

years. We'll miss her dearly at the New Democrat Coalition, and I wish her only the best.

HONORING MIAMI/BAHAMAS
GOOMBAY FESTIVAL BOARD

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, from the 24th District of the great State of Florida, I rise today to honor Fredrika S. Brown, Leona Cooper, and Herb Hiller who have served on the board of the Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival since its inception.

The Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival is a celebration of cultural expression embracing the legacy of Miami's Bahamian-rooted community known as Coconut Grove. The three-day celebration strives to provide a historical overview of the American/Bahamian culture by educating and exposing the public to its rich heritage and traditions.

The Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival in Coconut Grove is dedicated to recognizing, promoting and educating the residents of Miami-Dade County and tourists about the rich Bahamian and American Heritage and what makes this such a unique and positive blend.

The board strives to provide a historical overview of the Bahamian Culture, the commemoration of the early Coconut Grove settlers, and to introduce their music, native food specialties, artifacts, and crafts that are indigenously of the island.

The Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival is held to bring about unity and bridge a cultural gap by building communities through the understanding of each other's likenesses and differences.

Since 1977, the Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival has celebrated the Bahamian culture of Miami-Dade County. The festival would not be possible without the hard work of the board who has stayed the course. I salute this effort and I am thankful to the Goombay Festival committee for keeping the rich culture of our Bahamian ancestors alive in Miami.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DELANO JOHNSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Delano Johnson as he celebrates his 80th birthday.

Delano has dedicated his life to serving and empowering the East County community in Contra Costa, California. Delano is the founder of Bay Point Community All-N-One Inc., a nonprofit founded in 2012 that helps connect Bay Point residents with essential resources including housing, food, clothing, and hygiene products. The organization hosts a weekly event that provides critical support and services to up to 200 families each week. Further, thanks to Delano's leadership, the organization recently hosted a very successful Thanksgiving Giveaway, distributing over 1,000 turkeys and chickens to the community.

Delano participates with a number of nonprofits in the area to do more work to better his community, including White Pony Express, Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, Village Keepers, and Stand Together Contra Costa. Additionally, Delano regularly hosts meetings between local charities, nonprofits, and other community-based organizations, allowing these groups to easily connect and to better provide for the residents of East County. Delano's hard work and dedication are admired by all who know him.

Please join me in recognizing and thanking Delano Johnson for his years of dedicated service as we celebrate his 80th birthday.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW
WASHINGTON ON HIS DEPARTURE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and on behalf of the Members of the Committee, and its staff, to pay tribute to Matthew Earl Washington as he departs federal service after a lengthy career in the House of Representatives.

Originally from North Carolina, Matt's distinguished career in the House began in the office of the late civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis of Georgia as a Legislative Assistant. He later served as Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman John Olver of Massachusetts when the congressman served on the Appropriations Committee. His extensive knowledge of America's security, transportation, and infrastructure earned him the position of Staff Director of the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee of the House Committee on Homeland Security where he adeptly served as the lead staffer on all Subcommittee matters for Chairwoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

Since then, for the past nearly 15 years, Matt has served the Appropriations Committee with great diligence. The Committee's longest serving African American staffer on the Democratic side, he began his impressive tenure as a Professional Staff Member on the Defense Subcommittee where he oversaw the programs and funding that support active duty and reserve personnel. He later served as a Professional Staff Member for the full committee, ensuring smooth legislative and procedural processes for the Committee and Member offices.

Following these roles, equipped with unparalleled knowledge of the Committee, Matt took on the role of Clerk for the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee in 2011 becoming the first African American staffer to hold the position. He skillfully managed and negotiated all aspects of the Subcommittee's jurisdiction, and his leadership has helped protect our national security, uphold our commitment to servicemembers, veterans, and their families, and rebuild critical military infrastructure. In 2019, Matt began serving as Clerk of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, expertly leading the Subcommittee to enormous legislative triumphs in an attempt at making Congress work better for the American people.

His years of experience and expert knowledge of the Appropriations Committee made him an excellent addition to my Front Office staff when I became Chair of the full committee, where he has since served as Deputy Staff Director for the past two years. He has been at the helm of the investments we have made to help working families and vulnerable people all over our nation. In his unique role, he has been instrumental in the implementation of Community Project Funding, coordinating spending between all 12 subcommittees, and representing the Committee in front of critical partners during negotiations. And personally, he has been a trusted advisor throughout my first term leading this Committee.

While we will miss Matt greatly, we are excited for what the future holds for him. I wish Matt, his wife Chandini, and their children Yara and Zayn all the best, and extend my gratitude to his family for sharing him with us for so many years.

Our Nation is safer and this body is stronger because of Matt's tireless work. I join all Members of the Appropriations Committee who he has worked with in saying we will miss his expertise greatly. The Appropriations Committee is a family—one made up of all the staff and Members who serve and have served this great institution. We are all so lucky that he will forever be part of this distinguished group. Congratulations on a remarkable federal career. His country is endlessly grateful for his leadership, service, and dedication.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY
LEADERSHIP OF ADMIRAL BENJAMIN
NICHOLSON

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Admiral Benjamin Nicholson for his outstanding leadership as Commander of Joint Region Marianas. In June of 2021, Admiral Nicholson was sworn in as Commander of Joint Region Marianas tasked with fortifying American freedom and democracy in his work to achieve Indo-Pacific Command objectives while strengthening Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. With unwavering focus on the mission of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Nicholson goes above and beyond the call of duty with his attention to the communities he serves, actively engaging local leadership and stakeholders to ensure the welfare of the general public.

Admiral Nicholson's commitment to our Armed Services began in the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering in 1993. He continued to build his foundation earning his master's degree in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and a master's degree in National Security from the Naval War College. His background spans numerous command positions and numerous deployments around the world during his sea-going career.

Admiral Nicholson has further served in combat tours in Helmand, Afghanistan, and

the Provincial Reconstruction Team and Forward Operating Base in Farah, Afghanistan. He also served in numerous ashore billets including Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Assistant Deputy Director Middle East Directorate in the Joint Staff; Special Operations Support Team to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and head of the professional development section in the Chief of Naval Operations staff. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), Combat Action Ribbon, and various campaign and unit awards. He is also a 2015 recipient of the FBI's Director's Award.

As a first on Guam, Admiral Nicholson led unclassified briefings to multiple local leadership stakeholders on threats facing the island and region, engaging local Mayors, Senators, and Administration officials with unparalleled transparency that has served to build awareness of, confidence in, and partnership with the objectives of the Department of Defense.

The need to defend the territory of Guam from potential military threats is not limited to military establishments under Admiral Nicholson's leadership. Recent efforts to secure missile defense systems for the territory are taking a 360-degree focus to protect the entirety of the island, civilian and military alike, reassuring front-line Americans that they are protected, and reinforcing our safety and suitability to our critical visitor industry.

The food security and supply chain resilience for the region is strengthened in his work with our office to explore the feasibility of leasing Department of Defense lands for cattle grazing operations, further serving to advance local economic growth and diversification in a community that currently relies on over 90 percent of imported products.

With the island in the midst of a housing crisis due to labor shortages, material costs, and the tyranny of distance relative to American job and resource markets, Admiral Nicholson takes a mindful and creative approach in encouraging greater housing inventory to mitigate the civilian housing market impact of substantial military personnel relocation, and the subsequent growth of military housing needs.

Admiral Nicholson regularly and openly engages to address Veteran, Gold Star Family, and military dependent needs for access to amenities located within military facilities, deftly navigating the complexities of a community seeking greater access to military support in balance with the needs of mission viability.

Poignantly, Admiral Nicholson continues to be an avid partner in addressing critical healthcare needs throughout the island and region, providing guidance and solutions as the territory navigates the largest investment in its history to establish a modern healthcare facility to meet modern day healthcare needs throughout Micronesia and beyond.

The service to the country in the work of Admiral Nicholson is nothing short of exemplary, not only in his ability to effectively lead and manage the military front lines of America in the Indo-Pacific, but to do so in a manner that reflects unprecedented mindfulness of the holistic value in building, maintaining, and reinforcing community confidence and support critical to mission success

Madam Speaker, the Department of Defense and the Department of the Navy are well served and represented by the command talent of Admiral Benjamin Nicholson who is a builder of allies, communities, and constituencies. I extend my gratitude to the Admiral for his invaluable service to our Nation, and I commend him for his commitment to community engagement, civilian well-being, and his mission as Commander of Joint Region Marianas.

HONORING THE MILITARY AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF BRENNA HOLDER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant First Class (Retired) Brenna Holder for her over 31-year career to the Mississippi Army National Guard where she served as an Active Guard Reserve Soldier (AGR). She has also served in my office for nearly 4 years as a Congressional Staffer assisting nearly 3,000 of my constituents.

She comes from a long line of Patriots, most notably her maternal grandfather, Dominick Fenelli, a United States Marine Corps, World War II Purple Heart recipient. Like her grandfather, her service began when she was 18 years old.

She enlisted as a Private attending basic training at Fort Jackson, SC. She served with the Installation Support Unit at Camp Shelby as an Administrative Specialist. She was mobilized in 1990 for Operation Desert Storm in support of Camp Shelby. She moved to Washington, D.C. in 1991 and served in the Special Actions Branch at National Guard Bureau. She served as a National Guard Support Coordinator handling logistics and administrative support for the Operation Desert Storm Homecoming Parades in Washington, D.C., and New York City. In 1997, she earned her diploma as a Licensed Practical Nurse while serving in the 108th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. In 2000, she was hired AGR to serve as the Medical Detachment 6 NCOIC at Camp Shelby. She was mobilized again in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in support of units mobilizing at Mobilization Center Shelby. She later served as the Human Resources Senior Noncommissioned Officer in the Personnel Section S1 at the 154th Regiment, Regional Training Institute. She was instrumental in her section receiving favorable results in multiple TRADOC inspections. She served a few years as the Mississippi National Guard NCO Association's Awards Chairperson. She received training as an Intelligence Analyst at Fort Bragg, NC, Emergency Medical Technician at Camp Shelby, and Army Instructor at the Regional Training Institute at Camp Shelby. Her military training culminated with her completion of the Master Leader Course. She was honorably promoted to Master Sergeant in the State of Mississippi upon her retirement.

She received many state and federal awards while in service. Most notably, the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medals, and Army Achievement Medals.

Brenna was also a former Miss Mississippi Petite and selected in the top ten at the Na-

tional level. She earned her Associates of Applied Science degree from Delaware County Community College graduating with high honors in Surgical Technology. She worked in the Operating Room at Wesley Medical Center before returning to Active Duty. She also studied Management Information Systems and Applied Technology at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Like many soldiers, she juggled it all while raising her family. She has two boys, and has been married to her husband, Josh, for over 22 years.

She has been a compassionate, dedicated, and loyal member of my team. I am honored to recognize her for her outstanding service to my constituents of South Mississippi and her example as a true American Patriot.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF HARTFORD

HON. JOSEPH SEMPOLINSKI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. SEMPOLINSKI. Madam Speaker, this week marks the anniversary of the Treaty of Hartford. Prior to 1786, the States of Massachusetts and New York had a territorial dispute regarding whether the territory of what is now Greater Western New York would be part of Massachusetts or New York.

On December 16, 1786, the Treaty of Hartford resolved this dispute. As part of the treaty, land in Greater Western New York became part of New York State. However, Massachusetts retained the right of preemption, that is, the right to negotiate any land purchase from the Iroquois Confederacy members or Haudenosaunee, especially the Seneca people who then resided and continue to reside on it to this day. Later in 1788, Massachusetts sold this right of preemption to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham.

Early agreements such as the Treaty of Hartford and the still-binding Treaty of Canandaigua shaped the future of Greater Western New York. The beginning of this region's association with New York State started this week, in 1786. The region continues to be a vital and unique part of the northeastern United States and the Seneca Nation, with a unique economy, culture, and character.

RECOGNIZING GUNNAR MARSHALL WEST

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2022 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Gunnar Marshall West, Captain, United States Army, of Dallas, Texas for the honorable service he performed while in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Mr. West was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1973 and commissioned as an officer in 1978,