

Audrey was born on April 9, 1919 in Trenton, New Jersey. She graduated from Trenton Central High School and completed courses at Mercer County Community College.

Audrey's 100 years of life have been filled with great success. She served 34 years with General Motors before retiring; she went on to work, and retire again, for Mercer County government as a Senior Citizen Program aide. Audrey was also an active member of the Neighborhood Civic Association for the Trenton Housing Authority. Despite a busy life, Audrey has always found time to give back to her community, frequently volunteering with Meals on Wheels. Audrey continues to be an active member at my church, Shiloh Baptist in Trenton, and serves as a Trustee Aide Member and Senior Ministry Member.

In 100 years, Audrey has been blessed to see her family grow and prosper. With her husband, the late Lloyd Willis, Sr., Audrey raised two sons, the late Lloyd Willis, Jr. and Forrest Willis. She also has four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

I have had the pleasure to know Audrey for more than 50 years. As an integral part of our church, she always shares her warmth and caring personality with anyone she meets. Although she has a quiet demeanor, Audrey is a social butterfly who will find a way to go everywhere. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Audrey's 100th birthday. We wish you a wonderful and joyful birthday, and many more blessings in the year ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE THAYER LADY BOBCATS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Thayer Lady Bobcats Basketball team for winning the Class 2 State Championship on March 9, 2019, the first women's basketball state championship in school history.

In his third year, Coach Cecil Meyer led the team to an overall record of 30–3, winning the last 14 games of the year. The Lady Bobcats were full of talented players, notably All-State Seniors Julie Stone and Angela Sorrell along with South Central All-Conference members, Shelby Coursey and Maddy Kerely.

The Lady Bobcats swept through the postseason on their way to a 52–35 win over Mid-Buchanan High School in the championship game, capping the historic run. Their success is a testament to the hard work and preparation the coaches and players put in during the preseason and throughout the year.

On behalf of the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri, it is my great privilege to congratulate the Thayer Lady Bobcats on their historic achievement. We look forward to their continued success. Go Bobcats.

FIGHTING AGAINST SOCIALISM IS A FIGHT WORTH HAVING

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, as we watch the human tragedy that is Venezuela, it should be a stark reminder to everyone that socialism does nothing but destroy the lives of the people while enriching the elites. A recent report out of Venezuela reminded me of a Milton Friedman quote. The famed economist said, "If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in five years there'd be a shortage of sand." These are the words playing out in Venezuela right now.

Venezuela has the world's largest proven reserves of oil, yet the socialists in charge cannot keep the lights on, nor supply the nation with gasoline for their vehicles. It gets worse for the people of Venezuela as there are now potable water shortages. Keep in mind, Venezuela has over 1,500 miles of coastline and part of the country is a rainforest. But the socialist rulers cannot seem to build desalination plants nor transport its vast water resources to the people that need it.

Venezuela's current crisis reinforces my fight to make sure the United States has an all of the above energy grid. To function properly, a nation needs a variety of fuel sources, some renewables, some nuclear, some hydro, some carbon based. That is a reality for a mature economy and civilization.

I fight against rabid environmentalists who want to shut down every coal plant, every gas plant, every nuclear plant and dismantle our dams and hydro power. They accuse me of wanting to destroy the environment, which is a defamatory lie. What is apparent is the leftists in this country want to destroy our civilization, our affordable energy and our prosperity. They want to do to the United States what the same environmentalists and leftists have done to Venezuela—leave us without electricity, without food, without water, without communications.

The emerging socialist movement in this country is an imminent risk of harm to everything that has made us the leader of the free world. The socialists in this country present a clear and present danger to our health and well-being and should be fought at every opportunity.

Our fathers and grandfathers fought against socialists. They fought and died to make sure the United States remained free, capitalist and prosperous. Let the lessons of Venezuela, Cuba, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries that have failed miserably, and inflict death and harm to millions, teach us to promptly reject U.S. socialists and their harmful ideology, their useful idiocy, and their malevolence.

DANIEL RYLEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Ryley

for receiving the Arvada Young Professional Leadership Award.

Daniel Ryley has recently been named the Executive Director of the Arvada Economic Development Association and is receiving this award for his innovation and entrepreneurship in the Arvada community. He founded Drynkware, a reusable drink stirrer that is both functional and stylish and helps reduce the use of plastic straws.

The professional accomplishments and community leadership demonstrated by Daniel Ryley is exemplary of the type of positive impact that can be made on the City of Arvada. He serves as Chair of the Community Leaders of Hope Advisory Committee with Extended Hands of Hope, a Human Rights organization that houses and empowers survivors of human sex trafficking.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daniel Ryley for winning the Arvada Young Professional Leadership Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and leadership in his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH KANSAS CITY HORNETS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Missouri Class 5 State Championship won by the North Kansas City High School Lady Hornets basketball team. Such an achievement is the result of strong leadership and years of dedication by both players and coaches alike. It is truly an honor to recognize this exemplary group of athletes from the Fifth District of Missouri.

Claiming the State Title was the culmination of years of discipline and hard work on the part of the entire Lady Hornets team. For the past three years the Lady Hornets were the District Champions, and for the last four years they were also the Suburban White-Division Conference Champions, unfortunately falling short in the State Playoffs. However, under the leadership of Head Coach Jeffery Lacy, this senior class was not content concluding their high school careers with anything short of a State Championship. The Lady Hornets' tremendous success this past season—with twenty-nine victories compared to a mere two losses—was the fruition of years of hard work and a "never-give-up" attitude cultivated by these remarkable athletes and coaching staff during their time at North Kansas City High School. It brings me great joy in saying that their hard work paid off with a sound victory in the State Championship on March 16, 2019.

Coming to Jefferson City this year, the Lady Hornets were pegged as the underdogs to the high-scoring and hometown Jefferson City Lady Jays. Despite the doubts, the Hornets remained focused on their ultimate goal. They maintained a mindset of excelling, no matter the obstacle, and marched through the State Tournament with an "us-against-the-world" attitude. The Lady Hornets' road to becoming North Kansas City's first female State Champions is a journey that has been followed by the entire community, witnessing what is possible when a group of individuals come together and dedicate themselves in pursuit of a common goal.

But, the great thing about athletics is they help to create opportunities in other aspects of life. The Lady Hornets' success has already paid off in a multitude of ways, opening doors for several players. A number of them will continue their basketball careers, and most importantly their education, at Division I universities such as the University of Kansas. Whether they know it or not, they will take with them the life lessons learned throughout their time at North Kansas City High School and as a part of this team. With the North Kansas City community, I look forward to seeing where each of these players will go and how future players will develop under the leadership of coaches like Jeffery Lacy and John West.

Madam Speaker, please join with me in celebrating the North Kansas City Lady Hornets and the State Championship they have brought home to Kansas City.

PASSING OF MS. BESSIE M.
SWINDLE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the life and legacy of a distinguished member of my Houston staff, a constituent, and more importantly a dear friend who passed away on Thursday, March 28, 2019 in Houston, Texas.

Ms. Bessie Swindle was born June 5, 1939 in Loreauville, Louisiana, relocating to Houston, Texas as a young adult where she went on to become a pillar of the Sunnyside community.

Over the course of more than fifty years, she used her skills as a community organizer to make a difference in Houston. Prior to serving as an outreach coordinator in my Houston office, she founded and served as president of the Cloverland Civic Club, representing 400 homeowners in the neighborhood, sponsoring fundraisers, aiding needy families, and raising money for scholarships.

She was involved with several organizations and used her voice to represent Sunnyside residents as a Parent/Teacher Association member, Troop Leader for Girl Scouts of America San Jacinto Council, President of the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church "55 Plus" Club, Community Liaison for former Harris County Precinct 7 Constable Michael Butler and Constable Perry Wooten, member of Mayor Bill White's Phone Tower Commission, and member of the City of Houston Police Officers Civil Service Commission. She also served as president of Southeast Coalition of Civic Clubs and Precinct Judge for Harris County Voting Precinct 271.

During her distinguished lifetime of service, she was the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including Parent of the Year from James H. Law Elementary in 1975, the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in 1996, the Texas Legislative Black Caucus Award in 1999, the Sir Knight Dennis Armelin Humanitarian Award in 2004, Mayor Bill White's proclamation of Bessie M. Swindle Day in 2007, the naming of the Bessie Swindle Community Center in Sunnyside, Houston, Texas in 2009, as well as the street naming of Bessie Swindle Way in 2010.

It is eminently clear that Ms. Bessie M. Swindle was no ordinary community servant. She used her influence to constantly stand up for those who needed her assistance—and she made a difference. Ms. Bessie Swindle will be greatly missed for her wit, wisdom, and willingness to work hard. Her contribution will never be forgotten.

I would like to send my condolences to Ms. Swindle's family, friends, and all those who will miss her dearly. I hope that, even in this sad time, Ms. Swindle's record of unselfish dedication to her city and community will serve as a bright light for those who dare to follow in her footsteps.

Ms. Bessie M. Swindle is survived by one daughter: Jackie Swindle. She is also survived by four brothers, one sister, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

IN RECOGNITION OF ED
SPEAKMON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Keller City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem, Mr. Charles Ed Speakmon, who recently passed away at the age of 71.

A retired Marine, Republican precinct chairman, and former auto repair businessman, Mr. Speakmon spent his life serving both his country and his community in many ways. He was elected to the Keller City Council in 2016, where he was known for his gentle and kind nature as well as his willing participation and resolve to get things done.

Mr. Speakmon also was widely known for the elaborate and award-winning Christmas display that adorned his house every year. He was even given the nickname, "Mr. Christmas" because of the unique gift he annually shared with his community in his passion for the holiday.

Always faithful, Mr. Speakmon was a man of service who was deeply devoted to his country, his community, and his family. To those who knew him, the sense of loss felt in his sudden departure is a tribute to the life he lived. I am honored to have served alongside Councilman Speakmon to represent the community for which he cared so deeply, and I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife, Candy Speakmon, their family, and all who knew and loved him.

JEN SPETTEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jen Spettel for receiving the Arvada Young Professional Leadership Award.

Jen Spettel is the Executive Director of the Susan M. Duncan YMCA and is receiving this award for her innovation and entrepreneurship in the Arvada community. Jen is dedicated to healthy living in Arvada, working for the YMCA for the past 15 years.

The professional accomplishments and community leadership demonstrated by Jen Spettel is exemplary of the type of positive impact that can be made on the City of Arvada. She serves on the 9 Health Fair Board of Trustees, the Retention Committee for the Arvada Economic Development Corporation as well as the City of Arvada's Healthy Places Initiative.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jen Spettel for winning the Arvada Young Professional Leadership Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and leadership in her future accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AUSTIN
FULTON

HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service and work of Austin Fulton. Austin has played an instrumental role in setting up my Congressional office. He previously worked for Representative Jason Chaffetz and helped through the successful transition after I was elected to Congress. He was later promoted from Staff Assistant to Legislative Correspondent, where he worked diligently on a variety of policy issues, including housing, veterans, and space policy.

Austin had a positive attitude and was willing to help with any task no matter the scope. I am grateful for all his service, and I wish him the best of luck in his next chapter. Despite his departure, he will always be a member of Team Curtis.

MICHAEL SUDAK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Michael Sudak for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Image Award.

Michael is receiving this award for his commitment to the Arvada community and the positive image he displays for the city. Michael owns and operates an Arvada-based business which employs local residents at above minimum wage and provides local children with healthy and nutritious school lunch meals, serving many schools that participate in the free and reduced lunch program. The meals he offers are of higher quality and nutrition than required to better care for the at-risk children being served.

The involvement and generosity demonstrated by Michael is exemplary of the type of positive image that can be displayed for the city of Arvada.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Michael Sudak for winning this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce and appreciate his ongoing contributions to our community.