

homes and inconsistent enforcement of laws pertaining to slavery victimized freedom-seekers. Of the thousands who escaped toward Michigan, many were captured and returned to their enslavers. Upon Mr. Taylor's escape, he faced the difficult crossing of the Ohio River, and on April 1, 1855, he began a slow, two-week journey through the rugged terrain only by night, avoiding settlements and farms to evade capture. Deciding his progress was significantly hindered by the darkness, he sought to travel by day. Experiencing significant exhaustion as he slowly advanced in his travels, he fell asleep in bushes alongside the road one day only to be awoken by two bounty hunters and their bloodhounds who had taken him prisoner. Narrowly escaping, Mr. Taylor hid in the undergrowth as the bloodhounds and gunshots followed. The next five days of his trip were inconceivably taxing. He traveled five days by foot, without food or water, before being discovered by an abolitionist family who helped him regain his health before recommencing his trip northward. Although he had walked for three weeks, he was still far from his destination.

Just two days after resuming his trip, he was once again run down by bloodhounds. This time, Mr. Taylor was unable to escape his abductors and was arrested to be taken before a local justice. Through good fortune, the justice, an abolitionist, granted his release, and he continued on his way before finally reaching Niles, Michigan. From there, the Underground Railroad network assisted him in the final leg of his trip, east to Detroit and then to his freedom in Windsor, Ontario.

Two years after achieving his freedom, Mr. Taylor returned to Michigan, settling in the Birmingham area. Upon his arrival in rural Birmingham, Mr. Taylor worked as a farmhand and began living with Mr. J.P. Stewart. The Stewart's neighbor, Reverend James S. T. Milligan of the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, was known to be active with the Michigan Underground Railroad network and his farm remained a safe place for freedom-seekers leading up to the Civil War's conclusion. By 1870, slavery had officially been abolished in the reunited country, and Mr. Taylor had continued to build his new life in Michigan. No longer a laborer, Mr. Taylor now farmed his own land with his wife, Mrs. Eliza Dosier, also someone who was formerly enslaved. His position as a respected and contributing member of society grew, and in 1872, Reverend Milligan sought the Taylors' help to set up a new church in Denison, Kansas, relocating the family westward.

The Taylors returned to Michigan from 1876 to after 1880, when they once again relocated to Denison, Kansas. When Milligan retired and left Denison, the Taylors returned to Birmingham in 1893, and were proudly the first African American property owners in town. While Reverend Milligan and Mr. Taylor's connection can be verified through their work in Kansas, it is possible that the two had known each other since Mr. Taylor's escape in 1855 and remained in contact as anti-slavery advocates. Records suggest that, during his time in Michigan, Mr. Taylor may have played a key role in resettling newly freed Black Americans. Census records show several children present in the household who then are absent from the household by the time of the next census. While it is difficult to verify, it is speculated that Black families, such as the Taylors, were

fostering homeless African American minors and orphans, continuing their contributions to the abolition movement by assisting with their transition to freedom. Mr. Taylor faced unimaginable hardship in his early life, but he courageously pressed on, finding his purpose in service to others.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to represent the City of Birmingham, Michigan, a community that's history is so closely intertwined with the fight for a more just nation. Its role as a destination for freedom-seekers and home to influential abolitionists, including Mr. Elijah S. Fish and Mr. George B. Taylor, makes the 11th Congressional District proud. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the rich history of Birmingham, Michigan, and honor the two men whose stories were highlighted today, and may Michigan maintain its role as a destination for freedom-seekers and those who fight for a more just society.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
CHARLES STONE UPON COMPLETION
OF HIS TERM OF OFFICE
ON THE BELMONT CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend and colleague Belmont City Councilmember and former Mayor Charles Stone as he concludes his term of office on the city council. The city is losing a truly conscientious and forward-looking leader.

Charles Stone is a lifelong resident of San Mateo County and a resident of Belmont since 2004. He was first elected to the city council in 2013 and then was re-elected in 2017. He is a graduate of Hillsdale High School, the University of California at San Diego, where he received his degree in political science, and Santa Clara University School of Law. He practices law at the Law Office of Katherine R. Moore in Redwood City.

Prior to joining the city council, he served on the Board of Directors of School-Force!, a nonprofit raising funds for Belmont and Redwood Shores schools. His interest in city policy began as he noticed a lack of cooperation between the city and school district. As he put it, "It was more like two fists pounding together than two hands being aligned and I didn't like that." In 2013, he threw his hat into the ring to create more family-friendly policies and those more amendable to working families.

Throughout his time on the city council, Charles Stone has been focused on housing, transportation and economic development. After two terms on the council, and after many long nights discussing housing and the city's general plan, Belmont is one of the few cities in San Mateo County that is on track to meet its state-mandated goals to produce affordable units. The most recent development, Firehouse Square, is 100 percent affordable and has 66 units adjacent to the Belmont Caltrain Station. There are 331 units of affordable housing built in recent years or in the pipeline, along the El Camino Real transit corridor. Charles has been a leader in making this new housing a reality.

As a councilmember, he serves as the council's representative to seven intergovern-

mental agencies and to multiple nonprofits. He has six council committee assignments.

However, his most time-consuming assignment outside of the council chambers is his role as a member of the board of our local transit agency, Samtrans, and as a board member of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain). He is an undisputed regional leader in transportation. He successfully negotiated, along with two other local leaders, for the payment of \$35 million to Samtrans for its 1991 purchase of the Caltrain right of way on behalf of three counties. For more than a year, and in the midst of confusion and finger pointing by leaders in other counties, Charles repeatedly and publicly read the terms of the longstanding contract and demanded that the terms not be changed without appropriate repayment of the outstanding debt. The money and new terms were approved this year, marking a rare moment when San Mateo County and its transportation interests were treated equally by the other two counties.

Charles fought successfully to raise the minimum wage in Belmont. He twice served as Mayor. He worked with a neighboring community to end traffic gridlock near a high school. He supported his police department while embracing the need for change to ensure equity. He also supported the arrival of Stanford University to the campus of a small liberal arts university long located in Belmont. During his time on the council, bioscience discovered Belmont. Councilman Stone supported conversion of office space to lab space and the construction of new labs. During the darkest days of the pandemic, Charles and his colleagues created a \$100,000 fund for local businesses, adding to state and federal small business funds. He also appropriately chastised the federal government's business pandemic relief programs for leaving too many behind and for operating with insufficient controls. "Had [the federal government] dug in a little more and spent more time on this I think we'd be in better shape today," he noted in April 2020. I think the GAO auditors tracing fraud would agree with Councilman Stone.

It is now time for Charles Stone to step down from the city council and to regain time to hike with his daughters, Sophia and Sara, around Waterdog Lake. I want to thank him for putting his astute mind to use on behalf of working and middle-class families in San Mateo County for over 10 years. He can honestly state that the difference he made is cast in concrete, framed in steel, and sits within a beautiful city blessed with green hills and oak trees that he cherishes. He improved the lives of tens of thousands. This ex-rugby player is temporarily leaving the field, but the score on the board shows that, despite occasional injuries and perhaps a few involuntary blood donations, he was key to delivering a win for the people of Belmont.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER JOHN
SAWYER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Sawyer of Santa Rosa, California in honor of his retirement and sixteen years as a council member and mayor.

Mr. Sawyer was born in Santa Rosa, California. He graduated from Montgomery High School in Santa Rosa in 1973. He took over management of his family's business at age 21—Sawyer's News, a very popular downtown Santa Rosa news and magazine stand started by his great grandfather in 1936. Several years later he joined the Santa Rosa Downtown Development Association beginning his successful career of community and public service.

In 2004, Mr. Sawyer was elected to the Santa Rosa City Council for his first term. He served from 2004 to 2012 and then another two terms from 2014 to 2022. In 2008, Mr. Sawyer was appointed mayor and served as the city's first openly gay mayor. He was appointed mayor again in 2014. Mr. Sawyer worked tirelessly to secure the reunification of Old Courthouse Square. Santa Rosa's downtown square had been bisected since 1966. Old Courthouse Square is now a popular hub for markets, performances, shows, and other community events. In addition, Mr. Sawyer led an effort to annex Roseland, a 700-acre island of unincorporated land, into the City of Santa Rosa. For decades, the Roseland community, a vibrant neighborhood with many Latino residents but with one of the lowest income levels in Sonoma County, had languished with limited access to vital services and poor infrastructure. Mr. Sawyer helped resolve this crisis of equity with a historic financial agreement that brought critical services to the 7,400 new residents of Santa Rosa.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Sawyer for his selfless service and commitment to the people of Santa Rosa. His efforts have made Santa Rosa a more dynamic, diverse, and prosperous city. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CONGRATULATING MR. DAVID TADLOCK ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSISSIPPI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize David Tadlock.

As the owner and operator of Tadlock Stockyards for nearly 50 years, Mr. Tadlock has played a crucial role in the success of the cattle industry in Mississippi. David's commitment to the industry is clear, not only in the time and energy he has dedicated to his business, but also in the fact that he comes from a long line of cattlemen.

Mr. Tadlock's family has owned and operated Tadlock Stockyards for nearly a century, passing the business down from one generation to the next. David's dedication to his family's legacy is evident in his determination to take over the business at such a young age, and in his plans to involve his granddaughter in the family business.

I want to extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Tadlock on his induction into the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association Hall of Fame. This is a well-deserved honor. The Mississippi Cattlemen's Association is blessed to have members like David Tadlock, who have made

such a significant impact on the industry as well as my home state of Mississippi. I am pleased to highlight this prestigious honor and recognize a lifetime of contributions and impactful service.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. David Tadlock for his many accomplishments and his dedication to Mississippi and the United States. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring David Tadlock.

HONORING DWIGHT BULLARD

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to recognize Senator Dwight Bullard for his contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2020.

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, Senator Dwight Bullard'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 Dwight Bullard for his contributions to the community and his role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF THE HONORABLE REGINA WALLACE-JONES FROM THE CITY COUNCIL OF EAST PALO ALTO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend and colleague Regina Wallace-Jones as she steps away from the City Council of East Palo Alto. Her service will influence the course of the city for decades to come.

Regina was raised in West Covina in a family with multiple requirements: Obtain an excellent education, clean the house on Saturday, go to church on Sunday, and give service to the community. She noted on her campaign blog that Family Pizza Fridays were a must. In her 200-word candidate statement she mentioned that she is the daughter of union laborers and that she understood the struggle for livable wages and affordable housing. Upon reviewing the statement, her father asked if she would substitute Communications Workers of America for union laborers. She acknowledged that his change would be better, but then she would be two words over the limit. The proud union member relented.

Regina received her bachelor's in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University and her Master of Science in Public Policy from the University of California, Los Angeles. She spe-

cialized in telecommunications and technology policy.

She and her husband, Sheffond Jones, moved into their home in East Palo Alto in April of 2002, part of a new development known as Shorebreeze Runnymede. It's a small cluster of homes where neighbors fix their broken fences together, deal with infestations of field mice, help out with childcare, and stay friendly over time.

In fact, friendliness is a word that describes East Palo Alto. Its people work hard across its 2.2 square miles, and often help out each other when times are difficult. It's a community where the median household income is \$96,000, about 70 percent of the countywide median. It also sits side-by-side with Meta, and gentrification of the community is a significant concern.

It was into this community that Regina advanced in 2018 with her 500 campaign signs and dozens of volunteers, offering to take up the challenges of being a city councilmember. She advocated for closer relations with the school district, technology training for residents, decreased traffic, economic development, and building affordable housing.

The Ravenswood Business District is the city's largest opportunity to create new laboratory and office buildings. In 2019, the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration made a \$4.4 million investment as part of an economic renewal project in this district. Regina has supported responsible development of the area to bring thousands of new employees to what will eventually be a new downtown. For the entire city, she supported obtaining water from neighboring communities to cure reliability problems that plague the existing water system. During her time in office, she strongly supported new infrastructure, including a new bike bridge over Highway 101 to connect residents on the west side of the city with the eastern side that has most of the stores and services.

Regina was Mayor in 2020. Many of the residents of East Palo Alto are front-line essential workers. In September 2020, the city had a test positivity rate of 15 percent, more than three times higher than the countywide positivity rate. At a council meeting that month she noted, "One of the biggest solutions that helps people recover is early identification and early intervention. And that comes from testing." As the pandemic sickened and killed residents, Mayor Wallace-Jones and her colleagues used city funds to first establish widespread testing and then to support outreach and staffing for a large vaccination program. Culturally competent outreach and volunteer efforts spread throughout the community. She and her council colleagues also had to grapple with a significant decline in tax revenue. Careful management of vacant positions and an infusion of federal aid helped bridge the gap.

It is now time for the mother of Addison and Jocelyn to return to evenings with her family. It will not be easy, as Regina is also a CEO of a non-profit. However, this busy executive, daughter, mom and spouse deserves time to spend with her family. On our recent election day, when she had chosen not to be on the ballot, she reflected online, "I loved my opportunity to serve. And I hope that more get out there and do the same. The end is only bitter when you've got nothing left. I'm grateful for every vote and every dollar that supported me."