

to the public on March 1, 1976. Complete with an ice rink and a Ford monorail connecting the then-named Dearborn Hyatt Regency with the Center, at the time Fairlane was the shining example of what the modern shopping mall could be, right at home in Metro Detroit.

The businesses of Fairlane Town Center have come and gone over the years and hundreds of stores and services have called Fairlane home. When they opened in 1976, the mall was anchored by Sears and JCPenney, later joined by Hudson's, Lord & Taylor, and Saks Fifth Avenue. Now, it is anchored by Macy's and JCPenney—along with Ford Motor Company's innovative Town Center Office. Fairlane Town Center is a place where businesses thrive and has been a consistent supporter of the local economy, helping us all find the goods and services that we need—all in one place.

Fairlane Town Center has served as a shopping destination and gathering place for residents of Dearborn for the past 45 years. It has been where generations of Dearbornites have worked and played. Serving as home to budding small businesses and landmark department stores alike, there has always been something for everyone at Fairlane Town Center.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Fairlane Town Center as they celebrate 45 fantastic years of business in Dearborn, Michigan. As the times have changed, so has Fairlane in order to meet the needs of our consumers. As a fixture of our community for the last four decades, we wish them the very best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING PUERTO RICO
YOUTH AT RISK, INC.'S 25 YEARS
OF SERVICE AND ITS FOUNDER,
DR. MERCEDES CINTRÓN

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the work of Puerto Rico Youth at Risk, Inc.—Jóvenes de Puerto Rico en Riesgo, Inc., in Spanish—on its 25 years of service. I also want to congratulate the organization's founder, Dr. Mercedes Cintrón, who was recently selected as a finalist for the Lifetime Achievement Award during the National Mentoring Summit's 2022 Excellence in Mentoring Award Ceremony.

Puerto Rico Youth at Risk is a non-profit organization focused on developing school dropout and delinquency prevention programs for at-risk youth in Puerto Rico. Since 1996, they have carried out multiple initiatives to help at-risk students on the Island achieve their full potential, including through one-on-one mentoring services, personal and social development workshops, academic support, and community service experiences. Puerto Rico Youth at Risk has been highly successful, as 98 percent of students who participate in its various programs remain at school; 95 percent graduate from high school; and 70 percent of the program's graduates have gone on to pursue higher education studies.

On January 28, 2022, Dr. Mercedes Cintrón was nominated and selected as a finalist for

the 2022 Excellence in Mentoring Award Ceremony's Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes individuals who have dedicated their life's work to supporting youth through mentoring. Dr. Cintrón is a psychologist and social worker who has dedicated the last 28 years of her career and volunteer work to promote and facilitate the use of ontological mentoring to prevent school dropout and antisocial behavior in teens. She has witnessed over 3,000 successful mentoring experiences that have changed the lives of both mentors and mentees, many of whom have continued to serve in their communities.

In 1993, Dr. Cintrón pioneered the use of formal mentoring in Puerto Rico. She was inspired and committed to establishing Puerto Rico Youth at Risk after completing her term as Administrator of Puerto Rico's Juvenile Correctional Institutions, where she saw firsthand the need to carry out evidenced-based prevention and intervention programs to reach at-risk young individuals before it is too late.

Dr. Cintrón's selection as a finalist for the Excellence in Mentoring Award Ceremony's Lifetime Achievement Award is a testament to Puerto Rico Youth at Risk's impact and valuable work during the past 25 years. It also represents a historic milestone, as Dr. Cintrón was the only Puerto Rican among this year's nominees and the first individual from Puerto Rico to have been nominated for this prestigious award.

I'm honored to join Puerto Rico Youth at Risk to celebrate Dr. Cintrón's achievement and the organization's 25 years of service on behalf of Puerto Rico's at-risk and vulnerable students.

HONORING OLYMPIAN JAKE
VEDDER

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jake Vedder, a young man of exceptional character and talent who valiantly represented his home town of Pinckney, Michigan and Team USA at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China.

At the Olympics, Vedder finished sixth out of 32 competitors in the individual snowboard race, and was first among the four Americans competing. This 23-year-old phenom was also named to one of the two United States tandems for the inaugural mixed team snowboard cross event, where he and his partner made it to the quarterfinals.

Unlike many snowboarders, Jake wasn't born in the mountains and didn't grow up in a resort town. He's from Pinckney, population 2300, and he began his snowsports career at the age of two on the small but beloved ski hills in the neighboring town that were made with leftover material from the construction of the interstate.

He was a kid with a dream, a family that supported it, and a community that nurtured it. And as his star has risen, from winning the state championship as a 10th grader, to winning a gold medal in the Youth Olympics at

age 18, to competing on the world's biggest athletic stage at age 23, he's never forgotten where he comes from.

Jake is known for spending whatever free time he has dishing out encouragement to younger athletes, giving tips on techniques, handing out gear, and just being present to offer support. In fact, just hours after returning home from the Olympics, Jake was back at Mt. Brighton where it all began for him, cheering on high school snowboarders who were competing in the state meet.

No matter how high he jumps, how fast he races, or how far he travels, Jake clearly remains grounded. He is tethered by his hometown values, anchored by humility, and rooted in kindness. In an era where so many seek instant celebrity or viral fame, Jake's modest spirit and good nature are almost as impressive as his athletic accomplishments.

On and off the slopes, he is a leader and a role model who has made Pinckney so proud. I have no doubt that whatever the future holds for him, he will conquer it with the tenacity, discipline, and humanity that have already taken him so far. It is my great honor to inscribe his accomplishments in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MAXWELL HUNTLEY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Maxwell (Max) Huntley and his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Max earned his bachelor's degree in English and master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Michigan. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in Military Operations from the United States Air Force Air Command and Staff College. As a NCAA All-American athlete, Max dominated the mats as the University of Michigan's first three-time wrestling team captain in the school's history.

Max joined my office in April 2017 and became my Military Legislative Assistant in February 2019 and Senior Advisor in May 2021. During his time serving Virginia's First District, Max admirably staffed my House Armed Services Committee, including my role as Sea power and Projection Forces Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Member. Max labored tirelessly to advance the shared goal of a larger and more capable United States Navy and Marine Corps in an era of Great Power Competition.

Max has devoted his talents to the common good and the nation's defense as he follows the distinguished Huntley family tradition of service to the United States. I would like to thank Max for his contributions over the last 4 years. I wish Max the best as he continues his journey on the other side of the Capitol with Senator John Kennedy.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Max Huntley for his dedicated service to Virginia's First District. May God bless Max as he continues his career in public service.

REMEMBERING LORETTA SHAW
HARRISON

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Loretta Shaw Harrison.

Loretta S. Harrison was born in Verret, Louisiana, on February 1, 1956, the seventh child of twelve born to the late George W. Shaw, Sr. and Loretta Louise Moore Shaw. She passed away peacefully around family and friends on February 16, 2022, at the age of 66, after a brave battle with breast cancer. She is survived by three sons she adored, Robert, Rodrick, and Kendrick; two grandchildren; two godchildren; eight of her siblings; and many nephews, nieces, and friends.

Loretta was a faithful steward of God with the belief that if you "put God first, He will grant the wishes of your heart." She shared her unwavering love and dedication for God and the city of New Orleans with everyone she encountered. She was a woman with incredible grace and moral fortitude and was a guiding light to her friends and community.

Loretta, lovingly referred to as the "Praline Queen," was the chef and owner of the historic Loretta's Authentic Pralines, becoming the first African American woman to own and operate a praline company in New Orleans. She made friends and admirers worldwide through her shop and her long-standing record as a food vendor at the city's biggest festivals, starting with the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. Her mother made pralines after church for family and guests visiting their home. By age 8, Loretta was cooking them alongside her mom, using a recipe that went back to her great grandmother. After graduating from Southern University at New Orleans, she went to work at the LSU Medical Library, where she sold pralines to students on the side. In 1978, her big break came when she heard that the Jazz & Heritage Festival put out the call for a praline vendor. She won the contract, sold 1,500 pralines in two weekends, and continued to supply the festival for over 40 years. The success inspired her to leave her job and develop her business full time.

Unfortunately, success did not come without a few failures along the way. Yet, she believed in her product and herself. By 1983, she opened her first shop in Jax Brewery. Later, she moved to the French Market, and in the 1990s, by the grace of God, she opened a second, much larger shop and production kitchen in Faubourg Marigny that serves gumbo, seafood platters, stuffed peppers, and calas, as well as pie, cookies, and king cake. She was a proud entrepreneur who advocated for local business owners, cultural and culinary arts.

After Hurricane Katrina, she quickly returned to New Orleans and was a vocal advocate for small businesses in meetings with national and local officials. During this difficult time, her business was buoyed by her steadfast belief that anything which can be destroyed can be rebuilt. She took immediate action, changing her business model to include an online storefront and becoming a restaurant for reporters, emergency workers, and volunteers rebuilding

the city. She added plate lunches and dishes like gumbo, figuring people needed a place to grab a meal more than sweets. She would continue to evolve her menu and creations. She added praline filling to traditional beignets and even made beignets into sandwiches filled with crab cakes, eggs and bacon, and hamburger patties.

A veritable Renaissance Woman, she was a faithful member of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church. She was a wonder to all who knew and loved her, and she will be remembered fondly for her joyful spirit and relentless optimism, which served her well until God called her home. Through her heroic battle with cancer, Loretta has helped shower numerous heavenly graces and blessings upon all of those she loved so deeply, and we are eternally grateful. I was honored and blessed to have known Loretta Harrison, and send my prayers to her beloved family in this difficult time.

HONORING WILLARD WALKER

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Willard Walker, a civil rights era leader, devoted public servant, youth football coach, MSU alumnus, and friend to the Greater Lansing community. For more than 50 years, Mr. Walker has fought tirelessly for social justice, and the community is so much better for his efforts.

Raised in Columbus, Georgia, by his grandmother, he joined the military after graduating from Albany State University.

His first job out of the military was as a math teacher in Chicago. There, he fought to unite historically segregated schools. Willard met and married his first wife in Chicago, with whom he had two children. They eventually moved to Alabama, where Mr. Walker began work for the Birmingham Urban League, before arriving at Michigan State University in 1969, where he was the first Black student in the industrial relations department. He lived in Case Hall, a place he described as the epicenter for black student life.

Mr. Walker has been influential in both local and state government, serving under four City of Lansing Mayors in various roles, including director of the Human Resources and Community Services Department, and on the Lansing Police Commission. At the state level he served as director of Michigan's School-to-Work Office, director of the Michigan Department of Commerce, and deputy director of the Neighborhood Builders Alliance—just to name a few.

But beyond his many impressive titles, his work to ensure the Greater Lansing area is a more equitable and welcoming place is legendary. As a founding member of the Greater Lansing Area, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission, he was the first recipient of the Commission's MLK Legacy Award in 2010.

In 2018, the City of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department dedicated the former youth sports facility, Ridsdale Park, in his honor, and it is now known as the Willard Walker stadium at Ridsdale Park. It gives me great happiness to know that through these

awards and honors, his legacy of service will continue to provide a positive impact in the Greater Lansing community for generations to come.

Mr. Walker is married to his current wife Victoria where they have been residents of Lansing's historic Westside for over five decades. Two years ago, he returned to local government to serve the City of Lansing as a consultant in Human Relations and Community Service, a department he ran for over a decade.

It's an honor to represent a community leader like Mr. Willard Walker in Washington, and I am grateful for his personal and professional sacrifices to advance civil rights at the local, state, and national levels. May his efforts be forever celebrated, uplifted, and immortalized.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD JENKINS' OUTSTANDING MILITARY SERVICE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize World War Two veteran Richard Jenkins for his incredible role in liberating Czechoslovakia in May 1945. Today the Czech Republic will present him with an Honorary Commemorative Medal of Merit in Liberating Czechoslovakia during World War Two. Shortly after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Jenkins and his brothers enlisted in the United States Military, leaving their home in Michigan. After training in Louisiana, Mr. Jenkins was assigned to be a member of the 8th Armored Division, 130th Ordnance Maintenance Battalion of the United States Army. He was then deployed to England in January 1945 for further training. After reaching Europe, the 8th Armored Division attempted to quickly push through the Hurtgen Forest on the border of Belgium and Germany. Mr. Jenkins provided crucial support to ensure the United States' success in the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. Jenkins and his ordnance provided the support needed by the 8th Armored Division as they successfully pushed back the German Army. Refueling and mechanical assistance were some of Mr. Jenkins' many roles in the 130th Ordnance, without this support the 8th Division may not have been able to traverse the thick Hurtgen forest. After success at the Battle of the Bulge, the 8th Armored Division transitioned toward Czechoslovakia. On May 8, 1945, Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allies, bringing an end to World War Two in the European Theater. Then, in late May, the 8th Armored Division was ordered to Czechoslovakia to assist in the processing of prisoners of war, operating displaced person camps, and guarding vital installations. The assistance of Mr. Jenkins and the 8th Armored Division was integral to the liberation of Czechoslovakia. The successful liberation of Czechoslovakia as a result of the impressive effort of U.S. troops and the citizens of Pilsen is still celebrated today. The Pilsen Festival in The Czech Republic celebrates the key assistance the United States and our troops played in liberating the country from Nazi rule. Without heroes like Mr. Jenkins, we may not be able to celebrate these freedoms.