

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing Bill and Jane Fox. Together, they have made a tremendous impact in our region through their business and efforts to give back to the community. I wish them both the best in their retirements.

HONORING OLIVIA SAMPLES AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of our community, Olivia Samples, by nominating her as our Iowan of the week. Olivia is a certified doula and small business owner, focused on providing quality services to families as they prepare for prenatal, childbirth and postnatal care. Three years ago, Olivia read an article about the maternal health crisis and felt a deep calling to put her skills to good use. While Iowa has amongst some of the lowest stillbirth rates in the country, Black people are twice as likely to experience stillbirth than the general population. To put that into perspective, 1 in 121 Black people will experience a stillbirth as compared to the 1 out of 234 white people. The mortality rate is unfortunately just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to birthing and new parenting issues that face Iowa's Black community. These stats along with the lower quality prenatal care that was being provided to Black women in the community inspired Olivia to become Iowa's first Black doula.

Olivia leads her business, Kismet Doula Services, with the mission to cultivate collective care and liberation to her clients through providing them a safe, loving environment to ensure they can become and remain healthy and well. Her services include prenatal, childbirth, lactation consultation and postnatal support for her clients. However, Olivia goes above and beyond for her clients, going as far as to help with laundry, prepare meals for them and secure funds for those who need assistance purchasing necessary items for postnatal care and parenthood. She strives to make sure her services are accessible to all by providing mutual aid options, free services through certain organizations and will even barter or trade with her clients.

Beyond providing direct support to her clients, Olivia also organizes workshops and partners with several community organizations. In her first few years as a doula, she realized that the voices of new parents were missing when it came time to discuss legislation that would affect their well-being. As a result, Olivia organized the Celebration of Black Kin Conference for this April focusing on Black maternal well-being in our community. Olivia also gives back to the community by partnering with the Young Women's Resource Center to provide free doula services as well as the Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition to ensure all types of families are able to receive the quality pre and postnatal services they deserve.

Olivia jumps in headfirst to solve the problem and gives it her all. The success of her business and the high praise from her commu-

nity reflect the significant impact she has had on the lives of pregnant people in Iowa. That's why I would like my colleagues to rise with me and recognize this exemplary woman, Olivia Samples, as Iowan of the Week.

HONORING DR. CAROLYN PASS
FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Dr. Carolyn Pass was born in Lake Wales, Florida. She earned a B.S. in microbiology from the University of Florida and an M.D. from the University of Miami. She completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at the George Washington University.

Her leadership spans more than 35 years beginning with serving as the president of the Minority PreProfessional Association at UF. As a medical student, she was a student health policy mentee in the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy's office. Also, she served as president and regional council member of the Student National Medical Association. In her senior year she was awarded the highest honor bestowed at the University of Miami by being inducted into Iron Arrow Honor Society.

Dr. Pass' dedication to community began in 2001 when she opened her primary care practice in Lake Wales. Before going into solo practice, she suffered from congestive heart failure and recuperated at home for 18 months after giving birth to her third child.

Her dedication to providing quality care to her patients continued to flourish as she rose through the ranks of leadership at Advent Health Lake Wales. While on staff for the past 20 years, she's served on every committee and has been elected three times as chairman of medicine. Currently, she is serving as the first Black female chief of staff.

Dr. Pass' specialties include internal medicine, wound care and hyperbaric medicine.

Her passions are her three lovely children. Alexandra is a graduate student, and Nicholas and Christian are in college.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR.
RUSS THYRET

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Russ Thyret, who passed away at the age of 76 on February 12, 2021 at his home in Valley Village, California. Over the course of thirty years, Russ rose through the ranks at Warner Bros. Records culminating in his serving as the Burbank-based label's Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from 1995 to 2001. His wife, Rebecca, said that Russ' message for his Warner family and for all who he had known over the years, "he wants us all to be happy and to be good to each other."

Mr. Thyret, the son of a Glendale, California policeman, began his career in the music industry managing an independent retail store

on the Sunset Strip. He joined Warner Bros. Records shortly thereafter, working at the company's Burbank home office in a national sales role during the time Warner/Elektra/Atlantic (WEA) Corporation opened branch operations throughout the country. In the mid-70s, Russ was selected to serve as Vice President and Director of National Promotion during the time Warner Bros. dominated the charts and became the dominant record company on the West Coast.

Russ was named Board Chairman at Warner Bros. after a period of uncertainty after the departure of several senior executives. He sought to strengthen the record label with his unique business strategy and his undying passion for music. During his years heading the company's promotion department, Russ led a small army of promotional personnel who worked to ensure records were played on the air on local, national, and international airwaves. Mr. Thyret and his staff delivered countless hits by legendary artists such as: Fleetwood Mac, the Doobie Brothers, Randy Newman, James Taylor, Alice Cooper, Chaka Khan, R.E.M., ZZ Top, Depeche Mode, k.d. lang, John Fogerty, Madonna, and Prince.

"Thyret was a man of great instinct and heart," as stated by Jackie Sallow with Warner Records. Russ will always be remembered for his personable spirit, tenacious mindset, and kind heart. In 2001, Mr. Thyret ended his tenure after the completion of the AOL Time Warner merger. He summed up his time with the company stating, "My strongest ambition has always been to serve the artists well, and I leave Warner Bros. hoping I have accomplished that. I was in awe of Warner Bros. Records the first day I walked in the door, and in so many ways, I leave even more in awe. It will forever be a magical memory."

Mr. Russ Thyret will also be remembered for his love of his family, horses, fishing, and his great Labrador Retriever. He is survived by his wife Rebecca Alvarez and his son Russ Thyre, Jr.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
JUDGE HUGH SCOTT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a trailblazer in the Western New York legal community, Judge Hugh B. Scott. Judge Scott possessed a great legal mind and he will be sorely missed by all those who loved and respected him.

Judge Hugh B. Scott defied societal attitudes meant to restrict him and other African Americans to become the first Black federal judge in Western New York history. After he graduated as one of just three Black members of the Sweet Home High School class of 1967, Judge Scott attended Niagara University and the University at Buffalo law school, once again as one of the few Black graduates, to make local legal history.

Judge Scott made history as the first African American federal prosecutor and head of the state attorney general's office in Buffalo. He served as a City Court judge for a decade before becoming the first Black federal judge in Western New York history in 1994.

In an interview with the Buffalo News following his appointment, Judge Scott humbly remarked of his accomplishments, "I try not to talk of it in those terms. But yes, there have been a number of firsts in my life, and yes, I'm proud of it." Judge Scott didn't like to dwell on his accomplishments; he was always looking to contribute to more than his résumé. Though he often downplayed his own role in breaking down barriers and deflected credit for helping others do the same, that only added to Judge Scott's authenticity, which was as noticeable in his courtroom as his gavel.

Outside of the courtroom, Judge Scott's presence was felt in the talks he gave to Buffalo kids who would benefit not just from his words but from the ceilings he broke through for the betterment of himself and for others. In addition to his informal community involvement, he also served as a board member on the National Conference for Community and Justice and the Buffalo Urban League. The life member of the NAACP was connected to the fight for justice in his hometown, where he met his wife Trudy and raised two sons, while also committing to the same struggle in education and the legal profession.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this time to honor the trailblazing legacy of Judge Hugh Scott. He embodied the passion, energy, and commitment to cause that makes Buffalo unique. We will forever be grateful for his outstanding service and leadership. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Trudy and his two sons and the many friends and family. I offer my thanks to Judge Scott for his incredible contributions to the fabric of our community and offer my condolences to his family for the passing of a man known to the legal system as a judge but known to people as a husband, father, trailblazer, and role model.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HOBOKEN VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, our country is reeling from a pandemic that has left over half a million people dead, caused millions to lose their jobs, and forced millions more to stay home. Throughout the past year of strife, one group of people has carried the burden of the pandemic in order to protect our communities. Our nation's first responders have continued to put themselves in harm's way to care for others.

I applaud all the brave first responders in New Jersey's 8th District; our brave policemen, firefighters, and healthcare workers, but I would like to give special mention to the Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps. This all volunteer ambulance corps marks their 50th anniversary on Sunday, February 28, 2021. For 50 years the volunteers of this unit have served as a volunteer Emergency Management Services (EMS) unit and have covered most of Hoboken's calls for ambulance and EMS services.

There are 150 volunteers in this corps, with 10 ambulances and emergency vehicles field-

ing over 5,000 emergency calls each year, and over 400,000 total since their founding. Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, volunteers from the corps have been working tirelessly to continue providing emergency services and transportation to the residents of Hoboken even in the face of a severe health crisis. This exemplifies the commitment that these volunteers have to their community, striving to help others even when presented with grave challenges.

The Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps has maintained their commitment to excellence prior to COVID-19 as well. In 2012, when the deadly superstorm Sandy ravaged most of New Jersey and the Northeast, the Corps jumped into action despite sustaining damage to their headquarters and multiple vehicles. They helped evacuate patients from Hoboken University Medical Center, which was damaged by flooding, and establish a field hospital in the gym of Stevens Institute of Technology.

These are two notable examples of the heroism displayed by the Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps, but there are countless other stories outlining their positive impact on our community. As the corps celebrates 50 years of service, I commend them for the important work they do in our community. Hoboken, Hudson County, myself, and countless others across the 8th District thank them for their service and dedication, and look forward to the next 50 years of service they will provide to our grateful community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF RUSSELL GRAY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a humble, loyal, and dedicated public servant, Russell Mason Gray of Sterling, Connecticut, who passed unexpectedly, at age 76, on January 12, 2021.

A resident and the First Selectman of the town of Sterling, Connecticut for 16 years, Russell prioritized the wellbeing of Sterling and its citizens above all else. Before being called to public service, Russell and his wife Sue dedicated themselves to their family dairy farm, and Russell, at his core was a farmer, with strong ties to his land. These ties created a natural transition to his election as First Selectman in 2005.

Russell's steadfast leadership helped Sterling, a small community of less than 4,000 people, navigate the challenges of being a rural municipality. From building four new bridges in town and constantly inspecting roads—to facilitating the construction of the new Sterling Community School and moving the town offices and Library to the former Sterling Memorial School in Oneco—Russell was proactive in securing an efficient but accessible municipal infrastructure for the town of Sterling. Alongside his commitment to Sterling, Russell was Chairman of the Windham County Soil and Water Conservation District, President of the Windham County Farm Bureau, Advisor to Killingly High School Vo-Ag,

Director of Patrons Mutual Insurance Company, President of the CT State Grange, County and Ekonk Community Granges, and Chairman of the Northeast Council of Governments. These commitments reflect only a portion of Russell's legacy and display not only Russell's dedication to Sterling but to all the towns in Windham County.

Russell's love for his town and the people in his community is known to all he encountered. His fellow selectman Lincoln Cooper once said, "He was stubborn and loyal—he loved this town. He was a self-made man whose stubbornness led him to make good decisions for Sterling." His former administrative assistant, Joyce Gustavson, emphasized that for Russell—"it was family first, then Sterling." Everyone who worked close with Russell saw the passion in his daily work at the town hall and his willingness to go above and beyond for every resident. Losing Russell leaves a deep void in eastern Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, knowing of Russell's devotion to the people of eastern Connecticut and Sterling and how diligently he served until his last breath, I can attest that his career represents the best of public service. I hope the chamber will join me in expressing the deepest condolences on behalf of the House of Representatives to the Gray family—his wife Sue; His children Rebecca, Mason, Deborah; and his grandchildren and great grandchildren. I hope this testament to Russell's life serves as an acknowledgement of the immeasurable debt of gratitude owed to him by the American people.

REMEMBERING ALBERT HALE

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a former colleague and friend of mine, Albert Hale, who passed away February 2, 2021 at the age of 70 following complications from COVID-19.

Many in this chamber may not know who Albert Hale was, but he helped build and advocate for the Navajo Nation throughout his time in public service. As the Nation's second president, he worked tirelessly to advocate for sovereignty of the Diné, secure their rights, and address the needs of his constituents. As one of the first lawyers from the Nation, Mr. Hale was instrumental in advocating for the rights of the Diné and getting them the resources they needed to thrive.

Albert was a great friend of mine and an even greater leader for his community. We served together in the Arizona Legislature and his work consistently inspired me. I also fondly remember the Navajo Nation's parades, where Albert would always fearlessly ride on horseback, while I and others would be nearby on foot. I want to extend my deepest condolences to Albert's wife Paula, his daughters Sherri, Sheena, and Janelle, and his son Tony. Albert will be sorely missed, but his belief in and work for a brighter future in his community will endure.