

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 Coffeetown High School in Coffeetown, 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.

HONORING SHELLEY BERKLEY

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 former Congresswoman Shelley Berkley for her outstanding service as the Executive Officer and Senior Provost of Touro University California. The Honorable Ms. Berkley has been engaged in her community for her entire life. As the first person to attend college in her family, Ms. Berkley earned her undergraduate degree from University of Nevada, Las Vegas and her law degree from the University of San Diego.

Ms. Berkley served on the Nevada Board of Representatives, where she oversaw the rapid expansion of higher education, simultaneously developing new schools and ensuring that tuition stayed low. In 1998, she was elected to Congress, where she went on to serve for 14 years. During her time in the House of Representatives, she served on the Transportation Committee, Veterans Affairs Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee. She worked on 114 pieces of legislation related to healthcare and worked to build the new Veterans Administration medical complex in Southern Nevada. While she was passionate about healthcare, her work did not stop there. She collaborated with members of the European Parliament on issues affecting the entire Transatlantic Alliance.

Since leaving Congress, Ms. Berkley has continued to work hard to give back to her community. In her time at Touro University California she has overseen two of the fastest growing medical schools in the United States. Under her leadership, the university has graduated hundreds of physicians, nurses, therapists and pharmacists each year. In addition to her work at Touro University, she also serves on numerous local and national boards, including: the Anti-Defamation League, Patient Pals, National Osteoporosis Foundation, the Israel Project, and European Leadership Network.

Madam Speaker, former Congresswoman Shelley Berkley has been a dedicated and passionate public servant. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CELEBRATION OF CHICAGO'S
AFRICAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick and Dee Woodtor for their work in Africa International House and to celebrate the 33rd iteration of the African Festival of the Arts. The festival is back this year after taking a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. With the return of the in-person festivities, this year's theme is "Back to Culture. Back to Tradition."

The African Festival of the Arts has been celebrated in Chicago for more than three decades. Each year on Labor Day weekend, the festival attracts a multi-cultural audience,

offering the Black community a chance to reconnect to their roots, while also giving those outside the community the opportunity to learn more about African culture. Through poetry readings, interactive workshops, art exhibits, musical and dance performances, food tasting, arts and crafts classes, and displaying a replica of an African village, the festival illustrates the rich African culture present within the people of Chicago.

The festival also contributes immensely to the City's economy. African International House hires local residents and vendors to participate in the annual event, which generates revenue for the city and local businesses.

Patrick Woodtor founded Africa International House and the festival. Woodtor is originally from Liberia and first came to the United States in 1976 to attend Northwestern University, where he met his wife, Delores "Dee" Parmer. After graduating, the Woodtors briefly lived in Liberia, but soon returned to the States due to the political turmoil unraveling in the country.

A short time after returning to Chicago, the Woodtors' cultural outreach began when Dee opened a store in Hyde Park called "Window to Africa" that specialized in selling African artifacts, which helped the surrounding community better connect and understand their heritage. The store also served as a resource center for African immigrants transitioning into their new lives here in America.

The success and popularity of Dee's store fueled their desire to expand their efforts. Patrick started the festival, and then later Africa International House—a larger umbrella organization that offers exchange programs to Africa and more broadly bridges cultural understanding.

African International House and the Woodtors have received numerous accolades for their contributions to the cultural fabric of Chicago and service to recent immigrants, and I wanted to further cement the depth of their impact by speaking about it in the halls of the U.S. Capitol.

Madam Speaker, Chicago has a rich history of celebrating the heritage and ancestry of its residents. The Woodtors have added to that history by lifting African culture on a large scale, which only further enhances the beauty and diversity of our great city. They deserve to be honored and recognized for this work, which benefits all Chicagoans.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MCGOVERN-DOLE INTER-
NATIONAL FOOD AID PROGRAM

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1156—Expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to building on 20 years of success of the George McGovern-Robert Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

During the past two decades, McGovern-Dole has provided more than 5 and a half billion school meals benefitting over 31 million school-age children and their communities.

I have seen this program in action—and it is a special sight to see. When I joined the then

Chairman of the Agriculture Committee Mike Conaway several years ago overseas in third world countries where food is scarce and extreme poverty like you cannot believe is plentiful, it is obvious to see how imperative a nutritious meal is to a child's survival. Just as important, the McGovern-Dole program also provides an opportunity to learn, laying the foundation for an improved life and achievement. For many of these children from very poor means, the meal provided through this program at school is their only good meal of the day.

It is also important to recognize the support of American agricultural producers who make this program possible. America's farm families have produced more than 1.3 million metric tons of U.S. commodities for donation, doing their part in reducing hunger and improving primary education in countries around the globe.

Congress must continue to lead by example in tackling hunger and poverty around the world for years to come. These efforts not only help feed those who cannot help themselves, but it builds good-will and provides hope for the future for so many searching for it. Many laws have been passed by this chamber, but none have been more impactful to the lives of so many children who desperately need the help.

Madam Speaker, I'm proud to support this resolution expressing Congress' commitment to carrying on the success of this program along with the great legacies of Ambassador McGovern and Senator Bob Dole.

HONORING SHONNA TILLMAN

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 professional, Shonna Tillman.

Shonna Tillman is a native of Grenada, MS. She is the daughter of Tony and Anna Tillman. She has two amazing brothers, Jonathan and Tony Tillman, and one amazing sister, Shae Poe. Shonna is also a member of Open-Door Apostolic Church in Charleston, MS, where her pastor is Bishop James Phillips.

Shonna Tillman is the Founder of Operation #IAM, an organization that is designed to help individuals share their stories anonymously. Shonna founded Operation #IAM after overcoming her battle with anxiety and depression. She had a first-hand understanding of how hard it is to walk a dark path and has vowed to not let others suffer alone.

Shonna is a proud graduate of Mississippi State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Educational Psychology. She is also a graduate of Belhaven University, where she earned her master's degree in Public Administration. Currently, Shonna is attending Mississippi State University, where she is a doctoral candidate in Public Policy and Administration. Her students focus on economic development in the rural community, and her dissertation topic is "The Lack of Black Women Representation in Local Government in The Deep South."

Shonna is a member of Black Girls Rock of MS, a mentor for The Diamond Project, Inc.,