr's accomplishments and passion for students is an inspiration to us all. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing her an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING SAMMIA ALLEN-
THOMAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the exceptional accomplishments of Sammia Allen-Thomas, a remarkable student from Yazoo City High School.

Ranking fourth in her graduating class, Sammia's extensive list of achievements speaks volumes about her dedication, talent, and hard work. Her academic honors include the Highest Honor, Distinguished Academic Endorsement, Mississippi Delta Honor Graduate, ACT 20 Plus Club with a score of 24—the second highest ACT score in the district—Miss ACT for both the 2022–2023 and 2023–2024 academic years; and memberships in the National Honor Society, National Technology Honor Society, and Beta Club. She also served as Vice President of both the Math and Science Club and the National Technical Honor Society.

Balancing a demanding academic schedule, Sammia also excelled in athletics. She was the co-captain of the cheer team for three years, earning the title of UCA All American Cheerleader. Additionally, she served as the co-captain of the softball team, being named Softball MVP and All District Player.

Her hard work has been recognized through numerous awards and scholarships, including the National JROTC Sojourners Award, Delta Honor Scholar, Gerald D. Peyton Scholarship, Yazoo Keeper Scholarship, 21 Club Pageant winner and Scholarship, Community Solutions of Mississippi Scholarship, the fourth Annual Shanda Allen-Smith Educational Scholarship, and the Yazoo City High School Class of 1992 Scholarship. Sammia has also been awarded a full academic scholarship to Mississippi Valley State University, where she plans to major in Early Childhood Education and join the cheer team. She aspires to open a preschool to provide young children with a strong educational foundation.

Beyond her academic and athletic pursuits, Sammia has demonstrated a strong commitment to civic duty. She has volunteered at nursing homes, assisted fellow students with ACT preparation, and actively participated in church activities at New King Solomon M.B. Church. Through these efforts, she has made meaningful contributions to her community, fostering unity and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sammia Allen-Thomas for her outstanding achievements. Her story is a testament to the power of dedication, resilience, and community support. As she embarks on her journey at Mississippi Valley State University, we wish her continued success and look forward to the positive impact she will undoubtedly make in the future.

HONORING JIMMY RUSSELL

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a special man, Jimmy Russell, from Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. Mr. Russell, an icon in the bourbon industry, marks his 70th anniversary at Wild Turkey distillery.

Mr. Russell grew up in Anderson County, five miles from Wild Turkey. He followed in his father's footsteps and went to work at Wild Turkey, then known as Anderson County Distilling, sweeping floors. He rotated jobs and learned all the steps involved in making bourbon, discovering that no job is too small and no task too tedious when it comes to making bourbon the right way. In 1967, he became Master Distiller, a position that he held for nearly half a century. Today he is Co-Master Distiller alongside his son Eddie Russell. He is the longest tenured active Master Distiller in the industry.

Mr. Russell has earned numerous accolades for his outstanding work, including being named to the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame, the Whiskey Hall of Fame, and a lifetime honorary member of the Kentucky Distiller's Association. He has been named a Kentucky Colonel by three Kentucky governors and has been a whiskey judge for the International Wine and Spirits Competition.

Mr. Russell is a fixture at the distillery, where he serves as a goodwill ambassador, greeting tourists at the visitor's center, charming them as he imparts knowledge about bourbon, signing bottles, and posing for pictures. He also samples and shares his opinion on new bourbons being developed at Wild Turkey. He enjoys working alongside his son Eddie and grandson Bruce.

Mr. Russell has contributed greatly to the success of the bourbon industry, one of Kentucky's signature industries. It is my honor to lift up the life of this true Kentucky treasure, Mr. Jimmy Russell, and celebrate his 70 years at Wild Turkey.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
WALKER

HON. ROBERT C. "Bobby" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Mess Attendant 3rd Class David Walker.

David Walker was raised in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he attended I.C. Norcom High School, one of the first Black high schools in Virginia. Before graduating, he decided to leave school to join the Navy. At the time, the Navy offered few jobs to African Americans, so Mr. Walker enlisted as a mess attendant.

On December 7, 1941, David Walker was serving aboard the USS *California* at Naval Station Pearl Harbor when the base was attacked by Japanese forces. The USS *California* sank during the attack, and Mr. Walker sadly perished along with 102 other sailors aboard the ship. The remains of many fallen sailors were identified in the years following

the attack, but Mr. Walker's remains were not accounted for at the time and were reburied in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii.

With advances in identification technology, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency decided in 2018 to exhume unknown remains from the national cemetery in hopes of identifying unaccounted sailors. After nearly 82 years following the attack on Pearl Harbor, David Walker's remains were identified earlier this year and were interred in Arlington National Cemetery on September 5, 2024.

Honoring those who have fallen in the line of duty is one of the most sacred responsibilities of our government. Many like David Walker still wait to be identified decades after sacrificing their lives for their country. I want to thank the staff at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency for their work towards finding David Walker and all other servicemembers still lost. We must continue to support this work, so these fallen Americans may receive the recognition they deserve.

**RECOGNIZING DR. MEHMET
ULUPINAR**

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mehmet Ulupinar for being awarded the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award.

Dr. Ulupinar received the award because of his service to Little Rock through his work as president of the board for the Arkansas Culture and Dialog Center, a nonprofit that aims to promote the understanding of diverse cultures.

He worked tirelessly to foster relationships between the diverse communities and law enforcement in Arkansas by providing educational, social, and cultural services.

Through his work, central Arkansas will be a safer, more connected community.

I thank Dr. Ulupinar for his great work in central Arkansas and I congratulate him on his outstanding achievement.

**HONORING MT. HOREB M.B.
CHURCH**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor a pillar of the community, Mt. Horeb M.B. Church.

Mt. Horeb M.B. Church was organized in 1864 by Rev. Moses B. Black, a missionary sent to the Mississippi Delta by the Baptist Home Missionary Society. This made Mount Horeb the first African American church in Greenville and Washington County, hence the oldest. He pulled together a small group of former slaves, Paul Woodruff, Jerry Bland, Riley Barnes, Jim Campbell, and Shep Hughes. They named the church Mt. Horeb. Horeb which is another name for Mt. Sinai which means "Desolate Place." The church

boasted a membership of around 310 members.

During the early years, the organizers faced challenges in securing a building for worship, as much of Greenville had been destroyed by federal troops during the Civil War. The first building was located on Levee Street, but it was eventually lost to the Mississippi River and the construction of the current levee. Concerned about the river's encroachment, the congregation heeded the advice of the Church's Elders and relocated to the corner of Nelson and Broadway streets. Due to delays, nearly four years passed before a new building was constructed, leading to 1886 being mistakenly recognized as the church's founding year. Part of the land for the original church was purchased from B.L. Lee for \$135.00, and in 1909, an impressive two-story structure with stained glass windows was completed.

Shep Hughes, the longest surviving member of the original group, served as a vital link to future generations. When the late historian Leon C. Chapple completed the church's history, he asked Brother Hughes, "Why the name Mount Horeb?" noting that there were no mountains, hills, or elevated places within a 75-mile radius. It hadn't occurred to Brother Hughes why the church was named Mount Horeb. His response, though simple, was poignant and sentimental: the founders, barely three years removed from the harshness of slavery, felt like the children of Israel emerging from the valley of sin. They began to thirst, not for natural waters, but for the waters of righteousness. Thus, they named the church Mount Horeb, envisioning it as a place where the weary and repentant could come to freely drink from God's life-giving waters.

From the founding pastor to their current pastor, Dr. Albert Calvin, Jr., Mt. Horeb has been served by 21 pastors, with Dr. Calvin serving the longest at 45 years.

In 1993, a Historical Marker was erected by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, which is in the front of the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mt. Horeb M.B. Church for its rich heritage and dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

**CELEBRATING NATIONAL
AEROSPACE WEEK**

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Aerospace Week.

For more than a century, American aerospace trailblazers have propelled the United States to the forefront of global innovation in critical sectors—national defense, safe and reliable transportation, sustainability, advanced manufacturing, and space exploration. National Aerospace Week recognizes the vital role that aerospace organizations and workers play in advancing our nation's security, economy, and technological leadership.

The aerospace industry continues to surge to new heights. In 2023 alone, American aerospace and defense generated an astounding \$955 billion in total sales across the value chain—from small mom-and-pop businesses

to the largest equipment manufacturers. These businesses support more than 2.2 million highly skilled workers across the country, with nearly half of these jobs coming from the supply chain sector. And Americans want to work in aerospace and defense. Not just because the average income is 50 percent above the national average, but because they identify and connect with the industry's mission and its contributions to the United States. With a footprint in every single state, including in my state of Kansas—home to the Air Capital of the World—the aerospace and defense workforce is the backbone of our economy, contributing \$425 billion to the U.S. GDP last year.

The importance of aerospace and defense cannot be overstated. As a close partner with the U.S. military, the industry is a cornerstone of our national security and a critical component of our asymmetric advantage over our adversaries. It is a key tenet of our national defense strategy, equipping our courageous men and women in uniform with the most advanced and effective systems in the world to deter and, if necessary, fight and win wars. Because of the ingenuity and resilience of American innovators, our military is the best in the world.

We are also the global leader in new technologies in aerospace and air transport—technologies that are highly sought-after across the globe. This includes the fastest, safest, most efficient jets; new technologies like advanced air mobility that will enable Americans to get to wherever they want to go—including, eventually, space; and sustainable innovations that will help us be good stewards of our natural resources for generations to come.

The diverse and innovative nature of the businesses that make up the A&D supply chain keeps America on the cutting edge of an ever-evolving global market. Simply put, the world wants what American aerospace is innovating—we are the gold standard.

As we celebrate National Aerospace Week, let us look to the future, where this industry continues to inspire and drive change that will shape the world for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY INSTITUTE (EESI) ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), which is celebrating a 40-year history of advancing climate solutions. The institute was founded by a bipartisan group of members of Congress, including then-Rep. Richard L. "Dick" Ottinger (D-N.Y.), who continues to serve on its board of directors as chair emeritus, and then-Rep. Thomas B. Evans (R-Del.). Since 1984, EESI has worked in a non-partisan manner to provide science-based educational resources to policymakers and the public. As we enter this decisive decade for climate action, the role played by EESI in advancing science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges is more important than ever.

On multiple occasions, I have had the pleasure of working closely with EESI. For example, their briefing on lowering carbon emissions from commercial aviation coincided with the initial release of my bill, the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Act (H.R. 2747). I also spoke at an EESI briefing on food waste reduction in December 2021. While I served on the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis from 2019 to 2023, EESI submitted a substantive response to our request for information. The institute also organized a briefing about the report issued by the Select Committee majority in June 2020.

I commend EESI for serving as a trusted source of credible, nonpartisan, science-based information about energy and environmental topics and climate change solutions. EESI has helped to strengthen federal climate policy. Each year, the institute produces more than 20 Congressional briefings, 35 newsletters, and 100 articles, as well as fact sheets, issue briefs, and podcast episodes. Since 2010, EESI has also provided free technical assistance to help dozens of rural utilities across the country develop and implement inclusive on-bill financing programs for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and beneficial electrification.

I truly hope that EESI will continue to work with Congress for the next 40 years, continuing to prioritize the climate, advancing solutions, fostering bipartisanship, supporting rural communities, and cultivating young leaders.

HONORING THE MISSISSIPPI
HUMANITIES COUNCIL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mississippi Humanities Council. The organization has gone beyond the call of duty to ensure Mississippians' stories are told and their lives are enriched through civil conversations about their history and culture.

The Mississippi Committee for the Humanities was founded in March of 1972 with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which was working to create and support a new system of state humanities councils that could carry out and fund grassroots public humanities programs. Porter Fortune, Chancellor of the University of Mississippi, was the founding chairman of the organization, which later changed its name to the Mississippi Humanities Council. The Council's commitment to supporting grassroots public humanities programs has been unwavering since its inception.

Founded amidst the turmoil of federally imposed integration, the MS Humanities Council

played a crucial role in helping to bring about social change in Mississippi. It organized and supported interracial meetings and funded grants to communities for discussions on desegregation and other important issues. More important than the funding was the Council's ability to offer state-level legitimacy for such discussions and to serve as an impartial broker among differing points of view. The Council's commitment to fairness and impartiality was unwavering as it worked to bring the insights of humanities scholars to the critical contemporary issues the state faced.

In 2013, Dr. Stuart Rockoff became the third executive director of the MS Humanities Council. Under Dr. Rockoff's leadership, the MS Humanities Council expanded its council programming, launching new initiatives like "Ideas on Tap" and prison education and increasing its grant-making throughout the state. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council distributed over \$1 million in federal aid in support of cultural institutions in Mississippi. The MS Humanities Council also has a prison education and MS Freedom Trail program.

The Mississippi Freedom Trail was created to commemorate the people and places in the state that played a pivotal role in the American Civil Rights Movement. Under the leadership of Visit Mississippi, the first Freedom Trail markers were unveiled in 2011 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary reunion of the Freedom Riders. In June 2024, the MS Humanities Council unveiled five new markers to the Mississippi Freedom Trail. In celebration of the 60th anniversary of Freedom Summer, each marker unveiled is connected to the pivotal work of Mississippi's Freedom Summer Project. MS Humanities Council unveiled the first Freedom Trail marker outside the state on August 20th in Atlantic City, New Jersey. This marker honored the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and its efforts in the 1964 Democratic Convention. This ongoing effort honors Mississippi's profound role in the Civil Rights Movement and underscores its national significance. Dr. Rockoff and his staff, John Spann, Carol Anderson, Kam Hoskins, Carla Faulkner, Sandra Johnson, and Katie Molpus have worked tirelessly to ensure Mississippians' stories are told.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Mississippi Humanities Council for their service in the field of Public History.

PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF THE
240TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WHEATLEY METHODIST CHURCH
BUILDING

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation in honor of

the 240th anniversary of the historic Wheatley Methodist Church building in Rhodesdale, Maryland, the completion of its five-year preservation project between 2019 and 2024 and the church being established as an independent legal entity known as Wheatley Methodist Church, effective November 1, 2023.

Whereas, Wheatley Methodist Church (WMC) was erected in 1784 on land King George II granted to a William Wheatley, during the eighteenth century. It was built with intent to be a "preaching house served by clergy of those people called Methodist or a friendly clergy of the Church of England" and

Whereas, this heavy old growth timber frame structure secured with wrought nails has existed since one year following the victorious American Revolution in October 1783 and five years prior to George Washington becoming the first elected American president; and

Whereas, most Early American rural church buildings were either demolished or abandoned and left no decay. The Wheatley Methodist Church building has existed for 240 years continuously serving its original intent; and

Whereas, in 2019 existing colonial era horizontal wood plank interior wall covering was discovered underneath presenting Victorian era pressed tin. Further search revealed serious construction issues causing the building be condemned. Members' faith directed a decision to preserve the historic structure; and

Whereas, the five-year preservation project (2019-2024) quickly became the pride of surrounding communities. Financing for the \$110,000+ project materialized from donations of monies, time, materials, multiple fund raisers, and two matching grants awarded by: the Bartus Trew Providence Preservation Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (\$15,000) and the Choptank Electric Trust, Inc. (\$2,400); and

Whereas, the Wheatley Methodist Church is believed to be the oldest American Methodist church with a continuously active congregation worshipping in its original building erected to be a Methodist church and the historic structure continues serving its original intent well into the 21st century. It is a tangible link to its Early American heritage of religious family life in an agricultural community.

Now, therefore, I, Andy Harris, Member of Congress, do hereby proclaim and celebrate Wheatley Methodist Church on its historic building's 240th anniversary, the completion of its five-year preservation project and the church being established as an independent legal entity known as Wheatley Methodist Church, effective November 1, 2023.