

Post retirement, Barbara remains committed to providing support and care to those who need it most and gives her time and energy to a range of organizations nurturing a healthy, welcoming community. She is a member of the San Luis Obispo NAACP, for which she has served as secretary, and is also a member of the SLO County Diversity Coalition.

Barbara served as a Long-Term Care Ombudsman in San Luis Obispo County for eight years, assisting residents of long-term care facilities and their families to resolve problems related to the health, safety, welfare, and rights of those in Long Term Care facilities. She is now the chair of the San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health Board that evaluates the community's behavioral health needs, services, and facilities and advises the Board of Supervisors and the Behavioral Health Administrator.

As a volunteer, Barbara serves organizations that encourage growth and opportunity. For the San Luis Obispo Community Foundation, she reviews scholarship applications and even created an endowment in the name of her brother, John Renner, supporting students who identify at LGBTQ+. Barbara is also a member of the Central Coast Circle of Friendship Bridge which provides microfinance, education, and health services to build opportunities. In alignment with United Nations Millennium Development goals, the Central Coast Circle empowers Guatemalan women to build a better future. Lastly, Barbara is an avid reader and South County book club member, who volunteers with the Arroyo Grande Library, organizing donated books for the annual book sale.

I am honored to recognize Barbara, one of our community's "quiet heroes," for her commitment to improving the lives of so many. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Barbara Levenson, for her incredible service to her community.

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CELEBRATING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

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**HON. JERRY McNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Head Start, a crucial program that celebrated its 57th anniversary this year.

Since 1965, Head Start has promoted school readiness for children in economically disadvantaged families by offering educational, nutritional, health, and social services. Head Start has served more than 39 million children and their families in urban and rural areas in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories, including American Indian, Alaska Native, migrant and seasonal communities.

Head Start works with and for the communities they serve to improve the lives of children from birth. Growing from an eight-week demonstration project, Head Start now includes full-day and year-round services, which more than one million children and their families benefit from each year. A key tenet of the program is that it be culturally responsive to

the communities it serves, and that the communities have an investment in its success.

The early education services and essential support offered by Head Start provides children the tools they need for future success. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Head Start and its staff for their invaluable contributions over the past 57 years to building opportunities so that every child can thrive.

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RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
**FRANK SMITH**

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**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the service of a great Nebraskan, Mr. Frank Smith who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Mr. Smith (no relation) was recently recognized by the Gage County Board of Supervisors for his service to Nebraskans and our country. I am honored to have the opportunity to join my fellow Nebraskans in thanking Mr. Smith for his service.

On May 5th, he turned 100. A member of the Greatest Generation, he was born in Omaha and raised in Beatrice. He studied agriculture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and he enlisted in the Army on June 10, 1942. He served during World War II and was awarded the World War II campaign medal with three Bronze Stars and the Good Conduct medal. He was honorably discharged as a corporal. Corporal Frank Smith, USA, Retired, enlisted because he loves our great country, and his volunteerism has continued in the years following his military service.

Upon returning from tours in Africa and Italy with a heavy weapons company, he went on to work in farming, then as a prison chaplain. When asked about his patriotic dedication, he said, "My government's important to me, although it's not always so good as it should be, but it's mine."

At 100 years old, he continues to volunteer with Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging, delivering meals to fellow senior citizens every day. To put it simply, his life story is extraordinary. It would be easy for someone who has done and given as much as Frank to sit back and relax, but he continues serving others.

I thank Mr. Smith for all his service and sacrifice.

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CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

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**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Minnesota Humanities Center as they celebrate their 50th anniversary of "sparking change" in our communities using the power of the humanities to explore, interpret, and engage. The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) is a collaborative

non-profit working with individuals, organizations and communities to bring humanities programming to all Minnesotans, and is rooted in the belief that the humanities have the power to connect, bridge differences, interpret the complexities of the world and positively shape our future.

Founded by the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1971, MHC was one of the very first humanities councils in the nation. In their first few decades they focused on a range of education initiatives that explored Minnesota's people and their history, and used televised or in-person programs to enhance the way that educators taught about these subjects in their classrooms. As MHC continued to grow they expanded by creating traveling exhibits and public events, bringing in international speakers and publishing books. Their burgeoning programming in the 1990s eventually led to the opening of their full-service event center in the former wing of Gillette Children's Hospital in Saint Paul in 1996. This center on the east side of Saint Paul is still the home of the Minnesota Humanities Center today, and houses a full-service meeting and event center, 15 administrative offices and 15 overnight guest rooms.

As MHC moved into the 21st century, their programming continued to expand and shift to serve the needs of Minnesotans. They began to focus on providing culturally responsive and linguistically relevant literacy initiatives in White and Green Hmong, Somali, Dakota and Ojibwe, and they broadened partnerships with school districts while engaging new audiences in a deeper understanding of history, culture and identity. One example of this programming is a documentary they co-produced with Twin Cities Public Television called "Iron Range: Minnesota Building America" that highlights the history and future of the Iron Range in northern Minnesota and won an Emmy Award for Best Cultural Documentary in 2009. Another example of their important work is their Veteran's Voices program which began in 2013 and honors Minnesota Veterans by celebrating their written and spoken stories about their experiences serving their country.

Grant-making is also central to the work of MHC. For 50 years they have worked hard to champion the work of individuals, nonprofits, schools and other collectives across Minnesota through their own competitive grants and by administering grant funds appropriated by the Minnesota Legislature. In the last year, MHC distributed over \$4.7 million through 180 grants across Minnesota, and through the CARES Act were awarded an additional \$538,500 to support COVID-19 relief efforts. I was proud to vote in favor of those funds, and I continue to support funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities through my role as Vice-Chair of the Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee.

Led today by CEO Kevin Lindsey, MHC continues to be a beacon for learning and positive change in Minnesota, seeking to fulfill their vision of a just society that is connected, curious, and compassionate as they look to their next 50 years of service to the community. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Minnesota Humanities Center and their excellent humanities programming as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

**TRIBUTE TO SIGRID WRIGHT—  
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Sigrid Wright of Santa Barbara, California.

A longtime resident of Santa Barbara, Sigrid Wright has been a leader in environmental non-profits and climate change advocacy on the Central Coast for more than 25 years. With the many daunting challenges of the growing climate crisis, her leadership has guided the community in facing those challenges.

Sigrid was named as CEO/executive director of the Community Environmental Council (CEC) in 2015, becoming the first woman to lead the 45-year-old non-profit. Driven by the environmental destruction seen along Santa Barbara's coastline due to the 1969 oil spill, Sigrid has championed CEC's mission to move the Santa Barbara region away from dependence on fossil fuels in one generation—Fossil Free by '33. As CEO, Sigrid has spearheaded CEC's climate goals by educating and activating the Santa Barbara community around sustainable practices, advocating for environmentally sound policies and laws, and building partnerships with other organizations to open new pathways for sustainable transportation, energy, and food systems.

In her longstanding commitment to resolving the climate crisis, Sigrid co-founded the Central Coast Climate Justice Network as well as the Central Coast Climate Collaborative, devoted to advancing social, economic, and environmental justice. Sigrid's efforts to effect real change in climate advocacy have already been recognized by her community. In 2020, California Assemblymember Monique Limón named CEC Non-Profit of the Year. Community initiatives sparked by Sigrid and CEC have included Santa Barbara's first ever wind farm which is expected to power 53,000 family homes with clean, sustainable electricity.

Where Sigrid sees a need, she takes action to fill it. She strategizes and addresses each of the root causes of climate change in her role as leader of CEC. Her influence over Santa Barbara's local food justice movement has led to produce and prepared food being redirected to impoverished peoples and families in need rather than end up at a landfill. Sigrid's quest to reduce consumption and waste has helped expand the Rethink the Drink program, providing access to thousands of hydration stations across Santa Barbara County and environmental education for participating schools. She gives so much of her time, energy, and resources to serve our community. She is a worthy candidate for this honor and a role model for community leaders of all kinds.

I am honored to recognize Sigrid for her continued commitment to environmental and climate change advocacy on the Central Coast. I ask all Members to join me today in

honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Sigrid Wright, for her incredible service to her community.

**HONORING MATALIE MILES**

**HON. RICK W. ALLEN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Matalie Miles, upon her acceptance to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

As a future cadet, she will be joining the ranks of the world's most fearsome fighting force—the United States Army—guided by duty, honor, and country.

The service and sacrifice of America's military personnel have safeguarded our Nation since its inception, defending our way of life from Lexington to Normandy.

And throughout our history, American soldiers have demonstrated tremendous courage and strength, beating back tyranny to the ends of the earth.

I was glad to sponsor Matalie's nomination and I am confident that her talents will distinguish her among her peers both during her time at West Point and thereafter.

I congratulate Matalie, and know that she will make this Nation proud.

**IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CURTIS L. JONES, JR.**

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor, commend, and extend my congratulations to a gifted educator, dedicated community leader, and great team builder, Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Jr. Dr. Jones retired from his role as Superintendent of the Bibb County, Georgia School District, and a retirement celebration was held on Friday, May 27, 2022, at The Macon Coliseum located at 200 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia.

Born to the union of Reverend Curtis L. Jones and Mrs. Roberta Prescott Jones, Dr. Jones earned his bachelor's degree at the United States Military Academy at West Point and went on to complete a distinguished military career in the U.S. Army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Albany State University in Albany, Georgia, an Education Specialist Degree from Lincoln Memorial University, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

For nearly two decades, Dr. Jones has been an effective and trusted leader in multiple roles in public education administration in the state of Georgia. He established an impressive career beginning as a JROTC instructor with the Griffin-Spalding County School System in Griffin, Georgia, moving to the positions of High School Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and thereafter, Superintendent of Schools.

On April 6, 2015, he became Superintendent of the Bibb County School District in

Macon, Georgia, and worked tirelessly with teachers, administrators, and other support staff to transform the students of Bibb County into scholars, leaders, and good citizens. While leading the Bibb County School District, Dr. Jones has worked to enhance literacy and classroom learning through the development of a District Literacy Plan, which led to student growth on the Georgia Milestones Assessments. He led two voter-approved Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) campaigns, which funded the opening of six new school buildings and countless school renovation projects. His commitment to equity motivated him to secure major technology improvements assuring that every child has equal access to high-quality technology resources. During his tenure as Superintendent, the Bibb County School District has made great gains in improving its graduation rate from 58.9 percent in 2014 to 80.67 percent in 2021.

Under his exceptional leadership, the District has received Georgia's College Board Linking Award for having more than 80 percent of juniors and seniors utilizing Khan Academy for SAT preparation (2017); the Digital School District Survey Award for Large Student Population Districts category, and along with its Board of Education has been named both a Distinguished and Exemplary Board by the Georgia School Boards Association (2018). Bibb County was featured in The District Management Journal, in an article titled "Raising Achievement and Addressing Equity at Bibb County Schools" and as a case study with K-12 Insight for its work in improving stakeholder communications through its use of the Let's Talk! platform. In addition to these achievements, seven schools have achieved Leader in Me Lighthouse School status (2022), and the District has achieved accreditation from AdvancED, (now Cognia), with two schools—Skyview and Carter Elementary Schools, being recognized as National Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title I Schools of Distinction.

Dr. Jones' leadership has made a tremendous impact on the many educators and administrators in the District, as numerous leaders and staff members have been recognized at the state and national levels, and have been invited to serve as leading panelists and make presentations on how Bibb has demonstrated success.

Winston Churchill once said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Jr. has given so much to the Bibb County School District, its educators, its administrators, and most importantly, its students. He has cast a wide net in his service as an educator, and Bibb County, our state, and our nation are better because of his work.

In addition to his work for the Bibb County School District, Dr. Jones is engaged in numerous professional and community organizations including the Rotary Club of Macon and the Kiwanis Club of Macon. He serves on several community boards including those for the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Central Georgia. He is a past governing board member for The School Superintendents Association (AASA) and past president of the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA).

For his work in educational leadership and administration, Dr. Jones has received several