

HONORING LES CLARK II ON HIS SELECTION AS KERN COUNTY FAIR PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 2022

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Congressman DAVID VALADAO, to honor Les Clark on his selection as the 2022 Kern County Fair Person of the Year. This significant achievement builds upon Les' incredible legacy of 50 years of community service, which has been recognized by the City of Taft, the Kern County Board of Supervisors, and the State of California.

Nearly five years ago, Congressman DAVID VALADAO and I rose to recognize and pay tribute to Les on his retirement as Executive Vice President of the Independent Oil Producers' Agency after 37 years of dedicated service to hardworking local oil producers. In that statement, we spoke to Les' character, drive, knowledge of the Kern oil patch, and vision for our community. And most importantly, we attested to his life of service, which has never stopped, even after his official retirement. That is why Congressman VALADAO and I are proud to see Les being honored at this year's Kern County Fair.

Dating back to 1916, the Kern County Fair has a rich history that cuts across generations and brings Californians together to celebrate all Kern County has to offer. During the 12 days of festivities, community members have the opportunity to play carnival games, eat barbeque, and listen to lively music, including the famous "Bakersfield Sound." It is also where our next generation of agricultural producers exhibit a variety of their livestock showings, demonstrating their husbandry skills. With Les being recognized as Person of the Year at this year's fair, his name will forever be tied to the Kern County Fair's rich history and all that it represents in our community and across the Central Valley.

On behalf of the 23rd and 21st Congressional Districts of California, Congressman VALADAO and I would like to thank Les for the impact he has made and continues to make on countless individuals, both professionally and privately, and congratulate him on receiving this special recognition. We wish him and his family, including his wife, June, two daughters, Tessa and Kerrie, son "Little Les," ten grandchildren, Arizona, Ayana, Cash, Darius, Easton, Keylan, Logun, Sierra, Tanisha, and Willow, and six great grandchildren, Zaria, Ivy, Koast, River, Luka, and Kaisley the very best as they celebrate at this year's fair.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RITZ THEATER'S 115TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I honor the Ritz Theater on its 115th anniversary. The occasion was marked with a ribbon cutting, birthday cake, and historic tour on September 2, 2022.

In 1906, Italian immigrant and talented wax modeler S.Z. Poli built the Ritz Theater—then called the Poli—for \$250,000. The grand theater could seat more than 2,000 theatergoers in its orchestra, balcony, and second story balcony. On Labor Day 1907, the theater opened its doors as Scranton's premier vaudeville theater and attracted some of the biggest names in the industry including Harry Houdini, W.C. Fields, and Will Rogers. News stories from the time reported a young Buster Keaton tended bar across the street in between performances. The reputation of the theater and the superstars who performed on its stage sparked the popular saying "if you can play Scranton, you can play anywhere."

On October 6, 1930, the theater began screening films and was rebranded as the Ritz Theater. In 1937, the theater was remodeled in the Art Deco style; the second story balcony was removed; and it was again renamed and became the Comerford Theater. By 1941, the theater was managed by the legendary Paramount Pictures, Inc. through their subsidiary, Frank Walker. The theater was once again remodeled, and on May 5, 1950, the theater reopened with a screening of *Paid in Full* which starred Scranton's own Elizabeth Scott.

Over the next several decades, the theater thrived, drawing crowds of moviegoers downtown, but when the theater began to struggle financially, the main floor was converted into a mini mall in 1978 with the theater operations relocating to the former balcony. As competition from two multiplexes continued to mount, the Ritz shifted to showing short-run movies, and in July 2000, "U-571" was the last film shown before the theater closed.

In the early 2000s, the building was purchased, and the buyer found many of the treasures of the theater's heyday still intact. In 2016, the Creative and Performing Arts Academy of NEPA, an arts program for kids, teens, and adults, took up residence in the Ritz. Today, more than 300 students attend classes in music, theater, and dance and participate in more than 24 annual productions. The Ritz also houses the Ritz Mainstage Players, a semi-professional, audition-based company that performs musicals and plays.

Through triumphs and challenges, the Ritz Theater has been a beacon for the arts in downtown Scranton for more than a century, and I admire the ingenuity and determination it took to preserve its legacy. I am honored to join with everyone at the Ritz Theater to celebrate their 115th anniversary. May they continue to find great success and welcome audiences through their doors for many years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOJOURNER TRUTH HOUSE

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I recognize Sojourner Truth House as the organization celebrates its 25th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, Sojourner Truth House will celebrate with a special event taking place on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana.

Sojourner Truth House, located in Gary, Indiana, is a ministry organization sponsored by Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ which provides shelter, support, and hope for homeless and at-risk women and children. The compassionate employees and volunteers at Sojourner Truth House assist and encourage their clients to regain their dignity and sense of purpose for themselves, their children, and their communities. The organization is dedicated to its mission which includes an emphasis on dignity and respect for all, strength in diversity and inclusion, and fostering a safe environment for its clients to identify and overcome the barriers in their lives. In addition, the organization is proud to provide numerous programs that have been immensely successful and provide clients with access to resources, classes, counseling, and various activities aimed at healing the mind, body, and spirit. For its noteworthy and lifelong positive impact on the community of Gary and the entirety of Northwest Indiana, Sojourner Truth House is worthy of the highest praise.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize some of the inspiring leaders in Northwest Indiana who have worked with Sojourner Truth House to bring about impactful change and to inspire the community. They include Sister Joan Fisher, PHJC, Sister Peg Spindler, CSA, Executive Director Angela Paul, Chairperson Scott Yahne, Vice-Chairperson Michael Gluszewski, Treasurer Sharon Morales, Secretary Greg Lee and other current members of the Board of Directors: Tai Adkins, Jodi Allen, Leo Barron, LaToya DuBose, Sister Annemarie Kampwerth, PHJC, Rozanne Morton, Margaret Tarchala, and Candace Williams.

I am also grateful for the sponsorship of Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, and for the grant partnerships, organizations, friends, and community groups who work tirelessly to support this incredible organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Sojourner Truth House on its 25th anniversary. For the past 25 years, the staff and leadership have touched the lives of countless individuals through their unwavering commitment to those in need. The ministry is a beacon of hope for so many and serves as an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINCLAIR LODGE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Sinclair Lodge No. 154 of Ancient Free Masons in West Columbia, South Carolina.

The Sinclair Lodge was organized on November 1, 1869, with 20 members, and through continued growth still maintains true to the vision statement of being men of faith, morality, and perseverance.

The Sinclair Lodge exemplifies greatness, taking good men and teaching them to be better men. The organization also demonstrates outstanding generosity through their support of various charities. Among these include academic scholarships to local high schools and even the Special Olympics of South Carolina.

Surely this community in which it resides greatly benefits from the charitable actions of the Sinclair Lodge, led by the Worshipful Master Logan Roush.

I am humbled to accept the 40 Year Service Award from the Sinclair Lodge and am grateful for the impact it continues to make in the lives of its members and those with whom they interact in this great state of South Carolina.

HONORING THE 55TH
ANNIVERSARY OF PROTEUS, INC.

HON. CONNIE CONWAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Ms. CONWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Proteus, Inc. for its 55 years of service in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Proteus was established in 1967 through the Tulare County Community Action Agency. It began as an adult basic education class for low-income residents held in a basement in Visalia, California. Within a year, over 2,000 students were enrolled in its classes, allowing Proteus to incorporate in 1972. Expanding rapidly, Proteus created numerous employment and vocational programs while moving into Kings, Fresno, Kern, and Los Angeles Counties. It opened skilled training centers in all 5 counties, which helped farmworkers transition into vocational careers.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Proteus adapted its services to the diversifying needs of the San Joaquin Valley. It provided job training to refugees, high school dropouts, and women outside the workforce. Family services were emphasized with the building of community centers. Proteus also led relief efforts for farmworkers and communities affected by environmental disasters. The agency celebrated the onset of the 21st Century with a milestone accomplishment: becoming an accredited educational training institution.

Today, Proteus continues to address the most pressing contemporary challenges. For example, responding to the energy crisis, Proteus created energy-saving programs for communities in need while building strong partnerships with local utility companies. After 55 years of operation, Proteus has earned its reputation as a nationally recognized full-service agency. In recognition of its outstanding work, the agency has won numerous awards including from the California Awards for Performance Excellence program.

Today, Proteus operates approximately 50 programs for people of all ages and backgrounds. Its work includes emergency supportive services, energy conservation, foster family services, prevention services, pesticide safety training, and career and technical education classes. Even with the diversification of its services, however, Proteus remains firmly rooted in its core mission: "to provide education, workplace training, job placement, and other support services to farm working families and diverse program participants to empower them to achieve self-sufficiency".

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Proteus, Inc. for 55 years of service in the San Joaquin Valley and for many more decades of growth and success to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING ACCESS TO ADVANCE CARE PLANNING ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce legislation to remove barriers to increase access to advance care planning in the Medicare program.

As we look for ways to lower health care spending, how we approach end of life care must be part of the conversation. When more than 90 percent of health care expenditures are spent on treating chronic conditions, it's clear that we shouldn't spend money on unwanted care and instead empower patients and families to think about these decisions before it is too late.

Improving Medicare coverage of voluntary discussions with providers about living wills, power of attorney, and other end-of-life treatment preferences can allow for these delicate and complex conversations to happen in a thoughtful manner.

Since 2009, I have introduced multiple pieces of legislation and built bipartisan support to improve Medicare coverage of these services to ensure that patients' wishes are respected and families are well prepared for this emotionally demanding time. In 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) put forward a proposal, based on my Personalize Your Care Act, to allow physicians to bill for advance care planning. In the first year alone, these codes were used by more than 22,000 providers on behalf of more than 570,000 beneficiaries.

In the last two and a half years, we've seen tremendous loss and we must meet this moment. This legislation does just that by making this service free for beneficiaries and letting clinical social workers offer the service, allowing more patients to access this benefit.

I urge support for this legislation.

RECOGNIZING MRS. CHRISTIE JORDAN

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Christie Jordan for her 25 years of dedicated service to the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas as Chief Executive Officer.

Since becoming CEO in 1997, Mrs. Jordan has overseen the rapid growth of the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas which today distributes millions of pounds of food to over 100 partnering organizations including food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters across 12 counties serving thousands of people. In her role, Mrs. Jordan works with state and federal agencies, the Food Bank's partner organizations, local businesses, and oversees grant writing and fundraising to secure the resources the Food Bank needs each year. Additionally, through her leadership, the Food Bank continued operating and serving the community during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her biggest achievement as CEO came in 2012 when she moved the Food Bank from a 13,000-square-foot facility to a custom-designed 56,000-square-foot facility. This facility upgrade became possible after she led a fund-raising effort to raise \$1.6 million in matching funds to receive a grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

For her work at the Food Bank, she received the 2010 Public Citizen of the Year from the Arkansas chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the 2011 Non-profit Executive of the Year in the inaugural Northeast Arkansas Business of the Year awards.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Jordan has given back to her community in other ways, including serving as a Founding Member in 2004 and currently as a Board Member for the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, serving as the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman, and serving as the Community Director for the March of Dimes from 1996 to 1997.

The City of Jonesboro and the entire Northeast Arkansas region are blessed to have Mrs. Jordan in our community, which includes the thousands of families who have been directly touched by her work. In her own words in an August 2021 interview, Mrs. Jordan said, "I feel passionate about people investing their time and talents into the community to make it a better place." Over her decades-long career of investing her time and talents, Mrs. Jordan has certainly made Northeast Arkansas a better place.

With heartfelt thanks, I congratulate Mrs. Jordan on 25 years as the CEO of the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas and look forward to seeing her impact on our community for the years and decades to come.

HONORING THE CAREER OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS TREVOR BRITTELL

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished military career of Sergeant First Class Trevor Brittell in the Connecticut Army National Guard which recently ended after 25 years of valorous service. Sergeant Brittell officially discharged on September 8, 2021, which is being publicly celebrated post-COVID on its one-year anniversary this month. Throughout his years of distinguished service, Trevor has been a shining pillar of duty, compassion, and professionalism. His retirement has been well-deserved.

Trevor's Connecticut roots have taken hold since a young age, when he and his family moved to Simsbury, Connecticut from their home state of California at age six. Upon his graduation from Simsbury High School, Trevor followed in the steps of his late grandfather and voluntarily enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1997, where he was assigned to the 102nd Infantry. During this time, Trevor enrolled at Western Connecticut State University where he studied Justice and Law Administration, a curriculum he later applied to his work at the guard and local law enforcement.