

Brian is a 1983 graduate of West Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, North Carolina. Upon graduation, he proudly served in the United States Air Force for four years. Following his military service, Brian spent twenty years as a very popular and highly regarded national gospel performer.

Although Brian still sings, his career focus has since shifted to community service. For 20 years, he served as the Director of Family Life Outreach, an organization that does significant charitable work. In 2014, Brian became the Director of the Boys and Girls Club Jackson Teen Center in Camden where he is known as Mr. BB to many young people. The Center serves as a safe haven for kids after school and is open to all middle and high school students in Kershaw County. From athletics, to academics, to life skills and college preparation, the after-school center not only gives students a place to go, but a place to grow. Brian's wife and life partner, Roberta, also serves at the Jackson Teen Center. Fondly called "Mom" or "Auntie Bertie" by the teens, she leads the Job Readiness Training program.

Under Brian's leadership, the Center has become one of the best attended programs of its kind in the entire country. Ninety percent of members go on to attend college or join the military upon graduation. During his time at the Center, Brian has developed numerous innovative programs. Some of these programs include "Make it a Conversation," which enables young people to interact with community leaders and experts about topics of interest, and "Jobs and Employability Training for Teens," which provides job skills, training, and internship experiences for high school students. Volunteers at the Center describe the incredible work Brian does as "powerful." His colleagues recognize the "hope, belief, and positivity" he gives to his students.

Brian has exceeded expectations in service to our state, highlighted by his receipt of numerous honors and accolades. For example, in 2016, Brian received the Leonard Price Award for Community Service. The following year, Brian was named "Person of the Year" by the Camden Chronicle-Independent and received the "Delta Five Points of Purpose" Award. He and his wife also received the WIS "Community Builder" Award.

On behalf of the 5th District of South Carolina, it is my most sincere pleasure to recognize Brian for his outstanding leadership and lifelong service to our state. I wish him the best of luck throughout his future endeavors, as I am confident he will to continue to serve and find great success in all that he does.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH RUP SIS

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a patriotic American, Mr. Joseph Rupsis. Mr. Rupsis lives in Clark County, Kentucky and celebrated his 100th birthday on March 15, 2022.

Mr. Rupsis was born in Albany, New York. He enlisted in the United States Navy in October of 1942 when he was 20 years of age. Following basic training at Great Lakes, Illi-

nois, he was sent to the Pacific Theatre and assigned to the USS *Victoria*, an oil tanker. At the war's end, he was discharged in December of 1945. Mr. Rupsis resumed his work at a factory but signed up to serve in the reserves. During the Korean Conflict, he was called back into service in October of 1950. He was assigned to the USS *Bataan*, an aircraft carrier. His mother passed away while he was serving. Mr. Rupsis attained the rank of Petty Officer Second Class. He was discharged in December of 1951.

Following his discharge in San Diego, Mr. Rupsis decided to remain there, where he met and married his first wife. Mr. Rupsis worked at an aircraft plant, graduated from San Diego State, and worked for many years in radio broadcasting. He later moved to Florida and worked for the Florida prison system, where he retired. After Hurricane Charlie destroyed his home and possessions, Mr. Rupsis moved to Winchester, Kentucky to be near family members. It was there that he met his wife, Mary.

It is my honor to recognize this amazing patriot celebrate his 100th birthday, and appreciate him for his service and sacrifice to our nation during World War II and the Korean Conflict. As a part of "The Greatest Generation", Mr. Rupsis was an important part of the war effort to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today. I am forever grateful for Americans like Joseph Rupsis.

HONORING DORIS MOORE BAILEY  
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Doris Moore Bailey's innovative marketing skills for a national youth organization inspired her to develop middle school and teen mom initiatives in four Florida counties and 27 schools to provide services for 1,000 students yearly. An experienced adjunct professor and YMCA Program Director, she believes that no one achieves a successful life without the influence of positive mentoring.

Twice appointed by Florida's Governor Lawton Chiles to The Peace River Basin Board of The Southwest Florida Water Management District, she participated in flyovers of the basin's 105 miles Peace River, Florida's Manatee River that flows into the Gulf of Mexico to Tampa Bay, and Florida's largest storage facility, with 1,147-acre New Wales gypstack, in Polk County.

She established The African American Chamber of Commerce Polk County, Inc, the African American Historical Museum of Lakeland, re-established the Polk County Democratic Black Caucus, organized Polk County USCT and Buffalo Soldiers reenactors, and is a founder of Friends of Cathay Williams Organization, the only female Buffalo Soldier. She advocates for voters' right to access the ballot box and enhancing community resources.

In 2022, she organized the African American Historical Museum of Lakeland—Equal Justice Initiative Lynching Community Remembrance Project, and Polk County's first commemoration of the 56th Anniversary Selma Bridge crossing Jubilee Unity march. She's a

Polk County trailblazer spanning 30 years in talk radio as executive producer and host of 'Our Voices'. Moore Bailey and husband of 44 years are parents of two adult children and five grandsons. In 1992, she organized Florida's first Juneteenth Observance. She's a member of New Bethel AME Church, a NAACP Gold Life Member, and a chartered member and past president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Chapter, Lakeland. She also authored anthologies: *Voices of Unsung Immortal Mothers and Sons of Immortal Mothers*.

CELEBRATING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF BARLOW RESPIRATORY HOSPITAL

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Barlow Respiratory Hospital on its 120th anniversary.

Barlow Respiratory Hospital was founded in 1902 as the Barlow Sanatorium, a charity hospital for tuberculosis patients. Since then, Barlow Respiratory Hospital has maintained an uninterrupted focus on respiratory care and is among a few of continuously operating respiratory hospitals in the nation. Their award-winning programs include their expertise in ventilator weaning for post-ICU patients who need specialized care.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Barlow Respiratory Hospital physicians have served as clinical leaders. Barlow Respiratory Hospital's tradition of care for patients who are critically ill, often hovering between life and death, now includes care for patients who have survived COVID-19. The clinical care teams work together to help patients begin to recover at Barlow Respiratory Hospital.

As the only not-for-profit long-term acute care hospital and the only not-for-profit respiratory hospital in California, Barlow Respiratory Hospital has established a legacy of service to the Los Angeles community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the 120th anniversary of Barlow Respiratory Hospital.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF RETIRED CHIEF WARREN GENE WOODFORK, SR.

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Warren Gene Woodfork, Sr.

Warren Gene Woodfork, Sr., the first African American Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. Chief Woodfork is the eldest of eight children born in Opelousas, Louisiana. He relocated to New Orleans with his family at a young age. Chief Woodfork is a graduate of Joseph S. Clark High School and attended Xavier University of Louisiana. Chief Woodfork was beyond proud

to have family and friends following in his legacy of law and law enforcement, Ret. United States Postal Inspector, Samuel Huntley, Jr., New Orleans Police Captain, Michelle Woodfork and United States Magistrate, Judge Dana M. Douglas.

Chief Woodfork was appointed in 1985 by the city's first Black mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial and served a second term under the next mayor, Sidney Barthelemy before retiring in 1991. He was previously employed as a postal clerk and also served his country in the United States Air Force before his 28 year career in law enforcement. Chief Woodfork became the first commander of the Felony Action Squad, which operated for 10 years beginning in 1972.

He was also instrumental in making the Police Department's district captains accessible to neighborhood residents and business owners. Chief Woodfork, a product of the Callopie and Lafitte Housing developments, believed in community engagement. He saw the future of community policing by increasing the visibility of top-ranking officers in their district area and facilitating the regular and open exchange of information between the department with the people and businesses. This was a huge shift in tone for the department and was an innovative practice that brought a lot of success.

A trailblazer in his own right, Chief Woodfork appointed the first female Deputy Chief of the New Orleans Police Department, Yvonne Bechet, and the first female district commander, Carol Hewitt, who was assigned to the Seventh District. He later appointed Commander Hewitt as the first female commander of the Narcotics Drug Abuse unit in NOPD history.

Throughout his administration, Chief Woodfork also sought creative programs and concepts to target the juvenile crime problem and the growing level of violence by including programming in education, music and sports, as the three most important ingredients needed to lead young people away from crime.

Chief Woodfork was a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He was a member of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCAA), Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), International Association of Chiefs of Police, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), New Orleans Black Organization of Police (BOP) and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement, (NOBLE).

Chief Woodfork retired in 1991 to spend more time with his family. Prior to his retirement, he obtained funding for 200 new officers, along with the purchase of additional cars and equipment stating, "This is a chance for me to give my successor a better start than I had."

Though he may be gone, I know that Chief Woodfork is still watching over his beloved New Orleans community and beloved family.

**HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZETA OMICRON CHAPTER OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY**

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize and congratulate the Zeta

Omicron Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. on its 75th anniversary.

After being chartered in 1947, at what was then known as Hampton Institute (now Hampton University), Zeta Omicron began a journey to what would be one of Hampton University's finest organizations and a bold representation for positive influence within the community.

Since its beginning, its members have continued to display excellence in their commitment to the chapter's founding principles, which are centered on confronting discrimination in education and the military. As a service and social organization, the Zeta Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Inc. has continued to uplift youth and families through countless acts of service, including raising money for scholarships for high school students every year.

In addition to their scholarship program, members also provide meals to families each holiday season and support other organizations through charitable fundraising efforts to advance equity in education and opportunity. The Zeta Omicron chapter also provides youth mentoring programs, which include a conference dedicated to helping students understand the value of education, while pairing those students to important resources. Over two decades ago, the brothers of Zeta Omicron entered the adopt-a-street program and continues this community cleanup effort on Marcella Road throughout the year.

As a historically black university, Hampton University has a rich history of excellence and integrity, paired with incredible academic achievement. The Zeta Omicron chapter contributes to that success. What began as an idea from five founding members—Dr. Fred Inge, Dr. Don A. Davis, Herman G. Cook, Arthur Burke, and Colonel William H. Moses—has flourished as a robust organization built to successfully engage with some of the most important community priorities needed to build a better future. Members of this prestigious organization go on to succeed in careers in government, higher education, medicine, law, and more. It is no surprise that the chapter's historical mission of removing discrimination from the education system and the military continues today as a distinguished voice in the Hampton Roads community.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and honor the Zeta Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi on the celebration of its 75th anniversary and commend its members for their service and achievements over the years.

**HONORING MEXICAN AMERICAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST MARY ESTHER BERNAL**

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Mary Esther Bernal who passed away on March 10, 2022. For decades, Mrs. Bernal was integral to the advancement of Mexican American and Latino rights in Texas. Her work changed the lives of countless Texans, and she will be greatly missed.

Mary Esther Bernal was born on March 21, 1935, in San Antonio, Texas. She earned her

undergraduate and master's degrees from Our Lady of the Lake University. A talented pianist who was passionate about using music to connect with others, Ms. Bernal taught choir in San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) during an era when speaking Spanish in Texas schools was against the law.

Instead of bowing to pressures to suppress the culture of her city and her Mexican-American students, Mrs. Bernal celebrated both. Together with her husband, State Senator Joe Bernal, she pushed Texas schools to provide bilingual instruction to English language learners and end English-only laws. As a community leader, Mrs. Bernal served two terms on the SAISD Board of Trustees. Mrs. Bernal received numerous honors for her work as an educator and civic leader.

Mrs. Bernal was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in 1991 and the National Hispanic Heritage Hall of Honor in 2010 for her contributions to education. Mrs. Bernal is survived by her husband Joe Bernal, sons Richard and Patrick Bernal, daughter Rebecca Villarreal, six grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her youngest son, Bernard Bernal, who passed away in 2016.

Madam Speaker, San Antonio mourns the loss of a Hispanic icon. We will miss the music she played and the powerful voice she projected for equality. Her efforts benefited countless Texas families, including mine. Although she has passed, we take comfort remembering her through our heritage. I thank Mrs. Bernal for her fight. She will be missed. (Agredozco a la Señora Bernal, gracias por su lucha. Le vamos extrañar.)

**HONORING TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY'S AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL RESOURCES POLICY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Texas A&M University's (TAMU) Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy (ANRP) Internship Program for the admirable work they do to provide students a front-row seat to experience and understand the policy-making process.

For over 30 years, the ANRP internship program has provided students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with the chance to immerse themselves in the legislative process at the state, federal, and international levels. This program helps students obtain internships in a variety of settings that match their career goals in Washington, D.C.; Austin, Texas; and Rome, Italy, and provides the opportunity to use their academic knowledge in a professional setting while gaining real-world experience.

From 2013 to 2021, I had the pleasure of hosting 25 ANRP interns in my Washington, D.C. office, many of whom went on to pursue careers in teaching, law, agriculture, and other commendable fields of work. Thanks to the excellent education they received at TAMU and the unparalleled experience they gained through the ANRP program, two of those students, Mickeala Carter and Hannah Followill,