

celebrate his impressive career fighting for fairness and equity in the criminal justice system.

Mr. Stevenson was born in the town of Milton, a rural community in southern Delaware. It was in the First State and at the Prospect African Methodist Episcopal Church where Mr. Stevenson started to nurture his belief in redemption that “each person in our society is more than the worst thing they’ve ever done.” Raised by a strong Sussex County family, Mr. Stevenson began to show the leadership and passion for public service that would propel him in life. At Cape Henlopen High School, he excelled academically and served as the student body president. He won several public speaking contests, demonstrating rhetorical prowess that would soon lead him to argue landmark cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Stevenson would go on to earn a J.D. and M.P.P. from Harvard University and the position of Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law.

In 1989, Mr. Stevenson founded the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a non-profit based in Montgomery, Alabama, that provides legal representation to wrongly convicted prisoners, especially Alabama prisoners on death row. One of EJI’s first clients was Walter McMillian, a Black man convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of a young white woman. Due to Mr. Stevenson’s systematic dismantling of the prosecution’s case, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that Mr. McMillian’s conviction was unconstitutional. The State of Alabama finally dropped charges after mounting evidence proved Mr. McMillian’s innocence. On March 3, 1993, Mr. McMillian was released from death row and walked out of a courtroom a free man. At the time, Mr. McMillian was one of the first to be exonerated from death row since the end of the civil rights movement. Since Mr. McMillian was exonerated, Mr. Stevenson and EJI prevented more than 130 people from receiving the death penalty.

Mr. Stevenson personally argued several cases before the Supreme Court and won major landmark decisions reshaping American jurisprudence. In the 2012 case, *Miller v. Alabama*, Mr. Stevenson successfully argued that the imposition of a mandatory life-sentence-without-parole for a juvenile violates the 8th Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. In the 2019 case, *Madison v. Alabama*, Mr. Stevenson successfully secured a ruling that would protect prisoners who suffer from dementia from execution. These cases before the Supreme Court demonstrate Mr. Stevenson’s commitment to equity in the criminal justice system and prove that Mr. Stevenson is one of America’s best public interest attorneys.

Yet the good works of Mr. Stevenson were not confined to his successes in the courtroom. In 2018, Mr. Stevenson and EJI opened two new museums in Montgomery to chronicle the legacy of slavery and racial segregation. The Legacy Museum chronicled the post-slavery evolution of racial violence in sharecropping, Jim Crow, and mass incarceration. The National Memorial for Peace and Justice records the names of 4,400 victims of lynchings from 1877 through 1950. Through EJI, he launched major efforts to address the legacy of slavery in America. EJI has published several studies on racial violence and inequities in the law and state constitutions, in-

cluding the highly influential *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror*. He also brought public attention to the racial injustices of the U.S. legal system as the author of the bestselling 2015 memoir *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* and adapted into the 2019 film, *Just Mercy*. Both the memoir and film received significant awards and nominations, including NAACP Image Awards, the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction, and the nomination for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role at the 2020 Screen Actors Guild Awards.

On October 8, 2022, I will have the privilege to join the Town of Milton and the Milton Community Foundation to honor the selfless dedication of Mr. Stevenson. Our country is so blessed to have him as a steward of justice. As he has so eloquently said—we all have a responsibility to create a just society. How fortunate we are to have Bryan Stevenson as our leader of that movement.

RECOGNITION OF DAN VAN BOXTTEL RECEIVING THE PRIZE FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Mr. Dan Van Bortel for winning the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence award.

Mr. Van Bortel, an automotive technology teacher at Kaukauna High School in Kaukauna, Wisconsin, has been recognized for his excellence in teaching by receiving the award and a \$50,000 prize. The Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence award was created to recognize high school trades teachers throughout the United States for their knowledge and excellence in education. Since 2017, the program has awarded more than 100 public high school teachers and their schools with the resources to support and expand skilled trades education. By winning this award, it is evident that Mr. Van Bortel has dedicated his time to ensuring our future generations have the skills needed to be successful and contribute to their communities. I commend Mr. Van Bortel for his expertise in automotive technology and his unwavering commitment to the students of Kaukauna High School.

The 2022 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence award received over 750 applications from all 50 states. The process of receiving the award included three rounds of judging, responses to questions, and a series of video learning modules designed to draw from a teacher’s personal experience in achieving excellence in the classroom. I applaud Mr. Van Bortel for highlighting the importance and dignity of the skilled trades that will lead his students to numerous opportunities in the workforce and beyond.

In Mr. Van Bortel’s career at Kaukauna he has consistently provided students with the highest quality education in skilled trades. In his nearly two decades of service to Kaukauna he has truly left a lasting impact on the community. Through his critical automotive technology classes, he has generated career

ready students prepared to enter a skilled trade shortly after graduation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Van Bortel for receiving the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence award. Mr. Van Bortel has been a wonderful advocate for the trades and is a true credit to Kaukauna High School and Northeast Wisconsin.

HONORING SEPTEMBER 2022 AS NATIONAL RICE MONTH

HON. ERIC A. “RICK” CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Rice Month, established by an act of Congress and signed into law by President Bush in 1989. Each September during the rice harvest season, we celebrate this important industry which is near and dear to me.

I have the distinct privilege to represent the number one rice-producing district in the number one producing rice state in the United States. Rice farmers in Arkansas contribute \$2.3 billion to my home state’s economic output, supporting nearly 15,000 jobs up and down the supply chain.

As a whole, the rice industry in the United States supports more than 125,000 jobs and generates \$34 billion in economic impact. In fact, each rice farmer in the U.S. contributes \$1 million to his or her local economy.

To expand on rice’s impact beyond the economy, rice is the most popular grain globally and the primary dietary staple for more than half the world’s population. U.S. rice farmers and millers not only supply over 80 percent of the rice we consume here at home, but they also ship it globally to more than 120 countries.

Rice farmers are also conservation minded, creating surrogate wetlands by flooding their fields during the winter that provide habitat to waterfowl and other wildlife.

While I’m here to celebrate this important crop, I would be remiss to not mention that U.S. rice farmers are facing very difficult situations this year. In the southern rice-producing states, stagnant prices coupled with input costs are financially squeezing those farmers, while in California, drought has cut acreage in half. With rampant inflation, rice-dependent rural communities across the country are being adversely impacted by the ongoing recession within the industry. This situation could result in devastating impacts on rice mills, elevators, trucking companies, and other businesses dependent on rice production, which once lost, will not return, further worsening the economic stability in these communities.

I believe that protecting our domestic rice industry is a priority and worthy endeavor, and that rice farmers need assistance to help them weather this storm, and I hope we can accomplish that.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TULSA'S LITTLE LIGHT HOUSE

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor a very special anniversary in my community.

In 1972, frustrated and overwhelmed by the lack of early childhood care options for their visually impaired daughters, Marcia Mitchell and Sheryl Poole decided to take a leap of faith and founded the Little Light House. In the 50 years since, their organization has proved invaluable to countless families in the Tulsa area.

Their mission is simple: serving the whole family by offering free, unparalleled services to help every child reach their unlimited potential by providing tools to assist them in communicating, walking, and learning, all while serving and glorifying God.

The Little Light House has grown into a major operation, currently serving 116 families in their Developmental Center and 126 families in their Early Intervention Program. In 2006, they opened their first affiliate location in Jackson, Mississippi, and continue to expand the reach of their community impact to this day.

Marcia & Sheryl's mission still burns brightly at the heart of the Little Light House today.

I'm honored to recognize them as they celebrate this milestone. Happy 50th Anniversary, Little Light House.

RECOGNIZING TEMPE SISTER CITIES ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Tempe Sister Cities on its 50th anniversary. For five decades, this organization has empowered students and teachers through diplomacy, cultural awareness, and education. It has enriched the lives of hundreds of local families who have hosted international exchange partners.

Tempe Sister Cities serves as an enduring bridge that connects our people to 11 cities and countries throughout the world, including nine communities where high school students participate in exchanges with fellow students. Many of these exchanges create lasting lifelong friendships that transcend borders and transform how people in our community see and connect to the world.

It is no secret that Tempe Sister Cities is one of the leading sister cities organizations in the world—distinguished by an unyielding commitment to make sure that each generation of Tempe students can learn and grow. So many lives have also been improved through its humanitarian programs, which range from medical support for individuals with disabilities to empowering women and children through resources that elevate their status.

I want to recognize and thank every person who has dedicated their time and talents to

make Tempe Sister Cities the tremendous change-maker that it is today. I join our community in celebration of 50 incredible years and wishes for many more.

HONORING RENEE LUCILLE SMOLEY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life of my dear friend Renee Lucille Smoley.

Renee Smoley grew up in Long Island, New York, graduating from Hunter College in 1943. Renee and her husband, Dr. Melvin Smoley, moved to my hometown of Weston, Florida in 1989 where Renee became the longtime President of the Tequesta Homeowners Association.

The City of Weston soon became Renee's love and passion. She chaired the Peace Mound Park Committee to restore the archeological and historical significance to the city. She served on the Committee for Weston's 4th of July parade, and in 1996, Renee was tapped to serve as the co-chair of the Steering Committee to determine the feasibility of Weston incorporating and becoming its own city. For her contributions to the city, Renee was fondly referred as the Mother of Weston. She served on the Board of the Weston Music Society, was a charter member of AAUW Weston and Chair of AW Foundation and was inducted to the Broward County Senior Hall of Fame.

Of all her accomplishments in Weston Renee was most proud of her assistance to 27 Kosovo refugees in 1999. She enlisted the help of Weston residents and businesses to provide them with housing and utilities for two years.

Renee may have been tiny, but her broad shoulders carried me throughout my career in public service. I am grateful to Renee for her encouragement, wisdom, and love. She was not just the Mother of Weston but a mother to many in so many ways.

My heart is with her family in mourning the loss of this kind, generous, and compassionate soul.

We were forever privileged to have shared this time with Renee. May her memory be a blessing.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FORMER INDIANA CONGRESSMAN MARK SOUDER

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, Mark Souder, 72, went to be with the Lord on Monday, September 26, 2022. He was born July 18, 1950 in Fort Wayne, Ind. to Edward and Irma (Fahling) Souder. Mark grew up in Grabill, the area where his great-great-grandfather settled in 1848. He graduated from Leo HS (1968), Indiana University at Fort Wayne (1972), and

the Graduate School of Business at Notre Dame (1974). He also received honorary doctorates from Tri-State University, the Indiana Institute of Technology and the University of St. Francis. Mark married Diane Zimmer of South Bend at the Bremen Apostolic Christian Church on July 28, 1974. Their first home was in Edina, Minn. where Mark had taken a job as the marketing manager for Gabberts Furniture. In 1976, he returned to his family business. Upon his return he was recruited by Dan Quayle and played a key role in his upset victory for Congress that year. In 1980, he assisted Dan Coats in succeeding Quayle in Congress. After Mark's father died in 1981 and the furniture store closed in 1983, the Souder family moved to Washington D.C. for him to serve as the Republican Staff Director on the House Committee on Children, Youth and Families. In 1988, Souder switched to the Senate with Coats, serving as his legislative director until mid-1993 when he moved back to Indiana. Souder was hired by Thom Blake as Vice-President of Manufacturing of Our Country Home of Grabill. Emmanuel Community Church has been their family church since 1993. In the fall of 1994, Souder was elected to Congress. He was elected to seven more terms, becoming the second-longest serving congressman in history representing the Fort Wayne region. Souder focused heavily on fighting for the core industrial jobs of the region as well as local interests such as saving the Veteran's Hospital and the Air Base. He served on three committees and seven subcommittees each term. He was the point person in the House on illegal narcotics, and co-founded the bi-partisan National Parks Caucus. A major accomplishment was introducing and passing the National Lighthouse Preservation Program, which had the National Park Service manage the transfer of hundreds of lighthouses from the Coast Guard to non-profit organizations to preserve access to the public. After Congress, he wrote regularly for *Howey Politics Indiana*, as well as in national books and publications on baseball and politics. His last book project was co-authoring *Television in Fort Wayne, 1953–2018*. Mark was passionate about his Lord, family, and country. He was a voracious reader of the Bible, history, politics, and sports. He adored his grandchildren and spent countless hours sharing experiences with them while teaching valuable life lessons. For being such a strong and courageous leader, he had a very kind and generous heart. When he crossed the state line, every time he would sing the song, "Back Home Again in Indiana". Souder is survived by his wife and best friend of 48 years, Diane; and children, Brooke (Jeff) Lyons of Fort Wayne, Nathan (Sarah) Souder of Grand Junction, Colo., and Zach Souder of Albuquerque, N.M.; as well as grandchildren, Grant Lyons, Reagan Lyons, Elias Souder and Ethan Souder.

RECOGNITION OF KOSTAS BAKOYANNIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mayor