

Centro has created a nurturing environment for young Latino students to appreciate their culture and history while also preparing them to participate fully in Kindergarten and elementary school. Tony also served as a board member of the Hispanic Media Association Scholarship Fund and the University of Central Missouri's Cesar E. Chavez Scholarship Committee. As a result of Tony's impassioned fundraising, these scholarships have been able to award thousands of dollars to deserving Latino students pursuing higher education and working towards a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Tony undoubtedly accomplished extraordinary progress for his community during his life, and we in Kansas City celebrate him as a local hero. But when you talked with him, his work would never come up. When Tony would greet people with his infectious smile and attentive ears, he wanted to hear about their lives, their families, and their struggles. If you needed to laugh, he was quick to deliver a joke. If you needed to cry, he would wrap his arm around you and make you remember that you were not going through dark times alone. Whether he was celebrating new life, working through life's problems, or mourning the end of a life, Tony served as a bright light and beacon of hope wherever he was. As friends and family gather to remember how Tony helped them through their lives, that beacon of hope will continue to shine brightly in their memories.

Today, Kansas City's thoughts are with Tony's wife, Mary, his two sons, Anthony Jr. and Aquilino, his daughter, Mary Kay Villegas-Alitz, and his many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as they celebrate Tony's life and remember the moments of compassion and care he gave the world. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Tony's legacy and offering our deepest condolences to his family. As we celebrate the accomplishments of a life well-lived, let us remember how Tony used his God-given gifts to serve others. We may never truly know the full impact he had on our community, but make no mistake: Tony's legacy will live on through every young leader he inspired to continue that everlasting endeavor to promote equality, inclusivity, and opportunity. Put simply, Kansas City is better off today, tomorrow, and for generations to come, because of the time Tony gave us.

RECOGNIZING ELAINE COUTURE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elaine Couture, who has served in the health care sector of this country for over 40 years. She has outstanding professional accomplishments in nursing and has shown dedication to her staff, community, and people in need.

Elaine Suzann Couture was born in Omaha, Nebraska on July 18, 1955, to parents Quentin and Mildred Bohrer. At a young age, Elaine knew that she wanted to be a nurse. She volunteered as a candy striper and went straight

from high school to college at Montana State University-Bozeman in 1973.

Upon graduation, she worked for 10 years at Saint Vincent Hospital in Billings, Montana from 1977 to 1987 first as a bedside nurse and a flight nurse. Her ability to lead others gave her the opportunity to move into management and eventually start a new occupational medicine department. In 1987, she started at Saint Mary Medical Center as the Employee Health Manager. She was quickly promoted to the Director of Quality, and then Chief Nursing Officer.

She left Saint Mary's in 2002 for Sacred Heart, where she served faithfully for nearly a decade. In 2012, she was promoted to the Regional Chief Executive for Providence Health & Services for nearly eight years before she was promoted to Executive Vice President, Chief Executive of Eastern Washington & Western Montana. She oversaw 13 hospitals and over 23,000 medical staff.

Elaine has served the people of our state, region, and country with a strong sense of self, leadership, knowledge, and passion for her work. In addition to her responsibilities for Providence, she served on numerous national and community boards including the Federal Reserve Board, American Hospital Association Rural Task Force, Washington State Hospital Association Board of Directors, Greater Spokane Incorporated Governing Board, Washington State University Advisory Board and Spokane's University District Board.

Anyone who has had the pleasure of knowing and working with Elaine, describes her as nothing but determined, energetic, approachable, and compassionate. In addition to all her professional successes, Elaine kept her priorities in life as God, Family, Word. Throughout her career she has shown dedication and a genuine care for the medical profession and those in it. This is exemplified in her willingness to give back to the next generation of medical professionals by serving as an adjunct professor as Washington State University School of Nursing following the completion of her own B.S. in 1977 and her M.B.A. in 1994 from Liberty University.

Most recently, during the Coronavirus outbreak Elaine has again led with distinction during challenging and uncertain times. She made it a priority to continuously adapt hospital and clinic operations to meet the emergent and changing needs of patients, frontline workers, and the community.

Madam Speaker, for her commitment to health care, her exceptional, engaging manner and for her lasting impact on the lives of people around her, I recognize Elaine Couture.

IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY E. BINARI

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Shirley E. Binari of Huntingdon County for her service in the United States Air Force. Shirley is an outstanding Pennsylvanian, and I am grateful for her service to our nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our community.

In Pennsylvania and across the country, our veterans have served and sacrificed for Americans' freedom and our values. They answered the call to serve and fight for us—at a great cost. Truly, our veterans are the best of America.

In Congress, it is my privilege—and my responsibility—to stand up for those who have served our country in uniform, as well as to recognize these brave Americans. As a nation, we are indebted to them. On behalf of the 13th Congressional District, I thank Shirley for her service to our nation and our community.

RECOGNIZING ARMY VETERAN JOHN PAUL CURRAN

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, John Paul Curran and congratulate him on his 105th birthday. A veteran, family man, Beatles fan, and so much more, "Uncle John"—as his family lovingly calls him—has led a remarkable life.

John's story begins on November 11, 1915, in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. He spent his childhood there, enjoying time with his family, attending church, and playing baseball. In 1933, he graduated from Honesdale Catholic High School before he was drafted into the Army nine years later.

On May 18, 1942, John began his service to our nation. It was then that he formed his fondest memories—serving alongside his fellow Americans to serve and protect our country in World War II. He spent three months in basic training in Gadsden, Alabama, before working as a Postal Clerk, Grade T/4 in the Judge Advocates office, and a Rifleman, Grade T/4. As a Postal Clerk, John handled and dispatched classified information and inspected critical Victory Mail. He served in the Rhineland Offensive in Central Europe and went on to receive the Good Conduct Medal and the American Theater Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars.

After he was honorably discharged on January 10, 1946, John returned home to Honesdale, where he worked for General Electric. John's entrepreneurial spirit led him to San Francisco in the 1950s where he was a partner in a small business and managed apartment buildings. After falling ill and receiving lifesaving care at a VA hospital, he moved to Palm Desert in 2003, where he now enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, family, and friends; playing bingo at the Joslyn Center; reading and doing crossword puzzles; and playing the occasional penny slot machine.

It is fitting that John shares his birthday with Veterans Day, a day devoted to recognizing and honoring all those who have sacrificed for our nation.

On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, Happy Birthday, John. And we thank him for his years of service to our nation. As he celebrates this momentous occasion, his story is now recorded in our nation's history and will live on for generations to come.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE
JAMES R. WILLIAMS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James R. Williams, the first African American to serve as a Summit County, Ohio Common Pleas judge and a longtime Akron civic and civil rights leader, who passed away on Friday, November 9, 2020, at the age of 88.

Judge Williams was an Akron Municipal Court judge, a member of Akron City Council, and in 1978 was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. He was appointed to Akron Municipal Court in 1983, and then in 1989 became Summit County's first Black Common Pleas Court judge, subsequently twice winning reelection to the bench.

He was a civil rights leader who was an officer with the Akron and Ohio NAACP branches and other organizations. He was a University of Akron alumnus and a former president of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity that, while he was a member, pioneered housing for low- to moderate-income residents and seniors.

Judge Williams was the principal founder and first chairman of Alpha Phi Alpha Homes Inc., a nonprofit housing, development and management corporation formed in 1966 in Akron by the Eta Tau Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha.

James, a native of Columbus, Mississippi, moved to Ohio following active service with the U.S. Army. He also taught in Akron Public Schools and was a senior staff member for Akron's Department of Planning and Urban Development. He retired as common pleas judge in January 2005, after 15 years on the bench.

Judge Williams was preceded in death by his first wife, Catherine. He is survived by his wife, Jewell Cardwell-Williams; two children, Michael, a former Akron City Council member, and Jacqueline Walton; and four grandchildren.

The Honorable James R. Williams was truly a revered figure in Summit County and Northeast Ohio. Anyone who knew Judge Williams saw him as a man of deep integrity and a man that carried a strong commitment to community. I cannot thank James enough for his service to our country and his service to Akron and Summit County. My deepest condolences go out to the Williams family and to all whose lives were touched by James.

IN HONOR OF JOHN W.
BORNHOLDT

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John W. Bornholdt of Huntingdon County for his service in the United States Air Force. John is an outstanding Pennsylvanian, and I am grateful for his service to our nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our community.

In Pennsylvania and across the country, our veterans have served and sacrificed for Americans' freedom and our values. They answered the call to serve and fight for us—at a great cost. Truly, our veterans are the best of America.

In Congress, it is my privilege—and my responsibility—to stand up for those who have served our country in uniform, as well as to recognize these brave Americans. As a nation, we are indebted to them. On behalf of the 13th Congressional District, I thank John for his service to our nation and our community.

HONORING DR. EARNEST LEE
RANKIN, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Earnest Lee Rankin, Sr. who was born in Simpson County, Mississippi on March 12, 1947, to Eliza Marie Rankin. He was the seventh of eight children.

Dr. Rankin graduated from Harper High School in 1967, in Mendenhall, MS, before attending Prentiss Institute and graduating in 1969. While at Prentiss Institute, he married Dorothy Mikell, affectionately known as "Doris," on March 2, 1969. Dr. Rankin graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Tougaloo College in May 1971.

After attaining the highest score on the Medical College Admission Test in the state of Mississippi, he was accepted into the third integrated class of Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS, in 1971. Dr. Rankin completed a two-year residency in Family Practice at Texas Tech University in Amarillo, TX, and then decided to return home to begin practicing medicine, first in Madison, Leake & Yazoo Family Health Center in Canton, MS, in 1976, and later opening a private practice in Family Medicine in Jackson, MS, circa 1979.

An intelligent, compassionate man of humble beginnings, he believed that everyone should be treated like a human being and was entitled to receive adequate health care. Dr. Rankin provided health care services to countless family members, the poor, the underprivileged, and the "have-nots," finally retiring in 2019, after 43 years of practice.

At an early age, Dr. Rankin joined Mount Zion Hill Baptist Church in Mendenhall, MS. Later in life, under the influence of Bro. Eddie Gates, Sr., he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Dr. Rankin was a member of Mount Wade Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. Cleve Snell. He was an active member of the church for 28 years, serving as Sunday school teacher, deacon, member of the finance board, and wherever else he was needed.

Dr. Rankin lived a full life as a volunteer in the Parchman Penitentiary Prison ministry, an avid and competitive bowler, and a great huntsman who rarely missed deer hunting season (or any other season for that matter). Dr. Earnest Rankin, Sr. held a special place in his heart for his family.

Dr. Rankin is survived by his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Rankin of Jackson, Mississippi; children, Dr. Yolanda A. Rankin, Earnest Rankin,

Jr., Demetira Rankin, Christa Pittman, and Patrick McKinney Rankin.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Earnest Lee Rankin, Sr.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT. COL.
(RET.) DANNY CURTIS

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. LOESACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Lt. Col. Danny Curtis of Hills, Iowa, who passed away on October 24, 2020. Lt. Col. Curtis joined the Army in 1964, serving one tour in Korea and two tours in Vietnam. While in service, he led teams to build Blackhawk helicopters, taught military science at the University of Notre Dame, and received numerous commendations, including one Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, and three Bronze Stars. Lt. Col. Curtis is survived by his son, Clayton (Laura) Curtis, and two grandchildren, Annmarie and Evelyn. He was preceded in death by his wife, Judy Slaughter Curtis, mother Ester Buline Curtis, father Lloyd Curtis, and sister Nina Jean Curtis.

Danny Curtis did not tend to shine a light on his own accomplishments, though numerous they were. Instead, he highlighted experiences that demonstrated the best of man in comradeship. He led by this principle later in life, being a steady advocate and friend to fellow veterans, and a fixture in his community. Known by his friends and family for his wit and his ability to weave a story, he will be greatly missed. So, on this, the week of Veterans day, let us remember his sacrifice, and the sacrifice of all the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

IN HONOR OF KENNETH A.
BOWSER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenneth A. Bowser of Huntingdon County for his service in the United States Army National Guard. Kenneth is an outstanding Pennsylvanian, and I am grateful for his service to our nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our community.

In Pennsylvania and across the country, our veterans have served and sacrificed for Americans' freedom and our values. They answered the call to serve and fight for us—at a great cost. Truly, our veterans are the best of America.

In Congress, it is my privilege—and my responsibility—to stand up for those who have served our country in uniform, as well as to recognize these brave Americans. As a nation, we are indebted to them. On behalf of the 13th Congressional District, I thank Kenneth for his service to our nation and our community.