

accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America, and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING HERMAN MACK
WOODEN

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an influential member of the Philadelphia community, a leader and staunch advocate for employee rights. In 1989, Mr. Herman Wooden was elected to the position of Secretary Treasurer of Local 1776, making him the first African American constitutional officer and the chief financial officer of the union. Mr. Wooden held that position for 17 years, until his retirement in 2006. Mr. Wooden dedicated his life and career to improving the lives of working families.

Mr. Herman Mack Wooden was born on ay 31, 1945, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was the son of the late James Wooden and Josephine Pierce. Herman was educated in the Philadelphia public school system. He graduated from Simon Gratz High School and completed some college courses. Herman enlisted in the Army in September 1963. He was honorably discharged as a Sergeant in January 1966.

Mr. Wooden began his career with United Food Workers (UFCW) 1357, now Local 1776, in 1966 working as a clerk at the Wine & Spirit Shoppes, formerly known as the State Liquor Stores in Philadelphia, PA. While working as a clerk, he became heavily involved in the organizing effort to unionize the State store employees across the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In addition to working as a clerk, Mr. Wooden worked at the Philadelphia Parking Authority which ultimately led to him serving as Chair of the Philadelphia Parking Authority. Focusing on his passion, in 1971, Herman's effort to unionize state liquor store, pharmacy and supermarket employees was successful. He was very instrumental to the success of these industry workers campaigning to join Local 1357.

In 1975, Mr. Wooden was hired as a full-time staff member of Local 1357 as an organizer/representative. During his long career with the union, he held numerous positions that included Organizer, Representative, Political Representative and Lobbyist, Lead Representative, Servicing Director, and Executive Assistant to the President just to name a few. Furthermore, with all those positions, Herman continued to advocate for the rights of all working people and championed more diversity and inclusion in the labor movement. As noted above, in 1989, Mr. Wooden was elected to the position of Secretary Treasurer of Local 1776. In appreciation of his years of service and contribution to laborers' rights, Mr. Wooden was recognized by the Senate of Pennsylvania.

In retirement, Mr. Wooden continued his work as a board member for the UFCW Minority Coalition, United Latinos, and Women's Network. These are all constituency groups, with the UFCW, that advocate for more diversity and inclusion in the labor movement;

which are two areas that were very important to Herman throughout his entire life. He continued to assist in the efforts to protect the jobs of those same liquor store union members, that he originally helped organize over 50 years ago, right up until his last days. Herman Wooden was a real-life example of what it meant to be a trade unionist.

Today, we mourn the passing of Mr. Herman Wooden which occurred on July 22, 2022.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF MRS. MATTIE MCALISTER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a one-of-a-kind woman in Toledo, Mrs. Mattie McAlister, who passed from this life at the age of 98 years on July 7, 2022. Mattie McAlister was a giant in the education of the young people of Toledo.

Mattie McAlister was born in Benton, South Carolina, the youngest of eleven children born to Pearl and Arthur Garrison, he a teacher and she a midwife. Her father started a school for Black children in their rural county and taught adults in the evening in the Garrison home. Mattie graduated high school at age fourteen, obtained her bachelor's degree and began teaching high school math and science. She went on to study at Detroit's Wayne State University, the former Mary Manse College in Toledo, and earned her master's degree from the University of Toledo.

Upon her arrival in Toledo in 1960, Mattie McAlister took employment with Toledo Public Schools, teaching at several elementary schools until her retirement from Fulton School in 1991. After that, she worked with children at Grace Community Center and developed a curriculum there. She researched and developed methods to address the uniqueness of "Summer's Child," a term she coined for those children born in the summer who were often the youngest of their peers in school.

Her obituary in the Toledo Blade makes clear the influence Mrs. McAlister had on her young charges and the educational system:

"Mrs. McAlister retired in 2014 from Grace Community Center, where she developed a curriculum and worked with children, from kindergarten through eighth grade. She also shared pearls of wisdom that have become part of Grace's culture. Her sayings 'had to do with how you treat one another in this world,' said Elaine Taite Page, Grace executive director since 2012.

"She told students, 'Nurture your mind with great thoughts, for you will never go higher than you think,' and 'The nicest words I know are, 'Excuse me,' 'Thank you,' 'If you please,'" Ms. Page said. Students energetically chanted, "Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Your good becomes better, and your better becomes best."

"Those sayings are on display at the Center.

"There was never a student she could not reach," Ms. Page said. "She made people understand, I see you, I value you, and you are somebody."

"The one word that epitomizes what was driving her is a four-letter word. Love. Love supreme," Ms. Page said.

"In the Center's after-school programs, she arranged children in a circle. Sitting on an

African-style chair of carved wood, she opened with, 'How was your day?'" Ms. Page said.

"She could glean needs that had to be heard, to be recognized. She had a positive affirmation to leave with every child," Ms. Page said.

"Mrs. McAlister worked to reinforce reading and math skills during the Center's summer program and guided high schoolers who had returned to be youth leaders.

"In one of several autobiographical sketches, Mrs. McAlister wrote that at Grace, "my greatest joy was creating learning games, successfully teaching language arts and math, along with character-building exercises. I enjoyed sharing parenting tips for parents who had precocious children who challenged authority."

"My greatest pride," Mrs. McAlister wrote, "was teaching children to read and managing my children's behavior in a kind and caring way. I did not send them to the principal to be controlled. I dearly loved my students. Each one of them was my pet!"

Mattie McAlister's lessons for life for anyone who struggled; indeed for everyone, showed that what you lived, how you contributed, is what matters. She never lost patience. She had a teacher's cadence when she spoke, and people listened. Her lessons on life should be on billboards for all to learn.

Spiritual, poet, teacher, mentor, matriarch, activist, all are words which describe Mattie McAlister, and her legacy is writ large. Yet, as profound as her impact has been for the near century of her life, Mattie McAlister's greatest achievement is her family. To her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, we pray for peace in the memory of the priceless gift of Mattie Garrison McAlister's life well lived.

HONORING CITY OF
DIAMONDHEAD, MISSISSIPPI ON
THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Diamondhead, Mississippi on the 10th anniversary of its incorporation.

Diamondhead received its charter as the 111th city in Mississippi by Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann on February 6, 2012. Much of the land that would ultimately become Diamondhead was purchased by Walter Gex Sr., in 1937 from the Gulf State Paper Company and the Easy Opener Bag Company. In the late 1960s, the Diamondhead Corporation, with interests in resort developments, developed Diamondhead on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, with Diamondhead as its first project because the land is the highest point of elevation in the area. Therefore, the project was named "Diamondhead" after an iconic volcanic cone on the Hawaiian island of Oahu.

On October 25, 1961, NASA announced the formation of the Mississippi Test Facility, now the John C. Stennis Space Center. The center would border the Pearl River in Hancock County. Along with the center's construction an influx of government workers and contractors moved into the area. The community experienced additional growth as other enterprises arrived including the Naval Oceanographic Office at Stennis Space Center and

the Michaud Assembly Facility in New Orleans East.

Diamondhead was initially organized as a property owners association (POA) but on January 1, 1985, the Purcell Company (formerly the Diamondhead Corporation) turned over the POA to a homeowners board of directors. Following Hurricane Katrina, the POA experienced hardships that led to the need for added federal and state financial resources. Therefore in 2009, a vote for Diamondhead to become a city was filed with the Hancock Chancery Court, and an election approved the incorporation.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the visionaries and homeowners of Diamondhead who worked tirelessly to bring Diamondhead to what it is today, "a Community Where the Living is Easy".

HONORING THE TRADITION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SOUL CHILDREN OF CHICAGO

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today, I wish to honor The Soul Children of Chicago headed by Dr. Walt Whitman, Jr. This organization, created in 1981, is the Nation's oldest internationally-acclaimed, Grammy-award-winning, youth, gospel choir.

The choir has performed internationally in Sweden, Italy, Holland, Israel, and Switzerland, and across the United States, even performing for nearly 1.7 billion people on the opening day of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa as well as at the White House for Presidents George H. W. Bush, Richard Nixon, and Ronald Reagan. The Soul Children of Chicago has recorded with Stevie Wonder, Mariah Carey, Neil Diamond, Yolanda Adams, and many other notables. The list of accomplishments goes on.

However, The Soul Children of Chicago is much more than the prestigious awards and accolades it has garnered. The organization is a living testament to the promise of Psalm 37:3, "Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart."

Under the direction and passion-filled guidance of Dr. Walt Whitman, Jr., The Soul Children of Chicago serves as a catalyst for the education, elevation, and illumination of Chicago's youth.

Although it has garnered many awards and international recognitions, these accomplishments have never been the goal. The goal has always focused on utilizing music as the motivator to inspire young people worldwide to have faith in themselves, each other, and God. This dedication to youth uplift is rooted in the principle of "taking delight in the LORD" and has marked Dr. Whitman and The Soul Children of Chicago as household names both in the United States and overseas.

Please make no mistake; the journey of The Soul Children of Chicago has been challenging. But it has been worth it.

The Soul Children of Chicago is bigger than rehearsals. Bigger than a choir. Bigger than an organization. It is family. Further, this family has spawned graduates, artists, pastors, business owners, community leaders, profes-

sionals, doctors, lawyers, and entrepreneurs. This family presents students with the tools and accountability to excel in any task they undertake, whether succeeding in school, staying out of gangs and drug culture, or cultivating a spirit of excellence.

The Soul Children of Chicago is a family that takes delight in the LORD, and, for that reason, I believe that He will continue to give them all the desires of their hearts. Dr. Walt Whitman, Jr., the head of this family, began a good work in 1981, and, by the grace of God, he will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

I await their continued success an excellence in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes because I was under medical care. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 373, NAY on Roll Call No. 383, and NAY on Roll Call No. 385.

HONORING EVAN SPIWAK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Evan Spiwak. Evan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Evan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Evan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 31 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Evan has achieved much as a scout, having achieved the ranks of Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Evan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Evan's project saw him repaint fire hydrants throughout his city, performing a needed service to the community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Evan Spiwak for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America, and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING MARION F. SMITH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Marion F. Smith, a constituent of Virginia's 4th

Congressional District. This July 20th, Ms. Smith will reach the milestone of her 100th birthday.

Marion F. Smith was born on July 20, 1922 in Chesapeake, Virginia, to Isaiah and Laura Ferebee. Laura, a mid-wife, and Isaiah, a farmer, raised their 7 children through the Great Depression and encouraged each of them to chase opportunities and live their lives to the fullest.

Ms. Smith learned about perseverance early on. In elementary and middle school she walked five miles each way to and from school. In 1939, she graduated from Providence High School and was married in 1943. While this marriage ended in 1960, it provided her with 3 beloved children: Roderick, John, and Rita.

A lifelong learner, Ms. Smith sought education at every level. She was initially able to take classes at Women's College in Greensboro and Norfolk State University. She earned enough credits to enter the Teacher Corps Program in 1971 and graduated from Norfolk State University in 1973 with her B.S. in Elementary Education. She also found time to serve her community by working for the Southeastern Tidewater Opportunity Project (STOP) in Norfolk, helping to alleviate poverty in low-income communities.

After graduation, with her degree in hand, Marion returned to Chesapeake and became a teacher in Chesapeake Public Schools. The lifelong learner she was, Marion continued her education and graduated from Old Dominion University with her master's degree in education in 1987. She retired from Chesapeake Public Schools in 1989. Ms. Smith is also a member of Phi Delta Kappa, a professional organization for Educators, in the Alpha Lambda Chapter.

In addition to her passion for education, she is also a woman of faith. She grew up in a Christian family and is currently a member at Covenant Fellowship. She is also a Past Matron of The Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia.

While Marion has centered her life around education, service, and spirituality, she also loves to bake and cook, she loves cars and houses, and especially loves to bowl. After retiring, Marion decided to take up bowling and continued her bowling career until she turned 97. She still notes how much she enjoys the sport.

Marion has lived a life of faith, love, and grace.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Marion F. Smith a happy 100th birthday.

COMMENDING CLAY JONES UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of Clay Jones who will retire this year after over 29 years as a first responder and public servant in South Mississippi.

Jones hails from D'Iberville, MS, where he lives with his wife, the former Tonia Bryant of Biloxi, and their children, Clayton II, and Connor. Jones received his Bachelor's Degree in