

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH AND HONORING SHEVRIN
JONES

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 Shevrin Jones. Shevrin grew up in Carol City. He earned his bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Florida A&M University and his master's degree in educational leadership from Florida Atlantic University. Jones went on to found L.E.A.D. Nation, a South Florida nonprofit organization committed to youth leadership development and social entrepreneurship training. He is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at Florida Atlantic University.

Shevrin was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2012, where he served honorably for eight years. In 2020, he was elected to the Florida Senate, becoming the first openly LGBTQ member of any race to serve in that chamber.

Senator Jones is continuing his family's proud legacy of public service. His father, Eric Jones, served as Mayor of West Park for over 15 years.

Senator Jones has always had a passion for education. He taught A.P. Chemistry in the Broward County Public School district, serves as the Executive Director of Florida Reading Corps, and founded South Florida Youth Summit, the largest gathering of young people in South Florida.

Every day, Senator Jones is making a positive difference in his community and for our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Shevrin Jones.

SHARON RITZMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon Leatrice (Karr) Ritzman of Golden, Colorado who passed away on February 8, 2021.

Sharon's childhood was spent in Omaha, Nebraska. After graduating high school in Nebraska, Sharon went on to attend the University of Iowa. There she was an active member of Pi Beta Phi and graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Shortly thereafter, Sharon married Vern Ritzman on August 28, 1965 in Omaha, NE. Following their wedding, Sharon accompanied Vern on his career path of family medicine, all the while holding a variety of meaningful positions herself. Sharon's accomplishments include chief operator for Northwestern Bell Telephone in Sioux City and Iowa City, Iowa; client advocate with the Colo-

rado Job Corps; special assistant to the United States Air Force Red Horse Officer Corps at Osan Air Force Base in Korea ('68-'69 Pueblo Incident); healthcare quality assurance consultant for Northrop Corporation ('84 Saudi Arabia); office manager of Vern's practice, president of both the Clear Creek Valley and Colorado Medical Society Auxiliaries, and an advocate for child health issues through the American Medical Association.

Sharon became active in the community in which she and Vern raised their family—Wheat Ridge, Colo. She owned a ladies' boutique, Stepping Out, where her daughter helped to manage the store and created memories there together until Sharon's retirement in 2004. During retirement, Sharon and Vern traveled the world and enjoyed time with their family and friends.

Sharon was a devoted wife and loving mother and grandmother. Sharon is survived by her husband of fifty years Dr. Vern Ritzman; son Michael Ritzman of Breckenridge, Colo.; daughter Michelle (Matt) Spidell, of Glenwood Springs, Colo.; grandson Trevor Ritzman of Lakewood, Colo.; and furry granddaughters Daisy and Maya.

I appreciate and thank her for her lifetime of service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROL
ANN MARTINEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Carol Ann Martinez, wife of Marine Corps Veteran SSGT Jose Martinez, and an avid volunteer to the American Legion Post 132. Carol passed away on January 29, 2021, during an emergency heart surgery.

Carol was born on March 6, 1960, and raised in Santa Ana, CA. She was a graduate of Santa Ana High School and worked for the Santa Ana Police Department early on in her career.

Being a proud military wife was a highlight for her. She was an Auxiliary member and was involved with the American Legion Post 132 alongside her husband. She assisted with the children and youth activities for the post and district levels. As well as being a historian for the post, she took pictures and documented activities. Carol also started events such as the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Dinner" and the "Welcome Home Korean War Veterans Dinner".

She assisted with a multitude of functions and fundraisers outside of the Legion as well like the Relay for Life. The Relay for Life was near and dear to her heart from losing so many family members to cancer.

Carol was incredibly giving, and losing her to heart complications affected so many people. We will all love her, miss her and remember her every single day.

She was laid to rest on February 22, 2021, at Riverside National Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, her daughter Jessica and her grandsons Aaron, Evan, Jayden and Roman.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Carol Ann Martinez. May her memory live on with her loved ones.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS LEE
SINCLAIR

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Major General Thomas Lee Sinclair who passed away on February 17, 2021.

Born to the late John Albert Sinclair and Gladys Lee Sinclair on September 22, 1947, Thomas was raised in Union and graduated from Union High School. He pursued a Bachelor of Science at Clemson University and received both a Master's in Education and EdS degree at Winthrop University. Furthering his studies, Thomas attended the United States Army War College where he received a Master's in Strategic Studies. Thomas served his country as a decorated United States Army veteran of 38 years, retiring after earning the rank of Brigadier General for the South Carolina Army National Guard. While on active-duty, he amassed notable honors including the Legion of Merit, the Army Achievement and National Defense Service Medals, and the South Carolina Palmetto Cross for his dedicated efforts during Operation Hugo. Thomas spent half of his military career in command roles, leading his surrounding staff through significant assignments.

For 27 years, Thomas found a fulfilling career in the Union County School System as a high school teacher, junior high school principal, and assistant superintendent. He enjoyed mentoring students and retired as a Union County supervisor. A member of Grace United Methodist Church, Thomas remained faithful and humble through all facets of his life. Former Chairman of the Union Community Foundation and President of the Union Civitan Club, he was determined to leave a lasting mark on his hometown. Thomas was happily married to Kathryn Bowers Sinclair with three adult children, Libby, Kelly, and Tommy, and ten beautiful grandchildren. His presence will certainly be missed by those who knew him, but his legacy will shine on for years to come.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH AND HONORING
ARTHENIA JOYNER

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 Arthenia Joyner. Born in Lakeland and raised in Tampa, Ms. Joyner has been a champion for justice and equality from a young age, participating in her first civil rights demonstration as a high school junior in 1960. She studied political science at Florida A&M University, where she also earned her law degree.

Ms. Joyner served as a legal assistant to State Representative Joe Lang Kershaw, the first African-American state legislator in Florida since the Reconstruction era. After law firms refused to hire her, Ms. Joyner opened her own law practice in 1991. She was the first Black lawyer to practice in Polk County and the first Black woman to practice law in Hillsborough County.

Throughout her career, Ms. Joyner has worked to combat racial and gender inequality. In recognition of her efforts, she received multiple presidential appointments by President Bill Clinton, serving as a member of the U.S. delegation to the 1994 World Population Development Conference in Cairo and to the 1995 U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Ms. Joyner proudly participated in the “Lawyers Against Apartheid Day” at the South African Embassy in Washington, DC on January 8, 1985, where she was arrested alongside former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and others.

Ms. Joyner was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, where she served from 2000 to 2006. She was then elected to the Florida Senate, serving until 2016. In 2014, she became the first Black woman chosen as Senate Majority Leader. Throughout her career as a legislator, Ms. Joyner distinguished herself for her skill, leadership, and commitment to her constituents.

Arthenia Joyner has spent a lifetime overcoming adversity, breaking barriers, and fighting for justice and equality.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Arthenia Joyner.

IN CELEBRATION OF WINNETONKA
HIGH SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with abundant joy and everlasting hope to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Winnetonka High School, a member of the North Kansas City School District. For half a century, as an institution devoted to instilling the fundamental values of tradition, respect, unity, and excellence, Winnetonka High School has consistently proven itself to be far more than just a brick-and-mortar school.

1971 represented the first year that students were warmly welcomed to Winnetonka High School, a place that future alumni would call a “home away from home.” Beginning that year, Winnetonka embarked on an endeavor to simultaneously provide opportunities to its students and service to its community. When those first 600 students opened the doors of Winnetonka High School for the first time back on March 1, 1971, they began a tradition of excellence that has been carried on by thousands of students since. In that first year, the students and staff collaborated to create an environment where they could explore their possibilities, prioritize building positive relationships with others, and celebrate the unique purpose that inspires each student.

While many things have changed in our country and in the Kansas City community over the past fifty years, excellence and inno-

vation have remained constant at Winnetonka. Committed to closing the opportunity gap, Winnetonka was the first high school in Missouri to be designated as a National Demonstration School for the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. This designation was earned after years of helping students find success in both their school and their community through collaboration, inquiry, and relationship building. These principles have provided the bedrock of the many successful student organizations that generations of Winnetonka Griffins have helped create. Groups like the acclaimed student publication Griffin Rites, the Muslim Student Association, the Blacks Achieving Greatness organization, and the National Honors Society all work to create an inclusive, empowering, and exciting space where students can realize their full potential. Winnetonka students have relished these opportunities, with several becoming National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists and thousands more finding success in their careers after graduation. Dr. Eric Johnson, Winnetonka's principal, acknowledged after he was named the 2020 Missouri Principal of the Year that the accolades of the faculty and staff were only made possible by the good fortune of having one-of-a-kind students at a one-of-a-kind school. It is clear for all to see that Kansas City is a better place to live because of the impact that Winnetonka High School graduates have on our community every day.

In a letter to Booker T. Washington, Missouri-born scientist George Washington Carver wrote that “Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.” By attending Winnetonka High School, Kansas City students not only gain the freedom that comes with opportunity, but also the skills and abilities needed to achieve their version of the American Dream. As we look to the next fifty years, there are certainly a great many unanswered questions weighing heavily on our minds. However, one thing remains certain: Winnetonka High School will continue its everlasting endeavor to provide that most precious key to freedom to all students who pass through its doors.

Madam Speaker, colleagues, please join me in extending our warm congratulations and very best wishes to the administration, faculty, staff, parents, and students of Winnetonka High School as they commemorate fifty years of exceptional service to Kansas City, and further extend our best wishes for their continued success. Let us also embrace Winnetonka High School's mission in our own lives; let it inspire us to educate others responsibly, embrace our duties fully, and prepare holistically the next generation of American leaders, so that we can fulfill our unique purposes and change our community, our country, and our world for the better.

OBSERVING THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I want to call into remembrance of the hundreds of Azerbaijanis killed in Khojaly on February 25

and 26, 1992. Since the beginning of the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the late 1980s, it is reported that the Khojaly tragedy was the single worst day in this conflict, resulting in hundreds of lives lost, families devastated, and the town destroyed.

A cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, but the conflict remains unresolved. In the wake of the 2020 fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh, it is my hope and prayer that the barriers to peace that have persisted for the last three decades can be resolved. Long-term peace, security, and regional cooperation are in the best interests of the entire region of the South Caucasus and the world.

The U.S. and Azerbaijan established diplomatic relations in 1992, the same year as the Khojaly tragedy. Since then, Azerbaijan has been a key partner in the War on Terror, and the two nations share a Trade Relations Agreement and a Bilateral Investment Treaty.

The anniversary of this tragedy is an appropriate time to remember the lives of all the men, women, and children who were killed, and to recommit to working together to prevent such atrocities from occurring again.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
ROBERT DOYLE

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, and Congressman RO KHANNA to recognize the service of an esteemed leader in Contra Costa County, Robert Doyle.

Robert began his career with the East Bay Regional Park District in 1973 as a Park Ranger. Through decades of hard work and devotion to the betterment of our community, Robert rose through the ranks of the Park District until being appointed as General Manager in 2010. His numerous professional accomplishments include increasing the Park District's public lands and trails by more than 61,000 acres and obtaining over \$100 million in local, state, and federal grant funding for trail and land projects. Robert also established the Resources Enhancement Mitigation Program that funded millions of dollars in restoration projects for parks and open space.

Robert's work, however, went beyond the logistics of land acquisition and was focused around the idea that parks should be a haven for everyone in the community. As General Manager, Robert led efforts to diversify the Park District's user base to better embrace disadvantaged youth and other underserved populations. Civic engagement was supported by a Multicultural Advisory Committee and included programs such as the Adventure Crew/Richmond Rangers, Wellness Walks, and the school-based Kids Healthy Outdoor Challenge. Additionally, the Healthy Parks Health People initiative sought to connect the health benefits of being outdoors with individuals at high risk for chronic illness. The inclusivity of the community outreach that Robert oversaw has created new links between our natural environment and community members. This increased engagement ensures that our parks