

awards and commendations including the President's Award from the Georgia School Superintendents Association (2021); the Bill Barr Leadership Award (2016); the AdvancED Excellence in Education Award (2018); and the 2019 Georgia Superintendent of the Year award. He was named one of four finalists for 2019 National Superintendent of the Year by The School Superintendents Association (AASA) and the 2019 National Superintendent of the Year at AASA's National Conference on Education.

Dr. Jones has accomplished much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Evelyn, their three children, and grandchildren. Their support has, no doubt, been the wind beneath his wings.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in honoring, commending, and extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career in Elementary and Secondary Education Administration and his continued service to humanity.

RECOGNIZING KATERINA  
NAFPLIOTI PANAGOPOULOS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Katerina Nafplioti Panagopoulos for her outstanding career and accomplishments. Through her many endeavors and initiatives, Ms. Panagopoulos has shown unwavering dedication to the Greek community.

Ms. Panagopoulos was born in Athens, Greece and studied at both the Evangelical School of Nea Smyrni and the Foreign Literature Department of the Paul Valery University, in Montpellier, France. She holds an honorary Doctor of Philosophy from Amity University. Ms. Panagopoulos founded the successful business Studio Alta Moda in Athens and has since made great accomplishments in the sectors of tourism and commerce.

Outside of her work as an accomplished businesswoman, Ms. Panagopoulos has served the world of sports extensively. Since 1998, she has acted as the National Ambassador of Greece in the Council of Europe for Sports, Tolerance and Fair Play and has presided as president of the Panhellenic Women's Sports Association "KALLIPATIRA" since 2005. In 2013, Ms. Panagopoulos signed the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Association of Greek Olympians (SEO) and the Hellenic Paralympic Committee as the President of KALLIPATIRA. Since that time, her work has involved supporting Olympic and Paralympic Champions and Winners, the construction of more than 25 athletic venues throughout Greece, and providing athletic and medical equipment as well as financial support to athletic associations. The International Olympic Committee honored Ms. Panagopoulos in 2012, when she became the first Greek recipient of the Woman and Sports Award.

Ms. Panagopoulos has served as Ambassador of the Greek State regarding matters of promotion of the international role of Greece globally, the creation of new investments and the Hellenic Diaspora since 2019. She is the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Greece for Hellenic Diaspora since 2018, and President of the International Center for Science and Hellenic Values.

In collaboration with the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Panagopoulos founded an initiative to organize a series of lectures in the most important centers of the Greek Diaspora in the United States. She frequently participates in conferences and working groups, and lectures in schools and foundations nationwide.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Katerina Nafplioti Panagopoulos for her outstanding accomplishments and commitment to representing Hellenic culture in the United States and around the world.

CONGRATULATING RUSSELLVILLE'S BASEBALL TEAM FOR  
WINNING THE 2022 CLASS II  
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Russellville Indians baseball team for winning the Class II State Title.

This is Russellville High School's first state title in the history of their baseball program. These players and coaches should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state title to their school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the Russellville Indians baseball team for a job well done.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIME TIMERS OF THE  
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Prime Timers of the National Capital Area.

Prime Timers of the National Capital Area was founded on December 17, 1996, as a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international non-profit organization that celebrates all human diversity and whose vision is to "Bring together mature gay and bisexual men for friendship, social activities, support and personal growth."

The mission of Prime Timers of the National Capital Area is to provide opportunities for older gay and bisexual men to come together in a safe and supportive environment regardless of race, nationality, sexual orientation, physical ability, ethnicity, religion or political affiliation. The chapter promotes healthy aging

through supportive relationships and personal enrichment through service to others.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Prime Timers of the National Capital Area for its 25 years of dedicated service, which has advanced the welfare not only of the LGBTQ community in the District of Columbia, but of the entire population of the District of Columbia.

RECOGNIZING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF SLEDER'S FAMILY  
TAVERN

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 140th Anniversary of Sleder's Family Tavern of Traverse City, Michigan. Through almost a century and a half of service and steadfast devotion to their community, Sleder's Family Tavern has become a local landmark and an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Established in 1882, Sleder's Family Tavern's continuous dedication to the local community has landed the business the title of the oldest active restaurant in Michigan. The tavern was started by local wheelwright, Vencil Sleder, who came to the United States as a Bohemian immigrant and built the tavern with the help of his fellow neighbors. The original construction of the tavern was made up of wooden slabs from sawmills and took approximately three years to build since many of the builders were only available on weekends.

Sleder's Family Tavern was owned and operated by the Sleder family for three generations, until it was sold to Bob and Sylvia Classens around the business's 100th anniversary in 1975. The Tavern was then sold to Deb and Brian Cairns in May 1992, who eventually transferred ownership to their son and daughter-in-law, Ryan and Megan Cox, on December 31, 2019. Throughout the years, the business has only had minor renovations and additions, and much of the original building has been preserved with the help of the community. Today, the Sleder's Family Tavern is located in the heart of downtown Traverse City, and continues to serve locals for their food and beverage needs.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Sleder's Family Tavern for nearly a century and a half of success and service to Northern Michigan. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GENERAL JOSEPH M. MARTIN, VICE  
CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY

**HON. MARK E. GREEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of General

Joseph M. Martin to the United States Army and the American people.

General Joseph M. Martin has served our nation honorably for over thirty-five years. A native of Dearborn, Michigan, General Martin graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1986 and commissioned as an Armor officer. General Martin successfully led and commanded soldiers during peacetime and combat at all levels of leadership including platoon, company, battalion, brigade, and division.

General Martin's record of exemplary combat leadership includes Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st Infantry Division during Operation Desert Storm, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division in Northwest Baghdad, Iraq, and the 1st Infantry Division in Operation Inherent Resolve. General Martin also commanded the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command during the Battle of Mosul, leading a multi-national force retaking the city from Islamic State militants over a seven-month long fight. In total, General Martin has led soldiers on a total of five combat deployments to Iraq across different conflicts and considers himself to always be a "Big Red One" soldier from his many years in America's 1st Division.

General Martin is not just an exceptional combat leader, but has also dedicated years to developing soldiers and the Army's future leaders. Serving first as an observer controller and later as the commanding general of the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, General Martin trained and certified Army units in a highly realistic combat training environment that replicated the type of battlefield seen by U.S. soldiers over the last thirty years. He has also served as an instructor at the U.S. Armor Center, training officers and developing policy and procedures to increase warfighting proficiency. As the Army's Vice Chief of Staff, General Martin has focused on the Army's modernization efforts, building capabilities for future conflicts during a critical time for our national security.

General Martin and his family have also served their communities throughout his distinguished career. He was recognized by the University of Louisville, where he earned a Master of Education in Occupational Training and Development in 1997, as their Alumnus of the Year for 2021.

General Martin's lifetime of service and leadership to his fellow soldiers is commendable, speaking not only to his patriotism, but also to his selfless character. The Army is more prepared to face the strategic threats to our national security today because of his decades of dedication to the mission. The American people owe him a debt of gratitude.

HONORING GEORGE WASHINGTON  
GARRETT

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a patriotic American, George Wash-

ington Garrett, as he approaches his 100th birthday. Mr. Garrett lives in Montgomery County, Kentucky.

Mr. Garrett was born on June 7, 1922, in Mt. Sterling, KY. He was inducted into the United States Army on January 29, 1943. Mr. Garrett served in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe as part of the 989th Quartermaster Service Co. For his brave service to our nation, Mr. Garrett was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the European African Middle Eastern Service Ribbon with five Bronze Stars. Following the war's end, he was honorably discharged on November 19, 1945.

On Veterans Day in 2020, Mr. Garrett was presented with a Quilt of Valor Award from the Quilts of Valor Foundation in appreciation of his service.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Garrett, celebrate his 100th birthday and thank him for his service and sacrifice to our nation during World War II. As a part of "The Greatest Generation", Mr. Garrett and his fellow soldiers fought to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today, and we can never thank them enough. I am forever grateful for Americans like George Washington Garrett.

CELEBRATING LEON VALDRY ON  
HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Leon E. Valdry, on his 90th birthday.

Mr. Leon E. Valdry, a native of Bueche, Louisiana (a country community in Baton Rouge Louisiana), born June 7, 1932, celebrated his 90th birthday on Saturday June 4, 2022. The function was held in Louisiana at the Valdry Center for Philanthropy located on the beautiful campus of Southern University.

Mr. Valdry came from humble beginnings but has established himself as a real estate icon currently living in Beverly Hills, California. He is a philanthropist and the largest donor to his beloved alma mater Southern University in which he graduated 1957 in engineering. In 2019, Southern University opened the doors to the Valdry Center School of Philanthropy an academically based research center focused on Philanthropies named after him and his brother. It is the only HBCU Philanthropy Center in the country.

Leon Valdry believes that consistent financial support from alumni is critical to Southern University's growth and longevity. "As alumni, it is imperative that we give back to the University. Every graduate regardless of the amount they are able to give, should make a financial contribution annually," said Valdry. On March 21, 2015, Leon Valdry made a unrestricted gift of \$100,000 to the Southern University System Foundation's 1880 Society. Valdry is a long-time supporter of the Southern University College of Business and a member of the 1880 Society, P.B.S. Pinchback Circle. The P.B.S. Pinchback Circle requires an annual cash contribution of no

less than \$25,000 to the Society. He is still a member.

Philanthropy for Valdry has been a way of life for more than 50 years. The training he received while he was a student at Southern University, provided Valdry with an opportunity to secure his first job with the Litho Art Company in Los Angeles, California. Since that time, he has made a name for himself in real estate development throughout Louisiana and California. His real estate ventures consist of residential, commercial, and industrial properties. Valdry is a resident of Beverly Hills, California and is President/CEO of Holly Park Plaza in Inglewood, California, which is one of the largest shopping centers in the city of Los Angeles.

The Valdry Center for Philanthropy at Southern University acknowledges the sizable contributions that Leon, Warren, and Virginia Valdry have made to their alma mater, and the need to support excellence in education at HBCUs by endeavoring to create a culture of philanthropy, promote racial equity, and provide a trained workforce to help direct volunteer action and charitable resources toward communities in need.

He is a member of the Democratic Party and has made contributions throughout the years. Mr. Valdry looks forward to attending any upcoming Democratic functions in Beverly Hills. He has blessed both communities in Louisiana and Beverly Hills by assisting young adults/students with their academic journey. He is a devout Catholic and is a member of the Usher Team at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Beverly Hills California. He is also an Army Veteran. President Biden joined in the celebration, celebrating Mr. Valdry for his love, kindness, generosity, and time to humanity.

A huge Congratulations and Birthday Wishes to Louisiana's native Son.

HONORING ZEAL SABALLA

**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, Zeal Saballa, upon his acceptance to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

As a future midshipman, he will be joining the ranks of the world's most elite naval force, guided by the motto: "Acta Non Verba."

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.

A vital part of our nation's maritime operations, the Merchant Marine's duties are dynamic—transporting cargo and passengers during peacetime and serving as an auxiliary to the United States Navy during times of war.

I was glad to sponsor Zeal's nomination, as his dynamism reflects the mission of the branch which he will soon serve. I am confident that his talents will distinguish him among his peers during his time at the Academy and thereafter.

I congratulate Zeal, and know that he will make this Nation proud.