

beginning as Director of Operations, where she scheduled hundreds of meetings and listening sessions for Iowans visiting Washington, D.C. and in the district.

Most importantly, though, Emily is a mentor and friend to the team. Her ability to foster collaboration and encourage growth made our team stronger and more united. Despite her University of Illinois pedigree, Emily is as Iowa as they come, from corn dogs at the State Fair, to winning friends under the Golden Dome in Des Moines, to the marble steps of the U.S. Capitol.

We wish Emily success in her next endeavors and have no doubt she will continue to make a difference. The distinctive accomplishments of her service reflect effect greatly herself, the people of Iowa, and the United States.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2025 NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

##### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2025 recipients of the Northern Virginia Leadership Awards presented by Leadership Fairfax.

Leadership Fairfax is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to inspire, connect, develop and engage the next generation of leaders in Northern Virginia so that they are prepared to serve and strengthen our community. Over 2,500 alumni from their programs have become part of a fast-growing network of civic and business leaders in the region.

Each year, Leadership Fairfax recognizes individuals or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made extraordinary contributions to our community. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2025 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards recipients:

The Non-Profit Organization Leadership Award will be presented to BetterALife, a trailblazing nonprofit committed to addressing critical social issues such as education, food insecurity, and access to essential life skills.

The Non-Profit Individual Leadership Award will be presented to Michelle Sullivan, the Executive Director of All Ages Read Together (AART). Michelle has transformed the organization into a thriving program that provides early literacy support to disadvantaged children in Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

The Regional Leadership Award will go to Dr. Sharmaine McCoy, DNP, ACNP. At Inova, she has led efforts to address health disparities by organizing health fairs and community outreach programs.

The Trustee Leadership Award will be presented to Ellen Dyke, the Chair of both the NOVA Education Foundation and SPARC (Specially Adapted Resource Clubs). She is an innovative leader who has pioneered initiatives that create better opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The Educational Leadership Award will be presented to Dr. Herman Mizell, Principal of Langston Hughes Middle School. In just one year of being at LHMS, Dr. Mizell has revitalized staff morale, improved student engage-

ment, and addressed safety concerns that existed at the school.

The Youth Leadership Award will be presented to Avery McCusker and LucyLynn Tombul. At Just 14 and 15 years old, Avery and LucyLynn dedicated over 140 hours of service to the Fairfax County community while completing their Girl Scout Silver Award project.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of these individuals and organizations are one of the reasons why Fairfax is such a sought-after community in which to live and work, and this year's honorees highlight the legacy of Leadership Fairfax in preparing our community's future leaders to address the challenges we face. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these honorees and thanking them for their service to Northern Virginia.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF J. ROGER RICE

##### HON. GEORGE LATIMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James Roger Rice, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, attorney, and man of deep faith, who went to be with the Lord on February 16, 2025.

Born on January 1, 1950, in Buffalo, New York, to James Albert Rice and Frankie Jones Rice, Roger was raised in a home shaped by Christian values, instilled in him by his mother. Roger was a standout student-athlete at Hutchinson Technical High School in Buffalo, where he excelled on the basketball court, earning All-City honors for his skill and leadership. He earned a full basketball scholarship to Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where he played the game with heart, discipline, and excellence—qualities he carried into his career and family life. Beyond his own playing, he became a dedicated youth basketball coach, pouring into his sons and other youth. For many, he was more than a coach; he was a guiding force, building lifelong friendships and lasting lessons both on and off the court.

While pursuing his Juris Doctor degree at the University of Buffalo, Roger's life took a beautiful turn when he met Gail, the love of his life, on the first day of law school. Their first date was legendary—crossing borders to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. That fateful meeting led to a lifetime of love, partnership, and purpose. They married in 1978; two sons were born of this union.

In 1982, Roger and Gail took a leap of faith, founding their own law firm, Rice & Rice, Attorneys-at-Law. Their firm, which later included both sons, became a pillar of the community, serving countless clients with integrity, wisdom, and compassion. With the founding partners' retirement in 2019, Rice & Rice closed after more than 35 years of service.

Roger was a storyteller and no-nonsense advice giver, who could be both profoundly wise and hilariously unpredictable, often in the same conversation. He was known for his affectionate teasing and clever nicknames. He loved food, music, movies, and showing off his dance moves. Above all, Roger was a family man. He took immense pride in the achieve-

ments of his wife, children, and grandchildren, celebrating their victories and supporting them in every endeavor. His love for his family was unwavering, and his presence was a source of strength, encouragement, and wisdom.

Roger's faith was central to who he was, and he often spoke about the help, direction, and friendship of the Holy Spirit in pivotal moments of his life. After his marriage, he became a member of Shiloh Baptist Church of Tuckahoe where he was ordained as a deacon. Over the years, he also worshiped at Bethesda Baptist Church of New Rochelle, and, until the time of his passing, was a founding member of Renaissance Church in Harlem. His commitment to his faith was evident in how he lived serving his community, mentoring others, and walking in integrity. Roger was pre-deceased by his parents Frankie and James Rice; brother Lawrence C. Brown; sister Frances Marshall; daughter-in-law, Danielle Williams Rice; and his parents-in-law, Mabel and Herman Whitaker.

He leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion, cherished by his wife, Gail Rice; his sons, Jared and Jordan Rice; his daughter-in-law, Jasmine and Jessica Rice; and his treasured grandchildren, Jocelyn, Jayden, Jameson, and Josiah Rice. He is also survived by his siblings-in-law Sandra and Glen McGhee, Quincy and Gail Brooks, and Joyce and Keno Johnson, and Margo Clarke; uncles and aunt Prince Allen Whetstone and Arnold and Esther Brooks; nieces and nephews Paula and Charles Barber, Spencer and Helen Rodriguez, Luis, Alexander, and Jasmine Rodriguez, Taila and Edward Faustin, and Darren and Christine Brooks. Additionally, a host of great-nieces and nephews, cousins, extended family members, friends, colleagues and Rice & Rice family, and former clients who will forever remember his kindness, wisdom, and generosity.

Roger Rice was well-loved and lived well. He will be deeply missed, but his footprint will endure forever in New York's 16th Congressional District.

#### RECOGNIZING CORRINE SERVIS

##### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corrine Servis of Salida, Colorado for being named the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department's 2024 Park Ranger of the Year. She was chosen from over 115 rangers statewide.

As Operations Manager for the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA), Corrine helps oversee the day-to-day operations and upkeep of the park. She has gone above and beyond to educate and engage young Coloradans. She spearheaded programming for school groups and established internships and apprenticeships at the park. The AHRA and the Salida community are lucky to have Corrine's passion and dedication as she helps to inspire an appreciation for public lands in the next generation of Coloradans.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Corrine Servis for her service and congratulate her on earning this award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF REVEREND PHIL LAWSON

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative MARK DESAULNIER to pay tribute to the Reverend Phil Lawson, a distinguished civil rights leader, pastor, and tireless advocate for social justice. Reverend Lawson passed away on January 26, 2025, at the age of 92.

Throughout his life, Reverend Lawson dedicated his life to the pursuit of equality, compassion, and nonviolence. Growing up in a family deeply committed to faith and social justice, Reverend Lawson was instilled with values that would guide his life's work. He diligently pursued higher education, earning degrees from Kent State University, Butler University, Methodist Theological Seminary, and Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

Starting at the age of 15, Reverend Lawson committed himself to justice and peace movements, participating in the Fellowship Reconciliation and studying non-violent direct action (NVDA) interventions under the leadership of Bayard Rustin and George Houser in Washington, D.C. Later, he joined the Army band in a non-combatant status and served from 1953 to 1956.

In the late 1960's and 1970's, Reverend Lawson emerged as a powerful voice for the civil rights movement. He participated in significant events such as the historic 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a testament to his unwavering commitment to justice.

In addition, he served as the director of the Methodist Inner City Parish in Kansas City, Missouri, where under his leadership, the Inner City Parish played a pivotal role in organizing community initiatives, including working with the Black Panther Party and the Welfare Rights Organization to support and empower Black youth. Following his time in Kansas City, he transitioned to public service, working for the City of Berkeley as the Director of Program Development and Contract Administration from 1974 to 1980. Further, Reverend Lawson broke racial barriers as the first Black pastor of both El Cerrito UMC and First UMC in Vallejo.

In 1992, Reverend Lawson was appointed to lead the Easter Hill United Methodist Church (UMC) in Richmond, California, where he served with distinction for decades. He was instrumental in founding and supporting numerous organizations dedicated to social equity, including the East Bay Housing Organization (EBHO), the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP), and the Black Alliance for Just Immigration. His advocacy encompassed a broad spectrum of issues, from racial equality to immigration reform and homelessness.

Reverend Lawson's commitment to non-violence and social justice was evident throughout his life. He often emphasized that nonviolence was not merely an option but the only path toward true community. His contributions were recognized in 2003 when he was honored as Contra Costa County's Humanitarian of the Year.

Reverend Lawson will be remembered for his outstanding character and for the incred-

ible impact he's had on our community. Please join us in recognizing Reverend Phil Lawson for his many contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING SHARON LAVONNE  
HARRIS RISCHER

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I honor Sharon Lavonne Harris Rischer, a beloved member of our Fort Worth community, who passed away on February 12, 2025, at the age of 70. Sharon was a dedicated daughter, mother, sister, aunt, and friend, whose impact will be felt for generations to come.

Born on October 7, 1954, in Fort Worth, Texas, Sharon was a proud graduate of the Lake Como Class of 1973, having attended both Lake Como High School and Western Hills High School. She further pursued her education at Tarrant County College before beginning a distinguished career that spanned several decades. Sharon worked with unwavering commitment at Standard Meat Company from 1979 to 1993 and then with Tarrant County MHMR from 1993 until her retirement in 2014.

Sharon's faith was an integral part of her life. She was baptized at an early age and remained a devoted member of the Lake Como Church of Christ, where she was a constant source of love and encouragement to those around her. Beyond her professional and spiritual dedication, Sharon found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She was an avid cook, enjoyed shopping, and brought warmth and laughter to family gatherings, particularly during friendly card games that brought her loved ones together.

Her life was characterized by her deep care for others, and she will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. I would also like to extend the family's gratitude to the Advanced Heart and Lung Disease Center at Baylor Scott & White Fort Worth Campus and Dr. Salmon Gohar for their compassionate care during Sharon's final days.

Sharon Lavonne Harris Rischer was truly a pillar of our community, and her legacy of kindness, faith, and family will endure in the hearts of those she leaves behind. May she rest in peace, and may her memory continue to inspire all who knew her.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF  
DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA ON ITS  
SESQUICENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY

**HON. LUCY MCBATH**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the City of Douglasville on the occasion of its Sesquicentennial Birthday. For 150 years, Douglasville has contributed to the rich history of the state of Georgia, and I am honored to uplift today's remarkable milestone. Back home in my district, constituents will gather this evening at the Douglas County Mu-

seum of History & Art for a reflection on the history of the city and a celebration of the progress they hope to make in the future.

I want to commend Mayor Rochelle Robinson, the Douglasville City Council, and every resident who made this week's celebration possible. It is thanks to the devotion of public servants like them who make Douglasville such a wonderful community in which to live, work, and raise a family.

I congratulate the City of Douglasville on reaching 150 years, and Happy Birthday.

RECOGNIZING ANNETTE STOLBA

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Annette Stolba of Buena Vista, Colorado for her 42 years of service with the Chaffee County Communications Center.

Annette began her career as a public safety dispatcher in 1983 before 911 emergency services were available. Over the next 40 years, Annette helped countless Chaffee County residents in their time of need. The Chaffee County community will remember Annette's role in keeping them and their loved ones safe.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Annette Stolba for her four decades of service to the citizens of Chaffee County.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH  
M. BRISTOW

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Joseph M. Bristow, a former Councilman from Hackettstown. Joseph Bristow brought his passion for preservation and community to Fredon Township, New Jersey.

He was a true New Jersey icon whose legacy of kindness, service, and dedication to his community will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A graduate of the University of Connecticut, Joseph earned a Bachelor's degree followed by a Master's degree from Villanova University. He also pursued doctoral courses at the New School for Social Research, reflecting his lifelong dedication to education.

Joseph spent over four decades as a professor at County College of Morris (CCM), where his belief in the transformative power of knowledge inspired generations of students. Inspired by change, he saw the potential for enhancing his community. He was a founding member of the Committee for Crime Prevention (known as the DARE program), demonstrating his commitment to creating a safer and more just environment. His dedication extended to the younger generation as a devoted Little League coach, where he taught not just the fundamentals of the game, but also the values of teamwork and determination.