

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF GHANA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, the United States of America is home to hundreds and thousands of people of Ghanaian heritage—including those who were born on this soil to those whose family emigrated here for education, job, or economic opportunities—for the American dream.

Ghanaian Americans are an important fabric in the tapestry of America from the cab driver to the medical doctor. You will find them in all parts of the country from Milwaukee to New York to suburban Ohio and Massachusetts. The culture is hard to ignore with rich food, the iconic Akan Kente cloth, storytelling, inventions, architecture and music.

Today more than ever Ghanaians living in the United States worry about racial injustice, home ownership, access to education, access to small business and immigration support.

Like many Americans, the Ghanaian community in America is not exempt from the COVID-19 crisis. Ghanaian Americans are essential workers and are very active in the health care industry, especially as nurses, personal care aides, and nursing assistants. Ghanaians are included in the 27.5 percent of all Black immigrant workers in the U.S.—more than 750,000—who work in the healthcare sector. Additionally, essential workers include frontline workers in other key industries like food and service & hospitality and leisure.

And Ghanaian Americans have been contributing to the success and business continuity of important industries during these dire times. Ghanaian Americans are included in 23 percent of immigrants in the U.S. who work in the food and service industry, as well as 20 percent of immigrants in the U.S. who work in hospitality and leisure.

On this day, I recognize the 65th anniversary of Ghana's independence and my intention to launch the Congressional Ghana Caucus that will create an inclusive platform in this body for discussing critical policy issues affecting Ghanaians in the Diaspora, as well as bolster the relationship between the U.S. and Ghana.

RECOGNIZING SILVERDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to commemorate Military Appreciation Day in Kitsap County organized by the Silverdale Chamber of Commerce on March 5, 2022.

Here in Kitsap County, we have a lot to be thankful for. Kitsap County has a vibrant history as a military community. This rich history began in September 1891, when 190 acres of the Pacific Northwest wilderness was purchased for the first Naval Station Puget Sound

in Bremerton, Washington. Today, this presence has grown to include Naval Base Kitsap—Bangor and Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton and Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Keyport.

Part of what makes this area special is not just the physical presence of our Naval Base, but the tens of thousands of military members and veterans who call it home. Members of the military aren't just fighting for the freedom of our community. They are family members, friends, and neighbors who are making a difference in it, too.

In addition to those serving in uniform, our community is home to thousands of Department of Defense civilian employees who serve our country each day and ensure the readiness and safety of our service members.

Veterans and service members are also a critical part of our local economy, doing everything from creating small businesses to bringing their unique work ethic and skills to employers looking to fill jobs. That's why today is a great way to go beyond saying thanks and turning our words into deeds. And that is why events like today's Military Appreciation Day are so important.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the Silverdale Chamber of Commerce and the Military Affairs Committee for hosting Military Appreciation Day to honor those that do and those that have served our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY BY SANTA ANA'S SUAVECITO FOUNDERS PETE AND TONY ADAME AND JASON VENABLE

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, during the early days of the pandemic, when medical resources and household items were in short supply, Suavecito, Inc., the Santa Ana-based company famous for making hair pomade, decided to start producing much-needed hand sanitizer for frontline workers in our community.

For months, Suavecito donated thousands of bottles of hand sanitizer to first responders, postal workers, grocery store employees, and delivery drivers, filling a critical need for Santa Ana and Orange County.

Like so many people across this country—when their community was in need—Suavecito answered the call. Even when their own production lines shut down, they used their resources to help their community.

Today, Suavecito has rebounded, and its two production warehouses are staffed by more than 100 employees who, last year, produced more than 6 million 4-ounce cans of pomade, as well as other haircare products and merchandise that are sold locally and exported to more than 55 markets around the world.

For their distinguished contribution to U.S. exports during the COVID-19 pandemic, Suavecito earned the President's "E" Award from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Suavecito founders, Pete and Tony Adame and Jason Venable, have been a beacon of

hope, prosperity, and resiliency in Santa Ana for more than a decade. This band of brothers represent the best of Orange County, of California, and of America.

SOPHIA PRAMUK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sophia Pramuk for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Sophia Pramuk is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sophia Pramuk is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sophia Pramuk for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLIFTON N. WEST, JR. OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to recognize Clifton N. West, Jr., an accomplished business owner who served the residents of the District of Columbia.

Clifton N. West, Jr., "Skeeter" was born on December 12, 1933, to Thaddenia West and Clifton N. West, Sr. and was the younger brother of Pat and Beverly. He was raised by his mother and his grandparents in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1952, Skeeter graduated from Dunbar High School in the District of Columbia. During his time at Dunbar, he served in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). He won many awards with the drill team and the track team.

Skeeter enrolled in Howard University in 1952 as a chemistry major. In 1955, he left college and joined the Air Force. He served for three years at the Chateauroux Air Force base in France. After his discharge, in 1958, he used the GI Bill to continue his education at Howard University and worked part-time at the U.S. Postal Service.

He would go on to work at St. Elizabeths Hospital and later at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center as a medical technologist. In 1963, he started a laboratory in his basement and worked on building his business in the evenings while he worked for Berkley Medical Instruments selling blood analyzers during the day.

In 1971, he founded B & W STAT Laboratory, Inc. on the corner of Georgia Avenue and Irving Street NW in the District of Columbia. His business remains in operation 62 years later. The laboratory was one of the first independent commercial laboratories in the United States and has served as a faithful business anchor for Georgia Avenue ever since, servicing, hiring and training local residents. The company has won numerous specimen-testing contracts and, in 1971, was the first laboratory in the country to install and operate an on-site lab in the D.C. courthouse. The program received network television recognition and served as a model for similar programs throughout the country.

Skeeter founded the Georgia Avenue Business Association, was co-founder of the DC Drug Prevention Partnership, and his business has participated in the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program. The DC Drug Prevention Partnership was established to address and curb drug use in D.C.'s Ward 1. Skeeter served as the President of the Lower Georgia Avenue Business and Professional Association. During his tenure as President of B & W STAT, Skeeter and his business received many community service awards, including Outstanding Businessman from the People's Involvement Corporation; recognition from the Department of Employment Services—Outstanding Service; and Commanders of the Rite, Mason of the District of Columbia—Excellence in Science Services—Long Years of Leadership in the Field of Laboratory Testing. B & W STAT has been and continues to be a committed community partner.

Throughout the years, B & W STAT had offices on Independence Avenue, Georgia Avenue and Rhode Island Avenue, had multiple contracts with the military, local hospitals and doctor offices and at one time employed over 100 people. B & W STAT was a well-known laboratory, and if you got married in D.C., the required serology premarital blood test to receive a blue card was performed at B & W STAT from the 1970s to the early 2000s. Skeeter was sure to greet everyone who got married in D.C.

He trained local residents through internships and the summer program and helped rehabilitate many D.C. residents. He streamlined toxicology testing and was featured both on the television news and in the paper. He trained hundreds of military personnel on testing and did not request payment for such training.

Skeeter faced many small business issues, including dealing with banks and lines of credit, but more importantly, dealt with prejudice while performing very technical work. B & W STAT always helped the D.C. government with issues around drug testing and helped when they got behind on testing by turning work around in 24 hours. He worked long hours, starting at 6:00 a.m. and ending after 6:00 p.m.

B & W STAT was a member of the Howard University Bison Express, which provides financial assistance to Howard University student-athletes and supported Howard University athletics initiatives, for many years. The company also raised money to replace equipment stolen from Howard University.

Skeeter loved to travel and take family vacations. He encouraged both of his children to attend Howard University and continue the tradition of Historically Black Colleges and Uni-

versities. Both attended and graduated from Howard University.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 62 years, Carole Smith West; his son, Clifton N. West, III, "Skip"; his daughter, Alison West Hughes; his son-in-law, Michael Anthony Hughes; three grandchildren and his sisters, Raquel "Pat" Hall and Beverly W. Goode.

He was loved by many and will surely be missed. His spirit and personality touched everyone he met. His love and spirit will be remembered by all.

CONGRATULATING MEMPHIS LAWYER LUCIAN PERA

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lucian T. Pera, a Memphis lawyer and specialist in legal ethics and media law, who has just been named the winner of this year's American Bar Association Michael Franck Professional Responsibility Award. The award is named in honor of Michael Franck, the late director of the State Bar of Michigan and long-time champion of improvements in lawyer regulation in the public interest. Mr. Pera, a partner in the Memphis office of the law firm Adams and Reese and a former President of the Tennessee Bar Association, has written extensively on ethics issues, including in a column for the magazine of the ABA's Law Practice Division. He has recently served as Chairman of the ABA's Center for Professional Responsibility, and has served as the ABA's Treasurer, on its House of Delegates, and as a member of the Board of Governors. He is recognized nationally for his work on ethics in the legal profession as well as media law and transparency issues in government, particularly in Tennessee, where he also served as President of the Tennessee Open Government Coalition. A graduate of Princeton University and Vanderbilt University Law School, Pera will receive the Franck award at a ceremony in Baltimore on June 3. Mr. Pera is an outstanding lawyer and upstanding citizen, and I commend him for receiving this prestigious award.

SAGE SCHLEGEL-CRIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sage Schlegel-Cris for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Sage Schlegel-Cris is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because their determination and hard work have allowed them to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sage Schlegel-Cris is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sage Schlegel-Cris for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of their future accomplishments.

IN MEMORY OF FRED WILLIAM PATTERSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Fred Patterson. To those close to Fred, he was known as a man with two careers. While his career as an advertising salesman and publisher paid the bills, he was passionate about impacting his community. It is through his hard work and leadership that Denton transformed into a cosmopolitan competitor with Dallas and Fort Worth.

On December 25, 1929, Fred was born in Decatur, Texas not too far from our beloved community of Denton. After graduating from the University of Texas in 1952, he eventually moved to Denton, where he joined the sales service department at Moore Business Forms. In 1958, he began work advertising for the Denton Record-Chronicle and that same year he married the love of his life, Patsy. By 1986, Fred and Patsy were the co-owners of the Record Chronicle.

Throughout the 1990s, the Pattersons oversaw the renovation for the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center. Personally, I am grateful for this facility because it provided the space I needed in August of 2009, to hold my largest townhall to-date.

Fred very much appreciated the arts and history. So much so that he raised over \$500,000 to move and restore the Bayless-Selby house Museum to the Denton County Historical Park he was also instrumental in founding. Beyond his love for the arts and history, Fred loved his community. He served as chair of the committee that established Denton's television Channel 2 and was vice president of the Friends of WRR radio station.

Denton was more than where he and Patsy lived and raised their two sons Bill and Riley. It was his home, and service to his community was truly his second career.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PATRICIA ANN PINNEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a true, diligent public servant, Patricia Ann Pinney, of Somers, Connecticut. Pat passed at the age of 70 on February 20, 2022, surrounded by her loving family.

Born to Mary and Stanley Paduch on June 13, 1951, in the neighboring State of Massachusetts, Pat lived out her life as a dedicated, northern Connecticut native. Destined to nurture the same community that raised her, Pat