

RECOGNIZING CHIEF M.E. "GENE" WALDROP ON 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Chief M.E. "Gene" Waldrop on 50 years of service in law enforcement. He has enjoyed a distinguished career, and we are grateful for his dedicated service to defend the safety of our great state for more than half a century.

As a native of Greenville, Mississippi, Chief Waldrop graduated from Greenville High School and later served as Staff Sergeant in the Mississippi National Guard. After being honorably discharged, Waldrop began his law enforcement career as a patrol officer. Chief Waldrop served 20 years for the Greenville Mississippi Police Department and retired in 1991 as Chief of Police. With Chief Waldrop's oversight and encouragement, the City of Greenville coordinated with local agencies to develop efficient disaster response plans that heightened the region's security.

After retiring, Chief Waldrop was appointed as Chief of Police in the City of Madison, Mississippi, holding to his commitment to public service. In this role, he continued his steadfast dedication to keeping the great state of Mississippi safe by establishing advanced emergency response plans. Under his courageous leadership, the City of Madison has been rated the Safest City in Mississippi by several crime prevention organizations.

Chief Waldrop is also a dedicated community servant. He helped to establish the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Firefighters' Memorial Burn Center Association. There, he served as the Vice-President of the Board of Directors, one of his many achievements that earned Chief Waldrop the Jim Ingram Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

I commend all that Chief Waldrop has done to valiantly protect the lives of Mississippians, and I thank him for his contributions towards bettering our state's law enforcement. I extend my very best wishes to him and look forward to working with him in the future to make our state an even better place to live, worship, and raise a family.

ADDISON KEGERREIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

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

Addison Kegerreis is a student at Wayne Carle MS and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Addison Kegerreis 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 edu-

cation and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Addison Kegerreis 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.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING BRIGADIER GENERAL RODERICK R. LEON GUERRERO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true public servant, Brigadier General Roderick R. Leon Guerrero and congratulate him on his retirement from the Guam Army National Guard (GUARNG) after 34 years of service to our island and nation.

Launching his military career in 1985, Brigadier General Leon Guerrero enlisted as a Private First Class. Determined to advance both his education and position in the ranks, he then entered the Army ROTC program at the University of Guam and was commissioned as a second lieutenant three years later. After earning his bachelor's degree in Political Science, he sought continued growth in knowledge and experience—paving a path from Combat Medic to Specialist, Cadet, and onto numerous assignments as a commissioned officer. His lasting contributions were catalyzed through his roles as an Intelligence Officer, Executive Officer for a Headquarters Company, Military Police Company Commander, Personnel Officer, Assistant Professor of Military Science, Recruiting and Retention Manager, Deputy G3 Officer, Plans, Operations, and Military Support Officer, Civil Support Team Commander, J3 Officer, and J1 Officer. Moreover, he maintains an impressive military education bolstered by a Security Managers Course at the National Defense Institution, Military Police Officer Basic Course, Adjutant General Officers Advanced Course, Combined Arms Staff Service Course, Command and General Staff Course, and Embedded Military Transition Training Course in addition to numerous other trainings and the completion of programs hosted by Harvard University and the Army Strategic Education.

After earning his master's in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, Brigadier General Leon Guerrero emerged as a pillar of leadership for our community with unwavering resolution. In addition to supporting Operation Enduring Freedom as part of the first Embedded Training Team from the GUARNG to Afghanistan, he embodied excellence in service as Chief of Joint Staff for the Guam National Guard (GUNG). As a Director of Military Affairs and Personnel, he further utilized his extensive experience, valuable specialties, and incomparable integrity to develop our National Guard into a world-class organization. By 2015, he was selected to serve as the Adjutant General of the GUNG, where he advised the Governor of Guam on military affairs. In this capacity, he was also responsible for ensuring more than 1,500 Guardsmen were ac-

cessible, capable, and ready to deploy on island in response to emergencies and provide combat ready servicemembers to the U.S. Army and Air Force.

With a long list of recognitions that include a Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service, Army Commendation, Army, Airforce, and Army Reserve Components Achievement, and Afghanistan Campaign Medals, National Defense, Global War on Terrorism, and Humanitarian Service Medals, Army Service, Overseas Service, and NATO Ribbons, and Combat Action and Parachutist Badges, Brigadier General Leon Guerrero's countless decorations only illustrate a glimpse of his outstanding character and selflessness. His induction into the prestigious Cadet Command Hall of Fame in Fort Knox, Kentucky further demonstrates his distinguished background in both military and civilian pursuits and manifold contributions to the nation, the Army, and the history and traditions of the Army ROTC program.

Throughout his career, Brigadier General Roderick R. Leon Guerrero has never failed to lead by example. Strengthened by his wife, Mary, his sons Jared and Broderick, and his daughter Crystal, he cultivated a fine career rooted in collaboration, problem solving, and results. He served with an astounding commitment to self, others, nation, and the American Dream, and continues to inspire many members of our community with his legacy of integrity and respect for others in all endeavors. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the People of Guam, offering my greatest appreciation for Brigadier General Leon Guerrero's commitment to our country. I sincerely thank him for his many years of service and sacrifice, congratulate him on his well-earned retirement, and wish him the best during the next chapter of his life.

IN HONOR OF PETE J. STILIANESSIS

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pete J. Stilianessis in celebration of his decades of work as a father, police officer and leader in the law enforcement community. I am proud to have such a committed and hardworking individual here in the great State of New Jersey. A native son of Passaic County, Pete Stilianessis dedicated his life to the safety and security of our neighborhood. I wish him well as he retires from the New Jersey State Troopers Non-Commissioned Officers Association.

Born in Paterson, New Jersey to Jerry and Maryellen Stilianessis, Pete's story is one that begins with a love for public service. The son of a former marine, his mother's active duty in the United States Marine Corps would motivate Pete to do the same. Traveling the world as a machine gunner, Pete displayed his action-oriented personality. Most notably, he would answer the call to serve in the Gulf War and contribute his efforts in Iraq. A "Task Force Ripper" during Operation Desert Storm, Pete served as squad leader during ground combat operations liberating Kuwait City on February 27, 1991. Awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Kuwait Liberation Medal and two

Bronze Stars, Pete is a decorated veteran and a man worth our respect and admiration.

Following his career in the military, Pete would enter law enforcement. First a Corrections Officer with the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, then a police officer with several municipalities, Pete would eventually decide that his greatest aspiration was to serve as a New Jersey State Trooper. Graduating from the New Jersey State Police Academy in 1993, Pete would formally begin his storied career as a State Trooper.

Starting as a "Road Trooper", Pete would quickly ascend the ranks to reach Detective. Assigned to work on the Counter Terrorism Unit, FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration, Pete carried out intricate and high level international and domestic investigations. Working both as an undercover agent and lead investigator, Pete worked in Central and South America in addition to operations here in the United States.

As the President of the New Jersey State Troopers Non-Commissioned Officers Association, Pete advocated for his brothers and sisters in uniform. Embodying the principal of service over self, Pete traveled both to our State Capital of Trenton and Washington, D.C. to fight for improved benefits and funding. I know, he will be missed by so many as he retires from law enforcement. As he transitions into this new phase of life, I thank him for all his hard work.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Mr. Pete J. Stilianessis.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing Pete J. Stilianessis, as we celebrate his years of distinguished service to the people of the Ninth Congressional District.

REBECCA McNEIL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

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

Rebecca McNeil is a student at Wayne Carle Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rebecca McNeil 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 Rebecca McNeil 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.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF DR. FATIMA ZAFAR

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Dr. Fatima Zafar, a beloved, wife, mother, physician, and medical leader in Miami-Dade County.

Whereas, Fatima Zafar, MD was born on October 20, 1941, in Hyderabad, India, the first of six children. She was inspired by her father as she watched him, a middle-class contractor working for the government, tirelessly helping those in need, including buying food with his own money to feed the poor, and always encouraging his children to help others. Fatima's upbringing also included accompanying missionaries to the countryside to administer smallpox vaccines. She witnessed women seeking medical help from nuns at a time when they were prohibited from seeing male doctors. These experiences intrigued Fatima. Her fascination with the process of healing contributed to the seeds of compassion and doing for others sown into her life; and

Whereas, Fatima was very athletic and very active in high school sports. With her father's encouragement, she turned that focus to science and medical classes, and was subsequently accepted at the Osmania University Medical School. Upon graduation she completed her residency in Obstetrics/Gynecology, at the Muslim Maternity and General Hospital where she was in charge for three years; and Whereas, Fatima and Ferrukh met and were later married, had two daughters, and journeyed to Miami, Florida where Fatima completed a residency in Psychiatry at Jackson Memorial Hospital and became a Diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice; and

Whereas, in 1980 Fatima was hired as Chief Medical Officer for the Economic Opportunity Family Health Center, Inc. (EOFHC), at a time when EOFHC was located in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Miami-Dade County and was just a collection of trailers. The medical leadership which she provided over 28 years has been unparalleled including distinctions such as, but not limited to, leading her medical team in providing care for one of the first HIV/AIDS cases in Miami-Dade; building the first brick and mortar site for the Center; expanding the accessibility and convenience of high quality care provided by EOFHC by opening six primary care sites; establishing the Jefferson Reaves House as one of the first substance abuse treatment programs for women and their children; establishing programs for effective management of chronic illnesses; establishing a fund through the Jessie Trice Community Health Foundation to supplement the costs of pharmaceuticals for patients unable to pay. For the following twelve years she focused on family medical services and specialty services in the health system; and

Whereas, Fatima relocated in 2020 to New Jersey to be near family after the passing of her husband. Even after relocating to New Jersey, up until one week before her own passing on July 4, 2021, she continued her commitment to touch and to heal, and to provide the highest quality of care to the most

vulnerable patients served by EOFHC, by providing telehealth services for ongoing management of chronic illnesses and also providing psychiatric consultation; and

Whereas, Fatima leaves behind her two daughters, peers, mentors, staff and thousands of patients who were all inspired by her life and legacy of healing, giving, and love for all mankind, including the least of these; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, FREDERICA S. WILSON, a member of the United States House of Representatives representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am honored to recognize the naming of the main site of the Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc. for the late Dr. Fatima Zafar, and to recognize her for her commitment, dedication, and the outstanding medical leadership that she has provided to our community.

HONORING I. RAY BYRD

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of I. Ray Byrd, who passed away on January 30, 2022. Mr. Byrd was a businessman and community leader in Salem, Virginia.

Mr. Byrd was born on September 1, 1928, in Martinsville, Virginia to Daniel Edward and Virgie Holt Byrd. He attended Randolph Macon College and finished his education at the Medical College of Virginia with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. He later went on to spend two years as a United States Marine and attained the rank of Captain.

He and his wife, Nina, moved to Salem, Virginia in 1954. This is where he and his dear friend, Ervin Pollard Brooks, founded Brooks-Byrd Pharmacy. Brooks-Byrd Pharmacy became an iconic Salem location and is still open today. Further, the pharmacy's patrons benefited from the kindness of Mr. Byrd. In a throwback to an earlier age, it allowed their regular customers to carry accounts forward. This was very helpful to many struggling families throughout the years—including single-parent households such as mine when I was a kid. The community will be forever indebted to Mr. Byrd and Mr. Brooks for their dedicated, selfless service.

Throughout his pharmaceutical career, Mr. Byrd also served as a pharmacist at the Bradley Free Clinic, Richfield Pharmacy, and the VA Hospital. He was also a member of the Roanoke Valley Pharmaceutical and the Virginia Pharmaceutical Associations.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Mr. Byrd devotedly volunteered and worked to improve his community. He served in the Salem Kiwanis Club, Salem Chamber of Commerce, Salem Museum, Salem Sports Foundation, and the Salem Industrial Authority. For five years he served as the chairman of the City of Salem School Board. Mr. Byrd especially valued faith and family. He was an active member and trustee of the Salem Baptist Church.

Mr. Byrd's survivors include his wife, Nina Byrd; his children, Dr. Carol Byrd and her husband, I. Ray Byrd, Jr. and his wife, Mary Catherine Rusk, and Laura Byrd Earle and her husband; his grandchildren, Bradley Barr, Dr. Ann Cameron Barr and her husband, Dr. Andrew Barr and his wife, Nicholas Byrd and his