

Us,” which successfully organized the campaign to defeat an “English-Only” ballot initiative in Nashville, and of Healthy and Free Tennessee, a statewide coalition focusing on promoting reproductive and sexual health. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, the Steering Committee of the American Constitution Society—Nashville Chapter, and the Steering Committee of Our Muslim Neighbors. Ms. Weinberg is a graduate of Grinnell College and received her master’s degree from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. Ms. Weinberg has done so much to advance civil liberties in Tennessee and her service has been invaluable. I am proud to call her my friend and wish her every happiness in retirement.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MAYOR BOBBIE SINGH-ALLEN

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I rise today during Women’s History Month to recognize the contributions and achievements of Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen of Elk Grove, California.

Mayor Singh-Allen has been a great friend and partner in public service for years, when we began working together when she joined the Elk Grove School Board. She has been an exemplary citizen of Elk Grove, a city I have had the honor of representing throughout my time in Congress. She has lived in Elk Grove for over 30 years and been a strong leader in strengthening our public schools.

She was appointed to the Elk Grove Unified School District Board of Trustees in 2012 and went on to serve as Board President for 2 years. Her work involved maintaining strong financial reserves, supporting robust career and technical education programs, increasing graduation rates, creating a more inclusive curriculum, and enhancing visual and performing arts.

Mayor Singh-Allen is also an accomplished attorney, a graduate of Lincoln Law School of Sacramento, and represented the private sector for over twenty years. She has worked with associations representing the hospitality industry, special educators, and affordable housing issues.

Her election made her the first directly-elected Sikh-American woman mayor in the country. Mayor Singh-Allen is not only a dedicated servant of Elk Grove and Sacramento County, but she is also a wonderful wife and mother. In 2015, she was selected as “Woman of the Year” for California State Assembly District 9 and was recognized for her achievements in front of the California State Legislature. I am honored to call her a friend and ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing her today in front of the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
GERARD “GERRY” M. THIERS

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Gerard “Gerry” M. Thiers, a non-profit leader and champion for private special education in New Jersey for over three decades.

Gerry has dedicated his life and career to champion policies that benefit children in New Jersey. He began his career researching for the United Way in Philadelphia while also representing Catholic Charities agencies for the New Jersey Catholic Conference and assisting with the management of a large social services agency. After developing a robust advocacy background, Gerry proudly served as the Executive Director of the Association of Schools and Agencies for the Handicapped (ASAH) for 38 years. Under his leadership, ASAH’s membership increased from 25 to 95 schools at more than 140 locations across our state. Through his work, he not only supported thousands of educational professionals through development conferences and programming opportunities, but also ensured that children in New Jersey had the resources they needed in quality education to reach their fullest potential.

Gerry led a successful effort to implement a new funding system for private special education schools. With more than 232,500 students receiving special education instruction in the state during the year 2020, this has benefited New Jersey’s special needs students’ accessibility to a meaningful, accommodating education. He also helped start “Special Education Week” in New Jersey, which commends school board members, educators, and parents for their dedication to ensuring quality education for students with disabilities and most importantly, to recognize the hard work of the students themselves.

In addition to his work with ASAH, Gerry also served as Chairperson of the New York Society of Association Executives, Chair of the Advocates for Children of New Jersey in Newark, and was a Board member for the National Association of Private Special Education Centers in Washington, D.C. Through these numerous volunteer roles, Gerry earned respect and a prominent reputation as a non-profit leader on both state and national levels.

I know I speak for the 3rd District in wishing Gerry a happy retirement filled with days of doing what he loves—biking, golfing and reading. He can retire knowing that his life’s work will not go unnoticed by our community, filled with the students, teachers, and parents of those impacted by a disability. It is because of Gerry that New Jersey can continue to pride itself on providing one of the highest quality educations through destigmatizing best practices that continue normalizing special education programs students deserve. New Jersey is grateful for the work that he has done, and I hope that he can inspire others to carry on his legacy as a champion for special education students across the country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND PATRIOTIC SERVICE OF THOMAS E. COPPINGER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the life and service of Thomas Edwin Coppinger. Thomas honorably served in the United States Marine Corps during the Second World War and the United States Army during the Korean War. Today, he is survived by his brother Don Coppinger, his sisters Sandra Tate and Sharon Reilly, and many more nieces, nephews, and cousins. All of whom carry on the memory of this great American hero.

Thomas was born on March 22, 1922, in Greenville, TX to Thomas ‘Tom’ Richard and Eula Belle Coppinger. He attended high school in Greenville and worked on his grandparents’ farm and as a delivery man. Ultimately, in April of 1941 at the young age of nineteen, Thomas decided to enlist in the Marine Corps to serve his country in the Second World War. He saw combat during his missions in the Pacific theatre from early 1942 to 1944. Moreover, he served in Samoa, Hawaii, and the Gilbert Islands and was honorably discharged in December 1945. After returning home to Texas, Thomas again heeded the call for duty and reenlisted into the United States Army in 1948, where he valiantly served in the Second Armored Division to defend our Nation and allies. On September 1, 1950, Thomas tragically lost his life on a combat mission in Korea, and he posthumously received the Purple Heart for his service and bravery.

On July 27, 1951, Thomas Edwin Coppinger was laid to rest with full military honors in Wieland Cemetery, Greenville, TX. At the time of his death, Thomas was survived by his parents and 12 siblings. On March 22, 2022, we celebrate what would have been Thomas’ 100th Birthday. I pray that the memory of this patriot will live on for yet another hundred years and beyond.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation’s Capital to recognize Thomas Coppinger’s patriotism and devotion to God, Family, and Country. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal condolences to the Coppinger family for the loss of such an extraordinary man of service and duty. May God rest the soul of this great American.

TRIBUTE TO CELESTE DE LAINE
“CLETE” BOYKIN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazer, a role model for many, and a strong advocate for her alma mater, Clemson University. Celeste De Laine Boykin, known to her friends and associates affectionately as “Clete,” is being honored by the Clemson Alumni Association with the Distinguished Service Award, and I echo their recognition of her tremendous work.

Clete Boykin, is a native of Manning, in South Carolina's 6th Congressional District. She is a member of the distinguished De Laine family, who initiated the activities in Clarendon County, South Carolina that led to the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court case that desegregated public schools. She continues to uphold that legacy with her work today.

Clete grew up in Lancaster, South Carolina, and graduated *summa cum laude* from Lancaster High School. She matriculated at Clemson University, which shaped the future trajectory of her life. Clete lived on the fourth floor of Benet Hall, and made lifelong friends known as the "Benet Babes," who won the 1978 Women's Intramural Flag Football Championship. She still sees the group every summer, and, in 2015, the Benet Babes established a scholarship fund to give deserving students the opportunity to attend Clemson.

At Clemson, Clete distinguished herself as one of the first African American members of the Tiger Band, and still proudly wears her Tiger Band jacket in cold Washington winters. She graduated from Clemson with honors and received a Bachelor of Science degree in plant sciences.

Clete continued to break ground by joining E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company as the first African American woman to work as a sales and marketing representative in the company's Agricultural Chemicals business. Clete rose to manage du Pont's \$ 1.5 million plant nursery business in Florida. The company then tapped her to join the company's government affairs office in Washington, D.C. There she managed a variety of policy issues including agriculture, transportation, environmental, trade secrets and defense matters related to the Kevlar® paraaramid synthetic fiber used in protective vests and helmets.

In 1989, Clete earned a Master of Arts in International Relations from American University in Washington. She attended the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Citizens Academy as a member of its Class of 2011, and received the Washington Government Relations Group's Reginald "Reg" Gilliam Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 for her excellence as a government relations professional.

She retired from DuPont in 2015 after 29 years of service, and started her own government consulting firm, CDB ProjX. She is often seen on Capitol Hill as part of Clemson's governmental affairs organization working to build relationships with federal officials and promoting her beloved alma mater.

Her work with Clemson also extends to volunteer roles. Clete has held many voluntary-leadership positions, including serving as a former member of both the University's Board of Visitors and the Clemson University Foundation Board of Directors. Currently, she chairs the Clemson Institute for Parks Board of Advisors. She is a member of the Clemson University Tiger Band Association and a long-time board member of the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. Clemson Club.

She has helped organize various Clemson events in the Washington area, including 2017's Clemson Day at the White House honoring the University's national championship football team. She also helps students of color in the D.C. area who are interested in attending Clemson by connecting them with campus contacts or facilitating campus tours.

In addition to her work with Clemson, Clete serves on the boards of the Washington Gov-

ernment Relations Group Foundation and the Potomac Riverkeeper Network Leadership Council. She volunteers for McKenna's Wagon, a mobile food service that feeds people in need throughout the D.C. area, and she has bicycled hundreds of miles to raise money for AIDS charities and to support the fight against multiple sclerosis.

She is a member of the board of the South Carolina Business Council and is vice chairman of the board of directors of the Briggs, De Laine, Pearson Foundation, which focuses on providing free after-school and summer tutoring for individuals from low-income backgrounds in Clarendon County, South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in congratulating Clete Boykin on her well-deserved recognition by the Clemson Alumni Association. I can think of no greater champion of their alma mater, and no one more effective or dedicated to her work than Clete. She makes Clemson University and her home state of South Carolina very proud.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF J. ALLEN MARTIN

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize J. Allen Martin for his outstanding service to our state.

Allen has selflessly served the state of South Carolina and Clemson University for decades. He graduated from Clemson in 1969 and has since served on several University Boards and Committees. For example, Allen has served on the Baltimore/DC Clemson Club Board of Directors as a leader, host, and volunteer for many years and currently serves on the Clemson University Foundation Board.

In addition to his community involvement, Allen is the Managing Partner of The Livingston Group. Allen was previously the Chief of Staff to Congressman Bob Livingston (R-LA) throughout Mr. Livingston's congressional career. In 1999, he co-founded The Livingston Group, together with the Congressman and other former staff members. Allen is well respected for his in-depth knowledge of the government decision-making process and has been involved with numerous successful political activities and elections throughout the United States.

Allen is a valued, dependable, and humble community leader. He has exceeded expectations in public service, highlighted by his receipt of numerous honors and accolades. For example, Allen recently received the Clemson Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the Association can bestow upon an alumnus or alumna. The Distinguished Service Award is given to alumni who have not only dedicated their life to professionalism and public service, but who have also continued a lifelong dedication to Clemson University.

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

RECOGNIZING BILL BURTON FOR HIS SERVICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Bill Burton for his many years of service as a community advocate and for his role as the Area Director for the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club.

A Rainier Vista native, Bill is an experienced and accomplished community leader. He has served as the Area Director of the Boys & Girls Club since 1980, working tirelessly throughout his life to empower local youth. As Area Director, Bill was a driving force behind fundraising efforts that galvanized the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club. He turned what was once an underdeveloped club into a thriving community center that provides Rainier Vista children a safe place to grow and learn.

Today, the Rainier Vista Club serves over 100 of the neighborhood's youth through programs and mentorship to create positive change in their community. These achievements would not have been possible without Bill's passion and dedication for giving young people opportunities to become outstanding members of their community.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to recognize Bill for his outstanding achievements and contributions to our community throughout his career.

RECOGNIZING JUDY KRAUSE, FORMER WINNEBAGO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Judy Krause, former Winnebago High School girls' basketball head coach, for retiring with a historic and successful career.

Coach Krause began her career as head coach with the Winnebago girls' basketball team 33 years ago. Krause's impressive career comes to an end with 18 regional titles, four sectional championships, three super-sectional titles, a third-place state finish in 1992, and a runner-up finish in 2022. In total, she's accumulated 598 wins and 332 losses as head coach. Speaking to her success, Coach Krause was inducted into the IBCA Hall of Fame in 2017 and was recently named the IBCA Coach of the Year for Class 2A for the seventh time in a row. She was also nominated for overall coach of the year.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Winnebago High School girls' basketball head coach, Judy Krause, for her 33 years coaching the Winnebago High School girls' basketball team and congratulate her on her retirement after a highly successful career.