

the Birmingham Campaign and the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. Though his participation in the movement resulted in him being beaten, arrested, and fired from his job, he continued to fight for justice and equality for all, planning strategies for public protests following the shooting of five African Americans who had been protesting at a supermarket during the 1960s and filing a lawsuit on behalf of the youth suspended from school during the demonstration to ensure that they could be re-instated.

As a result of his tenacity and dedication, Bishop Woods was appointed by Dr. King as the SCLC City Convener for the Birmingham Ministers Leadership Conference. In this position, Bishop Woods was responsible for educating ministers concerning Black history, picketing, housing, direct non-violent protesting, voter registration, and negotiations to ensure that they were fully equipped to continue leading their congregations throughout the movement.

Apart from his work as a Civil Rights leader, Bishop Woods has continued to play a vital role in the Birmingham community through his various community affiliations and as the pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, where he has led the congregation for the past 34 years. Bishop Woods has served in multiple capacities including, board member of the Birmingham Board of Education at Parker High School in Discipline and Administration; evening supervisor for the Park High Community School; counselor, group worker, and center director for the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity; and board member of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. His additional community affiliations include former president of the New Era Baptist State Convention of Alabama; former ViceChair of the Board of Trustees of the Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College; and former National Chaplain of the SCLC. Today, at the age of 80, he continues to champion the cause for human rights serving currently as Vice President of the National Southern Christian Leadership Conference and as a member of the National Board of Directors of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. On a personal note, the contributions that Bishop Woods made to ensure the equal rights of all Americans during the Civil Rights Movement are truly exemplary. To call him an icon of the movement is an understatement. His unwavering commitment to improving the lives of Black Alabamians has earned him a unique place in history. It was because of his courage, sacrifice, and conviction that so many of us now have the leadership positions we do today. We owe Bishop Woods a debt that we cannot repay. I hope the knowledge that his legacy of extraordinary service will live on and the many people he has impacted will be and a source of great pride during his retirement. Thank you for being such a powerful agent for change. On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary leadership and service of Bishop Calvin W. Woods, Sr., and his contributions to not only the community of Birmingham as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Birmingham Chapter but to the world as a Civil Rights leader.

IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF
NICOLE YADON AND KYLE SMITH

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nicole Yadon and Kyle Smith on the occasion of their marriage. This special day is worthy of commendation.

Nicole (Nikki) Yadon is a Michigan native and University of Michigan graduate. She met her husband, Kyle Smith, in 2013 while both were students at the University of Michigan. They had their first official date at The Prickly Pear in Ann Arbor. After Kyle graduated from Michigan in 2015, Kyle and Nikki dated long distance for a year and a half while Nikki was still in school. They travelled back and forth from Ann Arbor to San Francisco, Columbus, San Antonio, and Washington, D.C. to be together—they made sure to visit all of the best diners in each city along the way.

Nikki has always had a love for politics and government. She interned at the Democratic Governors' Association in the summer of 2016, then for State Rep. Donna Lasinski's campaign in the fall of 2016, culminating with an internship in my office. After interning in the district office from January through May 2017 and graduating from the University of Michigan, Nikki moved to Washington, D.C. to continue her career in politics and worked for the people of Michigan's 12th District on Capitol Hill from June through August 2017. Since then, she has since worked for the Democratic Governors' Association in a variety of capacities, and currently serves as Director of Events.

In September 2019, two years after Nikki and Kyle moved in together and became dog parents to Bandit, their favorite border collie, Kyle proposed to Nikki at her parents' house in Troy, Michigan. Through working from home together during COVID in 2020, their love for each other continued to grow. Kyle and Nikki officially got married in a small, COVID-safe ceremony in Washington, D.C. on May 22, 2021. They are looking forward to spending their 11-month anniversary with friends and family at the rescheduled wedding celebration in Newport, RI on April 30, 2022.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Nicole and Kyle. I join with the couple's family and friends in extending my best wishes to them on this special day and wish them happiness and blessings in the years to come.

HONORING TRINITY AME CHURCH,
LANSING

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of Lansing's African-American faith community: Trinity AME Church. For over 150 years, the area's oldest black church has knit itself into the fabric of its community, serving folks in ways that are too many to count.

Trinity was founded in 1866 with only 21 members, and today it boasts a congregation

more than 400 strong. Its roots in the Lansing community run deep, having been cultivated by generations of devoted congregants. Take a look around the pews on a Sunday and you'll see folks who have been coming to Trinity for decades. They come to say a prayer or chat with an old friend—to enjoy those little moments of community and humanity.

Some have been members of Trinity AME for decades, like former MSU Athletic Director, and 2017 inductee into the MSU Hall of Fame, Clarence Underwood. He first joined in 1958 while studying at MSU, and never looked back.

Trinity's impact reaches far beyond the walls of the church building off West Holmes Road. From youth programs, scholarships, clothing drives and more, Trinity and its congregation are devoted to supporting the people of Lansing. The congregation has also reached out beyond their immediate community, like helping the residents of Flint during its water crisis.

With such a spirited and steadfast congregation, it is no surprise that Trinity is headed up by such a vibrant pastor. Pastor Lila Martin is the first woman to take the pulpit, and she has risen to the occasion.

From getting kids involved in the services, to returning the church to its role as a vital part of the community, she is shepherding her congregation into a new era in its long history.

Pastor Martin ends her sermons with, "Maybe you're without a church home, then I invite you to allow Trinity to be your church home, we will accept you." Her steadfast effort to open Trinity's doors to all who may need it is felt each and every week.

With in-person services returning and the congregation stronger than ever, the future looks bright for Trinity. Its history, members, and presence in the community is an essential part of Lansing, and I am proud that its impact will be forever known.

RECOGNIZING THE VICTIMS OF
THE BAKU AND SUMGAI PO-
GROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Sumgait pogrom and the 32nd anniversary of the Baku pogrom.

Hundreds of Armenian civilians living in the city of Sumgait in Azerbaijan suffered horrific acts of violence when they were indiscriminately killed, raped, maimed, and burned alive in a pogrom that started on February 27, 1988. Almost two years later, a seven-day pogrom broke out in Baku during which Armenians were beaten, murdered, and expelled from the city beginning January 12, 1990. Over 90 Armenian civilians were killed, over 700 were injured, and countless other victims were permanently displaced by the ethnic violence that followed.

The Azerbaijani Government was complicit in each of these atrocities by using violent rhetoric in rallies leading up to the pogrom and by doing nothing to halt the ensuing violence against Armenian citizens. Azerbaijan has taken steps over the last two decades to cover up these crimes against humanity and dismiss

the atrocities committed in Sumgait and Baku. Even more disturbing, the Azeri Government lauded the perpetrators of this event and similar violent attacks.

President Aliyev's regime continues to use hateful rhetoric against Armenians to this day, including in the build up to Azerbaijan's deadly attacks on Artsakh in the fall of 2020. Azeri forces, Turkish drones, and Turkish-backed foreign terrorists conducted a premeditated attack that violated international law. The resulting indiscriminate bombing campaigns against large population centers killed thousands of Armenians and displaced tens of thousands more. It also included appalling war crimes against Armenians at the hands of Azerbaijani forces and foreign mercenaries that included beheadings, torture, and other abhorrent acts of violence.

I continue to stand with the Armenian people in condemning the horrific pogroms and in mourning the loss of those who were senselessly killed in Artsakh and subsequent Azeri attacks on Armenian soil. It is critical for the United States to recognize and denounce violent assaults against all civilians. If we do not condemn or punish crimes against humanity and ethnic violence, we become passive bystanders, failing to live up to the lessons of the 20th century and our pledge to uphold human rights and democratic values all over the world. If we do not take a firm stand against those who commit atrocities, it will embolden them and encourage others to commit heinous acts in the future. These lessons are especially important as we prepare to commemorate the 107th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in April.

I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus to honor the victims of the Baku and Sumgait pogroms and the victims of Azerbaijani aggressions in Artsakh. I will also continue to condemn all acts of violence against people who are targeted simply because of who they are. I hope my colleagues will join me in rejecting violent rhetoric, intimidation and outright violations of human rights. In doing so, we renew our commitment to achieving a lasting peace in the Caucasus.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 30th anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly, Azerbaijan. Khojaly, which is in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. On February 26, 1992, in the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians during the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than 100 children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents, and at least 8 families were entirely killed.

Although a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, it is my hope that Armenia and Azer-

baijan can come together and find peace. The conflict remains unresolved, and we saw an unfortunate escalation of conflict in 2020 in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Long-term peace, security, and regional cooperation are in the best interests of the entire region of the South Caucasus and the world.

Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies. This cooperation has included: playing a leadership role in non-proliferation issues; providing troops to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit of non-lethal equipment used by coalition forces through Azerbaijan to Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy, thereby providing Europe with an alternative to Russian energy sources; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil. Azerbaijan also has a thriving Jewish community and has outstanding relations with Israel.

As Azerbaijanis throughout the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, I hope they can find peace amidst this tragedy.

HONORING GEORGE JEWETT

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George Jewett, a legend of the gridiron, a physician, and an entrepreneur who blazed a trail through the history of both football and race relations, breaking barriers and records at every turn, including a forward pass through Howell, Michigan.

Intelligent, driven, and athletically blessed, George was a classic all-American, and he was also an African-American at a time when Jim Crow was tightening its grip on the country.

Valedictorian of the class of 1889 at Ann Arbor High School, Jewett captained the football and baseball teams—as well as the debate club. He was the fastest sprinter in the Midwest, and was fluent in German, Italian, and French. He went on to attend the University of Michigan, becoming the first African American in the school's history to letter in football, and ultimately one of its greatest stars.

Though he excelled on the field and in the classroom, Jewett endured racial taunts and physical abuse on and off the field. A newspaper during Jewett's time aptly described him as "a brilliant player who stands punishment with indifference."

Jewett transferred to Northwestern University in 1893 where he suited up for the Wildcats, becoming the first Black player for that school's football team as well. Upon graduating from medical school in 1895, he returned to Michigan where Howell Public Schools Superintendent Robert Briggs hired the doctor as coach of the first official Howell High School football team.

Now, high school sports had different rules and norms in the late 1800s, with teams composed of both student athletes and local residents who would join them. And that is how Dr. George Jewett became not just the first Black coach of a Michigan high school football team, but also a teammate.

To fundraise for the new team, Mr. Jewett hosted a gala at the Howell Opera House, a lavish event featuring food, music, and demonstrations of football plays.

By all accounts it was a smashing success, and if it hadn't been for that event, we might never have known about the remarkable role George Jewett played in Howell's history.

A program from his fundraiser was recently found under the floorboards of the Howell Opera House during its renovation, connecting this trailblazing legend to the community, and forever cementing his role in Howell history.

Last fall, the George Jewett Trophy—the first rivalry trophy in major college football named for an African American player—debuted in Ann Arbor when the University of Michigan played Northwestern University. And from now on, the George Jewett Trophy will be played for, each and every time the two programs meet on the field.

I'm so proud to see George Jewett's cultural, academic, and athletic accomplishments solidified, immortalized and set in stone.

It is my honor to record his name and his story so that all who read it may catch inspiration from his groundbreaking achievements—So that we too may tackle our current challenges with the same dedication and perseverance he brought to every aspect of his life—And so that each of us may lace up our shoes, march onto the field, and pass on his legacy of triumph over adversity, and indifference to punishment.

REMEMBERING DEAN 'DINO' CORTOPASSI

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dean "Dino" Cortopassi and his legacy as a loving family man, career farmer, and champion of communities in the Delta area. Patti and I are deeply saddened by Dino's passing, and our hearts are with Joan and their family during this difficult time.

Dino was born and raised in Stockton, California, as the son of immigrant farmers. After graduating high school Dino proceeded to study farming at the prestigious agricultural school at the University of California, Davis. In 1958, Dino took on his first job as a grain buyer through which he immersed himself in the world of managing goods, markets, and the art of running a successful agribusiness. In the same year, he married his high school sweetheart Joan DeCarli and they both went on to raise four remarkable children, Gino, Katie, Becky, and David.

While Dino continued to build on his success as a dynamic and innovative farmer and businessman, he also fell in love with the Delta. An avid fisherman and hunter, Dino became a powerful advocate and protector of the Delta's waterfowl and their habitats. His efforts were crucial to preventing the proposed Delta tunnels project from devastating the region's ecosystems. Dino founded the Wetlands Preservation Foundation, which continues to help conserve the Delta's natural habitats.

In 2005 he was named the Stocktonian of the Year. Dino's Life's work undoubtedly had