

private organization that helped build 3 miles of border wall along the Rio Grande river, a place where construction is difficult due to the great potential for erosion.

So how do our corrupt elites treat this hero? They respond like they did to the many peaceful protesters on January 6, to the pro-life protesters facing over 10 years for trying to save the unborn, or to anyone who disagrees with their globalist, America-last agenda. They persecute them; they make their lives a living hell; they ruin them.

As our ruling elites were not happy that the illegal hordes could not continue to stream across the border, they activated their deep-state machinery and sent their secret police to arrest Airman Kolfage. Fifteen Federal law enforcement goons dragged him out of his house without a wheelchair, subjecting him to utter humiliation and pain in front of his family. No thought whatsoever was given to his disabled status. And in prison, the VA refused him pain medications, without which he suffers unbearable pain.

Mr. Kolfage had worked tirelessly, 12 hours a day, for several years to get this 3-mile section of wall built. He ran and operated the organization that got it done. For taking a salary, the Federal Government arrested him, saying he had no right to get paid anything because his website said any money raised would go to build the wall. In my view, he was part of getting the wall built. There was nothing wrong with him getting a salary and saying the money would be used to build the wall. Without him, it would not have been complete, and no real American would object to a man getting paid to devote himself to a selfless project like this one and succeeding.

Airman Kolfage was just intimidated into taking a plea deal by our third-world, kangaroo-court judicial system. This veteran and activist should be celebrated as a hero in so many ways. Instead, he will rot in a Federal prison. A greater injustice is hard to imagine. To his wife, Ashley, and two children, my heart goes out to them. I am praying for them all. Please know that I will continue to fight against the injustice done to her husband.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF  
PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. RUBEN GALLEGO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 6, 2022*

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this month.

Founded in 1922 by Reverends Jake Howard, R. Thomas, and M. Boyd, Pilgrim Rest has been serving the Phoenix community ever since. In addition to its well over twenty ministries, Pilgrim Rest offers a wide range of human services that assist not only their congregation, but any in the community who are in need. These services include family support, employment assistance, a monthly food bank, and much more. As the church has grown, Pilgrim Rest has expanded its sanctuary, built the Word Center to house classrooms and the Family Services Resource Center, and opened the Wellness Center to care for the physical body as well as the soul.

Since 2018, Pilgrim Rest has been under the able leadership of Pastor Terry E. Mackey, who has continued to develop Pilgrim Rest and the community it serves. Pilgrim Rest's mission is to be, "like a city that sits upon a hill; a beacon of hope for all." They have been spreading that hope for the last 100 years, and I look forward to seeing all they will do next.

I would like to again congratulate Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church on 100 years of faith and service.

HONORING THE TYLER JUNIOR  
COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
TEAM 2021-2022 NJCAA DIVISION 1  
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NA-  
TIONAL CHAMPIONS

**HON. LOUIE GOHMERT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 6, 2022*

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I recognize and congratulate the Tyler Junior College Lady Apaches on an outstanding basketball season in which they captured the National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 Women's National Championship title.

Throughout the 2021-2022 season, the Lady Apaches developed a reputation with one of the top offenses in the country, averaging 78.8 points per game, making it apparent that the Lady Apaches were a force with which to be reckoned. Entering the NJCAA tournament with a season record of 23-8 and as the No. 17 seed, the Lady Apaches were underdogs in each of their five games in the tournament. However, they demonstrated their hard work and determination to earn a spot in the championship game.

The Lady Apaches demonstrated incredible focus and skill to clinch the National Championship over the Georgia Highlands Lady Chargers with a final score of 92-80. It is an esteemed honor to pay tribute to the team members and coaches of the 2021-2022 NJCAA Division 1 Women's Basketball National Champions: Veonce Powell (No. 1), Nassarine William (No. 3), Tia Morgan (No. 4), Nadechka Laccen (No. 5), Emari Sidney (No. 10), Shadiya Thomas (No. 12), Brianna Garrett (No. 13), Trinittee Alexander (No. 20), Taryn Wills (No. 21), Jasmine Payne (No. 22), Deborah Ogayemi (No. 23), Daijah Torns (No. 24), Head Coach Trenia Tillis-Hoard, Assistant Coach Chelsea Hudson, Assistant Coach Brianna Brooks, Student Assistant Coach Brynn Sultz, and Manager Keaira Grant.

This tribute goes out to all of the amazing athletic staff and support staff at Tyler Junior College including the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Kevin Vest; Assistant Athletic Director Kelsi Weeks; Associate Athletic Director Chuck Smith; Administrative Assistant Jordan Jones; Head Athletic Trainer Eddy McGuire; Assistant Athletic Trainer Victoria Morris; Student Trainer Paige Arkfeld; Student Trainer Haven Bengi; Registrar Records/State Reports Coordinator Denny Yarbrough; Enrollment Support Services Specialist Erica Thurman, and all other personnel that contributed to this amazing championship season.

An athletic team cannot achieve any true level of excellence without unwavering support

from its school leaders including President Dr. Juan E. Mejia; Provost Dr. Deana Sheppard; and Associate Vice Provost of Student Affairs Dr. Tim Drain. That is exactly the kind of support the Lady Apaches experienced from the entire community of Tyler and Smith County. That is why congratulations go to all the outstanding family, friends, and fans who contributed to the success of the Lady Apaches during this championship season.

The accomplishment of Deborah Ogayemi (forward) should be of particular note, who averaged 17 rebounds a game during the tournament and was voted the Tournament's Most Valuable Player. Joining her on the All-Tournament Team were teammates Shadiya Thomas (guard) and Taryn Wills (guard). Head Coach Trenia Tillis-Hoard is to be congratulated for receiving the Coach of the Tournament award.

This is not just a feat for the basketball team but for the entire college. This represents the 67th national championship in the school's history as a NJCAA Division 1 contender. Furthermore, The Lady Apaches were in the national tournament for the fifth time in six years and in the national championship game for the third time ever. This will be the first National Championship the Lady Apaches have won since their only other championship win in 2000. This speaks highly of the hard work and dedication of the men and women and the excellent coaching staff at Tyler Junior College.

It is with great pride that I join with all of east Texas in congratulating the Lady Apaches basketball team on their NJCAA Division 1 National Championship. May God continue to bless these consummate first-class competitors, along with their families, friends, and neighbors in east Texas. This outstanding accomplishment is now preserved, which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

HONORING LARK TOYS

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 6, 2022*

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Small Business Week, May 2-5, 2022, and to thank the entire Lark Toys family, Kathy and Ron Gray and Miranda and Scott Gray-Burlingame. Their dedication to their community in Kellogg is what fuels Minnesota's Second Congressional District.

Lark Toys has proven that small, family-owned and operated businesses can rise to national prominence. Miranda and the staff at Lark Toys combine a multitude of skills to bring happiness to children and families throughout the Second Congressional District and beyond.

Small businesses like Lark Toys are the backbone of our economy. I'm proud that Miranda is a member of my Small Business Taskforce. I'm thankful for her expertise and guidance as we work to shape policies to benefit and strengthen our small business economy.

HONORING D.C.'S 2022 GREEN  
RIBBON SCHOOLS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 6, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating two District of Columbia schools on being recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as Green Ribbon Schools.

For the past 11 years, the Department of Education has recognized schools for their sustainability practices. Since 2011, 11 schools in the District have been recognized as Green Ribbon Schools. This year, J.G. Whittier Elementary School and American University were selected as Green Ribbon Schools.

J.G. Whittier Elementary School, located in Manor Park in Northwest D.C., was established in 1926 and serves 324 students in grades K–8. The school recently held a Sustainability Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Day, which allowed students to learn about sustainability and the effect that we have on the environment, as well as to engage in project-based activities connecting their learning. I applaud J.G. Whittier Elementary School for its recognition as a Green Ribbon School.

Located in Spring Valley in Northwest D.C., American University helps students to learn, research and work to spark positive change in their neighborhood and the world. Established in 1893 by an Act of Congress, American University enrolls 14,000 students in its undergraduate and graduate programs. American University has a proud history of sustainability, which includes becoming one of the first universities in the Nation to reach carbon neutrality, in 2018. I applaud American University for its recognition as a Green Ribbon School.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating J.G. Whittier Elementary School and American University for their recognition as Green Ribbon Schools.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MARY FRANCINE “MERRI  
DEE” DORHAM

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 6, 2022*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of an extraordinary woman, journalist, television broadcast legend, and philanthropist, Mary Francine “Merri Dee” Dorham.

Merri was born in Chicago, Illinois on October 30, 1936. While she grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana, she returned to Chicago as a teenager where she graduated from Englewood Technical Prep Academy High School in 1955. After graduating, Merri attended Xavier University in New Orleans, where she was a business administration major. Although she had to drop out to support her siblings, her passion for journalism would land her at WBEE in 1966 and, two years later, Merri began hosting an entertainment program at WCIU on Saturday nights.

In 1971, Merri’s popularity on local television resulted in her having her own talk show, “The Merri Dee Show” on independent station, WSNS-Channel 44. That year, Merri faced a personal tragedy when she and a talk show guest were kidnapped from the television station and nearly killed. She survived this horrendous incident and made it her life’s mission to advocate for victims of gun violence. She lobbied state and local public officials in passing Illinois’ first victims’ bill of rights, which would become a model for other states.

In 1972, Merri became an anchor for WGN-TV’s 9 p.m. newscast, becoming the first African American lead anchor for a news station in a major U.S. city. For the next three decades, she would play a pivotal role at the station as a senior leader, including serving as WGN’s Community Relations Director. In this capacity, Merri was a liaison between the station and the many social and community organizations around town and managed multiple public service campaigns, including hosting

countless broadcasts of the legendary Bud Billiken Parade, the nation’s largest and longest running African American parade, annually attended by one million onlookers and two thousand parade participants.

Merri’s philanthropic commitment was consistent beyond her professional career. She participated in several charities and organizations including the Chicago-based program Athletes for a Better Education—a charity she founded. She was a yearly fixture as television host for the United Negro College Fund’s “Evening of Stars” for nearly two decades, in addition to hosting numerous telethons for the Easterseals.

Throughout the next 40 years, Merri would spotlight her love for children through several on-air segments, including “The Waiting Child,” which focused on children in the foster system in need of an adoptive home. Her impact was recognized by then-Illinois Governor Jim Edgar, who recognized her with a commendation in 1998 for helping to increase state adoptions by more than 50 percent. Her hard work and dedication also earned her the Adoption Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2004.

Merri Dee was a trailblazer in the world of broadcast journalism for young Black women paving a path for increasing diversity in newsrooms. She was a committed mentor, an author, and devoted leader in her community led by her faith, forgiveness, and grace. A recipient of countless awards and accolades, she was inducted in the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame and served as the president of Illinois’ AARP chapter. She was an incredible leader; a compassionate; a kind professional and gloriously gifted friend with a broad, welcoming million-dollar smile.

Her loss is deeply felt in Chicago, the Nation, and across the entire world. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, loved ones, and to all who were impacted by her wonderful spirit.