

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.

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#### APPRECIATING INDIA

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### 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.

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#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF AUDENCIO SUAREZ DIAZ, JR.

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### 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.

## CONGRATULATING

HUCKLEBERRY'S PIZZA ON 30  
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE  
QUAD CITIES COMMUNITY

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 12, 2022*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Huckleberry's Pizza in Rock Island, Illinois for having provided excellent customer service, delicious pizza and calzones and lasting memories to residents of the Quad Cities community for 30 years.

Located in downtown Rock Island, Huckleberry's Pizza has been a staple in the Quad Cities region since it opened. The restaurant's owner, Jon Keim, has been instrumental in growing the popular eatery into what it is today. He purchased the restaurant's current building three decades ago, and despite it not originally being a restaurant, he built a kitchen, knocked down interior walls, and worked tirelessly to make his vision a reality. As it continued to grow, so did his dedication to his business and his desire to forge a dining environment that would unify the region. When the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing labor shortage challenged small businesses like Huckleberry's Pizza, it forced the iconic dining room to close. But once again, Mr. Keim did not relent. Thirty years later, his restaurant is still serving customers. I look forward to Huckleberry's Pizza's continued presence in downtown Rock Island for many years to come.

It is because of seminal establishments such as Huckleberry's Pizza that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to, again, formally congratulate Huckleberry's Pizza in Rock Island for their contributions to the Quad Cities community for over 30 years.

## HONORING LATISHA RUDD BOOTHE

**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 self-motivated leader, Latisha Rudd Boothe.

Latisha Rudd Boothe, born LaTisha Lasha Rudd, on May 30, 1977, in Batesville, Mississippi, to Mr. Clarence Leon Rudd, Jr. and Mrs. Mary Frances Rudd.

She is the wife of Leonard Boothe; mother of Tyler Douglass Rudd and Kyla Maree Rudd; stepmother to Anderson Boothe and Christopher Boothe; sister of Darryl Leon Rudd, Wayne Dupree Rudd and the late Derrick Demoyne Rudd; and the granddaughter of the late Mr. Clarence Rudd, Sr. and Mrs. Betty Jean Rudd, and the late Mr. Frank Douglass Oliver and Mrs. Marie Towns Oliver.

Latisha attended grade school in the South Panola School District, where she graduated in May 1996. She then attended Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, MS, where she received an Associate of Arts Degree. She graduated with honors (Phi Theta Kappa) in May 1998. Next, Latisha attended Mississippi State University in Mississippi

State, MS, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree. She graduated with honors (Magna Cum Laude) in May 2000. She received her Master of Education degree from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ, where she graduated with honors in October 2010. Latisha is also overwhelmingly thankful that she was not born in a time in which she was privy to segregation and the harsh realities of poverty and extreme racial tensions as her parents and grandparents were. The stories were so powerful and impactful to Latisha that she and her grandmother, Marie Towns Oliver, decided to write a biography entitled, 83 Years in the South, which is a compilation of her grandmother's history and experiences living in Mississippi. Once Latisha graduated from Mississippi State University, she moved to North Hollywood, CA, where she was hired as an Extra on the television sitcom, My Wife and Kids. Although the role of an Extra did not afford her the airtime in which she desired, she had the privilege to meet and consistently share the same spaces with well-known entertainers and actors.

In 2002, Latisha was sitting in her living room, in her apartment in North Hollywood, when she began to think of home and of moving back home, so that she could have a consistent hand in raising her son, as he was still living in Mississippi with her mother. After months of pondering the move, she made the decision to return to Mississippi. It seemed as if it was instantaneous that her mother began to have on-going conversations with Latisha about securing a job in the field of education. She would also remind Latisha of how she believes that Latisha is meant to be a teacher. Latisha's mother's words eventually sparked a fire inside of Latisha, and in 2003, Latisha applied for and was given the opportunity to serve as Biology teacher in the North Panola School District in Sardis, MS, where 99 percent of her students were African American and over 85 percent of them were poverty stricken. Due to Latisha's unique teaching styles and unorthodox teaching methods, her students scored amongst the highest, annually, on the Biology state test. Something that had never been accomplished before in this school district. Indeed, Latisha's mother was right; teaching was Latisha's calling and career niche.

In 2010, Latisha transitioned to the Quitman County School District in Marks, MS, where she served as Special Education Itinerant/Inclusion teacher until 2016, where she began her tenure as the school district's Special Education Director. Working with students with disabilities has proven to be a humbling yet meaningful experience for Latisha. Her plans to continue to ensure that students with disabilities have a fair chance at meeting their goals in life is one of Latisha's career commitments. In 2018, Quitman County School District ranked No. 3 in the State of Mississippi for producing the highest number of students with disabilities to graduate with a Traditional High School Diploma. This is quite an accomplishment and one of the first of its kind for this school district.

In 2018, Latisha also became one of the eight Mediators and IEP Facilitators for the state of Mississippi, a position in which she presently holds. In this position, she is afforded the opportunity to work with school districts, parents, and students with disabilities across the state of Mississippi in increasing their knowledge of Special Education.

Longing to become a part of a society much larger than herself in which she could work with other likeminded individuals in an effort to continue to make positive differences in the lives of others, was an opportunity in which Latisha searched far and wide. Then in 2007, she found just that. Latisha discovered an organization whose mission and purpose matched her very own, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Latisha Rudd Boothe may not have all of the accolades as many others; she may not have the acronyms in the front and in the back of her name; however, she is very proud of her past and her present, and she is excitedly looking forward to her future. She has made and is continuing to make positive and life changing differences in the lives of many, and in the words of encouragement that Latisha often shares with the young people in which she encounters, "The Best is Yet to Come."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Latisha Rudd Boothe for her dedication to serving her community and this great state.

## HOMETOWN HERO—GARLAND ISD

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 12, 2022*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Garland ISD for its dedication to ensure our North Texas veterans are set up for success when they return home.

Last month, after recognizing the statewide struggle to find employees, Garland ISD partnered with Soldiers to Sidelines—a non-profit aimed at helping soldiers get the training, credentialing, and even the networking needed to build post military careers in coaching.

I have met with several veterans' groups across North Texas, and they have all expressed the immense challenges they face transitioning into civilian life. By partnering with Soldiers to Sidelines, Garland ISD has affirmed its commitment to helping the heroes of North Texas overcome this obstacle.

It is imperative we lift up and support the veterans who have risked it all for our country. I'd like to thank Garland ISD for going above and beyond to do exactly that.

## HONORING JOE JOHNSON

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 12, 2022*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of former Delegate Joe Johnson of Abingdon, Virginia, who passed away at the age of 90 on August 4, 2022. My friend and former colleague was a true gentleman with a distinguished record of longtime service to Southwest Virginia.

Joseph Pickett Johnson, Jr., was born in Hayter's Gap, Virginia, on December 12, 1931, to Joseph Pickett Johnson, Sr., and Gray Henderson Johnson. He served in the United States Air Force from 1951 to 1955, during which he spent a period in the Marshall