

to remember the qualities that made them champions.

Those qualities of hard-work, commitment, and determination will continue to serve them well in the future as they transition from leaders on the field to leaders in their families, communities, state, and nation.

Congratulations to the Bay Springs Bulldogs. They earned this victory.

HONORING LESLIE WILLIAMS

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my constituent Leslie Williams. Leslie recently achieved a wonderful milestone in her career in real estate by being named the 2022 President of the Raleigh Association of Realtors.

Leslie has been a resident of North Carolina for 20 years, and has over 30 years of sales, marketing, customer service, and management experience. She also has a Masters degree in Business Administration and has attained several real estate certifications throughout her career.

In addition to her professional achievements, Leslie is dedicated to volunteering, mentorship, and ensuring homeownership for all. I am so proud to represent a constituent who is committed to supporting these important efforts in our community, and I look forward to hearing more about her work in the future and collaborate to improve our community.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PREPARE + PROSPER

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the staff and volunteers of Prepare + Prosper as they celebrate their 50th year of service to Minnesota taxpayers. Prepare + Prosper is a nonprofit organization working to build financial health and expand access to quality tax and financial services for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. Through their efforts they have helped countless Minnesotans navigate the tax system, and in 2019 alone, they helped over 12,000 taxpayers file returns free of charge.

Prepare + Prosper was founded in 1971 by a small group of economic justice-oriented accountants who began to provide free accounting services to small business owners. Soon after, they also started to provide free individual tax preparation for low- to moderate-income taxpayers. Over the years they have grown into an organization with just over 20 year-round staff members and more than 600 volunteers, and have expanded the reach of their free tax filing services and broadened their offerings to include financial coaching and access to financial products.

Two of their current program offerings are Money Mentors and Financial Access in Reach (FAIR) Financial Solution. Money Mentors provides one-on-one mentoring with a financial coach and a network of peers to help participants create a plan for their financial future and ultimately reach their financial goals. Prepare + Prosper partnered with Sunrise Banks to reimagine banking with their FAIR Financial Solution program. This initiative gives low-income families access to checking and savings accounts as well as a small-loan program at low cost, while also providing an alternative to check-cashing operators and payday lenders.

In the Twin Cities, more than 194,000 households are excluded from the financial mainstream according to the FDIC, meaning that they may have unpredictable income, lack of access to checking and savings accounts or to affordable credit or loans. On top of this, many households experienced financial stress brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic or needed help to navigate the system and receive their Economic Impact Payments or Child Tax Credits.

The staff and volunteers at Prepare + Prosper are an extremely valuable asset to the community as they help Minnesotans overcome these barriers that still exist when seeking greater economic opportunity. And as part of their effort to bridge these gaps, Prepare + Prosper engages in advocacy work to advance policies and practices that will directly benefit people with low- to moderate-incomes when it comes to tax credits, consumer protection and asset-building. They also partner with other community organizations to spread the word about their services and to reach those who may be eligible for benefits like the Child Tax Credit which helps lift families out of poverty.

Prepare + Prosper is led today by Executive Director Suyapa Miranda who joined the organization in the spring of 2021 and will lead them into the next 50 years of service with a focus on closing the economic wealth gap in Minnesota by concentrating on developing and implementing programs that serve communities most impacted by systemic economic injustice.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Prepare + Prosper as they celebrate 50 years of upholding their mission of building financial well-being through offering free tax preparation and financial services, and by changing systems to create economic opportunity for all.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER'S EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music on the occasion of its centennial celebration.

In September 1921, the Eastman School of Music opened its doors with an inaugural

class of 104 students. Through the efforts of its founder, George Eastman of Eastman Kodak Company, longtime director Howard Hanson, and University of Rochester President Rush Rhees, the school became a leader in American music education dedicated to the highest levels of artistry and scholarship.

The following year, the school's largest performance venue, the iconic Eastman Theatre, was opened. Inscribed on its facade is Mr. Eastman's vision, "For the enrichment of community life." In the years since, the theatre has hosted some of the world's greatest musicians, including composers Aaron Copland, Igor Stravinsky and John Williams; jazz musicians Duke Ellington, Wynton Marsalis, and Eastman alumnus Ron Carter; and classical luminaries Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, and Eastman alumna, Renée Fleming. It is the main performing venue of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and hosts many community concerts, lectures, and events. It is also the venue and location of choice for many national and international festivals including The CGI Rochester International Jazz Festival, KeyBank Rochester Fringe Festival, and more.

The Eastman Community Music School, also founded in 1921, is continuing to honor Mr. Eastman's dream, offering music lessons, ensembles, classes, and workshops to students of all ages and financial means each year. Eastman also provides tuition-free lessons and music instruction to Rochester City School District students, many of whom go on to study at Eastman as well as at other top music schools.

Eastman has distinguished itself as an innovator in music and culture, developing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in the 1950s and becoming the first music school to formally offer courses in entrepreneurial thinking and leadership studies through its Institute for Music Leadership. Eastman's Sibley Music Library is the largest collegiate music library in North America with nearly 750,000 items, including many manuscripts, first-editions, and vast resources for performance and research. Eastman Performing Arts Medicine is a recent pioneering partnership between Eastman and the University of Rochester Medical Center to connect world-class performing arts with medicine.

Today, the Eastman School of Music enrolls nearly 900 undergraduate and graduate students from almost every state and many countries around the world, led by 95 faculty members. Its alumni include many Pulitzer, Tony, Grammy, and Emmy Award winners.

Over the last one hundred years, the Eastman School of Music's premier programs and magnificent facilities have become a powerful cultural force not only in Rochester, New York, but across the United States and around the world. It is an honor to represent this fine institution and to support efforts over the years to strengthen this extraordinary school for many generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music on its centennial. Its service and contributions to Rochester, New York State, and arts and culture around the world will always be celebrated.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HARLAN
BIBLE DONATION TO CONGRESS

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the good work and friendship of the American Judicial Alliance. AJA and its founder, Judge Darrell White, have been working tirelessly to introduce the tradition of the Harlan Bible by donating these Bibles to our nation's courtrooms and institutions, including to this chamber. Justice John Marshall Harlan set this precedent by donating his very own Bible to the Supreme Court back in 1906, and since then, every justice has signed this Bible after taking the oath of office.

Justice Harlan is probably best known for being the "Great Dissenter" and specifically for his role as the lone dissenter in *Plessy v. Ferguson's* unjust 'separate but equal' precedent. His personal transformation made him an impassioned supporter for civil rights during his 34 years on the Court.

It was Justice Harlan who stated: "Our constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law."

By donating these Harlan Bibles, AJA is honoring the legacy of Justice Harlan's fight for justice, recognizing that our inalienable rights come directly from our Creator, and restoring faith in our Nation's courtrooms. May God continue to bless the American Judicial Alliance as it endeavors to share the Harlan Bible and its important message of justice, mercy, and faith to the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, December 9, 2021, I missed roll call votes No. 439 and 440 due to the effects of the ongoing public health emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on 439 and "nay" on 440.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
DR. ANDREW HUGINE, JR. AS
PRESIDENT OF ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL
AND MECHANICAL
UNIVERSITY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership of Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., the 11th President of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (Alabama A&M University), who is retiring on December 31, 2021, after 12 wonderful years of service to the University and the surrounding community. Dr. Hugine obtained his bachelor's

and master's degrees in mathematics from South Carolina State University. He went on to earn his doctorate in Higher Education and Institutional Research from Michigan State University.

Prior to his tenure at Alabama A&M University, Dr. Hugine served as the President of South Carolina State University and held numerous positions in education including Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs; Director of Special Services Program; Director of University Year for Action Program—a service-learning program; Research Fellow; Assistant and Director of Institutional Self-Study; Professor of Mathematics and high school mathematics teacher. Dr. Hugine has been recognized both nationally and internationally for his leadership in education and adept administrative skills.

Under the exceptional guidance of Dr. Hugine, Alabama A&M University has made many advancements. By making bold financial decisions, increasing academic programs, and fostering tenacious alumni and student connections, Dr. Hugine dedicated himself to ensuring that the university is more competitive in the 21st century.

Partnering with various organizations including, those of the National Pan-Hellenic Council along with the support of public and private entities, helped the university gain additional streams of external funding to increase financial opportunities for prospective students. As a result of Dr. Hugine's efforts, the university increased its total endowment by almost 50 million dollars, completing its first-ever capital campaign raising over 27 million dollars, and establishing the Normal Legacy Society, which has contributed over 5 million dollars to the university.

Along with financial improvements, academic programs have shown tremendously growth under Dr. Hugine's tenure. Nine new academic programs were formed, including Animal Bio-Health Technology, Communication Specialist, Construction Management, and many more to give the students versatility while pursuing the careers they desire. As a result of these academic developments, there have been record-breaking highs in Alabama A&M University's recent fall enrollment with 1,690 students enrolling into the freshman class.

Increasing pride in this historic institution remained a focal point of Dr. Hugine's presidency. With the vision of First Lady Abbiegail Hugine and the help of the Bulldog Pride Committee, several initiatives were implemented to beautify the campus, enhance customer service, promote character development, and increase the wearing of Alabama A&M University paraphernalia as a display of pride. Other incredible programs and scholarships were established such as the "Quad," a program focused on student activities, the First Lady's Endowed Scholarship Program, and the Normalite Walkway Pavers' Scholarship.

Under the direction of Dr. Hugine Alabama A&M University has strengthened its nurturing environment for students to thrive and become remarkable contributors to society. Although I know he will continue to serve his community through volunteering, I sincerely hope that his retirement is filled with the joy of becoming a new grandparent and spending time with family and friends.

On a personal note, I was privileged to get to know Dr. Hugine and to witness first-hand his remarkable leadership as President of Alabama A&M University. Dr. Hugine is a visionary leader, dynamic educator, effective administrator, solid steward of the University's finance, and true champion of the students, faculty, alumni, and trustees of Alabama A&M University. Under his twelve-year tenure as the 11th President of Alabama A&M University, Dr. Hugine made a lasting contribution to the education and administration of AAMU. Upon his retirement, his legacy will continue to live on in the numerous lives that he impacted and the outstanding contributions that AAMU students will make to this Nation. I wish him and his lovely wife Abbiegail, of over 40 years, much success in their future endeavors. They have truly been a blessing and left an indelible mark on the State of Alabama. For all he has done, we thank him for his exemplary service.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary leadership and service of Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., and his contributions as President of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University.

HONORING 175 YEARS OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF LANSING

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing as they gather to celebrate 175 years of continuous faith and service.

Founded on December 17, 1847, First Presbyterian Church is the oldest, formally-constituted church in the city. At the time of its founding, Lansing's residents were unified against slavery and the city served as a secondary stop on the Underground Railroad. The First Presbyterian faith community were among these early advocates for abolition and when the Civil War broke out, strongly supported Michigan troops who joined to defend the Union. The women of First Presbyterian Church cooked, washed clothes, and wrote letters home for those who could not write. Meanwhile, from the church pulpit, Rev. Chester S. Armstrong, urged local farmers to do their part and increase their harvests to feed the Union Army.

After the war, the congregation continued to lead the way for social justice. They were the principal sponsor and supporter of the first African-American Sabbath School in Lansing, which later became the African Methodist Episcopal Church which was founded in 1879. At the turn of the century, when outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, and malaria ravaged the most vulnerable residents in Lansing, First Presbyterian was a key proponent of improving sanitary living conditions. In addition to partnering with the YMCA to support the city's youth, church members were invested in the common welfare of the needy, caring for neighbors who could not work or those whose wages weren't enough to feed their families.

As the city of Lansing grew, so did the First Presbyterian Church congregation. From its new home beside the state Capitol, pastors