

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Ja'lyn McElroy for her passion and dedication to serving her community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MR.
HOWARD MISKELLY

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Mr. Howard Miskelly of Mississippi. As a businessman, veteran, and local leader, Mr. Miskelly left a legacy that will be remembered by his family, peers, and community for many generations to come.

Drafted into World War II, Mr. Miskelly served his country honorably, earned the rank of Staff Sergeant, and was awarded two Bronze Stars. I am humbled by Mr. Miskelly's heroic actions to protect and serve our great nation, and our country is grateful for his service.

After his military service, Mr. Miskelly strived for greatness in his daily life as he attended Union University on a basketball scholarship. He later transferred to Mississippi State University (MSU) where he was Cadet Colonel of the MSU ROTC and president of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.

Following his education, Mr. Miskelly returned to Okolona, opened a furniture store, and started a family. Mr. Miskelly was a committed Christian and remarked that his greatest accomplishment in life was that his family all walked with the Lord. He loved his family, and his love for the Lord touched numerous lives. Mr. Miskelly also served on the Veterans Administration Board, on the board for the Mississippi School for the Deaf and Blind, and as president of the Mississippi Retail Association.

Mississippi is honored to call Mr. Howard Miskelly one of its own. Although his time on Earth is over, his legacy that he has left through his service, family, community, and faith will endure.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY
SERVICE OF JIM OLIVER

HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration, honoring a man who has dedicated himself to serving his community of Santa Clarita and beyond in an astounding manner: Jim Oliver. After serving in the United States Army, he became a member of the service organization Optimist International and has remained involved for over 52 years. His continued involvement reflects his genuine belief in the organization's goals, which is evident in his optimism and compassion towards everyone he encounters. As a member of Optimist International, Jim Oliver prioritizes meeting the needs of young people across the world alongside the mission of bringing out the best in every individual as they develop into their greatest potential.

Jim has consistently recruited and sought new members to sponsor and mentor within Optimist while upholding a steady commitment to the Optimist Creed. Since 1970, Jim has been named an officer at the Optimist International and district level 78 times and maintained membership in 9 different clubs. Putting the Optimist Creed into action, he has dedicated time to the Blind Olympics, taught water skiing to the Braille Institute, and provided necessities to an orphanage in Mazatlán, Mexico. These philanthropic exploits are just a few of the many examples of service that Jim has displayed in his over five decades of membership to Optimist International.

His service has left a remarkable impact on not only our local community, but in communities around the world. Those that have served alongside can attest he is undoubtedly due recognition by his nation and Optimist International. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress.

HONORING LILLIAN LEWIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a bright and vibrant student, Lillian Lewis. Lillian has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Lillian Lewis is the Valedictorian of the Holmes County Central High School Class of 2022. She currently has a 4.04 GPA. Lillian is the daughter of Mr. Benjamin and Mrs. Shanatosha Lewis. Lillian has always been supported through every endeavor by her family. The love and respect they share for one another has taken her a long way.

Throughout her high school years, Lillian has prided herself on being the absolute best version of herself. She is driven, dependable, and resourceful. These characteristics shaped her school life tremendously. She has accomplished many academic goals already. She is a part of the National Honors Society, Beta Club, National Society of High School Scholars, The National Society of Future Physicians, and the Superintendent's Round Table.

Lillian has chosen to spend the next chapter of her life at the University of Mississippi in Oxford MS, majoring in biomedical engineering on a Pre-Med track to become an internal medicine physician. Lillian hopes to take every experience life has to offer her and learn from them, whether they are good, bad, happy, or sad. Lillian lives knowing that without God none of this would be possible.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Holmes County Central High School's 2022 valedictorian, Lillian Lewis, for being an exemplary student and citizen.

HONORING JAMES TIPTON

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a patriotic American, Mr. James Tipton.

Mr. Tipton lives in Waco, Kentucky. He celebrated his 99th birthday on July 24, 2022.

Mr. Tipton grew up on his family's farm in Union City, Kentucky. In 1941, a new Ordinance called the Bluegrass Army Depot was opening in Richmond and Mr. Tipton helped work on it. In December of 1942, he decided to enlist and joined the United States Army Air Corps. Following basic training, he was assigned as a right-wing gunner. He was sent overseas and flew missions over Europe. On his last mission in April of 1944, his plane ran short of fuel, and they lost engine power. The crew had to jump out of the camera hatch. They landed over enemy territory in France and were captured by German soldiers and taken as prisoners of war. Mr. Tipton spent 13 months as a POW in Krems, Austria in STA-LAG XVII-B. After a march of about 160 miles, the prisoners were liberated on April 26, 1945.

Following his time in the service, Mr. Tipton returned to Madison County and worked at the Bluegrass Ordinance for many years. He is a faithful member of the Waco Baptist Church, where he is the oldest male member. Mr. Tipton is well-respected by his community.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. James Tipton, celebrate his 99th birthday and thank him for his service and sacrifice to our nation during World War II. As a part of "The Greatest Generation," Mr. Tipton and his fellow soldiers are true heroes who bravely served and sacrificed to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today, and we can never thank them enough. I am forever grateful for Americans like James Tipton.

BIDEN "LETTERS" ON AFGHANISTAN
WITHDRAWAL: NEARLY
ONE YEAR LATER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, during his August 26th remarks regarding the 2021 terrorist attack at the Kabul, Afghanistan airport, where 13 American servicemembers were murdered, Biden was asked about the Afghanistan withdrawal and the addition of forces to protect Americans during the evacuation.

Biden responded that military leaders have contacted him, "... usually by letter, saying they subscribe to the mission as designed ...".

That evening, I sent the first of now five written requests to the White House asking for copies of these letters by a deadline of September 11. Nearly one year later, I am still waiting for a reply.

During an August 2021 House Armed Services Committee hearing, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mark Milley and General Frank McKenzie, then the commander of the U.S. Central Command, both testified that they had recommended to Biden that he should leave a residual troop presence.

Additionally, in a closed Senate hearing, Operation Resolute Support Commander General Scott Miller testified that he opposed the Biden administration's decision to withdraw all U.S. forces, citing the threat posed by the Taliban.

The decision to withdraw U.S. forces from Afghanistan and abandon Americans regardless of the conditions on the ground, has been correctly identified by Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL as “one of the worst foreign policy decisions in American history.” While President Donald Trump went a step further saying, “This is the greatest embarrassment . . . in the history of our country.”

President Trump has made clear his withdrawal would have been orderly and Bagram Air Base would have been maintained to defeat a terrorist safe haven.

Sadly, no response from the White House reveals admission of no ‘letters.’

It is also important to ask where the American media is on this critical issue of the claimed Afghanistan letters?

Ultimately, this ill-advised decision not only resulted in the death of U.S. servicemembers, but put the reputation and credibility of the U.S. in question, all while leaving the remaining American citizens in Afghanistan vulnerable.

The world is less safe with the Taliban regime emboldened.

In conclusion, God Bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the Global War on Terrorism continues moving from a safe haven in Afghanistan to America.

HONORING BRIANNA MCFIELD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Brianna McField. Brianna has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Brianna McField is the 2013 Valedictorian of Yazoo County High School, an alumna of Millsaps College, and a current student at Jackson State University seeking her doctorate in Public Health Policy and Administration. She proves that beauty queens are more than pretty faces.

Brianna will go on to represent the state of Mississippi in the 2022 Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant. She is a strong advocate for education and the uplift of women. Brianna has promoted women's empowerment and education about public health and social justice topics including heart disease, sex trafficking, autism awareness, and financial literacy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brianna McField for her passion and dedication to educate the community on health and financial literacy.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MR. KEN SPEARS OF NESHOPA COUNTY

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Mr. Ken

Spears of Neshoba County, Mississippi. In Matthew 5:16 Jesus says, “let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Ken Spears undoubtedly was a man who embodied a servant's heart.

Mr. Spears dedicated his life to serving his community. He began his service as a law enforcement officer and continued in that role for 20 years. He cared for his community as a school bus driver for the Neshoba County School System. As a founding member of the Linwood Fire Department, he also served as a firefighter and board president.

Philippians 2:3–4 says, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Mr. Spears's life was an example of selflessly serving others and living a life of purpose that our Lord has called for us. He served his community wholeheartedly, was adored by many, and lived a life with compassion. I am inspired by Ken Spears's goodwill and selflessness, and I am grateful for his actions that touched numerous lives. The great State of Mississippi is proud to call Ken Spears one of its own.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. CARL. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 420 on final passage of Senate Amendment to H.R. 5376, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 420.

HONORING JOSEPHINE PRADIA RHYMES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an impeccable and an accomplished leader, Josephine Pradia Rhymes. Mrs. Rhymes currently is “officially” retired from Tri-County Workforce alliance after 25 years of dedicated service as of May 31, 2022. She has been a champion of education, and a leader of service in the Mississippi Delta and our great state.

Mrs. Rhymes received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern University and A & M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and her Master of Education degree from the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in Oxford, Mississippi. She recently completed the requirements for the CITI Program at Ole Miss.

She was married to the late Robert A. Rhymes, Sr. She is the mother of one daughter Tarra Katrice Rhymes-Slack; one son Robert A. Rhymes, Jr.; a grandmother of one granddaughter, Pradia Nicole Slack; and one grandson Tyler Rhymes-Christian Slack.

Mrs. Rhymes, a Lake Charles, Louisiana native, was Executive Director of Tri-County Workforce Alliance ever since its implementation in 1997. Tri-County's mission is to pro-

mote long-term economic and community development by building a healthy and competitive workforce through education and job training to a three-county region (Bolivar, Coahoma, and Quitman counties) of the Mississippi Delta.

Mrs. Rhymes taught French, English, German, and Journalism at Clarksdale High School, and French, English, Oral Communication, and Journalism at Coahoma Community College for eleven (11) years. She taught school for 32 years total.

Mrs. Rhymes has won numerous awards over the years. At Clarksdale High she was selected “Star Teacher” four (4) times and was selected for Who's Who Among American Teachers in 1990. She received the NAACP's Education Heritage Award in 1992. Also, the English Honor Society at Clarksdale High School was named in her honor in 2014. It is called the Josephine Pradia Rhymes English Honor Society. She was inducted into Coahoma Community College's Sports Hall of Fame as a Community Leader Inductee; featured in a documentary by Blue Magnolia Films and Barefoot Workshops (through Nickalus Jones, a senior at Clarksdale High School) for her work to improve the lives of youth in Clarksdale; and as a part of the project, two life-size pictures are on the doors of the old Paramount Theater to help with revitalization of downtown Clarksdale.

Mrs. Rhymes continues to serve as a dedicated leader in the community. She is an advocate for the youth, education, and community service. She serves in a plethora of other community organizations in various capacities—her work and dedication is unending. Mrs. Rhymes has proven herself throughout her career and earned a reputation of impeccable character, unquestionable integrity, unparalleled professional achievement, and superior leadership.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Josephine Pradia Rhymes for her leadership, service, and dedication.

HONORING DINA VELOCCI

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dina Velocci, DNP, CRNA, APRN. Ms. Velocci, who is a constituent of Florida's 26th Congressional District, will soon complete her year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA). I am proud that Ms. Velocci was elected as the 2021–2022 president of this prestigious national organization.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who administer more than 50 million anesthetics to patients each year. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and specialty surgeons. They also provide acute and chronic pain management services to patients in need of such care. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia providers in many rural hospitals.