

Lonnie is a native of Leland, Mississippi, and graduated from Leland High School in 1996. After high school, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He served 10 faithful years in the reserves with a final rank of Sergeant. During his time in the reserves, he matriculated at Delta State University to pursue a degree in Computer Information Systems.

Next, Lonnie joined the Greenville Fire Department in 2003. He rose through the ranks of the Department, and now serves as Chief of Training. He was recently recognized by the Department for an act of bravery by single-handedly rescuing someone from a house fire shortly before reporting for duty.

Lonnie founded Dynamic Technologies, LLC in 2008, and continued to build his knowledge of computers and technology by enrolling in Walden University and also obtaining various certifications. He is a CPR instructor for the American Heart Association and serves as board member for the MS River Marathon, the United Way Housing Initiative, and the YMCA.

Lonnie's servant heart, entrepreneurial spirit, and easy-going nature inspire all who come into contact with him.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Lonnie Smith for his passion and dedication to serving his community and this country.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JOHN SHIRLEY

#### HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 16, 2022*

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dr. John Shirley, who dedicated his life to serving his country and his community. John passed away on December 22, 2021, leaving a legacy of service to and love of country and community.

Dr. John Shirley was born in Santa Ana, California on December 8, 1924. At 19 years old, after being drafted and rising quickly to the rank of Staff Sergeant, John was part of the Anzio breakout with the 3rd Infantry Division. After taking part in the invasion of Southern France, he was wounded by fragments of a shell from a German tank and taken prisoner. As he and other prisoners were being marched to the rear, a young German soldier bringing up the rear of the column got too close, and John turned around and slugged him, rendering him unconscious and allowing John to escape to Allied lines. John was awarded a battlefield commission to Second Lieutenant when he rejoined his unit after three months in the hospital recovering from his wounds.

Aside from his commission, John was awarded a Purple Heart, Silver Star, and two Bronze Stars with Oak Leaf Cluster and V for Valor device. He earned the European Theater of Operation Medal with six campaign stars and a bronze arrowhead for the invasion of Southern France, as well as the French Fouragère de Guerre.

After the war, John attended the University of California at Davis Veterinary College, graduating in its first class. He set up the first veterinary clinic in Livermore, California and was known as "Doc Shirley" to the ranchers in

the area. John was considered one of the best veterinarians in the region, with the toughest cases referred to him by his peers.

John became active in the Livermore community, winning a seat on the Livermore City Council, where he served from 1958 until 1966. He served as Livermore's Mayor from 1963 until 1966.

He was a member of the Rotary Club and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He led and was instrumental in many projects to improve the quality of life for Livermore residents and served on the VFW Honor Guard, firing gun salutes into his late seventies. John served as president of the Livermore Valley Opera, and as a member of the Livermore Symphony Association.

As a member of the 3rd Infantry Division Veterans organization, he raised money for high school Junior ROTC programs in San Francisco and Oakland. He was also instrumental in creating the Veterans First program at Las Positas Community College to provide services to veterans returning to school.

John loved sports, and was an avid skier, hiker, tennis player, and golfer. He was also a skilled instrument-rated pilot, which led him to further public service on the Livermore Airport Commission. John said, "You can be a bad golfer, skier, or tennis player, but you have to be a good pilot."

On July 13, 2019, Livermore City Council honored John by naming the new council chamber after him: The John Shirley City Council Chamber. John's list of contributions and accomplishments are too long to list. He was the very embodiment of service to his community and to our great Nation. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of this great American.

#### AUGUST DECEIT

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 16, 2022*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, somehow in August the travesties of deceit by the Biden Administration are especially shocking, dangerous, and insulting to common sense.

The abandonment of Afghanistan last year was the most horrific national security and foreign policy debacle in American history. Thirteen American servicemembers were murdered and numerous others were left behind, as a familiar safe haven for terrorists was re-established as the one we gruesomely experienced on September 11, 2001.

Dangerous criminals on the Terrorist Watch List are now invading the open Southern border, as cartels are enriched with human trafficking and fentanyl smuggling at the cost of American lives.

The raid on the Trump Home on Monday is an inconceivable political assault on democracy, repeating the hoax of Russian Collusion. FBI agents are abused as pawns by deranged, political zealots.

And on Wednesday, the absurd declaration by Biden of "zero inflation" is a disconnect from reality. Inflation is 8.5 percent, the highest in forty years. American families know gasoline is up 44 percent, electricity up 15.2 percent, food up 13.1 percent, and transportation up 9.2 percent.

Despite the universal definition of a recession in two quarters of GDP decline, Biden denies the truth and persists with his failing agenda of raising taxes, borrowing, and foolish massive spending, sparking inflation and destroying jobs.

Sadly, the failures of Biden have created inconceivable threats at home and abroad and he should change policies immediately to protect American families.

#### HONORING ORLANDO W. PADEN

#### 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, Representative Orlando Paden. Rep. Paden has been a champion of service, education, and dedication to the great state of Mississippi and his community.

Orlando W. Paden is a native of Clarksdale, MS, and the son of Cornelius and Lisa Paden. He has two sisters, Marquita Paden and Yusomie Caldwell. Mr. Paden is a proud 2002 graduate of Coahoma Agricultural High School. Graduating with honors from Coahoma Community College in 2004; he went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude with a political science pre-law major from Alcorn State University in 2006. He also did graduate studies at Delta State University and Belhaven College.

In 2015, he was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives, District 26—serving Coahoma and Bolivar counties. Rep. Paden serves on eight committees: Agriculture, Public Health and Human Services, Transportation, Tourism, and Universities and Colleges. During his term, he has been a staunch supporter of public education, university and college funding, and health for all Mississippians. In 2018, Rep. Paden was selected as a Mississippi Legislator delegate to study government abroad in Taiwan. In 2019, Rep. Paden was reelected to serve a second term. He lives by his motto, embodied through the words of Mahalia Jackson, "If I can help somebody, as I pass along; if I can cheer somebody, with a word or song; if I can show somebody, how they're travelling wrong, then my living shall not be in vain."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Representative Orlando Paden for his support of public education, university and college funding, and health for all Mississippians.

#### RECOGNIZING ALI BALEED

#### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 16, 2022*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize the outstanding contributions of Ali Baleed, a well-known community member of Wayne County, Michigan.

Ali Baleed is the founder of many community-based organizations since his arrival to the United States in the 1960s. He is one of the founding members and executive director

of the Yemeni American Benevolent Association (YABA), an organization that provides educational and social services, including scholarship programs for our youth. He helped found the largest human services organizations in the country, ACCESS, where he served as vice president for years. He has served with numerous service organizations, including the Arab American Council and Congress of Arab American Organizations (CAAO). In addition, Mr. Baleed is a key organizer of the Arab and Chaldean Festival, Michigan's largest cultural event celebrating Arab and Chaldean culture. During the 1970s, Ali was nominated to represent Arab Americans at the UAW convention and was also selected to attend the Second General Conference of Yemeni Immigrants in Yemen. Ali worked alongside Arab American Institute (AAI), headed by Dr. James Zogby, to help people register and vote.

Mr. Baleed has remained active in several grassroots organizations and has been a strong voice for southeastern Michigan's Yemeni community. Beyond his commitment to civic service, Mr. Baleed is an accomplished poet.

Ali Baleed has made a remarkable impact on the communities of Wayne County, whether it's helping connect residents to vital human services or encouraging students to achieve

their goals in pursuit of higher education. Please join me in recognizing his numerous accomplishments and wish him well.

#### HONORING SHAMEKA WOODS

#### 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, Shameka Woods. Ms. Shameka has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Shameka Woods is a 2003 graduate of Natchez High School. She received her bachelor's degree from Jackson State University, a master's degree from Alcorn State University, and a Specialist from Belhaven University. She is currently working on her Ed.D at Belhaven University.

Shameka joined the Jefferson County School District in 2010 as a third-grade teacher. She has also served as SSIP Literacy Coach, Assistant Principal at Jefferson County High School, and now Principal at Jefferson County Elementary School. Shameka is a

member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She has a six-year-old daughter, Brooklyn, who attends Jefferson County Elementary School.

Ms. Woods explained what drives her passion for educating children. She stated, "I do this work because our children need passionate educators in their lives. Our students have the potential to do anything they desire with the right motivation and support. My biggest reason (my why) is to see our students succeed. I am so blessed to have a team of educators who understand the vision (JCES Dream Team). I am also thankful to have support from the district administrators, who assist us with everything we do. With continuous teamwork and dedication, we will accomplish all our goals."

"Ms. Woods is a visionary leader who sees the potential in every child," said Adrian Hammitte, Superintendent of Jefferson County School District. Moreover, she has created a school culture centered around student success. I am proud of her accomplishments and their impact on our school district and community."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Shameka Woods for her passion and dedication to education in the Jefferson County School District.