

HONORING BARBARA LYNN
THOMAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, Barbara Lynn Thomas.

Barbara Lynn Thomas was born Barbara Parks to the late Booker Parks and Emma Parks of Darling, MS. She is the eldest daughter born to this union.

Barbara attended school in the Quitman County School System, where she graduated with honors. She later attended Coahoma Jr. College and Hinds Community College, where she attained three different degrees while working a full-time job and raising her three children. She worked at Mississippi Department of Corrections, where she retired with 25 years of service; at the Quitman County School system, giving them 21 years of service; and simultaneously getting a degree in Cosmetology. She would have a 20-hour workday but still managed to care for her children. That alone shows how driven she is.

She doesn't have many jobs to list but believes that longevity at a job is worth its weight in gold. In 2008, she retired from the workplace at the tender age of 43, knowing that she had put in the work.

What makes this candidate so special is the fact that she is a true giver. There have been so many community functions where she would have events and justsimply give things away to those that showed up; ex: at her birthday parties, Christmas parties, and at her grandchildren's birthday parties, guests get gifted, too. She simply loves gifting and seeing the happy faces of the recipients. She now uses her creativity in the kitchen and in her yard. She states that this is her happy place. She is determined to master any task she takes on. She is extremely creative in the kitchen, whereas she can look at a picture on a magazine cover and imitate that dish or dessert. She can really inspire you with some delectable dishes. The Quitman County area should be proud to have this amazing cook at their fingertips. She once told someone that she just likes being happy and loves seeing the happiness in others from the fruits of her labor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Barbara Lynn Thomas for her dedication in serving her community.

RECOGNIZING MR. JACK CLINE

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jack Cline, former Associate Vice Chancellor of federal relations at the University of Kansas (KU), for his advocacy on behalf of the University and the University of Kansas Medical Center.

For a decade, Mr. Cline served as a tireless, dependable, and admired advocate of the educational and research enterprise in Kansas. As he begins his new role as Vice

President for federal relations at Northeastern University in Boston, I can only express gratitude for Mr. Cline.

Mr. Cline was recognized for his hard work last year when he was named a "Top Lobbyist" by the National Institute for Lobbying & Ethics.

The previous year, he received the Jennifer Poulakidas Achievement Award for his contributions to and achievements in university governmental relations; he was also recognized as a "Top Lobbyist" by The Hill that same year.

Alone, these accolades don't tell you what's truly special about Mr. Cline, and why we'll miss him so much. Following a career in the armed services, Mr. Cline chose to continue living a life of service, spending years walking these hallways to ensure the entire Kansas congressional delegation knows the valuable work occurring at KU.

Not once has Mr. Cline shied away from a question, a task, or a request; he's bent over backwards to ensure KU's priorities are heard throughout Congress.

Mr. Cline may now be a Northeastern University Husky, but he will always remain a part of our KU family and will forever be a Jay hawk. Rock Chalk.

HONORING TOURO UNIVERSITY
CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Rep. JOHN GARAMENDI, to honor Touro University California on its 25th anniversary.

Touro University California is a graduate medical school with over 6,000 alumni. Founded in 1997, it offers programs in Pharmacy, Physician Assistance, Public Health, Nursing, Education, Osteopathic Medicine, and Medical Health Sciences. Touro University California has made a massive difference in the community, with over 55 percent of the School of Education graduates serving within 55 miles of the university and more than 80 percent of School of Nursing graduates serving locally within Solano County. Touro University California provides scholarships to underrepresented minority students from disadvantaged backgrounds, improving education and health for all. It currently has about 1,400 students and 100 faculty members. Touro University California has graduated more primary care physicians than any other university in the state.

In addition to proving excellent education, Touro University California is also committed to serving our community. It provides free health screenings through its Mobile Diabetes Education Center and Pharma2Home Initiative, as well as running more than 125 free community clinics that have delivered over 5,200 vaccines. These clinics both help community members and give students an opportunity to get clinical hours and patient experience.

Touro University California works with many community service programs to provide a variety of support to the community. Those programs include: Student-Run Free Clinic, Social

Justice Series, Drug Safe Solano, Project Happy, Biotech Academy/Teen Life Conference, and many more. It has delivered over 3,000 books to local children, working to ensure that Solano's children are not only physically healthy but also mentally healthy.

Madam Speaker, Touro University California provides an invaluable service to the community. It is, therefore, fitting and proper that we honor it here today.

RECOGNIZING MR. GARY RICE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gary Rice and congratulate him on his 35-year career as a teacher in Hanford, California.

Mr. Rice began his career teaching first grade at Western Christian School in Hanford. After one year, he transferred to Pioneer Union Elementary—where he would teach for the next 34 years. As a teacher at Pioneer, Mr. Rice taught multiple grade levels, including first, third, fourth, and fifth grade.

Mr. Rice's true passion was teaching fourth grade because he was able to educate his students about one of his favorite subjects, the history of the State of California. As a fourth-grade teacher, Mr. Rice regularly led students on field trips to Sacramento to visit the California State Capitol, the city's historic Old Town neighborhood, and the California State Train Museum. He also led students on field trips to visit the historic California Missions, such as Mission San Miguel and Mission San Antonio.

As a dedicated educator, Mr. Rice was heavily involved in the school's extracurricular activities. He regularly organized the Pioneer Spelling Bee and was a fixture at the school's ukulele club—both teaching students how to play and encouraging them to show off their talents at events like the Pioneer talent show.

Mr. Rice is the type of teacher that students never forget. His sense of humor, passion for learning, and dedication to his students have made a lasting impact on the thousands of children he has taught over his 35-year career.

I ask all my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible career of Mr. Gary Rice.

HONORING SUSALYN BENNETT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a brilliant photographer, Susalyn Bennett. Susalyn has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Susalyn Bennett has been a photographer for The Clinton Courier for almost a decade. Susalyn has spent countless hours taking photos of the children, events, celebrations, seniors, and much more. Thanks to her, we have enjoyed almost a decade of photo documentation of our community's events,

groundbreakings, awards, inductions, ribbon cuttings and even tragedies in the City of Clinton. She is also the editor of the Bolton Newspaper in my hometown of Bolton, MS. Susalyn has taken photos and written articles of things that have defined us in our small town, as well as moments we will cherish forever.

Susalyn has been named to the E&P Class of 2022 “Shooting Stars.” She was selected as one of only twelve photojournalists in the nation to be featured in the June 2022 issue of Editor & Publisher Magazine, a trade magazine for the newspaper, advertising, public relations, communication, journalism, and printing industries that traces its roots back to 1884.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Susalyn Bennett for her passion and dedication in the field of journalism.

HONORING TOWACO VETERAN AND COMMUNITY LEADER GERALD CHARLES GEMIAN ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gerald Charles Gemian and wish him a very happy 100th birthday on August 25, 2022. Mr. Gemian is a veteran and a longtime resident of Montville, New Jersey.

I want to thank him for his service in the United States Army Signal Corps during the Second World War. Mr. Gemian served from 1942 to 1945 as an Army Staff Sergeant combat radio operator in the Central Pacific Theater. There, he supported assault groups during the Island Hopping Campaign, which was an integral part of the Allies’ military strategy against Japan. This mission involved taking over an island and establishing a military base on it, which would in turn be used as a launching point for the assault and takeover of another island. As a radio operator, Mr. Gemian’s job was crucial to the success of the Allied efforts in battle. His unit landed on shore and secured the island in order to set up a communications base. They used a grid system to determine locations for the artillery to bombard, and then radioed the coordinates over to the fleet and the field artillery. He and his unit remained in combat until the island was fully secured, and once one island was secured, they traveled to the next target. Mr. Gemian went from island to island in the Pacific until the end of the war.

Mr. Gemian fought in actions across the Pacific theater; including in the Kwajalein and Eniwetok campaigns in the Marshall Islands; in the Mariana Islands and Palau. His unit encountered difficult conditions during the campaigns. They were often short on supplies including water, food, and ammunition. The islands were hot and humid, with temperatures often exceeding 100 degrees. Mr. Gemian and his unit also had to worry about hidden snipers and booby traps that littered the islands. He survived numerous enemy attacks and battles and he was never wounded.

After serving in the military, Mr. Gemian became an engineer and moved to Montville in 1977. There, he became an active life-member of Montville VFW Memorial Post 5481.

Mr. Gemian was married to his wife, Elizabeth, for 74 years until she passed away in 2021. He has a son, 3 granddaughters, and 3 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Gemian is a true American hero, and we are indebted to him for his great service to our Nation. It was a pleasure to sit down with Mr. Gemian at Montville’s Memorial Day Ceremony around the 75th anniversary of D-Day to talk about his experiences from World War II. I am proud to honor him today, and I hope he has a wonderful 100th birthday.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF STANLEY GWUDZ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stanley Gwudz, who retires from his work with General Dynamics Electric Boat, on August 24, 2022, following a career with the organization that spans almost half a century and 13 different roles in the trades and shipyard leadership. Mr. Gwudz’s tenure with Electric Boat has been one defined by impact within and loyalty to the organization, and he leaves the company as the Director of the Virginia Class Submarine Program and Ships Management.

A native resident of Uncasville in Montville, Connecticut—a stone’s throw away from Electric Boat’s Connecticut base of operations in Groton, Connecticut—Stanley was destined to support the strength of our nation by contributing to the success of our region’s industrial productivity. Having earned his BS in Business Administration from the University of New Haven—and later an MA in Organizational and Industrial Psychology from his alma mater—Stanley began his career with Electric Boat in 1973 as a shipfitter. Given his first-hand, on-the-ground knowledge, Stanley transitioned quite smoothly into and outperformed within leadership roles at Electric Boat, empowering the institution’s long-term growth over the last several decades. Year after year, he has excelled under high-pressure positions, contributing in major ways to the construction of several eras of US submarines, including the Los Angeles, Ohio, Seawolf, and most recently, Virginia Class programs. Clearly, Stanley has been a history-maker in terms of advancing sea-based defense systems, a foundation of US national security.

Madam Speaker, since my first arrival to Congress through to my chairmanship of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Sea power and Projection Forces, Stan has been a constant presence throughout my office’s engagement with the shipyard in Groton. I have come to learn over the years of Stanley Gwudz’s established reputation as a standard-setter, mentor, and someone who can deliver both ahead of schedule and under budget. Our nation, and the history of growth Eastern Connecticut has experienced, are forever indebted to his service. I can personally attest, that despite all of his amazing success he has retained a very down-to-earth manner. As the Irish often say, Stan “never put on airs” dealing with young, brand-new hires or the highest corporate executives.

Stan has not only provided for our common defense through private industry, but also

prioritized public service through leadership in municipal government for the Town of Montville. With his retirement, Madam Speaker, we are losing a giant. We will remain forever grateful, however, of the legacy left in his place, and the permanent brand of efficiency we can trust General Dynamics Electric Boat to deliver upon in part because of him. To that end, Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Stanley Gwudz on a well-earned retirement, thanking him and his family for his life of service.

HONORING STEPHANIE PATTERSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Alderwoman Stephanie Patterson.

Alderwoman Patterson was born and raised in Oakland, Mississippi, where at least five generations of her family have lived and contributed. At 43 years old, she is a member of the younger generation with high hopes and dreams for her community. Known for her generous heart and the love of her community, she has served one year in her first term on the Town of Oakland’s Board. Within the first year of her term, she helped found the Oakland Area Chamber of Commerce and serves as the Secretary/Treasurer, and she is on the Oakland Beautification Committee. Also, she was co-chair of Oakland’s first Juneteenth Celebration this year. Alderwoman Patterson pulled together with other members of the community to pass a 2 percent prepared food tax. This tax passed with 100 percent of those voting supporting this.

Alderwoman Patterson is recognized by her family, her community, and her colleagues as a woman of integrity, service, and compassion for her community. She is a member of and regularly attends Parrish Grove M.B. Church in Oakland, where she is Youth President, and Director of Vacation Bible School. Alderwoman Patterson also serves as a member of Heroines of Jericho Court No. 283.

Alderwoman Patterson attended and graduated from Coffeeville High School in Coffeeville, MS. After earning her high school diploma, she attended Northwest Community College pursuing an Associate Degree in Business Management. She went on to pursue a bachelor’s degree at University of Mississippi in Criminal Justice with minors in Emergency Management, Psychology, and Sociology.

Alderwoman Patterson’s deep roots in this small Mississippi town have led her and her family to work to inspire others to believe in the community’s possibilities. She and her husband, Kel Andrews, have two sons, Tavauric and Kameron. Her leadership, dependability and work ethic combine to create her reputation and slogan of #OaklandProud.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alderwoman Stephanie Patterson for her dedication, commitment, and remarkable community leadership.