

Mary began working for Nishna Productions when she was 19 years old, serving as Activity Coordinator and as direct care staff. Mary helped her Nishna Productions clients learn how to cook, clean, and manage money. Mary then became a supervisor at the group homes in Red Oak where she led the staff and continued to work in direct care with the clients. Mary's help growing the skills of her clients ensured that individuals with disabilities can retain independence and find success living in their communities.

Mary then transferred back to work as a Program Instructor with Nishna Productions. Working directly with clients, Mary began to teach classes developing important life skills. From there, Mary transferred to the vocational department to focus on the development of employable skills. Nishna Productions has its own laundry service in which clients can develop working skills, while Nishna Productions also contracts with small businesses to fulfill their basic labor needs. By supporting individuals with disabilities in a comfortable environment, Mary has helped grow confidence with those who need it the most.

Currently, Mary is the lead supervisory staff member at Nishna Production's Red Oak and Shenandoah sites. While she now leads over-all day to day operations, Mary still finds the most enjoyment in direct work with clients. Mary believes that each client is their own unique person and that a one size fits all approach would be ineffective. Providing unique care for each client takes a full team effort, and Mary and her team at Nishna Productions remain committed to tailoring their programming and operations to fit each individual person and the needs of the community.

I am thankful to Mary for her work empowering individuals with support and opportunity to meet their goals, and I am proud to name Mary Wade as Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAHAM

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate United States Marine Corps Second Lieutenant John Graham, who recently completed USMC Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia. John was an exceptional member of my staff for the past two years before leaving for Quantico. While we were sad when he departed, we were extremely proud he was going to become a Marine Corps officer. We always want to support our United States Marine Corps and we know that John will be upholding their finest traditions.

HONORING STEVEN METLER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Steven Metler

in recognition of his dedicated service as a Constituent Service Representative in my Vallejo District Office.

Mr. Metler was born in Vallejo, California and grew up in American Canyon. He attended Solano Community College before enrolling in California State University, Sacramento, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government in 2016. It was also during this time that he trained in German and spent six months at the Europa-Universität Flensburg studying International Political Economy.

After gaining valuable experience in the customer service industry, and rising to Department Manager of the Napa Walmart, Mr. Metler began his career in public service as an intern in my Napa district office. In this role, Mr. Metler communicated with constituents, helped organize and execute our events, and supported district staff with numerous state and national issues.

In 2020, he joined the staff of Assembly member Cecilia Aguiar Curry as a Field Representative where he liaised with government agencies and continued to assist the people of Napa. Mr. Metler served as a substitute teacher with the Napa Unified School District before he rejoined our team as a Constituent Service Representative in our Napa District Office before transferring to our Vallejo District Office.

As a Constituent Service Representative, Mr. Metler has successfully assisted with over 230 constituent requests ranging from wildfire assistance to passport applications. He has routinely gone above and beyond in his duties, ensuring that our events are well executed and that no constituent is left without the support they deserve. Because of his dedication, Mr. Metler recently won our casework hero award which honors the staff person in our district offices who did the most outstanding job with casework that quarter.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. Metler for his hard work, enthusiasm and enduring commitment to the people of California's 5th District. He has been an exemplary member of our staff and a valuable asset to his community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF GREGORY D. COUNTRYMAN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband and father, trailblazing Law Enforcement Officer and public servant, Sheriff Gregory D. Countryman. Sheriff Countryman was honored as the Community Service Person of the Year by the Controllers Civic and Social Club in Columbus, Georgia on December 3, 2022.

Born in Plains, Georgia, Countryman's family moved to Columbus, Georgia when his father was assigned to Fort Benning. He is a product of the Muscogee County School System, graduating from Baker High School in 1984. Although he struggled in his early life to overcome a learning disability, this challenge did not deter him from seeking higher education. He would go on to earn an impressive collection of degrees, including an Associate's

Degree from Georgia Military College; a Bachelor of Science Degree from Troy State University; a Master of Public Administration Degree from Columbus State University; a Master of Arts in Practical Theology from Ohio Christian University and, finally, a Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Counseling from Saint Thomas Christian University.

Countryman has been a dedicated public servant who has consistently gone above and beyond for the people of the Chattahoochee Valley region. He has dutifully served his community for thirty years as a highly respected law enforcement professional. As a Deputy in the Muscogee County Sheriffs Department, he served in the bureaus of Field services, Court Services, and the Fugitives and Jail Divisions. In 2004, he was elected to serve as the Marshal of Muscogee County, and he would go on to serve three terms.

As Marshal, Countryman was a visionary leader for law enforcement officials in Muscogee County and the state of Georgia. Desiring to improve public safety services beyond his community, he founded the Georgia Marshal Training Network, a non-profit organization to provide education and training to Marshals across the state and served as president of the organization. He believes that education is the passport to the future, and the future belongs to those who prepare for it today. With that vision in mind, he created the Junior Marshal Program for Middle School students which mentored and instilled within them the essential values of citizenship, leadership, education, fun, and teamwork. Since 2005, the Junior Marshal Program worked with nearly 2,000 young people, building lasting relationships between law enforcement and future generations, and making Muscogee County a safer place to live.

In 2020, Marshal Gregory Countryman made history by becoming the first African American to be elected Sheriff of Muscogee County, Georgia. After serving his community faithfully and effectively for over two decades, the people of Muscogee elected him sheriff with nearly 75 percent of the vote, demonstrating great trust in his ability to fairly enforce the laws and make our community safer.

It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Sheriff Countryman has paid his rent and he has paid it well. In addition to serving as the top law enforcement official for the second largest city in the state, he has given dedicated service to various organizations in his community to include Omega Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Electric City Masonic Lodge No. 322; the Georgia Marshal Training Network; American Legion 267 (SAL Member); the Fraternal Order of Police; the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; the Police Benevolent Association and the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

Knowing that public safety is a crucial and everchanging field, Sheriff Countryman has not rested on his laurels and has always tried to stay on the cutting edge of Law Enforcement Training and initiatives. He is a graduate of the Georgia Regional Command College Class No. 26, attended the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (L.E.E.D.S) training, and served as a former Assistant Adjunct Professor at Georgia Military College where he helped effectively train new prospective recruits in the field of law enforcement.

Sheriff Countryman has served and achieved so much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and love and support of his wife, Angela, and their three sons, Christopher, Gregory, Jr. (a Muscogee County Deputy Sheriff) and William.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District in recognizing, honoring, and commending Sheriff Gregory D. Countryman on receiving the Community Service Person of The Year Award from the Controllers Civic and Social Club in Columbus, Georgia. We commend and thank him for his selfless service to God, his community, and humankind.

RECOGNIZING SERVICE OF BEN
ROYDEN OGLETREE, JR

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Ben Ogletree, Jr.

Ben was born on October 6, 1938, in Livingston, Texas. He graduated from Livingston High School in 1956 and married the love of his life, Janice Helen Clark, on January 31, 1958.

Ben graduated in the class of 1960 from the University of Texas, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus on industrial management. He spent the next 25 years overseeing his family's land, timber, and wood products business.

In 1970, East Texas Bancshares, Inc., a bank holding company, elected Ben to serve on their Board of Directors and Executive Committee. As a devoted public servant, he also sat on the Livingston City Council for 32 years, spending 22 of those years as mayor of Livingston. In 1985, Ben became president and Chief Executive Officer of First State Bank. Later, he served as Chairman of the Board for both First State Bank and East Texas Bancshares, Inc. To recognize his years of outstanding service to the community, Polk County named him 1989's Polk Countian of the Year. In 1991, Ben graduated from Southern Methodist University's Southwestern Graduate School of Banking.

After a long career in business, Ben retired in 2005. However, he still serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for First State Bank. In addition to Ben's earnest commitment to his community, he is also incredibly passionate about flying and has held a commercial pilot's license for more than 50 years with ratings for multi-engine, instrument, and flight instructor. Ben continues to put the needs of others first while enjoying cherished hobbies like hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family. He is the father of three, grandfather to eight, and great-grandfather to five.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor my friend, Ben Ogletree, Jr., who has faithfully and humbly served his community, our state, and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF EARLE FRANCIS JONES

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my dear friend, Earle Francis Jones who recently announced his retirement from Comcast NBCUniversal. Earle has been a fixture on the Hill for many years and I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on a successful and storied career. Furthermore, I'd like to acknowledge the contributions Earle has made to the CBC community. They are too many to list here, but suffice it to say, the CBC can't thank Earle enough for his support and counsel to the CBC and the CBCF throughout the years.

Earle was born in Washington, D.C. to Earle Sr. and the former Sylvia Carroll. He is a product of the District of Columbia Public School system where he attended historic Coolidge High School.

There, he excelled in sports, music, and community service. Earle furthered his education by attending American University in Washington, D.C. He then went on to attend the University of California at Berkeley where he received his Juris Doctorate from the prestigious Boalt Hall School of Law.

Following law school, Earle practiced law at Holland and Hart in Denver, Colorado before entering private practice. During that time, he served on the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board as the Ethics Counselor for Colorado lawyers and as an adjunct Law Professor at the University of Denver.

Upon returning to Washington, D.C., Earle joined Tele-Communications, Inc. (TCI) in 1989 where he served as Division Director for Government Affairs and then its Federal Communications Commission Washington Counsel. For three years, he led Washington, D.C.'s District Cablevision as its General Manager and oversaw Comcast's acquisition of District Cablevision from AT&T in 2001.

In 2009, Earle joined Comcast Corporation's Washington Federal Government Affairs where he cultivated a reputation for being an expert on issues and a sought-after counselor and mentor to many on the Hill—especially in the CBC community.

Madam Speaker, I'm proud to say Earle Jones is my friend. I've always been impressed by his integrity and his ability to have empathy for others. I'd like to thank him for all the years he served on the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Board where he always provided excellent counsel and support.

Please join me in congratulating Earle Jones on a remarkable career and wishing him the best as he spends more time with his son Steve, daughter-in-law Heather and grandchildren Ryan and Rachel.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives I congratulate Earle Francis Jones on his remarkable career and his contributions to our Country and our community.

HONORING MAJOR CRAIG A.
OVERHOLT

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major Craig A. Overholt as he retires from the United States Army. For over two decades, Major Overholt's commitment to service has enabled him to excel in numerous leadership positions throughout the Army, including most recently as an Army Legislative Liaison.

Major Overholt's career began when he enlisted in the United States Army in 2002. He received his commission as a Quartermaster Officer in 2011 after graduating as the Distinguished Military Graduate from the Georgia Southern University ROTC program. Since then, he developed a reputation as a tactical and technical expert, who has served in the most demanding assignments in the Army, including multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

I had the distinct honor of hosting Major Overholt as a Defense Fellow in my office. While serving as my Defense Fellow and as a Legislative Liaison, Craig's interpersonal skills and character enabled him to clearly communicate priorities, ensuring members were educated on Army combat systems, modernization programs, and policy initiatives. Due to his exceptional work on military childcare, the Military Officers Association of America awarded him the Colonel Paul W. Arcari Meritorious Service Award, an award that honors congressional staffers who have made significant contributions to the military community. Craig also led multiple Congressional Delegations to various locations around the globe, distinguishing himself by continuously going above and beyond the call of duty to serve the needs of Congress.

This Chamber will feel Major Overholt's absence. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Major Craig Overholt for his outstanding leadership and remarkable sacrifices during his time in the Army Legislative Liaison Office and United States Army. I truly appreciate Craig and his family for their unwavering support to our Army, our Soldiers, and our Nation, and I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BELLE-
VUE POLICE OFFICER JORDAN
JACKSON

HON. KIM SCHRIER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bellevue Police Officer Jordan Jackson, who tragically died while on duty on November 21st.

Officer Jackson was born in Spokane, Washington and attended Issaquah High School, then later attended Central Washington University. Even before his life as a police officer, Officer Jackson devoted his life to public service as a first responder. He was an EMT, volunteer firefighter, and a member of the King County Sheriffs Office Search and Rescue Volunteer K-9 Unit.