

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Technical Sergeant Matthew Keefer epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Technical Sergeant Matthew Keefer of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

**TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
JASPER CURETON**

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazing judge, military veteran, and cherished community leader. Judge Jasper Cureton transitioned on December 6, 2022, in his home state of South Carolina. His work in and out of the court room broke barriers for many, and his legacy has left an indelible mark on the state.

Judge Cureton was born on April 26, 1938, in Walhalla, South Carolina to the late Jasper and Corrine Cureton. He attended Blue Ridge High School in Greer, South Carolina, where he was valedictorian of his graduating class in 1956. Despite facing economic difficulty, Judge Cureton recognized the value of education and went on to become a schoolmate of mine at South Carolina State College where he pursued a Bachelor of Science degree. Throughout his time in college, he worked delivering milk to afford his education. He was also a member of the ROTC program. After graduating third in his class in 1960, he became a Social Investigator for New York City's Department of Welfare. During his time in New York, he was called into active duty in the U.S. Army.

After two years of service in the Army, Judge Cureton obtained the rank of First Lieutenant. Upon satisfactory completion of his service, Cureton returned to South Carolina and taught school for a year, before making the decision to attend law school. Judge Cureton attended South Carolina State's law school for his first year. The following year S.C. State law school was closed, and he transferred to the University of South Carolina Law School in Columbia, South Carolina. In 1967, he would make history as the first African American since post-reconstruction to graduate from the University of South Carolina Law School. He was exemplary and finished second in his class.

Judge Cureton first worked for the Richland County Legal Aid Service, and briefly ran a private practice. In 1976, the state Senate elected Judge Cureton to serve as Richland County Master-In-Equity. In 1982, the Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court appointed him to a one-year term as a Special Circuit Judge. The same year, he was elected to serve as a Judge for the Family Court for the Fifth Circuit. In 1983, Judge Cureton once again made history when he became one of

six men elected by the state Senate to the South Carolina Court of Appeals in its inaugural year. Throughout his service, he was respected by all and a mentor to many. Judge Cureton retired from the Bench in 2003, having served a remarkable 27 years.

Throughout his career and even after retirement, Judge Cureton was an active member and volunteer for several civic and social organizations in the greater Midlands community. He served in leadership positions in United Way of the Midlands, Boy Scouts of America, Big Brothers of Columbia, The Family Service Center, the Nurturing Center, March of Dimes, Legal Services Corporation, Columbia Area Mental Health Center, and the Columbia Community Relations Council.

Through his community leadership, Judge Cureton was duly recognized with several awards and honors. In the 1972 edition, he was listed as one of the Outstanding Young Men of America, and he later received a Presidential Citation from the National Association for Equal Opportunities in Higher Education. For his military service, he was awarded the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation for his work in the Selective Service System, a Legion of Merit from the U.S. Army, and was inducted into the South Carolina State University ROTC Hall of Fame.

Jasper Cureton was grounded in his faith and was an active member of Zion Baptist Church, serving as Chairman of its Trustee Board for several years. He was married to the late Jean Burkins and was the father of two children, Jason Marshall Cureton and Indira Cureton.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the historic life of my dear friend, Judge Jasper Cureton. His rise from humble beginnings in rural South Carolina to his service on the South Carolina appellate court is inspirational. He broke many barriers and served his country, state, and community with distinction. I cannot think of a greater legacy. May he rest in peace.

HONORING RAQUEL REGALADO

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to recognize Miami-Dade County Commissioner Raquel Regalado for her contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on the July 28, 1896, date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Commissioner Raquel Regalado's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Commissioner Raquel Regalado for her contributions to the community and her role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

IN RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF DIANA REDDY FROM THE CITY COUNCIL OF REDWOOD CITY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a giant sunflower in a field of wildflowers. Diana Reddy, councilwoman in Redwood City, is leaving office. I am saddened to see her retire.

As a public policymaker she stands out because of her willingness to consistently advocate for low-income families across multiple issues, most importantly housing. Her support of these families led powerful forces to oppose her initial election. She prevailed, and her message of social justice, delivered from the dais in the years since, is a call that all fair-minded persons should heed.

Diana spent 35 years working in the administration of the Sequoia Union High School District, starting in 1972. The city changed enormously during that time. From that change, she drew many lessons that she applied to her city council service.

When Diana first worked for the school district, Redwood City had about 56,000 residents and median household income was about \$10,000, equivalent in 2020 to \$63,000. By 2020, the median household income was \$123,000 or almost double what it would have been if virulent housing inflation had not created a wave of gentrification that swept over Redwood City in the intervening decades.

Upon retirement, Diana went to work for Peninsula Interfaith Action and became the face of this group before many peninsula city councils. She advocated for affordable housing, transportation services and healthcare for all residents.

In 2010, she wrote an opinion piece in our local newspaper entitled, "Why Affordable Housing Week Matters" and noted that two affordable housing developments had recently opened in San Mateo County. One had 119 apartments and 1,500 applications, while the second had 68 apartments and 1,000 applicants. Each year, she noted, San Mateo County and two other nearby counties competed nationally for the dubious distinction of being the metropolitan area where housing costs and household income are most misaligned. This situation was simply unjust.

As she noted in comments made during her council campaign eight years later, "At first, the displacement we were seeing affected service workers, low-income seniors, and veterans and has evolved into our teachers, highly trained crafts workers, nurses and others critical to our community. We are the heart of one of the wealthiest areas in the country. That wealth was created on the backs of working people who are not able to benefit from their efforts."

Today, the city's focus has changed dramatically. When discussing city policies, staff and council are now committed to grappling with the question of how the policy impacts disparate groups within the city. Councilwoman Reddy and two other councilmembers served on a council subcommittee to hammer out a proposed equity plan for the city. This changed focus is one of the outcomes. She

even helped paint the community's Unity Mural.

In addition to her support for affordable housing and tenant protections, Diana has supported measures to address climate change, and is a strong supporter of public transportation improvements and of health care services for the entire community. Her Facebook page promotes community festivals and activities like Port Fest, coastal protection, Music on the Square, gun buyback and gun lock programs, and the Diane Howard clothing sale to benefit Kainos Home and Training Center.

During the height of the COVID pandemic she supported city resources to aid families and to protect tenants from evictions. As Redwood city responded to business requests for COVID changes to ordinances, she generally supported them.

At this point, it is easy to see why Redwood City Councilwoman Diana Reddy is a sunflower amidst a field of wildflowers. Wildflowers are beautiful, but sunflowers stand out. As one surveys the field, the eye fixes on the sunflower and its message: life is bursting forth. It is beautiful. It should be lived vividly. We thank her grandchildren Lahki Reddy and Ronan Gantes for allowing Diana to serve, no doubt sometimes at the expense of family time.

As a proud advocate for working families throughout the area, and as a councilwoman, Diana Reddy stood out. Tens of thousands will never know the debt they owe her but, in a democracy, it is enough that the effort was made, that it met with a measure of success, and that the example now exists for all who follow in service to this community. Diana Reddy is leaving the official field of public policy. She will remain a sunflower as a private advocate because her remarks into a public microphone will always stand out. As in the past, so in the future, for when she concludes her remarks, thousands will utter a quiet "thank you." I would like to say thank you, dear friend, for an extraordinary contribution to humankind.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT KATHERINE ROSA ORELLANA UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Staff Sergeant Katherine Rosa Orellana of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of

nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Staff Sergeant Katherine Rosa Orellana epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Staff Sergeant Katherine Rosa Orellana of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING DR. MARIA ORIAKHA

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to recognize Dr. Maria Oriakha for her contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on the July 28, 1896, date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Dr. Maria Oriakha's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Maria Oriakha for her contributions to the community and her role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are closing out the Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support for 23 important measures to make our communities more secure and improve Department of Homeland Security operations in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

I am particularly pleased that we were able to reach agreement on the Nonprofit Security Grant Program Improvement Act to expand and strengthen this vital program so that more nonprofits and houses of worship can access

security assistance at this time of heightened threats of violent extremism and terrorism. With antisemitic and other violent threats on the rise, it is clear this legislation is needed now more than ever.

I also want to thank Ranking Member JOHN KATKO, as he retires from Congress, for his contributions to the Homeland Security Committee and his critical support throughout this process for the Committee's bipartisan package found in Division G of the NDAA.

While the package reflects the contributions of so many of my colleagues, I would like to give special acknowledgment to Congresswoman VAL DEMINGS who championed the Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Act. This legislation directs DHS to explore ways to provide needed bridge funding to cities to preserve homeland security capability gains accomplished through the Urban Area Security Initiative grant program when they no longer receive such funding.

With respect to cybersecurity, I am pleased that we were able to reach agreement on bipartisan provisions that originated in the Committee on Homeland Security. They include Congresswoman ELISSA SLOTKIN's legislation to reauthorize the Secret Service's National Computer Forensics Institute, Congresswoman ELAINE LURIA's bill to authorize DHS's President's Cup Cybersecurity Competition, and legislation authored by Congressman ERIC SWALWELL aimed at improving DHS's cybersecurity training to protect industrial control systems.

While I am enormously proud of the bipartisan homeland security provisions that were included, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge my disappointment that we were not able to reach agreement with the Senate on amending the law to treat TSA's workforce like most other Federal employees or authorize the vital work of DHS's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. We will continue to seek an agreement on these critical measures.

Lastly, I am particularly proud that the NDAA honors my late friend, Congressman A. Donald McEachin, by including his bill, the DHS Mentor-Protégé Program Act, to help small businesses better compete for DHS contracts. It is a fitting tribute to my friend that we came together to pass a bill to open doors of opportunity to small businesses—something that he was passionate about doing.

Mr. Speaker, the full list of Homeland Security Committee measures that will be enacted by this year's NOAA is as follows:

H.R. 6825, the Nonprofit Security Grant Program Improvement Act of 2022, sponsored by Rep. BENNIE G. THOMPSON (D-MS).

H.R. 5615, the Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Act, sponsored by Rep. VAL BUTLER DEMINGS (D-FL).

H.R. 6387, the School and Daycare Protection Act, sponsored by Rep. DONALD M. PAYNE JR. (D-NJ).

H.R. 8801, the DHS Joint Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2022, sponsored by Rep. J. LUIS CORREA (D-CA) and S. 4656, the DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2022, sponsored by Sen. GARY C. PETERS (D-MI).

H.R. 2915, the Homeland Procurement Reform Act, sponsored by Rep. J. LUIS CORREA (D-CA) and S. 1009, the Homeland Procurement Reform Act, sponsored by Sen. JEANNE SHAHEEN (D-NH).