

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ERNEST
"BOBO" CLOUD, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated mortician and compassionate public servant, the Honorable Ernest "Bobo" Cloud, Jr., who will celebrate 33 years of distinguished service to the City of Cairo, Georgia. His celebration will take place on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Cairo.

Ernest Cloud, Jr. was born on May 4, 1948, to the union of the late Ernest Cloud, Sr. and Sarah Brown-Cloud. He graduated from Washington Consolidated High School in 1966, and went on to attend and graduate from Gupton-Jones School of Mortuary Science in Atlanta, Georgia in 1971. After graduation, he received a greater calling upon his life and enlisted in the United States Army. But, this was not the only calling that he would receive in his lifetime. Ernest continued to pursue his interest in mortuary science by serving in the funeral service business alongside his father.

Mr. Cloud's distinguished civil service has been mirrored by his extensive involvement in his community. In conjunction with his professional accomplishments, Mr. Cloud served on several boards, including the boards of the Georgia Funeral Service Practitioners Association, Inc. (where he served as the Budget and Convention Chairmen and the Past President), the Cairo Civics Club (where he served as the County Chairman), the Cairo High School Booster Club (where he served as President), Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity, Inc. (where he served as the Vice President for GA, FL, and AL), and the Fourth District Funeral Service of Georgia Practitioners Association, Inc. (where he served as the Assistant Secretary). He also belonged to a number of prestigious organizations, such as the Grady County Branch of the NAACP, the Georgia State Board of Funeral Services, the Suwanee River Area Council Boy Scouts of America, and several others.

A trailblazer of firsts, Ernest was the first African-American Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in Grady County, and in 1985, he became the first African-American to serve on the Cairo City Council. He has held this prestigious seat for the past 33 years.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." We are so grateful that Mr. Cloud has given his time and service to the City of Cairo. A man of great integrity, his efforts, his dedication, and his expertise are unparalleled. The light in Cairo, Georgia shines a little brighter because of Ernest Cloud, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in thanking Mr. Ernest "Bobo" Cloud, Jr. for 33 outstanding years of service to the City of Cairo, Georgia, our state, and our nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the hard-working men and women of the David A. Stein Jewish Community Alliance on the celebration of their 30th Anniversary of enriching the lives of those with a variety of needs. JCA is a pillar in our Jacksonville community. The Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) is a non-profit community center affiliated with the Jacksonville Jewish Federation, the United Way of Northeast Florida and the Jewish Community Centers of North America. Its focus is to enhance the quality of life for families and individuals of all ages, religions, races, financial means, and physical and mental abilities.

To this end, JCA has impacted tens of thousands of citizens in our community. Situated on the Ed Parker Jewish Community Campus, JCA welcomes preschool-age children to get a good start in life and embraces teens and adults to join classes on health, heritage and other diverse subjects. At the JCA, there is a spirit of intergenerational sharing of values and ideas. The after-school and school-closed day programs give peace of mind to working parents, both married and single. Seniors and adults with special needs are offered opportunities to reach their potential with dignity and tradition.

The JCA facility offers swimming, theatre and camp programs, fitness and exercise classes, sports teams, and art and academic classes to all members and welcomes all for membership. JCA offers an array of creative and innovative classes, programs and events sure to inspire and benefit participants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in acknowledging the 30th Anniversary of the JCA and its commitment to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 70 and 71 on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 70 and 71.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE KNIGHTS
OF LITHUANIA COUNCIL 143 AND
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
LITHUANIA INDEPENDENCE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Knights of Lithuania Council 143 as they celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Lithuania's independence. The Knights

of Lithuania is an organization of Roman Catholic men and women of Lithuanian ancestry located in Pittston, Pennsylvania.

Organized on April 27, 1913, the Knights of Lithuania was originally established as a youth organization. Its mission was to unite young Lithuanians living in the United States, preserve Lithuanian culture, and restore freedom to Lithuania, which, at the time, was divided between Russia and Germany.

In more recent times, it has become a family organization. St. Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania's youth, is honored as the organization's patron. "For God and Country," is the motto of Knights of Lithuania, and its members keep an appreciation of the Lithuanian language and culture alive, while also stressing the importance of Roman Catholic beliefs.

It is an honor to recognize the Knights of Lithuania as they celebrate 100 years of Lithuanian independence. I am grateful for their work preserving Lithuanian traditions for the citizens of the Greater Pittston. I wish their membership all the best as they continue their important mission.

**HONORING COUNCILMAN JIM
BAYMAN**

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Whitley County Councilman Jim Bayman. For 36 years, Councilman Bayman has represented all or parts of Washington, Cleveland, Jefferson and Columbia Townships. I had the honor of serving with Councilman Bayman in 2009 and 2010, and I saw firsthand the positive influence he has had on the people of his district and our County. Councilman Bayman is hard-working, honest and a caring public servant. I wish him the best as he begins the next chapter of his life. Whitley County will miss his leadership and commitment to public service.

HONORING LINDA RUFFING

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Linda Ruffing, who is retiring from her position as the City Manager of Fort Bragg on February 14, 2018.

Born in Pennsylvania, Linda Ruffing came to California to attend college at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She received a Master's Degree from the University of California, Berkeley, before moving to Fort Bragg in 1992 to work for Mendocino County as a coastal planner.

Linda began her career at the City of Fort Bragg in 1999 as the director of community development and became City Manager in 2006. In addition to her exceptional character, judgment, ethics and values, Linda has provided critical leadership on many initiatives for the city, including the acquisition of 95 acres of parkland and a site for the Noyo Science Center on the former mill site, which includes

over 2 miles of coastal trail. Under her leadership, a ban was instituted on foam containers and plastic bags in the city. She also led Fort Bragg to become the first city to allow food waste in yard waste recycling, and in becoming the first Bee City in California.

As the city manager, Linda has worked with 12 different councilmembers and three different mayors, and gracefully navigated a spectrum of politics, challenges, and crises. She has been responsible for implementing 78 ordinances and managing \$33 million in capital improvement projects. Linda leaves the city with a stable and successful management team and a staff dedicated to improving the quality of life for the residents of Fort Bragg.

In her spare time, Linda serves the public as a Rotarian, an active mentor for the Interact Afterschool Program, and she volunteers for many teen leadership events. She is also the mother of two children, Eli and Jasper Henderson.

Linda Ruffing has been a dedicated and effective public servant for 26 years, and I hope you will join me in recognizing her many accomplishments and sending her best wishes on her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, February 13, 2018, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on two Roll Call Votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

on Roll Call No. 70—YES; and Roll Call No. 71—YES.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. On February 10, 2018, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce celebrated a century of strengthening local businesses and making invaluable contributions to the local economy.

Established in 1918, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce has assisted businesses through innovative programs that have helped grow and promote Brooklyn's economic landscape. In 1922, the organization expanded their outreach by hosting the Manufacturers Industrial Show, highlighting over 200 Brooklyn manufacturers and opened its membership to women. Just five years later, the chamber of commerce had become the second largest in the United States.

In the 1980's the United States Small Business Administration formally recognized the Brooklyn Chamber and their commitment to protecting and promoting the commercial and industrial components of the city and their outreach efforts, technical assistance and referrals on behalf of minority and women-owned businesses.

Under the leadership of Andrew Hoan, President and CEO of the Chamber has experienced considerable growth, exceeding over 2,000 members and launching several exciting initiatives across the borough. As an example, Explore BK, Brooklyn Made have allowed tourists and Brooklynites alike to connect with local businesses and provided businesses with a national platform. The continued success of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce would not be possible without the support and dedication of its faithful partners and members.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the history and legacy of this trailblazing organization and the many committed people who make it a success, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce on its 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING FATHER MARTIN ELSNER, SJ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Father Martin Elsner, SJ, who passed away on February 4, 2018. Father Elsner hailed from my hometown of San Antonio, and we will miss him deeply.

Father Elsner was born in St. Louis on September 1, 1931. He attended Jesuit High in Dallas and Price High in Amarillo and later continued his studies at St. Charles College. Father Elsner went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama; a master's degree in Education; and studied theology at St. Mary's College in St. Marys, Kansas.

Prior to his ministry in San Antonio, Father Elsner began his priestly ministry in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he served as an assistant principal at Jesuit High School from 1964 to 1968. After, Father Elsner was appointed Rector-President at Jesuit High School in El Paso, Texas, where eventually he also served as both President and Principal. After three years in school administration in El Paso, he was Pastor for eight years at St. Joseph Church in Houston, Texas and was also a religious leader at the Metropolitan Organization in Houston.

Continuing his ministry in Texas, Father Elsner became a Pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in San Antonio where he remained until just last year—serving twice as a Pastor and many years as an associate. Father Elsner was also active in the Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS) and was also spiritual director at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio from 2011 to 2017.

Father Elsner was a true pillar in San Antonio and to the state of Texas—always giving back to the community and making our state shine it's brightest. Father Elsner was very active in the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, as well as the Southside Consortium for Catholic Schools and Westside Catholic Schools. He also frequently served as a celebrant for the televised Mass on Catholic Television of San Antonio.

Throughout his lifetime, he received awards of Outstanding Leader recognition from the archdiocesan Department of Catholic Schools

in 1997, and the Benetia Humanitarian Award from the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence in 2013. These awards don't even fully explain what Father Elsner accomplished in his lifetime.

Father Elsner was a kind and humble man, dedicated to bettering the lives of the people in San Antonio and everywhere else he spent time. His footprint is everlasting, and his leadership as an educator and religious figure to many will be greatly missed.

WELCOME SLOANE DACHISEN BRAVO

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Summer Buchanan Bravo and her husband, Matthew Edward Bravo, on the birth of their new baby girl, Sloane Dachisen Bravo. Sloane Dachisen Bravo was born on February 3, 2018, at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C. Sloane weighed seven pounds and eight ounces and measured 19 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long.

I would also like to congratulate Sloane's grandparents, Steve and Barbara Buchanan of Birmingham, Alabama, and Charles and Linda Bravo of Fairfax, Virginia. Congratulations to the entire family as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

THOMAS REYNOLDS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend of mine, Thomas Reynolds, who passed away recently at the age of 68 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Tom was born in Muncie, Indiana on November 6, 1949. He worked for Delta Faucet in Greensburg with my Mom, for a total of 42 years until he retired in 2013, and was married to Amy Kay Fisher on April 15, 2000, who preceded him in death on November 26, 2015. Tom was a member of the YMCA for many years, and was an avid high school basketball fan that attended numerous boy's and girl's games over the years, who loved to watch his grandsons play baseball. Throughout his life Tom had a profound impact on countless Hoosiers.

On a personal note, Thomas Reynolds had a giant personality and was someone whose support and guidance I could always count on. He was supportive, as a baseball coach, early on in my life and I'm greatly appreciative of his friendship and leadership.

He will be mourned most by those who knew him best, and he will be missed by all. Tom is survived by three sons: Craig (Mandy) Reynolds; Cris (Angie) Reynolds; Bobby (Heather) Reynolds; brother, Steven Loyd; sister, Rita Reynolds; and six grandchildren, Cade, Sydney, Corey, Trevor, A.J., and Cole Reynolds.