

Madam Speaker, our nation is forever indebted to veterans of the Greatest Generation, like Tom Ecoff, for their service and sacrifice.

On behalf of Indiana's Sixth Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives—I thank Tom Ecoff for his service. May God Bless him and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING DOROTHY “DOT” THEODORE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dot Theodore, who concluded her service as a trustee on the board of the Castro Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) on November 9, 2022, after 8 years of service.

After receiving her Bachelor of Science in Biology from San Francisco State University in 1998, Dot began to work in biotech research in the Bay Area. In 2004, Dot and her husband chose to lay down roots in Castro Valley. Dot then continued her education and obtained a Master's in Public Health in 2013 from the University of California, Berkeley. Currently, she serves as the interim director for the Alameda County Public Health Department's Office of HIV Care, where she provides support for local organizations that serve low-income individuals living with HIV.

With 2 children attending Castro Valley Unified schools, Dot became heavily involved in school affairs. From 2011 to 2016, Dot served as PTA President for Castro Valley Elementary. In 2012, she served as an executive board member for Creekside Middle School Parents Club. Dot has also served on CVUSD's Local Control Accountability Plan Steering Committee and recently served as the Head of the Safe Routes to School program at Castro Valley Elementary. In that role, she coordinated events promoting active transportation and safety for students. She also participates with Bike/Walk CV to add more sidewalks in Castro Valley.

In 2014, Dot was elected as a board trustee for CVUSD and re-elected in 2018, serving as board president until her departure. While on the board, Dot worked to embrace the growing diversity of the district and ensure students could access a high-quality education at all grade levels.

She has overseen new dual immersion programs, the creation of an Engineering pathway for students, placement of social workers and counseling support for elementary students, and the implementation of culturally responsive curricula for educators. Dot was also instrumental in creating wellness centers for students at Castro Valley High School and both Canyon and Creekside middle schools through Measure G Bond funds.

For 8 years, Dot has remained a fierce advocate for the students of CVUSD and worked to ensure that the district lived up to its “All means all” motto. Her presence will be missed on the board, but I am sure she will continue to fight for our children. I join the community in celebrating her numerous achievements on the board and wish her rest and relaxation with her children, Ben, and Daphne, as she starts her new chapter.

CONGRATULATING THE CRU- SADERS ON THEIR STATE CHAM- PIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Dominic Crusaders on their victory in the Class 4 Girls Soccer State Championship.

The Crusaders took home their second consecutive Class 4 title. The Crusaders should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Please join me in recognizing the Crusaders for a job well done.

HONORING THE MISSISSIPPI RAPID RESPONSE COALITION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mississippi Rapid Response Coalition. The coalition has gone beyond the call of duty to ensure that communities in Mississippi are taken care of during critical times.

The Mississippi Rapid Response Coalition was formed in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. MRRC has since responded to crises caused by climate change and failing infrastructure across the state of Mississippi. The Mississippi Rapid Response Coalition, also called “The Coalition,” is comprised of over 30 organizations around the state of Mississippi. The organizations that make up the Coalition were 1st responders during COVID and after the Winter Storm of 2021, providing needed resources to Mississippians in need.

The Coalition has continued to be a rapid response provider during this latest crisis affecting Jackson, MS, providing drinking water across Jackson's 7 wards and assisting those in need. MRRC has distributed thousands of cases of water to Jackson residents and provided other necessary services, and I am forever grateful for their work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Mississippi Rapid Response Coalition for their service to the citizens of Mississippi during their time of distress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. VICTOR MARVAR, SR.

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding life and legacy of Mr. Victor Vadrian Marvar, Sr. who passed away on September 3rd, 2022, at 96 years old. This

great man left behind a powerful legacy as a businessman, philanthropist, and founder of the Mississippi Republican Party on the Gulf Coast.

Born on July 27, 1926 in Biloxi, Mississippi. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Merchant Marine Academy. He received a Commission as a second Lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1950, he was called into the U.S. Navy to serve in the Korean War aboard the USS *Paricutin*. After his military service career ended in 1952, he began working the family seafood processing business. He was even elected President of the American Shrimp Processors Association.

Mr. Marvar was dedicated to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Republican party and served three terms as Harrison County Republican Party Chairman and one term representing the State of Mississippi on the Republican National Committee. He was a delegate to several county, state and national Republican conventions and was a Mississippi Presidential Elector for President Richard M. Nixon and President George W. Bush. Former Governor Haley Barbour awarded him the Mississippi Medal of Service in recognition of his work to improve the community and the state.

Mr. Marvar was elected to the Hancock Bank Board of Directors where he served on several committees for 25 years.

Victor was married to his wife, Gayle, for 64 years and together they had 6 children. He and his wife established a scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi, School of Nursing. They also established scholarships at the Mississippi College School of Law, Vanderbilt University MBA School, and West Virginia Wesleyan University. They established a fund to support the operation of the Learning Disability Department at Nativity B.V.M. Elementary School in Biloxi.

Mr. Marvar spent a great many years contributing to his community as a businessman, philanthropist, and family man. He was an outstanding citizen of the Biloxi, Mississippi, and the United States, and his contributions stand as a reminder to all of us that it is better to serve than to be served. It is my honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Victor Vadrian Marvar, Sr.

God Bless and Semper Fi.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JUSTICE FOR SHIREEN ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Justice for Shireen Act today. I thank my House and Senate colleagues that joined me to call on the FBI and State Department, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and Director of National Intelligence, to submit a report to Congress on the death of American-Palestinian Journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh. I send my deep condolences to the Abu Akleh family for this terrible killing and stand with them to demand justice and accountability.

Shireen Abu Akleh, an American-Palestinian journalist, was killed on May 11, 2022. She was killed wearing a clearly marked press vest

on assignment, reporting on a military raid which took place in the occupied city of Jenin. In May, I led a letter, signed by 58 Members of Congress, to the FBI and State Department calling for an independent and open investigation led by her home country, the United States and 24 Senators have echoed this request. It has been six months since we have sent this letter. Today, I continue to call for answers into the death of Shireen Abu Akleh.

As an American, Ms. Abu Akleh was entitled to the full protections afforded to U.S. citizens living abroad. As Members of Congress, we need to uphold the values that our Nation was founded on, including human rights, equality for all, and freedom of speech. As Members of Congress, we have a duty to protect Americans reporting abroad. An Israeli investigation has concluded, finding that it was indeed an Israel Solider that shot Ms. Abu Akleh in her line of duty. It is the responsibility of the U.S. to learn all the unanswered questions leading up to, during and after the fatal shot that killed Ms. Abu Akleh. Additionally, this bill requires an identification of any United States defense materials or services that were implicated in the death of Ms. Abu Akleh. No U.S. weapons and military services by the U.S. should be used to kill Americans on foreign soil. American taxpayers should not be paying for any violation of human rights abroad.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in calling for justice and accountability for Shireen Abu Akleh.

HONORING THE VALLEJO SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vallejo Symphony in recognition of their 90th anniversary.

The Vallejo Symphony was founded in 1931, in the midst of the Great Depression. Led by conductor Julius Weyand, the original group consisted of 60 musicians. Hoping to uplift their struggling community, local leaders were able to raise the funds necessary to bring world class music to their town.

Over the years, the Vallejo Symphony has seen tremendous growth, both in funding and notoriety. The Vallejo Symphony Association was founded in 1951, and acclaimed conductor Dr. George Wargo began his two-decade tenure as the orchestra's leader. During this time, the Vallejo Symphony performed both Wargo's Symphony in G and Concerto for Strings.

Upon Wargo's departure, David Ramadanoff, a former associate conductor of the San Francisco Symphony, became the symphony's new leader, guiding it through three decades of excellence. Today, the Vallejo Symphony is led by Marc Taddei, Music Director of Orchestra Wellington.

In addition to traditional concerts, the Vallejo Symphony routinely welcomes distinguished guest artists from around the globe in an effort to bring diverse music to Solano County residents. In 1993, they performed with the Akashi Choral Society in Japan for a celebration of the relationship between Akashi and Vallejo.

Additionally, the Vallejo Symphony has sent musicians to perform in public schools, engaging and inspiring countless young students via classical music.

Madam Speaker, the Vallejo Symphony has filled our community with rich, varied, and world-class music for nearly a century. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that it is honored here today.

CONGRATULATING TRIGG LINDAHL ON HIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Trigg Lindahl on his victory in the Class 2 Boys Golf Championship.

Trigg made history, becoming the first individual Class 2 Golf State Champion to come out of Hermann High. Trigg should be commended for all his hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to his school and community.

Please join me in recognizing Trigg Lindahl for a job well done.

HONORING LINDA CITCHENS DOWNING

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Mrs. Linda Citchens Downing.

Linda Citchens Downing is the daughter of the late Mary Alice Catchings-Broom and Eulis Broom, Sr. Born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, she grew up the middle child of 11 siblings. Her mother, being the sole provider for her large family, instilled in her the qualities of discipline, hard work, and dedication to duty. Determined to set her children up for a better life, Mary worked at the Coco-Cola Bottling Company and cleaned homes on Saturday to provide for them. What the family lacked in material possessions, they made up for in love and faith. Although Mary only had an 8th grade education, she wanted to insure her children had more access to education than she had.

After graduating high school, Linda yearned for just that goal. At the time, her goal was to become a lawyer who provided legal representation for the underserved; however, that course was not to be. With little money and lacking the type of support necessary for law school, she would find an alternate route to achieving her goal of helping people, and that was via education. Her older sisters had graduated from college and become teachers, and Linda decided to follow suit.

She attended Coahoma Junior College, now Coahoma Community College, where she served as Miss Coahoma Junior College in 1978 to 1979. In March of 1979, she got married, and in May of that same year, she graduated with high honor from CJC. A year later, she had her first child. Being a wife, mother,

and attending college was difficult for a 20-year-old, so Linda decided to quit Delta State University when she became pregnant with her second daughter. She pressed on, though, enrolling at Mississippi Valley State University soon afterwards. Not having transportation, she commuted with one of the professors, often taking her baby to class with her.

When one of her professors told her she wouldn't be able to finish her degree with two babies, Linda became even more resolved to get the job done and achieve her overarching goals of service and support to the community. Her second daughter was born in December of 1981; by December of 1982, she had completed her Bachelor's Degree, Cum Laude. She began her teaching career at Oakhurst Elementary School, and in the following years, she taught the gamut of elementary education, all while inspiring and motivating her students to think bigger and to desire more. She enrolled in graduate school at Delta State, receiving a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. Shortly thereafter, she moved up to lead teacher. Another stint at Delta State produced a Master's degree in counseling, after which she was hired as a middle school counselor, performing in that capacity for 7 years. Conrad Hilton said, "Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving." And that's what Linda did. She returned to school to study administration, and to that end, she was hired as an elementary school principal. When that proved successful, she was promoted to middle school principal.

She served as principal of Oakhurst Middle School for 7 years. During her tenure, she changed the culture of the school in academics and athletics and brought it to successful status. Linda implemented numerous incentives such as Teacher of the Year (the teacher with the most improved scores in standardized tests would receive \$500 paid by the principal); Most Improved of Teacher (the most improved teacher would receive \$250 paid by the principal); as well as financial incentives (donated by stakeholders) for students scoring proficient and advanced on state tests, and in the process, increased parental and community support by 75 percent. As a result of her achievement as a principal, in 2010, Linda was hired as the Secondary Curriculum Director of the Clarksdale Public School District. In 2016, Linda earned a Specialist degree in administration and supervision from Arkansas State University. Finally, after 32 years of being guided by the principles her mother imparted in her, she retired.

Linda only remained out of education for a year, returning because of her love and respect for her vocation and the positive effects of her actions on the world around her. Currently, she serves as the Chief Academic Office of the Quitman County School District, where she works full time on a part-time salary. Despite this, she has a hand in almost all aspects of education in the district: from site visits to new teacher training, to the organization of large-scale events on the district's behalf. She does what she does because of love; she loves the students, the teachers, the parents, and she is committed to education.

At the age of 8, Linda stated cooking for her younger brothers and sisters. This inspired a lifelong love of cooking and baking. As part owner of 7Sisters Catering, she regularly donates her food and services to church, school,