

HONORING MARY CHAPMAN AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Chapman, a tireless advocate for economic, social, and racial justice who is working to close the opportunity gap for youth between the ages of 16 to 24.

Dr. Chapman serves on various community and civic boards including Bankers Trust Advisory Board, Iowa Corrections Board, Des Moines Branch NAACP Executive Committee (Women in NAACP Chair), Des Moines Public Arts Foundation, Des Moines Art Festival, Hoyt Sherman Foundation, and Urban Dreams Board. She also is a member of Des Moines Chapter of The Links, Inc. and a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Among the many awards she has received, Dr. Chapman is an Iowa African American Hall of Fame inductee, a 2013 inductee in the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame, and a Des Moines Business Record Woman of Influence awardee. The Iowa Department of Corrections has also named the Mary Chapman Computer Lab in the education center at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in honor of her.

Community leaders like Dr. Chapman make Iowa a great place to live, and I share her goal of making Iowa a more equitable and just place to live. I will continue that fight in Congress and always support advocates like Dr. Chapman and organizations like the NAACP. It is my pleasure to name Dr. Mary Chapman as Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING JOSH RICHMAN

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the public service of Josh Richman, an invaluable member of my district team for the past six years, as he moves on to his next professional endeavor. Josh joined my office in January 2016 after working nearly 24 years as a reporter in Pennsylvania and the San Francisco Bay Area. Immediately prior to joining our office, he was the senior political reporter for the Bay Area News Group, which includes the Oakland Tribune and the East Bay Times. Josh began his work with our office as Communications Director and was promoted to Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor.

I first met Josh when he covered local Tri-Valley politics and I served as a Dublin city councilmember. In September 2012, I announced a long-shot run for Congress against a 40-year incumbent from my own party. About 30 people (including family members) showed up for the announcement, and only one reporter, Josh. Though Josh told me throughout the campaign that I didn't have a chance, I admired how he fairly covered the race. And I personally resolved that if I could ever hire him, I would.

Josh made an impact on my office immediately. He brought a fresh perspective to issues and cultivated strong relationships with

constituents and the media alike. His history in journalism helped tremendously when it came to working with the media and developing relationships with reporters, bills we introduced, or events we were holding back home. It is unusual for a communications director to be based in the district, but in our case, he was essential. Josh had an inherent understanding of the local media landscape, was a keen photographer, and could provide vital feedback.

I could always count on Josh for an honest, unfiltered, and well-reasoned opinion. Each one of us needs at least one trusted person that won't always say, "yes." Those people make us grow and become better. Josh was one of those people and he's made it clear he will still play that role, even while outside the office.

Josh was also an invaluable mentor to many on our staff, particularly the many communications aides who worked under him. Many of those aides have gone on, with the benefit of Josh's experience, to become communications directors themselves. Josh also had an intimate understanding of the work his colleagues did and could recognize the moments that they felt overwhelmed. At those times he took it upon himself to infuse levity, joy, and acts of genuine appreciation for his colleagues into the work day. He saw the value in maintaining a workplace that was as happy as it was productive, and he did all he could to create that environment.

I'd like to thank Josh's wife, Natalie, and son, Jack, for allowing me to borrow so much time that they may have otherwise spent together. I also thank Josh for his time, his expertise, his counsel, and his friendship. I wish him good luck in this next endeavor and know that this isn't the last he'll hear from me.

IN HONOR OF TASTEBUDS POPCORN CONCORD FOR RECEIVING THE 2021 CABARRUS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Tastebuds Popcorn Concord for receiving the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce New Business of the Year Award.

Tastebuds Popcorn Concord has quickly become a local favorite. In just over a year, they have established themselves as a popular vendor of over 200 flavors of popcorn and gone above and beyond to provide invaluable support to our community.

Tastebuds Popcorn Concord is a veteran-owned, minority-owned, and woman-owned business that has already made significant partnerships and connections to spur economic growth in Cabarrus County. Their collaboration with other businesses seeks to recognize and address many public needs in our community. Among many other partnerships and initiatives, Tastebuds Popcorn Concord worked with the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitor's Bureau to assist with NASCAR's 2021 Drive for the Cure 250 and partnered with law enforcement to advance safety initiatives and community relations. Tastebuds

Popcorn Concord has also sponsored multiple public high school sports teams and the Teacher's Resource, a nonprofit that provides support to teachers in multiple cities nationwide. I join the rest of our community in thanking Tastebuds Popcorn Concord for their contributions to our local economy and dedicated charitable services.

Tastebuds Popcorn Concord has achieved swift and impactful success and is truly deserving of this award. I wish its management and employees success as they continue to provide excellent service to our community. I personally look forward to my next visit when I'm back home in Concord.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Tastebuds Popcorn Concord on receiving the 2021 Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce New Business of the Year Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DIS-
ABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2022**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2022, which would help provide financial relief for federal employees who have a short-term injury or disability, become pregnant or develop a pregnancy-related illness. This bill would offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees would be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums and be able to receive disability insurance benefits for up to one year, which would replace a portion of their lost income due to a non-work-related injury or illness or pregnancy. This bill is more important now than ever with the prevalence of so-called "Long COVID."

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance for federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance as individuals in the private market at high individual rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. Moreover, while federal employees may have available sick or annual leave days, they may not have enough such days to pay the bills if they have to be out of work for an extended period, such as following surgery. Although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify for such benefits until they have worked for the federal government for at least 18 months. My bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as many of their private-sector counterparts, who often have access to disability insurance through an employer at group rates, an option unavailable to federal employees. This bill would not allow participating insurance companies to exclude persons based on preexisting conditions. Because of the federal government's purchasing power, this bill would provide these benefits at a more competitive rate than is available for employees purchasing as individuals, as many

do. Under this bill, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management would contract with private carriers to provide this coverage, essentially providing the equivalent of group coverage available to workers in the private sector.

According to the Social Security Administration, a 20-year-old worker has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled by retirement age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by injuries or illnesses, such as back injuries or cancer, according to the Council for Disability Awareness. There is every reason to allow our federal employees to take advantage of the federal government's purchasing power to obtain the most reasonable price if they choose to purchase short-term disability coverage on their own, at no cost to the federal government.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6774, THE
BOXING THERAPY FOR PARKINSON'S
ACCESS ACT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the issue of access to effective therapies for Parkinson's disease for our veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 110,000 veterans have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. While the exact causes of Parkinson's are unknown, many veterans developed the disease after exposure to Agent Orange and other chemicals while serving our Nation.

PD is a lifelong and progressive disease for which there is no cure, and frustratingly little progress has been made in recent decades in the race to find new effective treatments for Parkinson's. The most powerful and common drug for Parkinson's, levodopa, was developed in the 1960s.

But one of the strongest tools we have to fight Parkinson's isn't a drug, it's exercise. Exercise can help manage, slow, or even prevent the progression of Parkinson's symptoms, and help PD patients stay active and avoid isolation in their communities. While many types of exercise have shown to be beneficial for PD patients, boxing has become an increasingly popular exercise for improving the physical, mental, and emotional health of those with PD, and more and more gyms are offering boxing programs specifically for those diagnosed with it. One such gym in my district, Parkinson's Boxing in Kenmore, New York, is dedicated solely to helping those with PD and similar disorders.

But for many veterans with PD, these kinds of programs remain financially out of reach. We owe it to our veterans and active-duty service members to provide resources for them when dealing with the detrimental effects of toxic substances and degenerative diseases like PD. That is why I have introduced a bill, H.R. 6774, the Boxing Therapy for Parkinson's Access Act, that would require the VA to cover boxing exercise classes for veterans who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease or similar movement disorders. Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to highlight

this issue and how we can better help our veterans access the therapies that we know can make a difference in their fight against Parkinson's disease.

IN HONOR OF CK SELECT REAL
ESTATE FOR RECEIVING THE 2021
CABARRUS REGIONAL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE SMALL BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate CK Select Real Estate for receiving the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award.

Since 2005, CK Select Real Estate has provided buyers and sellers with opportunities and resources in residential, commercial, and investment real estate. Originally founded as a local provider for the Concord and Kannapolis regions, CK Select Real Estate has since expanded to cover much of the Piedmont-Triad region and even parts of South Carolina.

CK Select Real Estate has thoroughly proven to be a trusted source for real estate endeavors. They provide exemplary customer service by employing collaborative and inclusive negotiating practices to benefit their clients. Although strained by the COVID-19 pandemic, CK Select Real Estate's staunch dedication to their clients did not waver as they adapted to the challenging circumstances by adopting new safety protocols to accommodate in-person services. Additionally, CK Select Real Estate has pursued multiple service-oriented projects to address public needs in our community. To list just a few examples, they funded the construction of a blessing box in Kannapolis to provide food to needy families and raised funds for Purple Heart Homes, a nonprofit that assists service-connected disabled and aging veterans find adequate housing.

CK Select Real Estate is truly deserving of this award on account of their impactful contributions to our local economy and dedicated charitable works. I know I speak for our entire community in thanking CK Select Real Estate for their committed service and wishing them continued success going forward.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating CK Select Real Estate on receiving the 2021 Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR JOHN
WOODEN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader, an outstanding educator, and a devoted man of God, Pastor John Wooden, on the occasion of his retire-

ment. A retirement service will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 11 a.m.

Pastor John Wooden was born in Bainbridge, Georgia on May 7, 1966, to the union of Mr. Arthur Dean Wooden and Mrs. Willie Mae Wooden. After receiving his Associate degree from Bainbridge Junior College, Pastor Wooden went on to receive dual Bachelor's degrees in Marketing and Management from Valdosta State College; an educational certificate from Albany State University; a Master of Science degree in Leadership and an Educational Specialist degree from Nova Southeastern University; and completed religious training from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

As a staunch advocate for educating the next generation, Pastor Wooden served as an educator and school administrator for thirty years, serving as a Business Education teacher, Career Counselor, Assistant Principal at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels, Middle School Principal, and as an Assistant Superintendent for schools in Decatur County, Georgia.

In addition to a three-decade career in public education, Pastor Wooden has also spent almost four decades teaching the word of the Lord. Pastor Wooden has been preaching for 38 years and pastoring for 35 years, first at First Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church from 1987 to 1990, and then at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church from March 1987 until his retirement this year.

Pastor Wooden's distinguished pastoral career has been mirrored by his extensive involvement in his community. In conjunction with his professional accomplishments, Pastor Wooden has served his community as a board member of the United Way, Salvation Army, and the YMCA as well as a member of Kiwanis Club (Bainbridge) and the Rotary Club (Bainbridge).

In addition to being a stellar educator, a distinguished spiritual leader, and dedicated community advocate, Pastor Wooden is also a published author. His literary works include "Uncensored Conversations", "Leading While Bleeding", "Don't Judge Me Unless You Have Walked In My Shoes", "Scarred, But Not Permanently Broken", and "Don't Live A Life Of Regrets".

He has accomplished much throughout his life, but none of this would be possible without the grace of God and the inspiration, love, and support of his wife, Deborah; and his children, LaShannon and Chelsea.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." Bainbridge and Decatur County, Georgia are better because of Pastor John Wooden and his tireless commitment to making his community stronger. As a man of great faith and integrity, his efforts, his dedication, and his expertise are unparalleled. But his heart for teaching and helping others, utilizing these qualities, has made his life's work truly special.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me and the more than 730,000 people in Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Pastor John Wooden upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career in the Ministry of Jesus Christ.