

HONORING EMMA INEZ HIGH
JOHNSON

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2022

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life of Mrs. Emma Inez High Johnson.

Born in New Market, Alabama, Emma Inez High Johnson began an uncommon life of modesty, sacrifice, and service. Her commitment to men, women, and children from all walks of life made her efforts more distinct and special. It was over twenty-five years ago when Bishop Victor T. Curry affectionately and appropriately tabbed Emma, Queen Inez. This noteworthy and royal designation perfectly captured the very essence of a woman, regal in both nature and nurture.

This accomplished, yet uncomplicated, woman was proudly connected to her faith and her family, readily accepting her divine destiny and mission as a wife, mother, nurturer, worshipper, and most importantly, a woman of faith. Emma labored to ensure that those with whom she worked were treated with compassion, dignity, and respect. Her encouragement and empowerment of her colleagues in many ways reflected her warm spirit.

Emma wed the late Pastor Joe Cephus Johnson in 1966 and together they celebrated three children and a 52-year marriage.

As first lady of the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, Emma labored fervently in service. As chairwoman of Women in the Spirit of Excellence (W.I.S.E.), servant leader of the Women's Ministry, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School instructor, a member of the Encouragement Ministry, Women's Day speaker, and directress of Ebenezer's Angelic Choir, Emma's multi-giftedness was constantly on display.

Beyond the walls of Ebenezer, Emma's work for an assortment of causes and organizations was hard to miss. In her roles as vice president of the International Association of Minister's Wives and Minister's Widows Coterie of South Broward, a member of the Progressive Kingdom Baptist Association, a member of the Divine Divas, and a 2nd Generation Member of the Red Hatters Society International, Emma was deeply entrenched in the work of community service.

My heart is with her daughters and family, and the entire Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church family in mourning the loss of this kind and compassionate and virtuous woman.

We are forever blessed to have shared this time with Queen Inez on Earth. May her memory be a blessing.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
JERRY CLAYTON

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 Jerry Clayton. Jerry was born on August 28, 1938, in the

Mount Vernon community of Lee County to Robert Curtis and Dewdrop Raper Clayton. He graduated from Belden High School and attended Itawamba Junior College (IJC) and Florence State (UNA) on basketball scholarships. While at IJC he met Tula Ann Senter and they were later married. After earning a degree from Mississippi State, he began teaching History and coaching basketball at Milam Jr. High School in Tupelo. Little did he know then that his heart for teaching would be a driving force throughout his life. Coaching took him to Tupelo High School where his 1968 Golden Wave basketball team won the state championship. He cherished his relationship with his students and players and remained concerned about them through the years, often being invited to their class reunions.

In 1968, Jerry left the school system to become Chancery Clerk of Lee County, an office he served for twenty years. He was active in the Mississippi Chancery Clerks Association and often helped new clerks learn office operations. While in office he was appointed Youth Court Referee. There his experience with abused and neglected boys revealed a need for a safe place to house and nurture these young men. This became his mission and with support of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, Jerry founded the Alpha House, where for the next forty years, boys found a mentor whose goal was to give them a new way of life with confidence to set a goal and reach it. He wanted them to be so successful that they would become taxpayers instead of tax recipients. Many of those young men who lived there often came back to see and thank him.

Wherever his careers took him, Jerry remained dedicated to his family. He taught his two sons to love the outdoors, and they hunted and fished together and loved all things MSU. His terrific sense of humor made for many stories of their adventures. All the while his example taught them to care for those less fortunate. Jerry was a member of the original Elvis Presley Memorial Foundation Board, a Mason, and served on the board of the North Mississippi Medical Center. In 2014 he was named Tupelo's Outstanding Citizen. Jerry is survived by his wife of sixty-four years Tula, his sons Clay (Lisa) and Matt (Donna), his grandchildren Jacob Washington (Rachel), Davis Clayton (Kelsey), Grace McClay Clayton, Carter Clayton (Anna Grace), Walker Clayton and Anna Kees Clayton and four great grandchildren: Knox, Graham, Eve and Stella. He is also survived by his nephews Brad and Robbie Clayton.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Joe Clayton.

IN HONOR OF TRINITY REGIONAL
PROJECT OFFICE OF THE U.S.
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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 tremendous contributions of The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) serving the Fort Worth District of Texas. The USACE provides flood risk management to the Dallas metro area, stores water for the City of

Dallas, and manages the recreation and natural resources around lake Lewisville including the Lewisville dam. My staff and I recently had the opportunity to tour the lake and see firsthand the improvements and preservation work the USACE has done to ensure the safety of the residents of the Dallas metro area.

I would like to recognize the USACE participants who facilitated my team's site visit:

Col. Jonathan S. Stover—District Commander, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Matt Hays—Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Eric Verwers—Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, Fort Worth District

Tim MacAllister—Chief of Operations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Joyce McDonald—Chief of Operations and Regulatory, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Southwestern Division

James Murphy—Operations Project Manager, Trinity Region, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Rob Jordan—Lewisville/Ray Roberts Lakes Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Justin Berndt—Deputy Operations Project Manager, Trinity Region, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Nick Wilson—Lead Ranger, Lewisville Lake, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Tom Gresback—Director, Intergovernmental Affairs & Strategic Communications, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth

Shari Brandt—Resident Engineer, Construction Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Shawn Messick—Project Engineer, Construction Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Stacy Gray—Program Manager, Program and Project Management Division—Civil Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Tony Mendolia—Project Manager, Program and Project Management Division—Civil Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Matt Lindquist—Project Manager, Program and Project Management Division—Civil Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Trevor Welsh—Public Affairs Specialist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Chandler Sanford—Park Ranger, Lewisville/Ray Roberts Lakes

Dax Hall—Park Ranger, Lewisville/Ray Roberts Lakes

Grayson Gregory—Park Ranger, Lewisville/Ray Roberts Lakes

Gabriel Torres—Civil Engineering Technician, Lewisville/Ray Roberts Lakes

Christopher Vaughan—Maintenance Worker, Lewisville/Ray Roberts Lakes

Sallie Wilson—Admin Support Specialist, Lewisville/Ray Roberts Lakes

I would like to sincerely thank these members of the USACE for the Texan hospitality extended to my staff and commend them for the huge strides they have made in rehabilitation of the Lewisville dam and surrounding area. I wish them the best as they continue the hard and important work of preservation, flood control, and water conservation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
TEXAS STATE SENATOR LARRY
TAYLOR

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2022

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my friend, Senator Larry Taylor, who admirably served two decades in the Texas Legislature as State Representative for House District 24 from 2003 to 2013 and as State Senator for Senate District 11 from 2013 to today. Senator Taylor will retire after a distinguished career at the end of this current session in early 2023.

Senator Taylor was raised in Friendswood, Texas, and is a lifelong Texan and Baylor University graduate. He and his wife, Kerri, have three children and five grandchildren. Senator Taylor formerly owned Truman Taylor Insurance Agency in Friendswood, an independent agency started by his father more than 50 years ago.

Senator Taylor served five sessions in the Texas House of Representatives before his election to the State Senate. During the 82nd Legislature, Representative Taylor served on the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, a 12-member body made up of legislators and members of the public who are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and are tasked with identifying and eliminating waste, duplication, and inefficiency for more than 130 Texas state agencies. As a House member, he also served on the following committees:

Elections, Insurance, Voter Identification and Fraud Select Committee, Windstorm Insurance Oversight, Emergency Preparedness Select Committee, Special Purpose Districts Select Committee, Ways and Means, Appropriations, Calendars, Hurricane Ike Storm Devastation to the Texas Gulf Coast Select Committee, Property Tax Relief and Appraisal Reform Select Committee, Business and Industry, House Administration, Health Insurance Risk Pool Deficit, Windstorm Coverage and Budgetary Impact, and Public Health.

Senator Taylor has served five sessions in the Texas State Senate and spent four of those sessions as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education. He also served as Chair of the Senate Finance Article III working group and was a member of the important Budget Conference Committee, a select group

chosen to ensure that legislators passed a balanced budget. Additionally, he is a member of the Legislative Budget Board, a permanent joint committee responsible for developing budget and policy recommendations for legislative appropriations. Senator Taylor has served on the following Senate committees:

Education, Finance, Future of College Sports in Texas Select Committee, Higher Education, Ports Select Committee, Veteran Affairs, Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs, Coastal Barrier System, Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety Select Committee, Texas Commission on Public School Finance, Cruise Industry Development, Business and Commerce, Intergovernmental Relations, State Real Property Data Collection, Reporting and Assessment Select Committee, Government Organization, Health and Human Services, Education Policy for a Skilled Workforce, Texas Lottery and Texas Lottery Commission, and Violence in Schools and School Security Select Committee.

In 2020, Senator Taylor was named "Galvestonian of the Year" by the Galveston Chamber of Commerce. Two years later, he was given the 2022 inaugural "Senator Larry Taylor Champion of Education" award by the League City Chamber of Commerce for his tireless advocacy on behalf of Texas students and teachers. He currently serves on the board of Hope Village, a residential and day program for people with developmental disabilities, and as the Director and Chairman of the Board for Texan Bank. He is also President of the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute Board.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend my good friend Senator Larry Taylor for his many years of faithful service and dedication to the State of Texas, his constituents, and the education of countless Texans. I would also like to congratulate him on an outstanding career and wish him, his wife, Kerri, and their family the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT ANDREW J. PIEHL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding leader and warrior, Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Andrew

J. Piehl on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force Reserve. Chief Piehl is the 349th Air Mobility Wing Cyber Operations Superintendent at Travis Air Force Base in California, and has served his nation for more than 35 years of selfless duty.

Chief Piehl started his career as a vehicle operator in 1987, stationed in Texas and Italy. Just three years later, he deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, answering our country's call to face down tyranny in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. Since then, this proud son of Vacaville, California, served with distinction at Air Force bases across the globe and devoted his life to the service of our great Nation.

In his final job before retirement, he was the principal enlisted advisor for cyber warfighters at the largest tenant wing in Air Force Reserve Command, ensuring airmen were mission-ready to provide dynamic and integrated network defense capabilities, systems management, technical support, and financial management. Chief Piehl was an exceptional senior enlisted leader living by the core values of "Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do." He always put his airmen and their needs first.

In addition to Chief Piehl's service, his wife Grace also selflessly served in the Air Force Reserve as a Senior Master Sergeant. She devoted her life to their two children, Shelby and AJ. In all that we do, may we reflect on the many sacrifices of our dual military families and their tireless devotion to duty. I cannot overstate the importance of the support that spouses and families provide to their service members in our Armed Forces. Service and sacrifice are not limited to just the service member, but often extend to the entire family. On behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, we thank Grace, Shelby, and AJ. Although the Air Force will say goodbye to Chief Master Sergeant Piehl, we know that the Piehl family's legacy and devotion to the service of this great Nation will continue for years to come.

I would like to help close out the final chapter of this inspiring Soldier and Joint Force leader's career with a heartfelt thank you from all the men and women of the U.S. Congress and Nation. Thank you, Chief Master Sergeant Piehl, for your 35 years of service to the Air Force and the Travis Air Force Base community, and congratulations on your retirement. We wish you well in your future endeavors.