

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

Administration of Justice from the University of Southern Mississippi and graduated from the University of Louisville's Southern Police Institute 129th Administrative Officers Course, the Law Enforcement Command College at the University of Mississippi, Leadership Gulf Coast, and Gulf Coast Business Council-Masters Leadership Class.

Jones began his public service career in 1993 with the Biloxi Police Department as a reserve police officer and progressed to a full-time officer in 1995. During his tenure at Biloxi Police Department, Jones worked as a part-time instructor at the Harrison County Law Enforcement Training Academy. In June 2000, Jones left the Biloxi Police Department to be-

come a full-time instructor for the Harrison County Sheriffs Department's Law Enforcement Training Academy where he was promoted to the Director of the Southern Regional Public Safety Institute and secured \$1 million federally earmarked for the Mississippi Rural Law Enforcement Mobile Training Program. In the latter part of his career, Jones joined the D'Iberville Police Department and served as a narcotics investigator, promoted to the rank of Captain, Operations Commander, Deputy Chief of Police, and City Manager.

For his service, Jones has been awarded numerous prestigious awards including a two-time recipient of the Medal of Valor, the City

of Biloxi Mayor's Commendation, Deputy of the Year, Officer of the Year, a two-time recipient of the Southern Regional Public Safety Institute's Outstanding Instructor Award, and a two-time recipient of the Police Star Award.

Jones has continuously gone above and beyond to answer the call of public service. I am grateful for his service and dedication to South Mississippi. Most importantly, he embodies the virtues of integrity, hard work, and selflessness that South Mississippians expect from their government officials. Clay leaves the City of D'Iberville better than he found it. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Mississippi, I congratulate Clay Jones on his retirement.