

On behalf of the Fifth District of Indiana I offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Pat Kennedy. The Hoosier community will greatly miss him and his extensive contributions.

REMEMBERING ARIKA SAMANTHA TRIM

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor and remember the life of Arika Samantha Trim, my former committee press secretary. Arika tragically passed away at the age of 29 on June 23, 2020, just a week after giving birth to her son Djai.

I first had the honor of meeting Arika shortly after I became ranking member on what was then the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Arika joined my committee staff in April 2015 as our press secretary and was later promoted to deputy communications director.

Arika brought significant experience to the Committee's press team. A native of Tobago, Arika was a 2008 graduate of Oxon Hill High School in Maryland. After graduating Lee University in Tennessee in 2012 with a degree in public relations, she interned with the Office of First Lady Michelle Obama. She then went on to join the communications staff at the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a press assistant. She was critical to communicating and amplifying the important work of Democrats on the Education and the Workforce Committee to the media and the American people. Arika played a key role in many of our key legislative successes during my first three years as the top Democrat on the Committee, including defending the Affordable Care Act, promoting the importance of school meals and child nutrition, and original introduction of the Raise the Wage Act. I will forever be grateful for her work and dedication to America's students, workers, and families.

Arika left the committee in early 2018 to join the communications staff of the American Hospital Association. I know Arika played an outsized role there communicating the needs of hospitals, most recently the impact on our hospitals of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Losing someone at such a young age with so much more to give to the world is tragic, and I cannot fathom the loss that Arika's mother Donna, family, and many friends are going through at this time.

The untimely death of Arika challenges us as policy makers to reckon with the disturbing reality that plagues far too many women, especially Black women in this country. That is, regardless of income or educational achievement, Black mothers are three to four times more likely to die of pregnancy related illnesses than White mothers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened the systemic health and social racial inequities in our nation. The Black maternal health crisis is only getting worse and has gone unaddressed for far too long. Congress must take bold action and immediately pass comprehensive legislation to address this issue, including the Black Maternal Health

Momnibus Act and the Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness Act or MOMMA's Act. These bills would make critical investments to support Black mothers, including 12-month postpartum Medicaid coverage, investing in rural maternal health, promoting a more diverse perinatal workforce, and addressing implicit bias in our health care system.

Madam Speaker, I hope that we can honor the life and legacy of Black mothers like Arika and finally end the Black maternal health crisis. I hope that Arika's family knows that her legacy of public service will continue to endure and motivate our important work.

Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD a statement from the American Hospital Association in honor of Arika Trim.

STATEMENT FROM THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ON THE PASSING OF ARIKA TRIM
(By Rick Pollack, AHA President and CEO, June 30, 2020)

Starting in January 2018 until her passing, Arika Trim served as Associate Director of Media Relations at the American Hospital Association. We convey to the nation the association's expression of grief. As a communications professional at the AHA, Arika was passionate about her work to ensure that all patients have access to affordable health care. Her warm manner a gentle smile let everyone who had the privilege of working with her know that in Arika, they had found a friend. She has left us far too soon.

We grieve for her family and her beautiful new son, and that her time with us as our friend and colleague has ended. Please know that Arika will always live on in the hearts and memories of her friends at the AHA, and that our thoughts and prayers are with her family and all those who were fortunate to have known her.

REMEMBERING NUR OMAR MOHAMED

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional life and light of Nur Omar Mohamed, father of my dear colleague, Congresswoman ILHAN OMAR.

Nur passed away on June 15, 2020 of complications arising from the coronavirus at the age of 67. He was taken from his family far too soon, but he leaves behind a distinguished legacy as the "Superdad" to his children, community, and all of those in our nation who had the good fortune to know him.

After the outbreak of the Somali civil war, Nur kept his family safe and secure until their ultimate move to the United States in 1995. He became a mentor to many in the Minneapolis Somali community, and encouraged his children to pursue their dreams no matter how unconventional. He was an open-minded trailblazer who believed in the unique power of young people to make positive change—all qualities that we admire about our colleague, Representative OMAR, today.

Nur is survived by his seven children and many grandchildren, including Congresswoman OMAR's three children, Isra, Adnan and Ilwad Hirsi. He will be remembered for his laugh, listening ear, and open heart.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in reflecting on the life of Nur Omar

Mohamed and the incredible impact he made on our society.

HONORING KIMBERLY BAXTER AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Kimberly Baxter, Executive Director of Special Projects and Director of the Iowa Accountability Program for the Iowa Judicial Branch, as our Iowan of the Week.

To those who know her, Director Baxter's mission is very clear: leave things better than how she found them. She strives to shine a light on all voices—making sure everyone is not only heard but also understood—and to unite our communities. She is a firm believer that change starts when we make the effort to stop and listen to each other.

Over the years, Director Baxter has had many opportunities to further that mission in the State of Iowa. She helped to establish Iowa's first-ever domestic violence court and other innovative programs that offer safety and resources to victims as well as offender rehabilitation. In her current role as Executive Director of Special Projects, she continues to provide assistance to and perspective on underserved populations. Through the Iowa Accountability Program, she seeks to make "Good Courts—Great Courts" by examining how the Iowa Judicial Branch can improve policies on handling domestic violence cases and enhancing access to justice.

In partnership with the Iowa Judicial Branch's Education Division, Director Baxter also was instrumental in the development and co-facilitation of an implicit bias training program; it included Harvard's Implicit Association Test—which helps people to identify subconscious preferences and gives them the chance to educate themselves based on the results. This training was given to the Iowa Supreme Court and became a requirement for all judicial employees to participate.

Previously, Kimberly Baxter served as the Division Director for the Iowa Department of Human Rights' Commission on the Status of African Americans—where she tackled racial disparities and disproportionate actions against Black Iowans. In this role, she also helped to create programs to help educate Black leaders concerning domestic violence and help people to understand the impacts of violence.

Kimberly Baxter also served as Board President of the Friends of Iowa Civil Rights Commission, where she helped develop annual diversity conferences that offered workshops on social awareness, self-care, implicit bias, discrimination, and expanding organizational outreach to communities of color. She also helped organize annual Friends Luncheons to recognize Iowans' recent and lifetime efforts to improve civil efforts across the state.

In addition to all this important work, Director Baxter also has produced an annual statewide African American Resource Guide over the past 15 years, mapping out Iowa's Black-owned small businesses, organizations, and resources to help support Black communities

across our state. Currently, Director Baxter is in the process of making this Resource Guide digital, so it can be accessed from anywhere and updated in real-time.

This week, we celebrate Juneteenth—a time to rejoice on the steps towards greater freedom and justice but also a time to really reflect on the choices that our country has made. Director Baxter called this a time of recognition—knowing how far we have come, but also understanding that there is still so much work to be done.

Today, I extend that spirit of recognition back to Kimberly Baxter. Her goal has been—

and remains—bettering Iowa's communities with each passing day. We can honor the work she has done for our state while holding her words with us to acknowledge that there is still much more work to be done. In reflecting on the road ahead, she said that while she doesn't believe justice has been delayed, she believes true equality has been. She referenced the march at Selma—the images of people of all colors and creeds locking arms and marching as a community—seemed to be repeating itself with this current movement and community activism. She expressed hope that

this new movement would go even further than we have before.

Iowa, and our entire nation, have come a long way since those steps were taken 55 years ago. But we still must recognize that there is a long road ahead to true equality. I want to recognize one of the women who has worked so hard to get us to where we are today, but also who encourages us to never settle and to continue fighting to leave things better than we found them. It is my distinct honor to recognize Kimberly Baxter as our Iowan of the Week.