

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR
ELECTORAL SYSTEMS (IFES)
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR
UKRAINE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2022

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and to place the following statement from IFES in the RECORD.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

The Board of Directors of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), meeting in Arlington, Virginia, USA on this 15th day of March 2022, does hereby declare its full support for the people of Ukraine, and the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

The Board of Directors condemns the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation as a flagrant act of aggression and violation of international law, including the Helsinki Final Act and the United Nations Charter.

Since Ukraine became an independent country more than 30 years ago, its people have repeatedly chosen the path of freedom and democracy. Over the course of three decades, IFES has been honored to support Ukrainians in their efforts to strengthen and safeguard their democracy. The Board of Directors of IFES affirms its continued solidarity with the Ukrainian people, who are bravely resisting this unprovoked assault on their freedom and democracy.

The Board of Directors pays tribute to the contributions of current and former IFES staff in Ukraine who have helped to build Ukrainian democracy. We stand in solidarity with these IFES staff, with the Central Election Commission of Ukraine, and with our civil society partners and the members of the public institutions with whom we work. The Board of Directors further recognizes the important work of those fighting for democracy and human rights in and around Russia and Belarus, especially those who have worked to oppose the invasion of Ukraine.

The IFES Board of Directors eagerly looks forward to the day when peace in Ukraine, and respect for the sovereign and democratic rights of the Ukrainian people are restored. We pledge to stand with the people of Ukraine now and in the future.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR.
RICHARD RUSSELL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Richard Russell. Dr. Richard H. Russell died on August 28, 2022. He was born on May 3, 1942 in his family home in the Hurricane Community in Pontotoc County. He was the youngest child born to Robert Kendall Russell and Ida Warren Russell, who were 63 and 42 respectively on the date of his birth. He had nine siblings whom he knew and two who died before his birth. He survived all of them. He leaves his wife, Jackie Bass Russell, three children, Regan Russell (Mary Jennifer); Sandy Sullivan

(Vic) and Melissa Russell, and four grandchildren, Sylvie Russell, Will Sullivan, George Sullivan and Paige Carruth.

Dr. Russell graduated valedictorian from the Hurricane school system in 1960, top of his class at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy in 1965, and in 1971 from the University of Mississippi Medical School in Jackson, where he simultaneously worked as a part-time pharmacist and taught pharmacology to nursing students at St. Dominic Hospital. He served a one-year internship in Savannah, Georgia, where a staff physician called the Mississippi doctors (including Dr. Sam Creekmore) the best interns they had ever had, before choosing New Albany as his forever home. He never thereafter doubted that he had made a wise choice.

At the Union County Hospital, later Baptist Memorial-Union County, he proudly delivered approximately 2,000 babies, co-ran the emergency room night and day for seven years, served as New Albany's first I.C.U. Director, served three terms as Chief of Staff, and played an instrumental role in convincing Baptist to take over the Union County Hospital. He was very proud that the New Albany Medical Community grew from five doctors the day before he and Dr. Creekmore arrived to a thriving local medical community with a hospital recently voted the Best Small Hospital in the State of Mississippi. He also served his community in various ways, including as the Union County Republican Chairman and on the New Albany School Board.

Richard was born into a rich community where he was surrounded by family and friends, and he carried a love of community all through his life. During his thirty-nine years of practice as a Family Practice Physician in New Albany, Verona and at the University of Mississippi, he rarely passed a day without meeting someone he called a cousin, and he never went a day without meeting someone he called friend. He was loved by many of his patients because of his fondness for them, his familiarity with their families and family histories, and his gentle and friendly spirit. A pharmaceutical salesman once added that you could always count on Dr. Russell to tell you "one good joke—and two bad ones".

In his later years Dr. Russell often reflected upon how lucky he had been to know so many people, to serve them and their families, particularly in their times of deepest need, many times to sit with them in their last moments, and to enjoy his patients' frequent expressions of appreciation and affection for him. Madam Speaker, Dr. Russell will be missed.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD AND BRENDA BREITMEYER FOR THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE MICHIGAN FARMERS HALL OF FAME

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2022

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Edward and Brenda Breitmeyer for their induction into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame. Through their dedicated service, contributions to their community, and steadfast commitment to the education, research, and promotion of agriculture,

Edward and Brenda have become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

The Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame was created to promote excellence in farming and recognize those in Michigan who have made an extraordinary impact on the industry and their communities. None are more deserving of this honor than Edward and Brenda. Throughout nearly 50 years of farming and ranching, Edward has served on several State and national farm boards. As a member of the Michigan Corn Growers Association, he coordinated meetings to educate local farmers and traveled to Lansing and Washington, D.C. to promote the interests of corn farmers. While participating in the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, he was involved in activities to promote research and innovation in corn farming. He is also a member of the National Corn Growers Association, where he has co-chaired two teams—Membership Communications and Export Utilization. Edward should take immense pride in his service on the U.S. Grains Council. In this capacity, he was a member of two advisory teams—Communications and Value Added. In his long and successful career, Edward has tackled the challenges of an ever-evolving industry head-on and proven himself to be a leader in Michigan's agricultural sector.

In addition to their work for Michigan's agricultural industry, Edward and Brenda have a long history of serving their community through their work in Buckley area schools, the Grand Traverse Conservation District, the Grant Township Planning Commission, the Grant Township Board of Appeals, and Redeemer Lutheran Church of Interlochen. As charter members, Edward and Brenda have helped build two churches, and they regularly volunteer at the food pantry, Bible study, and Sunday school services.

Agriculture is the second-largest sector of Michigan's economy, and farming serves a vital role for the people and communities of Northern Michigan. With today's ever-changing world, the work of industry and community leaders like Edward and Brenda has been critical in shaping Michigan's agricultural industry to the success story it is today. Their impact on the people of Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Edward and Brenda Breitmeyer for their induction into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated leaders. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Edward and Brenda all the best in their future endeavors.

MORTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Morton High School in Morton, Illinois. At this school, classes past and present have achieved tremendous success and a legacy of excellence carried on by the students that followed them.

As the Morton High School athletics department has grown, so has the prominence of their girls' basketball team, known as the

"Lady Potter's". In an unprecedented record of success in eight seasons from 2015 to 2022, the Lady Potters won four Illinois State Championships, three in succession. In that time, they have won 244 games and only lost 23. The Lady Potter's have been led to victory 559 times against 159 defeats by the architect, builder, and coach of the team, Bob Becker. Becker has been awarded Coach of the Year multiple times by the Illinois High School Association and was named to the Illinois basketball coaches' Hall of Fame in 2020. In addition, seven of his Lady Potters have gone on to play Division I college basketball.

A kind, retired Hall of Fame sportswriter brought their story to the nation, comparing them to the current NBA champions: "They are the Golden State Warriors, only with Pony Tails". Their accomplishments also garnered public praise in a CBS' 60 Minutes feature.

With 2022 marking the 50th anniversary of Title IX, which guaranteed the Lady Potter's right to play, there is much to celebrate. The Class of '72 also celebrates their 50th anniversary as graduates of Morton High School this year. Morton High School continues to honor the legacy of the classes before them and their tremendous achievements throughout the year.

Congratulations to classes past and present of Morton High School, including the 2022 Lady Potter's basketball team. The school pride is worthy of celebration. Keep up the good work.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH MCCOY AND BENJAMIN THOMAS

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2022

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas—and to commend the City of Alexandria for its work on the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP).

Through its partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative, the ACRP has brought our community together to remember the city's history of racial terror and to memorialize Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas, who were lynched in 1897 and 1899, respectively. These lynchings were two of 86 documented lynchings committed in Virginia between 1880 and 1930. These acts of premeditated violence were deliberate attempts by whites to terrorize and control black populations across the state.

As our community convenes again on September 24, 2022 we do so to collect soil representing these two young men's lives. In October, Alexandrians will then make a pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama to deliver this sacred soil to its final resting place at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

These events also occur during a year in which the Emmitt Till Antilynching Act, a federal bill making lynching a federal hate crime, was signed into law by President Biden on March 29. I was proud to support this long overdue legislation in the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives, but also recognize that we still have much more work to do.

It is incumbent on all of us to remember this shameful episode of our history and others like it. In doing so, we are better able to see the continuous chain of racially motivated violence against Black Americans that spans our nation's history. We can truly honor the memories of Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas, along with the countless number of named and unnamed victims of racial violence, by seeking justice for all Americans and working to build a more inclusive society.

IN MEMORY OF EMMA LYNN THOMSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2022

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Emma Lynn Thomson. I had the pleasure of getting to know Emma when she served as my communications director.

Emma was a rising star on Capitol Hill and had an exceptional work ethic. She was a salt of the earth person who cared deeply for those around her. Because of her constant search for new ways to connect with constituents, North Texans, Pennsylvanians, and Hoosiers are fortunate to have benefited from her heart for public service.

She hailed from Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Her sister, Molly, put it best at her memorial service. Emma's priorities were God first, family and friends second, and then her blooming career. Her love for her Savior was reflected in how she cared for others. She never missed an opportunity to join family occasions, big or small. Emma was an active member at Capitol Hill Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school, led Bible studies, and was the Deaconess for weddings.

Emma not only poured her life into her community, but also her country. After graduating from Bishop McCort High School, she attended and graduated from George Washington University. Her political career started as a press assistant for Senator MARCO RUBIO's Presidential campaign. Before coming to Capitol Hill to serve as communications director for three Members of Congress, she served as the digital communications assistant for the Democracy Fund.

Emma loved our country, and her loss will never be replaced on Capitol Hill. My thoughts have remained with her parents, Linda and David, her sister, Molly, and all who treasured her. Her life is one taken far too early.

REMEMBERING PHOUA THAO HANG

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2022

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Phoua Thao Hang. She

leaves behind a large and loving family in Minnesota, and a legacy that will continue to inspire our community for years to come.

Phoua was born in 1952 in Sa Luong, Laos. She grounded her life in service to community, sharing cultural wisdom with younger generations of Hmong Minnesotans who did not get to experience the same life she did—being carried on her father's back from village to village, planting rice seedlings, and gathering water for her family before the sun rose.

Phoua's family noted that over the course of her life, she worked as "an assembly operator, a waitress, a certified seamstress, a wreath-maker, and a farmer." Phoua became a distinguished member of the Twin Cities' Hmong community and contributed to countless efforts to build political, social, and economic capital. She was known as a mainstay of the St. Paul Farmers Market, where she sold her family's fruits and vegetables for two decades. She was a founding member of the Hmong American Farmers Association where she "led the charge to lease a 155-acre farm, helped launch a marketing cooperative and food hub, spearheaded a micro-lending program, and tested key modules in a national training program," as remarked by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz.

Phoua instilled in her children and grandchildren that sense of service, and our community will continue to be blessed by their thoughtful and impactful contributions in government, non-profits, and business. Phoua was killed senselessly on July 17, 2022, in a hit-and-run accident that has forever changed countless lives. I hold Phoua, her family, and our community in my heart as we honor her incredible legacy.

RECOGNIZING FIRE ENGINEER CURTIS TREVOR GOLD

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2022

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Curtis Trevor Gold and his many years of dedication to the City of Ontario as an Ontario Fire Engineer.

Curtis joined the Ontario Fire Department in 2016 as a firefighter. In 2019, he was promoted to fire engineer. During his time at the Department, he served as a member of the Urban Search & Rescue Team. This team involves technical rescue operations that requires extrication and medical stabilization of victims of various emergencies. As an experienced firefighter, Curtis also became a training instructor, mentoring younger firefighters. He was also a member of Ontario Professional Firefighters Local 1430.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. On Saturday, August 27th, Curtis tragically passed away in an off-duty accident. He is survived by his wife and family. I offer my deepest condolences on their loss.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Firefighter Curtis Trevor Gold. His years of civic service and commitment to the Department and the people of Ontario are worthy of the highest commendation. He will be missed.