

transitioned to Reference and Documents Librarian. In 1962, she was elevated to the position of Library Director. She served in that position for 25 years. She concluded her tenure at South Carolina State University in 1997 after serving for 10 years as Dean of Library and Information Services.

Throughout her time there, she played a crucial part in the creation and oversight of the South Carolina State College Historical Collection and the South Carolina State College Historic District, and memorialized many significant historical structures and sites in Orangeburg. She became the first African American President of the South Carolina Library Association in 1986.

After her retirement from South Carolina State University, she went on to be a founding—member of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission. Throughout the next 30 years, she would be a leader in the effort to document underrepresented sites in the state's archives related to African American History, adding an incredible 300 markers throughout her time with the Commission. Earlier this year, the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission released the "Green Book of South Carolina", which featured sites originally documented by Dr. Jenkins. Even after her retirement from the Commission, she remained involved in training and mentoring the next generation of librarians and historians to carry these efforts forward.

She was acknowledged as a giant both on campus and in the field of historical preservation, and she earned many awards and accolades for her work. These included the Land-Grant Director's Association Award (1978), "Boss of the Year" (1980) from the Orangeburg Chapter of Professional Secretaries, the President's Award from the South Carolina Library Association (1987), the South Carolina State College Distinguished Service Award (1991), the University's First President's Service Award (1997), the SOLINET Board of Directors Service Award (1992) and the University's first Emeritus Award (2000). In 2019, she was also awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in the state.

Throughout her life, Dr. Jenkins was an active member of several civil and social organizations. Some of the historical and library boards of which she was a part include the African American Heritage Council, the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, the South Carolina Library Association, and the South Carolina Archives and History Commission. She was also a lifelong member of the NAACP, a member of The Links, and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, for which she previously served as the Regional Director for the South Atlantic Region.

Dr. Jenkins, a woman of faith, was a longtime member of Williams Chapel AME Church. She was married to my high school baseball and football coach, the late Robert "Bobby" Alvah Jenkins. They raised two children, Ronald Robert and Pamela Ruth, and shared several grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Barbara Williams Jenkins. She dedicated her nearly 70-year long career to ensuring African American history was woven into the fabric of our state's history. She will be sorely missed and ought to be well-remembered.

RECOGNIZING JOHN B.  
BILLINGSLEY, JR.

**HON. BETH VAN DUYN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2022*

Ms. VAN DUYN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John B. Billingsley, Jr., Founder and CEO of the recently launched JBB Advanced Technologies headquartered in the 24th Congressional District, which I proudly represent. Prior to launching JBB Advanced Technologies, Billingsley founded Tri Global Energy 13 years ago and built the Dallas-based company into one of America's top five renewable energy developers before its recent sale.

John has been widely recognized as a pioneer and industry leader for his vision and contributions to the development of renewable energy in Texas and the U.S., including by D CEO Magazine. Recently Billingsley was the recipient of its 2022 Renewable Energy Impact Award. In 2021, D CEO Magazine named Billingsley as their Renewable Energy Executive of the Year as a part of their annual Energy Awards. The awards honor excellence and innovation in oil and gas from North Texas to the Permian Basin and for only the second time, this award included the category of renewable energy. In addition to the designation for the Annual Energy Awards, D CEO magazine also named John Billingsley to its Dallas 500 list. The list features the Dallas/Fort Worth region's most influential leaders in more than fifty different industry categories.

Billingsley, a West Texas native and Texas Tech University graduate, has founded and operated more than 20 businesses in industries as diverse as accounting and banking to agriculture, real estate, and manufacturing. He founded Tri Global Energy based on a business model of involving local landowners and communities in wind power projects and led the company through more than a decade of growth and expansion. The story of Tri Global Energy is told in his 2020 book, *Texas Wind Force*. I wish him the best of luck in his newest venture JBB Advanced Technologies which delivers more profitable, environmentally friendly digital technologies by developing renewable energy sources to power blockchain and artificial intelligence-based innovations.

I want to express my appreciation and best wishes to John Billingsley upon his impressive recognitions by D CEO magazine. The great state of Texas was built by visionary leaders and entrepreneurs like Billingsley, and we are proud that he has chosen the 24th Congressional District as his company's headquarters.

HONORING VETERAN WILLIAM E.  
HELMAN FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2022*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. William E. Helman for his extraordinary service to our country.

Mr. Helman was born in 1923 to Edward and Sara Helman. He attended Ballston Spa Schools and enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 19. In the Army, Mr. Helman served with the Company B, 404th Engineer Combat Battalion as a Combat Engineer and a Jack Hammer Operator.

During his time in the Army, Mr. Helman courageously fought in World War II in the Italian Campaign. He was deployed across Italy to Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, North Apennines and the Po Valley. For his brave service in the war, Mr. Helman was awarded the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the Bronze Arrowhead. Additionally, he was awarded both the Good Conduct Medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Army in October 1945, Mr. Helman worked in the automotive industry. He was a self-employed body and fender man and worked out of many garages in New York State. In 1946, Mr. Helman married Rachel and, together they raised their family of three children.

Throughout his life, Mr. Helman exemplified dedicated service to his country. I am proud to recognize him during the Saratoga County Veterans Association's Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to honor the life of Mr. William Helman and thank him for his brave service to our country.

HONORING AL DAVIS

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2022*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Adris Albert "Al" Davis Sr. of Fairlawn, Virginia, who passed away on September 13, 2022, at the age of 72. Mr. Davis was a patriot and veteran of the United States Armed Forces.

Mr. Davis was born on December 28, 1949, to Albert and Blanche Davis. He graduated from Bramwell High School in Bramwell, West Virginia. He served in the Marine Corps and the Army Reserve and earned two Purple Hearts in the Vietnam War. In the following years, he found purpose in helping his fellow veterans. He stayed active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1184 in Pulaski and the American Legion Post No. 58 in Dublin.

Mr. Davis was also a man of deep faith, belonging to First Missionary Baptist Church in Fairlawn and serving as an usher and trustee.

Mr. Davis was preceded in death by his wife Constance T. Banks-Davis. He is survived by his significant other Emily Doucette; sons Michael Kelly, Adris "Hootie" Davis Jr., and Andrew Primm; daughters Yonnie Stinson, Maria Davis-Harris (Tony), Somer Davis, Darnisha Primm, and Kendra "Kenny" Wright (Quentin); 16 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. I offer them my condolences on their loss. Mr. Davis was a kind man who never missed an opportunity to serve.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH FLORIDA HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 28 YEARS OF WORK

**HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2022*

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for its 28 years of successful impact on South Florida's business community. Small business is the backbone of our country. The Chamber has supported small businesses and helped connect them to individuals in South Florida for almost three decades. It is my honor to recognize the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and highlight the good work they have done.

Established in 1994, the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit 501 (c)(6) that promotes business leadership and economic growth and provides legislative advocacy for the Hispanic business community in South Florida. Since more than two-thirds of Miami-Dade County residents are of Hispanic origin, organizations like the Hispanic Chamber are crucial to the health of our local economy and civil society. Miami-Dade County has seen incredible growth over the past several years, in no small part because of the welcoming business climate. As the Miami area continues to expand, the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will keep playing a pivotal role in growing commerce and creating opportunity among the Hispanic community.

The South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has been an invaluable resource to the Hispanic community for close to 30 years. I am thankful to have attended many Chamber events and luncheons in my district, where I have seen firsthand how it develops business relationships among our Hispanic community. I look forward to another 28 years of continued business growth and excellence.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LAWRENCE BUTLER, JR.

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2022*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the almighty God has called to his eternal rest Mr. Lawrence Butler, Jr. Mr. Butler was the only son, one of three children, he had two sisters, Clara Butler Watts and Regina Butler Davis, and after attending Southern University in Baton Rouge Louisiana, he moved to Chicago, where he lived with his Uncle Harrison Shaw. Lawrence fell in love with Chicago and quickly went to work making a life for himself in the windy city. He went to work as a bus driver for the Chicago Transit Authority and was drafted into the Army where he served as a military policeman. After serving his country, he returned to Chicago and joined the Chicago Police Department. He wore the badge with pride and honor for 34 years and enjoyed protecting and giving back to the city that he so cherished.

Lawrence's life truly began when he met and fell in love with a beautiful young woman

named Beverly. Lawrence and Beverly married September 21, 1975. Shortly afterwards, they purchased what would become their home, a beautiful Victorian in the historical Austin Shock District. Lawrence and Beverly have two daughters, Mary Ellen and Hilaree. Lawrence and Beverly and their daughters were neighbors of my family for many years, and I treasure their presence in our village and commend Lawrence for his service to our country, our city and our neighborhood where we live, work and pray.

RECOGNIZING JOHN KASSNER, JR.

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2022*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable man, John Kassner, Jr.

Born in 1925, John was the second oldest son in a family of 13, having three brothers and nine sisters. Moving to Manitowoc, Wisconsin at a very young age, John became known as a remarkable high school athlete and was involved in countless organizations, like the High School Dance Club. During John's senior year in high school, he answered the call to serve his country and enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. During his military service, John volunteered to become a paratrooper in the heralded 101st Airborne Division. On John's 19th birthday, he and his fellow soldiers parachuted into France behind German lines to evaluate strategic locations prior to the Allied invasion. I commend John for his commitment and selfless service to the United States of America.

Following John's career in the military, he moved back to the United States with the love of his life, Joan, to begin their life together. John began his business career as a door-to-door vacuum salesman, and eventually obtained his real-estate license and began his own brokerage company. Given John's knowledge and dedication to the industry, he soon became a leader among his peers. In the mid-1970's, John was elected President of the Brown County Home Builders Association. In the years to come, given John's success within the industry, he would become the State President of the Wisconsin Home Builders Association and Director of the National Home Builders Association. I commend John for his life-long dedication to his community and country and I offer my sincere condolences to his family during this time.

Madam Speaker, the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank John Kassner, Jr. for his extraordinary commitment and service to his country. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and to all of the lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING RICHMOND'S SEVEN HILLS SCHOOL'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2022*

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and

congratulate the Seven Hills School on the 20th Anniversary of their founding. Seven Hills School has not only provided exceptional education to middle school boys in our Richmond community but has created a strong community that will support their students long after they graduate.

The Seven Hills School first opened its doors in 2001 and over the last twenty years has created an environment that equips their graduates to succeed both in the classroom and beyond. Staff and teachers at Seven Hills School establish strong relationships between students and fosters curiosity and enthusiasm in the classroom.

After two decades, Seven Hills' teachers and staff remain dedicated to their mission of cultivating keen intellect and emotional strength in their students, as well as establishing a strong community within. With three hundred and eighty-eight alumni, Seven Hills School has established itself to be an institution designed to help middle school boys succeed with new approaches that provide hands-on and experiential learning that will stick with their students for life.

Madam Speaker. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Seven Hills School and wishing them another twenty years of success educating bright young men.

HONORING MIRA YUSEF AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2022*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mira Yusef, co-founder of Monsoon Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity, as our Iowan of the Week.

Mira Yusef was just 13 years old when her family immigrated here from the Philippines. Like many families who immigrate to the United States, Mira's family was fleeing an oppressive dictatorship. She witnessed first-hand the atrocities committed around her, particularly how the women around her were treated and abused. These formative memories have stayed with her, and they fuel her passion for helping and advocating for victims of gender-based violence.

When Mira's family came to the United States, they came to Iowa as her mother married an Iowan who was in the U.S. Navy. She attended Roosevelt High School, and later she decided to go out to the San Francisco Bay Area where she had relatives. There, Mira was exposed to many other immigrants fleeing the same circumstances, which caused her to get more involved in advocacy and political issues. She came back to Iowa and was involved with the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, where she realized there weren't any Asian activists. This inspired her to start organizing specifically around issues related to Asian communities.

Mira went on to study these issues more closely, studying areas like human trafficking in multiple different counties around southeast Asia. She eventually graduated from the University of Michigan with two Master's degrees in Southeast Asian Studies and Social Work. Her experiences and dedicated work moved