

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
RUFUS C. GREEN, II

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving husband, dedicated father, outstanding educator, tireless community leader, and dear of friend of long-standing, Rufus Cullen Green, II. Sadly, he passed away on July 28, 2022. A homegoing service to celebrate his extraordinary life will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2022, at 10:00 am on the campus of Fort Valley State University in the University's Heath and Physical Education Complex.

Mr. Green was born to the union of Lottie Hicks Green McCoy and Rufus C. Green, Sr. A highly learned man, Mr. Green received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Fort Valley State College (now university) and a Master of Science Degree from the University of Georgia. He also did further studies at Brown University.

Mr. Green made a difference in the lives of our most precious resources, our young people. He knew that "Young people may be forty percent of our population, but they are one hundred percent of our futures." He began his storied career in education as a teacher of science and later as the principal of D.F. Douglas High School. His final position in his educational administration journey was as the Assistant Superintendent of the Taylor County School System.

His career in educational administration may have ended, but his love of helping people did not. Throughout his life he gave his all to causes that he loved, and in which he believed. He epitomized "manly deeds, scholarship, and love for all mankind as a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He was also a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the Georgia High School Accrediting Commission, and the Georgia Kiwanis Club.

Commissioner Green also served as an elected official, serving both on the Taylor County Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners.

He loved Fort Valley State University and was a member of the Fort Valley State University Foundation. He gave so much to the University and the Wildcat family will miss him immensely.

But most importantly, Mr. Green was a man of faith who put God first in his life. And in turn, God blessed him with a wonderful life. He was a dedicated member of the St. Phillip AME Church.

Shirley Chisholm once said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Rufus Green paid his rent, and he paid it well. Mr. Green also treated people how they deserved to be treated. George Washington Carver once said that "How far you go in life depends on tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Rufus Green went far in life because he never swayed from this philosophy in dealing with people.

Mr. Green led a wonderful life but none of this would have been possible without the love

of God and his wonderful family to include his loving wife, Bernice S. Green, and his children; Rufus C. Green, III, Marcus, and Dr. Lori Green. I know that his entire family will miss him dearly.

On a personal note, Mr. Green was my friend for many years. He has never told me only what I wanted to hear, but he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will be forever grateful for his wise advice and sage counsel. I will miss him dearly.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the people of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, in paying tribute to the life of Mr. Rufus Cullen Green, II and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement. Moreover, we pray that we will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING LATAISHA JACKSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and innovative woman, Representative Lataisha Jackson.

Lataisha Jackson was born August 4, 1983, in Fort Ord, California. At birth, her young parents Ernest Jackson, Sr. and Jennette Jackson, and her only sibling Ernest Jackson, were stationed at former United States Army post on Monterey Bay of the Pacific Ocean. Most of the family's military life was in Berlin, Germany, and where her parents began instilling into her and her brother the importance of family, faith, and fortitude. The family moved to Como, Mississippi, after her father was honorably discharged from the army due to a service-connected injury. Representative Jackson recalls her mother and father's greatest exemplary measures of the importance of family, faith, and fortitude during this time. Rep. Jackson credits her strong faith and fortitude of her late father and her mother.

She graduated from North Panola High School in 2001. After graduating high school, she attended Northwest Community College during the summer and then started Alabama State University in Montgomery, AL, in August. A month after starting college Rep. Jackson's father died at the age of 37 from cancer. Jackson honored her father and his sacrifices by graduating from Alabama State University in 2005 with a B.S. in English Language Arts Education, and in 2007 with her Master's in Educational Leadership.

Rep. Jackson's grandmother Elnora Lee Jackson, a longtime educator, encouraged her to teach. So, Jackson taught middle and high school students in Troy and Montgomery, AL. During her time in the classroom, she often reflected on educational inequities that she experienced as a student herself and as an educator. After working with the City Colleges of Chicago and the City of Chicago providing summer learning enrichment, Jackson decided to return to Mississippi and provide educational support services to students in rural communities to aid them in escaping poverty

through educational opportunities. Her efforts began in 2009 with Back-to-School rallies. Then, in September 2010, she founded EDUCATE Social and Public Policy, Inc. with her brother, Ernest Jackson; Jessica Fitzhugh; Paige Dugger; Pedres Finley; and Alvin Jackson, Jr. As CEO of EDUCATE, Inc., she has led many efforts to provide after school, summer enrichment, college and career readiness opportunities, AAU Basketball, food and transportation security, and other community engagement opportunities.

In 2013, Mississippi House of Representatives, District 11 seat was vacated by the death of former Representative Joe Gardner. Jackson ran a successful campaign while grieving the death of her maternal grandmother Bessie Eppenger. She was sworn into the Mississippi House of Representatives on April 26, 2013.

She currently serves as the Vice Chair of Investigate State Offices and serves on Appropriations, Judiciary B, Universities and Colleges, Local and Private Legislation, and Public Property committees. After joining her colleagues in legislative efforts to enhance the quality of life for Mississippians, Representative Jackson realize how important it was for her to fulfill her childhood dream and become an attorney. So, Rep. Jackson enrolled in the summer of 2014 at the University of Mississippi School of Law and graduated in December 2017 with her juris doctor degree.

In 2014, the National Foundation of Women Legislation recognized Rep. Jackson as an Elected Woman of Excellence, and she currently serves as the Mississippi State Director for the organization. In 2018, the American Council of Young Political Leaders chose her as a member of their seven-member delegation to travel to China and Taiwan, and to join a network of over 8,500 alumni in 128 countries and territories. Rep. Jackson tenure includes legislative effort to increase dignity for incarcerated women, infrastructure improvement and development specifically for low tax base communities, economic and workforce development, and education reform. She has collaborated with several advocates and organizations to elevate conversations and awareness of the needs of incarcerated women by providing a Hope Luncheon for Incarcerated Women in Central Correctional Facility in Pearl, MS, for the past four years. In 2021, she traveled to Ghana, then to Nigeria in 2022 to encourage trade and business efforts between those in diaspora. Jackson is currently working with German leaders to consider Mississippi for German American industries.

Rep. Jackson enjoys gleaning wisdom from her grandfather, Mack Holt, and being an orator while encouraging others through spoken words. She has used the power of words and faith during her commencement speeches at her alma maters Alabama State University in 2019 and North Panola High School, at several churches and events, and she looking to be in the commencement speaker for Northwest Community College's Summer Graduation on August 1, 2022.

Rep. Jackson is the proud godmother of two amazingly gifted and talented godchildren-Cedquavious Hunter and Lauren Perry, that she loves dearly. She is an active member of Askew Grove M.B. Baptist Church in Sarah, MS. As a Beta Pi initiated member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, she continues her service to all mankind as a member

of Upsilon Iota Omega Chapter. Rep. Jackson is also a member of the Mississippi Delta Links, Incorporated.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Representative Lataisha Jackson for her dedication to serving her community and this great state.

APPRECIATING INDIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, August 15th is a significant date in world history as it marks the 75th Anniversary of the independence of the Republic of India. The landmark occasion is being celebrated as an historic democratic victory in a festival called Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

America especially rejoices for the people of India as the world's oldest democracy celebrates the world's largest democracy. 2022 is especially significant as democracies (rule of law) are threatened by authoritarians (rule of gun), exemplified by war criminal Putin murderously invading Ukraine, the Chinese Communist Party threatening Taiwan, and Iranian theocrats chanting Death to Israel, Death to America. World chaos is also a threat to the people of India.

As the son of a U.S. Army Air Corps member in the Flying Tigers who served in India and China, I grew up with an appreciation of the work ethic my father recognized in India. As a real estate attorney in South Carolina, I welcomed new investors who bought hotels and motels creating jobs across the state.

In Congress I chaired the largest country Caucus, the Caucus of India and Indian Americans. I will be forever grateful to have been with Governor Nikki Haley (America's second Indian American Governor) to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Center Ring of Madison Square Garden in New York City. I was also on the escort committee for the Prime Minister's address to Congress. I was present with President Donald Trump for the historic 'Howdy Modi' celebration in Houston, Texas, with over 50,000 Indian-Americans in attendance. Additionally, I attended the Prime Minister's 2019 Independence Day address at the Red Fort in New Delhi, India.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to serve with the Consul General of India in Atlanta, Dr. Swati V. Kulkarni, who is passionate for the people of India.

The 75th Anniversary is an opportunity for the shared values of India and America to be fulfilled. President Donald Trump correctly identified the Indo-Pacific Command as a way to promote Indian-U.S. military cooperation for Peace Through Strength. India's proven industrial capabilities provide an opportunity to reduce dependence on foreign military sales.

The future is bright for the people of India and with our shared values of democracy, the future is bright for a strong alliance of India and America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE PARADISO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true hometown hero of Eastern Connecticut, attorney Joseph Paradiso, of Stafford Springs, Connecticut, who passed away sadly but peacefully at his home on Monday, August 8, 2022, at the age of 87.

Born a Stafford Springs native to Joseph Sr. and Rachele Paradiso, Joe was always destined to serve as a steward of his community. Having graduated from Cheshire Academy, he was educated and trained in the Jesuit tradition at the College of Holy Cross and Georgetown Law in Washington, D.C. That tradition which infuses the highest standards of learning with a deep ethical core, clearly molded Joe's thoughtful, caring approach to the practice of law and his interaction with people from all walks of life.

A gentleman who was captivated by opportunities to serve in any form, Joe joined the U.S. Army after earning his law degree. Upon his discharge, the pull of his roots in his home state of Connecticut brought him back to Stafford Springs to begin his career in law. Joe in many ways was a Stafford Springs version of the iconic small-town lawyer, Atticus Finch from "To Kill a Mockingbird." Joe wore the badge of his alma mater with a sense of duty, gaining a reputation as a balanced, fair-minded prosecutor with a deep fidelity to the law. Madam Speaker, as a lawyer practicing in the same Tolland County community as Joe, I spent a lot of time in the courtrooms with him, working on cases that are a staple to small town America. I was fortunate enough over many years of working side by side, to earn Joe's friendship and get a close-up view of exactly who Joe was during his 37-year-long career as a prosecutor in the Rockville Superior Court system. I can attest, Madam Speaker, to the vibrant spirit that was Joe's heart—his fierce stance for taking the moral path regardless of the forces in opposition, and his respect for both people and clients regardless of their identity or background. Joe was both highly competent and fair, causing residents from all over the surrounding region to seek out his help in their moments of need. His big heart was willing to help them all.

A beloved pillar of the community in Stafford, Joe wore many hats outside of his own practice. Even as I left the court room to run for public office, it is worth noting that I, too, continued to have dealings with him under his various roles within the community. Reflective of his lifelong passion to lift the voices of those around him, he was a staunch advocate for individuals with disabilities. Joe in fact co-founded Journey Found, a nonprofit organization with a mission to advance disability support services for individuals. Journey Found was organized in 2013 to fill the void left by a facility closure, which would have resulted in the disruption of the lives of more than 250 clients and staff, had Joe and the team at Journey Found not stepped in. Outside of his elective roles of advocacy, Joe remained involved

and a known constant in Stafford through several other roles, including, for example, his regular commitment to community outings, involvement in numerous benefit societies, membership within the Stafford Rotary Club and tenure on the Stafford Public Schools Board of Education.

Madam Speaker, it has been an honor to know and represent constituents of Eastern Connecticut like Joe Paradiso. He has been an inspiration and guiding light for countless members of our surrounding community, and his altruistic presence will be sorely missed. Predeceased by his wife Donna, Joe is survived by his three children, Joseph Paradiso III, Christopher Paradiso, and Rachel Paradiso as well as their respective families. Though we will mourn the enormous void left in his wake, it is an honor to join with his family and community in carrying his memory forward, purposing it as an example for others. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in saying farewell to an old friend and mentor, Joe Paradiso.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF AUDENCIO SUAREZ DIAZ, JR.

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of Audencio Suarez Diaz, Jr. who passed away on August 2, 2022, after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mary Stella; his son Rolando and daughter-in-law Amy; his daughter Leticia and grandson Rhys, and his brother, Daniel. He is also survived by nieces, nephews, and extended family. A man of conviction and courage, his loss is felt in our hometown of San Antonio, Texas. He will be greatly missed.

Audencio Diaz was born on February 19, 1952, in San Antonio. Audencio served honorably in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. After leaving the service, he worked for the United States Postal Service and the San Antonio Independent School District. Later, he started his own janitorial business. Audencio was known in the community for his many philanthropic activities and his strong support for our Veterans. For the past decade, Audencio devoted his time to serving other Veterans as Vice President of the Edgewood District Veterans group. Audencio was also known for his love of baseball, devoting many years to the Spanish American Baseball League. He was an active baseball player in the league during the 1960s and 1970s and later served as a board member in the 1990s.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life of Audencio Suarez Diaz, Jr. Although I am saddened by his loss, I know his legacy will last for years to come. I thank Audencio for his service and efforts to make San Antonio a better place. May God bless him and his loved ones.