

honor the life and legacy of a formidable force from the place I call home. On Sunday, February 14, 2021, Kansas City lost one of its fiercest warriors. A trailblazer, a local civil rights icon, and a leader of the highest caliber, Carol Coe dedicated her every breath to speaking the truth and serving her community.

Born in Houston, Texas in 1947, the same year Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball, Carol would spend her entire life shattering barriers of her own and inspiring generations of local Black leadership. After moving to Kansas City in the mid-1960s and gaining a juris doctorate from the University of Missouri—Kansas City School of Law, she served as the City's first Black assistant city attorney. Carol brought an indisputable talent and unmistakable tenacity to the role, and her community noticed. She went on to serve in the Jackson County Legislature and eventually ran for, and won, a position on City Council in 1991.

While serving as Councilwoman for the 3rd District of Kansas City, Carol was appointed to the Finance Committee and the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors. During her time on the Board, Coe was dedicated to the revitalization of Kansas City's historic 18th & Vine district, pushing funding initiatives and supporting the use of Black contractors for various projects in the area. However, Carol's dedication to 18th & Vine was more than an administrative project; it was a lifelong labor of love. One never had to walk far to feel her presence in that historic place, but in October of last year, Kansas City's City Council formally recognized her immense impact on the historic district, naming a bridge at East 19th and Vine the "Carol Coe Bridge of Opportunity."

Besides our shared devotion to 18th & Vine, Carol and I also had in common a passion for improving public housing. I vividly remember the time she invited her City Council colleagues to spend the night with her in an apartment in the T.B. Watkins public housing project. The move sought to showcase what were, at the time, dangerous and unsafe living conditions endured by Kansas City residents. While there is still much work to be done, Kansas City has made great strides in public housing since that time, in large part because of Carol's advocacy. And while her work—the work of justice—was constant and unremitting, Carol accomplished these feats while balancing her responsibility of being a loving and devoted mother to her two children.

Carol's career is a story not of chapters but of volumes. She was involved with Freedom, Inc., a political club in Kansas City that has spent decades ensuring that the voices of Kansas City's Black community are heard in the halls of government. She helped establish Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, a renowned local dance program. And then, of course, there is the Green Acres Urban Farm and Research Bio-Park, which she founded in 2010. Green Acres is an innovative aquaponics system, designed with a sustainable structure to address the impacts of climate change and local food insecurity. While urban farming may have seemed like an unlikely endeavor for Carol, the ambitious project was truly a perfect representation of who she had always been. Whether she was debating in the Jackson County Legislature, advocating for those she represented on the City Council, or building and operating an urban farm, Carol

was committed to community-first, community-focused change. Embodying the spirit of servant leadership in all that she did, Carol Coe provided resources and opportunities to marginalized people to help improve their lives. With every vote she cast, Carol stood out as a servant of the people.

"The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, / and their tongues speak what is just. The law of their God is in their heart, / their feet do not slip," says the holy scripture in Psalm 37:30–31. Carol Coe was a fighter. She fought not for herself, not for power or influence, but for her community. In her seventy-four years, I would venture to guess that Carol never once said anything but what she meant and believed to be true. She pushed and challenged me when I was Mayor of Kansas City, and I am a better public servant because of it. Her candor laid bricks; her tenacity moved legislation; and her tireless work in Kansas City has left an indelible footprint that will outlast us all.

My thoughts and prayers are with Carol's family, friends, and community. Madam Speaker, please join me and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in recognizing and honoring Carol Coe's incredible life and the legacy that she leaves behind. The Kansas City community will forever remember Carol Coe as a vigorous and determined champion for those in need. Her righteous spirit brought wisdom to those who needed it, even when they did not want it. Her tongue lifted justice into being, even when the strongest of arms could not raise it. And never, not once, did her feet slip. Carol was Kansas City's anchor to the truth, and she held us in place for many, many years. I am heartened to know that she has now, at long last, found eternal rest. I hope she found peace in knowing that her fight for a more just community will continue through of the legions of righteous warriors she inspired. Madam Speaker, in our ongoing struggle for a better country and a better world, let us seek to emulate the example of Carol Coe. Let our feet not slip. Not for one second.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HONORING JOSHUA SIMMONS

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, as part of our national celebration of Black History Month, I am paying tribute to African-American leaders from Florida who have made outstanding contributions to our community and our country. These accomplished men and women have not always received the recognition they have earned.

Today I rise to honor Joshua Simmons. Joshua was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and attended high school in Virginia. He moved to Coral Springs in 2011 to raise his younger sister while their mother was deployed overseas with the U.S. Navy. Joshua was an active member of the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Multi-Cultural Advisory and Customer Involved Government committees.

Joshua earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Florida Atlantic University and his master's degree in psychology from Kaplan University, after which he worked in

the mental health and subsequently as a teacher in the Broward County Public School system. Currently, he works in the private sector as an Account Manager at Hotwire Communications, an internet and cable service provider.

In 2018, Joshua was elected to Coral Springs' City Commission, becoming the first Black elected official in the city's history. In 2020, Joshua became the first African-American man to serve as the city's Vice Mayor.

As both an educator and a public servant, Vice Mayor Simmons has brought new perspectives to the City of Coral Springs. He is a strong advocate for his community, working tirelessly to improve the lives of his constituents.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Joshua Simmons.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COVID-19 HOSPITAL AND HEALTH PROVIDER LOAN CONVERSION ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the COVID-19 Hospital Loan Conversion Act to provide additional, vitally needed relief to hospitals and health care providers who are under water as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our nation's hospitals have invested heavily to prepare for and care for us during the coronavirus pandemic. They canceled tens-of-thousands of elective surgeries and non-emergent patient tests at the government's request to help ensure adequate hospital capacity, preserve gear and equipment, and reduce the risk of unnecessary patient spread. This major shift has put some of America's hospitals on the brink of financial disaster.

While the \$175 billion provider grant program, designed to provide support to all providers, is helpful, more support is needed.

This legislation will convert Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payments loans to grants to ensure the additional financial support hospitals and other providers direly need.

Loan conversion would be for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are directly attributable to coronavirus. And, just like the requirement in the provider grant program, providers electing to have their advance payment loans converted would be obligated to abstain from balance or surprise billing any patient for COVID-related treatment.

The bill also outlines criteria for transparency and accountability of the loan conversion, including no executive compensation.

Hospitals across my district have shared that in the absence of more financial support, including this assistance, it is possible some hospitals will be forced to close or significantly scale back operations.

This would be a tragic consequence, especially if the country is hit with another round of the viral epidemic in the near future. I thank my colleague, Representative BOB GIBBS, for his bipartisan work on this. We look to leadership and the Senate for further action on hospital loan conversion.

HONORING JAMES “JIMMY” MOLL
FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO
OUR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, James Moll lived as the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution begins, “for God and country.” Mr. Moll embodied each of the Legion’s value principles. A Veteran is a Veteran that obliges the Legion to help current and former members of the military transition into their community. How better to do this than by becoming Niagara County and Legion Post 264 Commander?

Jim offered his selfless service to the world and his country in the Army, and his American values and patriotism were always on display in his enlistment in the Army and subsequent membership in Chapter 77 of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

“Jimmy’s” engagement with family and community shined in his devotion to his late wife and in his co-founding and board membership of the North Tonawanda Botanical Gardens. His three-decades-long career with the North Tonawanda Board of Education demonstrated his commitment to advancing the vision for new generations of Americans. Mr. Moll honored those who came before with his 45-year commitment to the Legion and lifelong devotion to God.

His service protected citizens, his leadership helped veterans, his work served students, and his appreciation for natural beauty preserved it for others. Truly, James Moll was a Veteran who strengthened America.

CONGRATULATING DIANA
BRAMBLE

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Diana Bramble on her selection as the new superintendent of South Carolina’s Cowpens National Battlefield, located in Gaffney, South Carolina, and Kings Mountain National Military Park, located in Blacksburg, South Carolina. In her new role, Diana will also oversee the management of Overmountain Victory National historic Trail and Ninety Six National Historic Trail which she has managed on a temporary basis since September.

Diana has a tremendous reverence for the history of these sites and their place in the history of our Nation’s founding. They form the National Park Service’s Southern Campaign of the American Revolution Parks Group and are also part of the Liberty Trail, a path of preservation and interpretation across South Carolina telling the remarkable story of American victory in the Revolutionary War.

Many historians believe the Revolutionary War to have been decided in the swamps, fields, woods, and mountains of the South, won by the grit of Continental soldiers and Patriot militia. It is because of the important work of men and women like Diana that the history tied to this land will not only be preserved, but

also interpreted and brought to life for the public.

Diana has served the National Park Service for the last decade. She began her career with the National Park Service in 2011 as the supervisory horticulturist for Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. Four years later, she became the chief of maintenance at the National Capital Parks-East. In 2019, Diana was awarded the honor of being the National Park Service National Capital Area Manager of the Year. Diana is also a graduate of the National Park Service Facility Manager Leaders Program and now serves as a program mentor to others.

Diana is both a team player and a tremendous leader. She is passionate about leadership and strives to mentor others to bring out their best attributes and support their aspirations. Throughout her tenure with the National Park Service, Diana has been able to combine her educational background in natural resources with her appreciation for storytelling into a successful career in public service.

I am grateful for the work of Diana and the National Park Service and all they do to care for our national parks and preserve our legacy. I am excited to welcome Diana to South Carolina’s 5th District, and I wish her luck in her new role.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH AND HONORING LINDA
HILL ANDERSON

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, as part of our national celebration of Black History Month, I am paying tribute to African-American leaders from Florida who have made outstanding contributions to our community and our country. These accomplished men and women have not always received the recognition they have earned.

Today I rise to honor Linda Hill Anderson. Linda is a fourth-generation Hollywood, Florida native. She graduated from Hollywood Hills High School and Sheridan Vocational School and served in the Broward County Public School system for over 40 years.

Linda has been an active member of her community, serving as president of the Liberia Civic Association and on the African-American Advisory Council.

Linda was elected to Hollywood’s city commission in 2020. She is the first Black woman ever to serve on the commission in Hollywood’s 95-year history.

Commissioner Anderson is a trailblazer and an extraordinary public servant. She has dedicated her life to making her Hollywood community stronger and fairer. Every day, she works tirelessly to improve the lives of her fellow Floridians.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Linda Hill Anderson.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARK AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. Since 1921, this church has served as a cornerstone of Kansas City’s African American religious community. Under the dedicated and passionate leadership of its numerous pastors, the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church has stood strong and prospered. This church has served as a center of support during Kansas City’s most trying times and as a center of celebration during its best times. No matter the challenges Kansas City faced, the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church has remained steadfast for all the faithful who made the church their spiritual home.

Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church was first established in February of 1921 by the late Rev. Thomas H. Ewing. Until the construction of the first house of worship, services were held in the homes of congregation members. Built at 19th Street & Highland Avenue, the original location helped spread the “good news” to Kansas City’s Black population for thirty-four years. During this time, the church led parishioners through some of our nation’s darkest periods. Through the hunger of the Great Depression, the grief of the Second World War, and the sorrows of the Korean War, the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church stood strong and guided churchgoers through the trials, tribulations, and troubles that tested the resolve of our country.

In 1955, the congregation moved to a second location at 19th Street & Park Avenue. For the next sixteen years, Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church filled the pews and saved the souls at 19th & Park. Within this new house of God, the church continued delivering the word of God, just as it had done for nearly thirty-five years. As Black Americans across the country were being beaten and jailed for demanding equal citizenship, this church weathered the storm and provided a stable place of worship for Kansas City’s African American community. In spite of all that the community faced, the ministry grew rapidly in size, bringing on six new ministers to the fellowship while expanding its program offerings. This remarkable growth in the church body served as a testament to the spiritual gifts of the congregation’s dedicated leaders while laying the foundation for the meteoric growth that was soon to come.

Finally, in 1969, it became apparent that the congregation needed a new home. Thus, the church began construction on its third and final location at the intersection of Park and Jackson Avenue in the winter of 1970. For 51 years, Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church has remained in this location, providing weekly services and invaluable spiritual guidance to the community which it serves. Since the first bricks of this final location were laid, the church has been led by Rev. Dr. Carl Johnson, Rev. Dr. Ervin, and Rev. Gregory Stevens, respectively.

Following the burning of the mortgage in 1972, the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist