

searchers with meaningful employment opportunities. These programs enable businesses to either relocate or stay in Amarillo and provide a breeding ground for new and up and coming business ventures. AEDC helps to cultivate the true economic potential that Amarillo and the Panhandle have to offer.

Starting a business is risky and many people do not know where to start. AEDC has been there for more than 30 years to help existing local businesses expand while also helping to attract new businesses to Amarillo. One of AEDC's largest ventures is the Amarillo EnterPrize Challenge, which over the last 25 years has connected AEDC with the WT Enterprise Center to help over 90 companies develop their business aspirations.

The impact that AEDC has had on the businesses and residents of Amarillo cannot be understated. On behalf of the entire Amarillo community, I want to thank Kevin Carter and all AEDC staff for their unwavering commitment to promoting economic growth, and for helping our workforce maximize their potential.

HONORING NAACP MONTEREY  
COUNTY BRANCH

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Monterey County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as they celebrate 90 years of service to the central coast of California. Since its inception in 1932, the NAACP of Monterey County has fiercely advocated for the expansion of civil rights. It has been at the forefront of all struggles and movements to defend and extend the political, social, and economic rights of all those who were the victims of injustice.

The Monterey County branch was originally founded as two separate branches. Both were created with the shared goal of raising awareness to racism and racial discrimination in all its forms. In 1932, Reverend Wellington Smith, Sr., then Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pacific Grove, took a step toward equality by founding the Monterey Peninsula branch. Seven years later, Mr. William Greenwill founded the Salinas Branch with the same goal of ridding the county of its most abject forms of racism and discrimination. Despite enduring long periods of threats to their members and families, both branches never faltered in their quest to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure political, educational, and social economic equality.

Before merging in 2006, each respective branch spearheaded decades-long battles in fighting against racist police practices, barriers to accessible housing, and employment discrimination. Over the years, both branches have received numerous national awards for their outstanding work in fighting for equality. Most recently, in 2012, the Monterey County Branch was awarded the Claude Hudson Award, which honors a local branch that exemplifies the NAACP standards. That same year, Mr. Jim Black, treasurer of the branch, was named Treasurer of the Year for his honorable work in the organization. In 2013, the Branch was awarded the Ruby McKnight Wil-

liams Award, which recognizes branches with the largest percentage increase in membership.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize this historic milestone. I personally extend my gratitude to the members of the Executive Team and the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to become one of the most effective civil rights organizations in Monterey County and the State of California.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF PASTOR EDDIE D. SMITH, SR.

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated man of God, dedicated family man, visionary leader, and friend of longstanding Pastor Eddie Smith on his retirement as the Pastor of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia. His retirement will be celebrated at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia, on August 7, 2022, at 3:00 pm.

Pastor Smith is a native of Macon, Georgia, born to the union of the late Pastor Jack Smith, Jr., and Mrs. Mattie Mae Myers Smith. A highly educated man, Pastor Smith attended Bibb County public schools and went on to earn a Bachelor and a Master of Science from Fort Valley State College, now Fort Valley State University. On April 26, 1969, Pastor Smith received a calling that would change his life forever—he was called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Smith served as a classroom teacher and a media specialist in the Bibb County Public School system for fourteen years before retiring to serve full-time at Macedonia Church, accepting the role of pastor in 1972. While pastoring, he was also called to public service, serving as a Macon City Councilman from 1975 through 1978, as well as a member of the Bibb County Board of Education for two consecutive terms.

The scripture reminds us in Proverbs 29 that “where there is no vision, the people perish.” Pastor Smith’s vision for Macedonia was evident from the very beginning of his ministry. In his early years at Macedonia, Pastor Smith led the congregation in raising the funds to pay off the church’s fifteen-year mortgage in a record five years. In 1999, Pastor Smith led Macedonia Baptist in the purchasing of a struggling sister church. Together, they relocated and revived the church’s congregation, and liquidated its \$1.35 million debt in under three years. In more recent years, he oversaw the funding and construction of the \$1.7 million dollar Family Life Center, a comprehensive faith-based service ministry that educates clergy across middle Georgia. Over the course of his ministry, Pastor Smith has licensed and ordained more than forty-five ministers, extending the reach of his servant leadership to the members of many congregations throughout the region.

Also, he led his flock through the COVID-19 pandemic, establishing community-wide food distribution services and virtual church services and tithing, while ensuring all bills were paid and no church staff lost their jobs.

Shirley Chisholm once said that “Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we oc-

cupy here on this earth.” Pastor Smith has paid his rent and he has paid well. Pastor Smith’s service has extended beyond the walls of the church, as he has been affiliated with several social and civic organizations throughout his career. He has served on the boards of the United Way, the American Cancer Society, the Macon Ministerial Association, and the Macon Police and Firefighter Disciplinary Hearing Board.

Pastor Eddie Smith has always fought for what is right. He is guided by his love of God and his love of people. Mother Teresa once said that “at the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked, and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.” This is how Pastor Eddie Smith has lived his life and served people in the name of Jesus Christ.

At the center of Pastor Smith’s accomplished life is the unwavering love and support of his family and his loving wife, Martha Kate. Pastor Smith is the father of five adult children: Suwandia; Eddie, Jr.; Corey and the late Alvy Smith and Edwanna Smith Stephens. He is the grandfather of fourteen and great-grandfather of three.

On a personal note, Pastor Smith has been my friend for many years. He has never told me what I wanted to hear, but he has always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will be forever grateful for his wise advice and sage counsel.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, The Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church family and entire Macon community, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Pastor Eddie D. Smith, Sr. upon the occasion of his retirement as Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church and his many years of humble service to humanity.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COLONEL DR. RONALD G. SARG (USAF, RET.)

**HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Col. Ron Sarg, a Vietnam veteran, a tireless advocate for Delaware’s Veterans, and a friend.

Col. Sarg served combat duty in Vietnam and pursued a career in the Air Force. After his time in Vietnam and throughout his career, he was posted from Turkey to New Mexico. Eventually, he was stationed in Dover, Delaware, where he retired from active duty in 1993.

But Col. Sarg continued to serve his country and community in retirement. He helped Delawareans gain rewarding careers as an instructor at Polytech Adult Education in Dover and he trained many students in the field of dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania.

Yet, he never forgot his fellow veterans. He spent his retirement serving those who heard

the call to duty in our Nation's military. He was a member of the Military Officers Association of America and served as Chairman of the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, a significant leadership role for Veterans in the State of Delaware. In these roles, Col. Sarg pushed for national and state-level policies that helped Veterans and active-duty service members access affordable housing, receive high-quality mental health care, and gain opportunities for a good education and career.

To Col. Sarg's family, please accept my heartfelt and sincerest condolences. Ron was a true friend and a pillar of our community in the First State. He will be greatly missed but not forgotten.

MOURNING DR. JIM CITYY

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Dr. Jim Cityy, a longtime physician in Searcy.

Dr. Cityy first moved to Searcy in 1957 to play basketball and football for Harding University, where he would later serve as team physician for Bison Athletics.

Upon graduating from herding, Jim attended medical school at the University of Tennessee and later enlisted in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

Dr. Cityy returned to Searcy to settle down in 1975. Throughout his career, Dr. Cityy delivered over 10,000 babies in the White County area.

Known and loved by Searcy residents, many of whom he helped deliver, his loss is felt deeply. "Doc's" impact within the community will not be forgotten.

My prayers go out to Dr. Cityy's family, friends, and all who knew and loved him.

RECOGNIZING LANA ABBASI FOR HER DUTIFUL SERVICE IN CONGRESS ON BEHALF OF THE 41ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. MARK TAKANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lana Abbasi, a dedicated member of my team who has recently announced her plans to return home to California to join the private sector. Since October 2017, Lana has loyally served the constituents of the 41st Congressional District, where she has worn many hats as a field representative, press secretary, and now communications director for my office.

Lana has been an invaluable asset to the institution of Congress and my team, and we are deeply saddened by her departure. During her tenure, Lana has elevated the values of my constituents and their needs through influential media strategies on numerous topics that have brought national recognition to the Inland Empire.

Lana's work to deliver timely information to constituents regarding COVID-19 in the face

of a global pandemic was vitally important to the health and well-being of thousands of people in the Inland Empire. Her messaging and outreach on other issues such as the treatment of our veterans, the future of work, and federal investments in local projects were also imperative.

Madam Speaker, I am incredibly honored to have had Lana as a member of my team. Her contributions to my office and the constituents of California's 41st District will be forever celebrated through her service and her work. Lana's quick wit and impeccable fashion sense will be missed in the office each day, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING RODRIGO "ROD" GARCIA

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of Rod Garcia, a respected visionary, leader, and advocate in Southern California. Rod dedicated his life to empowering the Latino community in educational excellence, economic opportunity, and social equity through the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. He was a trailblazer for Latinos in STEM, and his work to continue diversifying this essential workforce lives on.

Rod graduated from California State University in Los Angeles with a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Engineering. During the tech boom in California in 1973, Rod became one of the few Hispanic engineers to be a leader in the STEM field.

Seeing the lack of Latino representation in STEM, Rod founded the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). He sought to diversify the field by offering networking and educational opportunities for Hispanic students and professionals in the Southern California region.

Rod had the unique ability to unite community partners and leaders around the country in the commitment to closing the STEM gap among Latinos.

Over the course of five decades, Rod propelled the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers to reach 13,000 members and 286 chapters nationwide.

Today, Latinos continue to experience some of the most noticeable disparities in representation within the STEM field.

But Rod's legacy will live on through his devotion and work to close that gap. His work will continue to help future generations of Latinos realize their fullest potential to positively impact the world.

HARDING ACADEMY BASEBALL

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gavin Alveti, a 2022 graduate from Harding Academy and distinguished member

of the Wildcat baseball team, who was recently named the Arkansas Democrat Gazette All-Arkansas Preps Baseball Player of the Year.

Gavin suffered a broken orbital bone during a game in April after being hit by a fastball. Despite these injuries, Gavin returned to the mound within a week and was able to finish out his senior season.

The Harding Academy baseball team went on to win the AAA Arkansas State Championship, under the leadership of Coach Shane Fullerton.

Despite obstacles throughout the season, I am pleased to recognize Gavin, Coach Fullerton, and the Harding Academy baseball team on a strong, hard-fought season.

I congratulate them on their achievements.

HOMETOWN HERO—AVERY HILL

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero of the week, Avery Hill, an avid reader and young woman who has gone above and beyond to better our community.

Avery began volunteering with Exodus Ministries, a nonprofit designed to transform the lives of previously incarcerated mothers and their children. While volunteering at the Exodus House—a transitional house for the mothers and their children—she noticed the children's library shelves were bare. Inspired to share her passion for reading with underprivileged children, Avery took action.

During the onset of the COVID pandemic, Avery began organizing book drives. She spread the word around her community to leave any books, games, or elementary school supplies on their doorsteps, where she would then go door to door to pick them up.

After organizing all the donations, Avery not only stocked the library's shelves with 600 new books, but revamped it by adding a mural, new curtains, 300 building blocks, and 50 games.

Avery's story should serve as an inspiration to all of us to not only give back to our community but leave it better than when we found it.

I wish Avery the best of luck as she heads off to college this fall, and thank her for her dedication to helping our fellow North Texans.

HONORING DARCY J. DAVIS

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Darcy J. Davis, a distinguished health care advocate, to congratulate her on being named to Florida's Top 100 Women-Led Businesses by the Commonwealth Institute of Florida. For more than 30 years, Darcy has empowered women by promoting gender equity and diversity within the health care system, and she is among the 15 percent of health care CEOs nationwide who are women.