

RECOGNIZING PASTOR SAMONIA
WHISONANT OF MOUNTAIN BE
REMOVED OUTREACH CENTER

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Pastor Samonia Whisonant for achieving the rank of Apostle-Elect. Pastor Whisonant's remarkable work has had an incredible impact on our Harrisburg community via her efforts with the Mountain Be Removed Outreach Center.

Pastor Whisonant is the co-founder and leader of Harrisburg's (formerly Washington, D.C. Mountain Be Removed Outreach Center, founded in October 1998. The Center aims to be the largest distribution center of food, clothing, and household supplies in Harrisburg. Although Pastor Whisonant was not raised in the church, she was well known for her wisdom and sage advice—the same character traits that she embodies as she now leads God's people through her work.

Pastor Whisonant has taught and preached God's Word for over 27 years. She's committed to equipping and training developing prophets and leaders. Her foundation in ministry was birthed through Prison Outreach, serving 15 years by empowering and instructing inmates throughout Maryland. Through her selfless work in Maryland's Montgomery, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel Counties, she spread the word of God while also teaching inmates valuable life skills to aid in their integration back into society.

Pastor Whisonant has walked in the Office of the Prophet for ten years; her tagline: "Your Prophet Through the Process." She's been called to help the Body of Christ reach their divine destiny safely and without missing the necessary details that form and develop them into becoming mature Apostolic and Prophetic people.

In addition to her work with the Center, she is an entrepreneur, author, speaker, mentor and certified aromatherapist. Pastor Whisonant is the wife of Pastor Carlton Whisonant (co-founder M.B.R.O.C.), and the mother to two beautiful children, Davon Brooks and Elder-Elect Chante Whisonant (vice president, M.B.R.O.C.). Her favorite scripture is John 10:10, "I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

I am humbled and privileged to honor Pastor Whisonant as she is recognized as Apostle-Elect. She sets the standard for all to follow. The work of organizations like Mountain Be Removed Outreach Center is significant, and strengthens our communities and those around us. I commend Pastor Samonia Whisonant for her tireless, selfless, and faithful efforts, and wish her continued Godspeed on her journey.

HONORING ELIZABETH KATHYRN
STEPHENSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elizabeth Kathryn

Stephenson. Elizabeth is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 74G, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Elizabeth has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Elizabeth has been involved with scouting, she has not only earned 37 merit badges, but also the respect of her family, peers, and community. Elizabeth has also contributed to her community through her Eagle Scout project. Elizabeth cleaned the Nodaway County Community Building, she also primed and painted newly installed walls, sound boards, ceilings, doors and trim in all rooms at the facility.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elizabeth Kathryn Stephenson for her accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL
KENYON K. BELL

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor a superb leader, General Kenyon Bell. During my short time as a Member of Congress, I have received a warm welcome from many people, but none warmer than from the great men and women of Sheppard Air Force Base. This summer, General Bell will relinquish command of the 82nd Training Wing and Installation Command of Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. While we are sad to see him go, we are excited for his future.

General Bell was given a great opportunity to lead in challenging times and did so with the highest degree of professionalism, dignity, and skill. As the COVID-19 pandemic shut down much of our normal day-to-day lives across the nation, General Bell found himself in command of a mission that could not stop, or even slow down, without disastrous and long-term consequences for military readiness. With more than 5,000 students living in close quarters on the base, he acted decisively to implement policies and guidelines to ensure the safe continuation of both the technical and flying training missions at Sheppard. As a result, operational units around the world continued receiving the trained, mission-ready Airmen required to maintain global combat capability.

While we faced civil unrest as a country over the last year, General Bell led by example and worked to build bridges of understanding and unity that transcend politics and will ultimately strengthen the United States military. His ability to speak boldly, frankly, and calmly on the highly charged subject of race is an example we all must follow. He also had a willingness and ability to listen respectfully and honestly to differing perspectives. While I faced the steep learning curve involved with being a Member of Congress, General Bell ensured that I stayed up to date with the situation on the ground at Sheppard,

truly working as a partner. I could not have asked for a better partner to work with as I began my tenure as a Congressman.

General Bell's list of successes is longer than many I have seen from a General Officer. While navigating a variety of unique challenges throughout his tenure, he found a way to accomplish countless traditional command matters. The successful completion of the Sheppard Main Gate renovation project, in all its complexity, marks the realization of more than a decade of effort. More importantly, it represents markedly improved security and force protection for the missions and people of Sheppard Air Force Base. I was honored to be there with General Bell in person for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony in April.

Finally, a sure testament to the quality of General Bell's leadership is the fact that through all the challenges of 2020 and 2021, the 82nd Training Wing was rated as Highly Effective by the Air Education and Training Command Inspector General following the 2021 Unit Effectiveness Inspection.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my congratulations to General Bell on completing his command tour at Sheppard Air Force Base. I thank the General for his exceptional leadership and service. I congratulate his wife, Lori, and his kids Amira, Kenyon, and Roman. I look forward to seeing General Bell continue to excel in his career, and I look forward to our future years of friendship. We are a better and stronger nation for his service.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN PAUL
JACOBS

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the remarkable life story of an American hero, Captain Paul Jacobs who passed away this past December. Captain Paul Jacobs served six combat tours in Vietnam, though it was his last tour that forever enshrined him as leading one of the U.S. Navy's greatest humanitarian efforts.

As U.S. Forces were withdrawing from South Vietnam in late April 1975, Captain Jacobs was then commanding the destroyer escort USS *Kirk* off the coast of Vietnam. To escape being captured by Communist North Vietnamese forces, South Vietnam helicopters loaded with refugees swarmed out toward the U.S. fleet. After hearing rumors that any South Vietnamese pilot captured by the North Vietnamese would be tortured, mutilated, and imprisoned, while their families would be made outcasts or worse, they fled desperately trying to escape that fate.

Upon realizing this, Captain Jacobs offered his ship as a safe haven for the South Vietnamese refugees. Helicopters began arriving and all hands aboard the *Kirk*—including Captain Jacobs—pushed unloaded helicopters over the side to make room for incoming ones. In all, 12 helicopters, packed with refugees, had landed on one of the Navy's smallest warships. Captain Jacobs then transformed the *Kirk* into a humanitarian aid station, providing food, comfort, medical care, relief from a blazing sun and hope to the men, women and children they'd rescued. It is no exaggeration to

credit Captain Jacobs' steadfast leadership in the face of such hardship for saving the lives of those 30,000-plus Vietnamese sailors and refugees.

The United States Navy has a proud tradition of courageous, competent, indefatigable, and independent ship captains, who fear not what lies over the horizon, and who earn the respect and fidelity of their crews through their fair and steadfast leadership. Such will be Captain Paul Jacobs' legacy. In California's Fourth Congressional District and in Captain Jacob's childhood hometown in Maine, we share profound grief over his passing.

And so today, I rise to bid Captain Paul Jacobs—the United States Navy's most revered humanitarian—farewell. May he always have fair winds and following seas.

SHARING THE WASHINGTON POST
OP-ED BY FORMER SEN. JEFF
FLAKE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday the Republican Conference ejected the Gentlelady from Wyoming from the ranks of its leadership because she dared to speak truth and refused to join in spreading falsehoods regarding the recent election. This is a dangerous moment for our democracy, when one party is operating according to a set of clearly debunked falsehoods and punishes its Members who prefer actual facts. To underscore that danger, I include in the RECORD the following op-ed, which was published in The Washington Post on Tuesday and written by the former Republican Senator from Arizona, Jeff Flake. I hope all of my colleagues—on both sides of the aisle—will read his words and consider carefully this perilous moment in which our country and this Congress finds itself.

[From the Washington Post, May 11, 2021]

OPINION: IN TODAY'S REPUBLICAN PARTY,
THERE IS NO GREATER OFFENSE THAN HON-
ESTY

(By Former Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ))

"The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it."—George Orwell

Near the beginning of the document that made us free, our Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote: "We hold these truths to be self-evident."

There you have it. From the very beginning of America, our freedom has been predicated on truth. For without a principled fidelity to truth and to shared facts, our democracy will not last.

On Wednesday, Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) will most likely lose her leadership post within the House Republican Conference, not because she has been untruthful. Rather, she will lose her position because she is refusing to play her assigned role in propagating the "big lie" that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump. Cheney is more dedicated to the long-term health of our constitutional system than she is to assuaging the former president's shattered ego, and for her integrity she may well pay with her career.

No, this is not the plot of a movie set in an asylum. Ladies and gentlemen, this is your contemporary Republican Party, where

today there is no greater offense than honesty.

It seems a good time to examine how we got to a place where such a large swath of the electorate (70 percent of Republican voters, according to polling) became willing to reject a truth that is so self-evident.

This allergy to self-evident truth didn't happen all at once, of course. This frog has been boiling for some time now. The Trump period in American life has been a celebration of the unwise and the untrue. From the ugly tolerance of the pernicious falsehood about President Barack Obama's place of birth to the bizarre and fanatical fable about the size of inauguration crowds, to the introduction of the term "alternative facts" into the American lexicon, the party's steady embrace of dishonesty as a central premise has brought us to this low and dangerous place.

I don't know what will happen to Cheney politically after Wednesday. For me, I knew that I couldn't support Trump's election or reelection after his seminal falsehood about Obama's birth certificate, to say nothing of the cascade of untruths, from the trivial to the consequential, that followed daily. I had hoped that, over time, my Republican constituents would feel differently about the former president, or at least value a Republican who pushed back, and that I could stand for reelection in 2018 with a reasonable chance of surviving a Republican primary. It soon became apparent that Republican voters wanted someone who was all in with a president that I increasingly saw as a danger to the republic. That could not be me, so I spoke out instead and didn't stand for reelection.

When I became an unwitting dissident in my party by speaking in defense of self-evident truths, I assumed that more and more of my colleagues would follow me. I remain astonished that so few did. Congresswoman Cheney, I know how alone you must be feeling. But just know that history keeps the score, not Kevin McCarthy or Elise Stefanik.

In January 2018, three years before the Capitol insurrection, I said the following on the Senate floor: "Mr. President, let us be clear. The impulses underlying the dissemination of such untruths are not benign. They have the effect of eroding trust in our vital institutions and conditioning the public to no longer trust them. The destructive effect of this kind of behavior on our democracy cannot be overstated."

Three years later, it's clear that I didn't know the half of it. The destructive effect of the president's behavior—and the willingness of Republican elected officials to indulge, excuse, defend, justify and, in many cases, just roll with it—has taken a devastating toll.

It is elementary to have to say this, but we did not become a great nation by believing or espousing nonsense, or by embracing lunacy. And if my party continues down this path, we will not be fit to govern.

Cheney has proved her fitness, and today it seems that adherents to the "big lie" will cast her out. Hold your head high, congresswoman. Those of us who believe in American democracy and who live in objective reality are grateful that you have chosen to take a stand for truth—self-evident truth—regardless of the consequences.

JOYCE E. SPRINGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize a very special

member of the Tarkio Community. Joyce Ellen Springer is turning a very independent 90 on Sunday.

Joyce Davenport was born on her Mother Helen's Birthday in 1931 in Fairfax, Missouri. She grew up in Fairfax, graduated from high school, married her High School Sweetheart, Robert Hedrick, had two sons and built a family in Fairfax as well. When tragedy struck and Robert passed away, she displayed grit and self reliance as a true child of Northwest Missouri and the Great Depression. She picked herself up, dusted herself off and went from housewife to single working mother in a time when that was not the norm. Whether she was working for the High School Principal as a secretary, as the receptionist for the doctor's office or working at the Exchange Bank she always met challenges head-on and with a warm smile. She was blessed to find another great love in Bill Springer who she married in 1972 and was married to for 43 years until his passing in 2015.

It would be easy to dismiss Joyce's life as common or unremarkable. That would be a monstrous error. It would not account for the history that she has lived, the character and strength she has passed on or love she has both given and received. The legacy of Joyce Springer is one of her children, step-children, grand children and great grand children. Joyce has a legacy that anyone should be proud to have and it is undeniable proof of a life well lived.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in wishing Joyce Ellen Springer a wonderful 90th Birthday. I wish her all the peace, happiness and fulfillment that her heart desires, now and in the years to come. I am proud to represent her as a citizen of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF
LITTLE INDONESIA

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of the Little Indonesia in Somersworth, New Hampshire. After years of diligent planning, Indonesian Community Connect Inc. has made international history by unveiling this new cultural landmark and opening the first Little Indonesia in the United States.

My state is home to a vibrant and welcoming Indonesian community seeking to contribute to their home as proud Granite Staters. ICC has built strong ties within the community and created lasting connections by hosting cultural events and offering educational opportunities for all to attend. The opening of Little Indonesia aims to expand on this spirit of togetherness, and I am proud to see this project come together. As this region emerges from the pandemic, Little Indonesia will serve as a cultural and community gathering spaces for all to enjoy for years to come.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate the Indonesian Community Connect Inc., the City of Somersworth, and the members of the community who have made the Little Indonesia project come to life. Let us celebrate this new hub of cultural exchange,