

and thank him for his many years of dedicated service.

Denny has served in the Frederick County Fire Department for 30 years, and began his career in the fire service as a volunteer at Greenwood Fire and Rescue in 1983.

He is a Nationally Registered Paramedic, a Fire Officer, Fire Investigator and certified Law Enforcement Officer and Instructor. He holds various certifications in each field.

Prior to his appointment as Chief, Denny was the Chief Fire Marshal, responsible for code enforcement, law enforcement and emergency management and planning. Denny graduated from both the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy and the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy.

Outside of his service with the Frederick County Fire Department, Denny is also an active member of his community and is involved with several civic organizations. He is a current Board Member of the Virginia Association of Arson Investigators and served as the President from 2011 to 2012. Currently, he is a member of the Virginia Fire Prevention Association, the Virginia Association of Fire Chiefs and the Shenandoah Valley Joint Committee of Arson Investigators. He was appointed to the Virginia Fire Services Board by Governor Terry McAuliffe and is currently serving his second term.

Now that Denny is retiring, he will have more time to enjoy his family and some of his favorite pastimes, which include hunting, fishing and hiking, as well as working on collector and antique vehicles. I wish him well and thank him for his dedicated service.

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA  
ANSELMO CHIFICI

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2021*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following obituary for Barbara Anselmo Chifici.

BARBARA ANSELMO CHIFICI

Barbara "Mrs. Barbara" Anselmo Chifici, age 77, passed away unexpectedly on January 23, 2021 due to complications from Coronavirus at Ochsner Medical Center Kenner. A lifelong resident of New Orleans, Barbara attended grammar school at St. Rita Catholic School in New Orleans and graduated from Academy of the Holy Angels. She also studied at Meadows-Draughon Business College, Louisiana State University, Loyola University, and the University of New Orleans. Barbara was the owner and matriarch of the independent family-owned restaurant group Deanie's Seafood restaurants. Barbara came from a large extended Italian family of restaurateurs, where she learned the rigorous demands of running and owning family restaurants. Barbara was awarded an American Culinary Federation New Orleans' Outstanding Foodservice Professional Award in 2013, and had been sought to judge culinary competitions throughout the country during her career. She remained a fixture at the restaurants until the Coronavirus pandemic began last spring. Barbara was an inspiration to generations of culinarians and hospitality workers. As a widowed mother of seven children, she created a rich life for herself and her family around food, faith and

community. Her achievements as a woman entrepreneur reached well beyond the expectations of her generation. She instilled a genuine sense of hospitality, quality, family and pride into everything she did with motherly poise and a steely determination that launched and sustained a New Orleans seafood restaurant institution for almost 40 years. Barbara married her late husband Frank Chifici in 1963, and the couple operated a catering business out of their home and later two restaurants, Chifici's Restaurant in the Central Business District and Gromboli's in Metairie, before purchasing Deanie's Seafood Restaurant & Seafood Market in Bucktown in 1982. She was widowed in 1985 after Frank passed away following an 18-month illness. The Chifici family celebrated 38 years as owners and operators of Deanie's Seafood in April 2020. Known for serving up overflowing fried seafood platters and boiled Louisiana seafood, Deanie's became a local favorite that garnered national attention. The restaurant was recognized year after year among New Orleans' best seafood restaurants and featured on numerous Travel Channel and Food Network programs. In 2001, she opened the second Deanie's Seafood restaurant located at the corner of Iberville and Dauphine streets in the French Quarter. Deanie's Sea Food Kitchen, located at 2200 Magazine St. in Uptown New Orleans, opened in 2018. In her later years, as her adult children involved the day-to-day management of the restaurants, she sought ways to champion the values and people she loved. Barbara created Pinchpalooza in 2009, an outdoor crawfish and music festival at Deanie's in Bucktown benefiting local charities that was celebrated for 10 years. She had a large holiday display at her home that later was showcased in windows of the former D.H. Holmes Department Store Annex that housed her French Quarter restaurant, where she also introduced an annual Santa's breakfast and holiday sing-along series offered from 2013 through 2019. She enjoyed travel, dining, cruises, cooking and had season tickets for the New Orleans Saints and local theater. Barbara also had a successful real estate business for over 40 years. She was past president and a longtime member of the Elenian Club of New Orleans, a philanthropic group of women of Italian descent. She served in numerous officer positions for the St. Mary Magdalen Mothers' Club and the Archbishop Rummel High School Parents' Club, including vice president. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents Olga Eve Cazes Anselmo and Vincent Anselmo, and her loving husband, Frank Angelo Chifici. She is survived by her brothers Robert Vincent Anselmo (Marlee Early Anselmo) and Dale Anthony Anselmo, her sister in law Virginia Chifici Tedesco and seven children, Mark David Chifici (Joan Dardis Chifici), Darren Frank Chifici (Chasidy Fonseca), Eric John Chifici (Christina Haley Chifici), Keith Vincent Chifici (Renee Gascon Chifici), Garrett Paul Chifici (Candice Schloegel Chifici), Chandra Eve Chifici-Scarber (Richard Scarber) and Candace Ann Chifici (Douglas Farrington). She also adored her 12 grandchildren: Dillon, Erica, Alaina, Olivia, Nicholas, Therese, Sophia, Vito, Vincent, Dominic, Vivienne and Giovanni along with a huge extended family who admired her dedication and hospitality to everyone she encountered. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 105 Bonabel Blvd., Metairie, LA 70005, on Friday, January 29, 2021 at 1:00 pm. Reception will follow at the Msgr. Melancon Center. Visitation will be Friday at 10:00 am. A private service will be held for her interment in Lake Lawn Park. In lieu of usual remembrances, donations may be made to Angels'

Place of New Orleans, 4323 Division St., Suite 206, Metairie, LA 70002 and Ronald McDonald House, 4403 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70119. The Mass will be live streamed on Youtube. Details are available at [www.scschurch.com](http://www.scschurch.com) and will be posted to Deanie's Facebook page.

RECOGNIZING MS. LESLIE COONE  
AS THE WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2021*

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Leslie Coone as the Walton County Teacher of the Year. For twelve years, Ms. Coone has served the Walton County School District with talent, passion, and an unwavering commitment to serving her students.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. It is recognized that teaching is one of the most difficult professions—yet also one of the most rewarding. Ms. Coone has performed her teaching duties exceptionally, while also being an active and supportive member of her community.

Ms. Coone is revered by her Principal and colleagues for her incredible willingness to always lend a helping hand. She holds high expectations for each student, and strives to help them discover their true potential; additionally, she engages her students with "Accountable Talk" and "Stop-n-Jots."

Her support and outreach extend far beyond the walls of her third-grade math class through her involvement as an ILDA teacher, School Improvement Team member, and Grade Level Chair. Ms. Coone has displayed dedicated teamwork as a teacher mentor, and assists new teachers by sharing the knowledge and skills she has acquired throughout her own teaching career. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those who matter most—the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of her admirable contributions to our community, I am truly proud to have Ms. Coone as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Leslie Coone for her many accomplishments, and her commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Walton County School District. I thank her for her service, and wish her all the best for her continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF  
SIDNEY THOMAS GRIFFITH

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2021*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mayor Thomas Griffith who passed away January 6 at the age of 80.

Mayor Griffith was born on February 7, 1940 in Okolona, MS to Sidney and Eva Mae Jones Griffith. He was raised in the Wren community

and graduated from Amory High School in 1958 before attending Itawamba Community College and Mississippi State University. There, he studied Business Administration. He soon returned to Amory and married Ms. Ruth Mcallister in September of 1964. He was a dedicated member of St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Amory, where he served as Chairman of the Administrative Board and President of the United Methodist Men. He was dedicated to the Amory community, serving as the Paul Harris Fellow of the Amory Rotary Club, on the Board of Directors for First Friends in Amory, as a member of the ICC Board of Trustees and the ICC Alumni Board.

In 1977, Thomas Griffith was elected Mayor of Amory. He served a 28 year tenure, dedicating countless hours to the betterment of the community in which he was raised. He cited his term in public service as the pinnacle of his career. He was appointed to numerous leadership councils following his retirement from city government, most notably as Administrator of the Tenn-Tom Waterway Authority.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 56 years, Ruth; two sons, Tommy and Dan; and four granddaughters, Erin, Sydney, Logann, and Reese.

Mayor Griffith was a dedicated husband and father, a servant to his state, and a man of faith. He will be deeply missed by all who had the opportunity to know and love him.

TRIBUTE TO GLADYS EDWARDS WALLACE: CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF PASSION, VIRTUE, COMMITMENT AND SUCCESS

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2021*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I first met and got to know Gladys and Vernon or Vernon and Gladys in the late 1960's and have interacted with them since that time. Of course, Vernon has preceded Gladys in transition. Gladys was born in Alberta, Alabama, came to Chicago with her Christian parents who were seeking a better life for themselves and their family. Gladys did what many children of solid families do, went

to school, joined church, went to college, got involved in activities, met Vernon, fell in love, got married and the rest became history. Forty-eight years of marriage, successful careers, a productive business, charitable giving, helping others, giving advice, mentoring, providing work opportunities for others and being an integral part of life in a community. The question now is what can we do? We can thank God for the life and legacy of our blessed friend and sister who gave so much to all of us, her charitable giving, being a mentor, providing jobs, wise counsel, for being a rock for family and friends, for leaving a thriving business, a committed life, for leaving proof of her commitment. Gladys held every office and did everything at church that one could do except be the Pastor and I suspect that she was some of that. She was a member of every committee and headed up every auxiliary. She retired from the postal service after working there for thirty years. She was always a partner in the family business, active in the Mortuary Science Industry and of course ran the business after her husband passed. She was a true professional and left a legacy of service, a legacy of giving and a legacy of love.

God bless Gladys Edwards Wallace, and may she rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF SIERRA PACIFIC HS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2021*

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sierra Pacific High School Lady Bears Basketball Team for their victory as California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division IV Northern Regional State Champions.

After reigning undefeated in the East Sequoia League and recording the longest winning streak in school history with 20 victories, the Lady Bears of Hanford, California, defeated Colfax High School in the Northern Regional Finals. Having claimed the South Regional Championship title in 2018, the Lady Bears Basketball Team is the first in the state

to win a Regional Championship in both the North and South. This season, they were also recognized as Cal-Hi Girls Basketball Division 4 Team of the Year.

While the 2020 California State Championship was cancelled in light of COVID-19 precautions, I know the Lady Bears Basketball Team would have represented their community and school with the same sportsmanship and dedication they exemplified all season.

Led by Head Coach Amy Bush and Assistant Coaches Victor Chavarin, Jr. and Christopher Kennedy, Sierra Pacific High School was proudly represented by Taylor West, Alana Roberts, Celeste Lewis, Taylor Whitfield, Haillee Larios, Kylie Brasil, Angelique Brazil, Cristina Avila, Makayla Carre, Savannah Torres, Annabelle Saavedra, and Lauren Zantos.

I further congratulate Alana Roberts and Celeste Lewis for their outstanding performances. Miss Roberts became the first of her school to achieve 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds and is the Sierra Pacific Girls Basketball All-Time rebounder with 1,357 rebounds. Miss Lewis, the team's all-time leading scorer, earning 1,832 points, was honored as Cal-Hi Girls Basketball Division 4 State Player of the Year.

Additionally, I commend Alana Roberts, Celeste Lewis, Kylie Brasil, Annabelle Saavedra, and Makayla Carre for their 2020 East Sequoia League 1st Team Honors, as well as Cristina Avila for her 2nd Team Honors.

Off the court, these ladies have inspired many with their community involvement. This season, the Lady Bears Basketball Team volunteered at the Episcopal Church of the Savior Parish Soup Kitchen, hosted a Community Youth Basketball Camp, collected 500 canned food items to support families during the pandemic, and raised \$1,290 for the families of Captain Raymond Figueroa and Firefighter Patrick Jones who tragically lost their lives while responding to the Porterville library fire.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me congratulating the 2020 Sierra Pacific Girls Basketball Team for these accomplishments and commend their unwavering commitment to serving the Central Valley community.