

HONORING FABIAN ALOMAR AS
2023 VALLEY LUCHADOR FOR
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fabian Aiomar as a Valley Luchador.

Fabian is a professional skateboarder and actor. He stated his career in the '90s, and since then he has involved himself in community advocacy. He most recently appeared in FLAMIN' HOT, an ode to the invention of Hot Cheetos—a beloved snack.

A former resident of Panorama City, Fabian balances acting with his love for skateboarding. He supports the sport and kids interested in it by donating skateboards so they can get involved in and improve at skateboarding.

Over four years ago, Fabian became involved with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition as a formerly incarcerated individual. The ARC empowers formerly and currently incarcerated people to thrive by providing a support network, comprehensive reentry services, and opportunities to advocate for policy changes that will help others caught in cycles of incarceration.

Today, Fabian uses his platform to share the mission of ARC to help others who are formerly incarcerated integrate back into society.

Fabian, like me, is the son of immigrants and came from a lineage of farmers.

He told one of our local newspapers, the San Fernando Sun, that he recently reconnected with his campesino roots and is expanding his advocacy efforts to include agricultural workers.

His advocacy, energy, and compassion are limitless, and we are proud to call him a Valley native.

I thank Fabian. It is my honor to recognize him as a distinguished leader and luchador during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Penny, along with her family, grew up in Fountain Chapel A.M.E. Church in Tallahassee where she participated in the Youth Choir and the YPD'ers (Young People and Children's Division).

Under Episcopal Supervisor Penny Hartsfield White's leadership, the members of the Women's Missionary Society have grown in their mission focus. Episcopal Supervisor Penny is intentional about ensuring the missionaries bless organizations that serve "the least of these." Donations of diapers, clothing, socks, coats, toiletries, toys, and funds are just a sampling of the ways the missionaries have an impact.

Penny's service to her community is rich and extensive, including serving: with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami; as Chair and Co-Chair of United Way Campaigns: as a Co-Chair for multiple March of Dimes sub-committees; on Committees within the American Cancer Society; as Treasurer for the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce Trustee Council; with the Chamber as they travelled to Brazil and South Africa to foster working relationships between countries; and as an officer of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Penny currently serves as a Board Member of the Black Women's Agenda, Inc.

During her tenure, Episcopal Supervisor Penny Hartsfield White spearheaded the project to build a home for a pastor in Africa when she learned he needed a place to live. She led the construction of a commercial kitchen in the public library in Pembroke, Illinois, to ensure the community had a suitable gathering place. She also coordinated the purchase of sewing machines for widowed women in India so they could make items to sell to support their families.

I join with members of the 4th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the global community to thank Mrs. Penny Hartsfield White for her exceptional service to the church and our nation. I wish her health and happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING MRS. PENNY
HARTSFIELD WHITE ON HER RE-
TIREMENT AS SUPERVISOR OF
THE 4TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional service of Mrs. Penny Hartsfield White, 4th Episcopal District Supervisor of the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The 4th Episcopal District is headquartered in the 7th Congressional District of Illinois.

Penny is a native of Tallahassee, Florida, and the fifth of nine siblings, six girls and three boys. Her father, the late Richard Allen Hartsfield, Sr., was the Assistant County Agent, and her mother, the late Mrs. Mamie S. Hartsfield, was an elementary educator and a staff member of Florida A. & M. University.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY ELLEN
RIVERS SMITH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a committed educator, devout Christian, and dedicated public servant, Mrs. Mary Ellen Rivers Smith. Ms. Smith transitioned from this life on October 14, 2023. She was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on February 13, 1931, the third of four children born to Addell and Mitchell Rivers.

Ms. Smith was a proud graduate of the Charleston School System, having attended Simonton Elementary School, where I began my professional career, and the historic Avery Institute, the first accredited secondary school for African Americans in Charleston. The Avery Institute had a special place in her heart. Decades after graduation, Mrs. Smith donated several artifacts from her school days to what has become the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture.

Ms. Smith matriculated at North Carolina Central University, then North Carolina Col-

lege, in Durham, North Carolina, in 1952 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Health and Physical Education with a minor in Education. An avid and talented singer, Mrs. Smith earned the nickname "Songbird" as a soloist in the University Choir. After graduation, she returned to Charleston to teach high school and shortly thereafter married Reverend Dr. Charles F. Thomas.

Mrs. Smith was deeply dedicated to uplifting and shaping young minds. Over her six-decades-long career as an educator, she taught in elementary and middle schools in South Carolina; Biloxi, Mississippi; Lanon, Philippine Islands; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Omaha, Nebraska. After residing in Omaha for many years, she moved with her family to Huntsville, Alabama.

In Huntsville, Mrs. Smith became Education Director for the Comprehensive Childcare program. She retired from teaching in 1999 but continued her commitment to educating the next generation of young minds as a substitute elementary school teacher. Additionally, during this time, she met and married Frank C. Smith of Charleston. Her dedication to education and community service served as an inspiration to her five children, all of whom served as educators in various capacities.

Mrs. Smith accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at a young age and was baptized at Calvary Baptist Church. Her love for the Lord would follow her throughout the entirety of her life. A longtime devoted parishioner of Morris Street Baptist Church in Charleston, Mrs. Smith was involved in the Senior Choir, Hour of Power Choir, Educational Ministry, Newsletter Ministry, Social Butterflies, Senior Ministry, Pastoral Aid, Senior Citizens, and Sunday School.

After relocating to the Washington, D.C. area to live with her daughter Jennifer, Mrs. Smith became a member of the Reid Temple AME Church. There, she participated in the Reid Temple Senior Services Bible study. However, Morris Street Baptist always remained dear to her heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the remarkable life of Mrs. Mary Ellen Rivers Smith. She is remembered fondly by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, beloved relatives, church family, and dear friends. Mrs. Smith lived a life full of love, devotion, public service, and grace. She will be sorely missed and well-remembered by all blessed to know her.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
CAMILLE BRANDON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the life of Camille Brandon, a dedicated public servant and advocate for causes about which she cared deeply. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have worked with her will recall the kindness, the decency and the warmth that she brought to all of her governmental, political and civic efforts.

Camille was the Deputy Erie County Clerk under elected clerks of both major parties, was a trusted advisor in the administration of

Erie County Executive Dennis Gorski and held important positions at the Buffalo City Court. She was the Vice President of the Pulaski Association, chaired the Youth Services and Citizens Police Advisory Boards in the Town of Cheektowaga, and sat on the board of the YWCA Institute for Public Leadership Planning. She was an American Heart Association board member and had been Grand Marshall of Buffalo's Pulaski Day Parade.

Active in politics, she was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1992, 1996, and 2012. She generously lent her time, her expertise, and her friendly and positive attitude to political efforts.

We join our friend, Camille's dedicated husband, Bob Brandon, in mourning this tremendous loss. All of us who knew and worked with Camille will remember her with deep gratitude and affection. If more people in the realms of politics, government and civic affairs shared Camille's deep commitment to kindness, decency and mutual understanding, our nation would be far better off. May she continue to be an example to all of us.

HONORING THE NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS THE 2023 CHAMBER OF THE YEAR

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recognition by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce as the 2023 Chamber of the Year. I am so proud that the North Central Chamber of Commerce is the first Chamber of Commerce in Massachusetts and New England to be recognized with this prestigious national honor. The Chamber will be celebrating this success at their Congressional Luncheon on November 1, 2023. Congresswoman LORI TRAHAN and I will jointly celebrate this monumental achievement.

The North Central Chamber demonstrates excellence in operations, member services, and community leadership. The Chamber provides immeasurable support to budding and established entrepreneurs in the region, which helps our businesses thrive. From new programs supporting Latinx small business, to re-vamping highly trafficked tourism destinations, the Chamber tirelessly works to improve the life of residents and guests to Central Massachusetts.

This recognition affirms what my constituents already know: the North Central Chamber of Commerce goes above and beyond for all. The Chamber's commitment to continued improvement is what makes them so successful.

And, of course, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the countless partners that help the Chamber excel at their work. North Central Massachusetts's educational, economic, non-profit, cultural, and governmental organizations each have seamlessly integrated into the Chamber's purview. The over 700 businesses and organizations the Chamber assists rightly trust the Chamber to help them serve the twenty-seven communities across North Central Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the remarkable contributions of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations to such a great organization for another year of phenomenal work.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS NATIONAL MONUMENT

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Military Working Dog Teams National Monument located at Joint Base San Antonio—Lackland.

For the past ten years, the Military Working Dog Teams National Monument has served as a physical symbol of the loyal service and unconditional sacrifice that military working dogs have made alongside our men and women in uniform since WWII.

It is a privilege and an honor to celebrate the anniversary of the Military Working Dog Teams National Monument. I hope this record serves as an acknowledgment of the immeasurable debt of gratitude owed to both soldiers and K-9s by the American people. On behalf of Texas' 21st Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary sacrifice of these individuals and animals.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF SAMANTHA WOLL

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize an incredible friend and community leader, Samantha Woll. Our community is deeply saddened by her tragic death and the sudden loss of a courageous and tenacious fighter for all.

I first met Samantha, affectionately known as Sam, in 2016. Sam was driven by her Jewish faith that led to her interfaith work. Sam had the ability to connect with diverse communities and bring people together in a way that made us all stronger. Her lasting impact is a testament to her strong values and character.

Not only did she serve as the President of the Isaac Agree Detroit Downtown Synagogue where she worked tirelessly in preparation of its recent re-opening, Sam also served with numerous community organizations, including serving on the board of the Mary Turner Center for Advocacy. Through her work, Sam created spaces for both Muslim and Jewish youth together. Sam served on a number of Democratic campaigns and volunteered for many political causes, helping support local, state and national issues.

Above all, Sam was a daughter, sister and aunt who absolutely adored her family. If she wasn't actively organizing her community, she was spending most of her time with family and traveling. Sam was our beacon of hope and a light for many.

Samantha Woll's infectious spirit, warmth, and friendship will be sorely missed. Please join me in recognition of Samantha Woll's life and legacy. May her memory be a blessing.

CELEBRATING THE LAS VEGAS ACES FOR WINNING THE 2023 WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate the Las Vegas Aces on winning the 2023 Women's National Basketball Association Finals.

On October 18, 2023, the Las Vegas Aces defeated the New York Liberty, 70-69, in Game 4 of the WNBA Finals. The Aces won the championship three games to one and became the first professional team in Nevada to win two championships. They won despite two of their starters being out with injuries, star guard Chelsea Gray and center Kiah Stokes.

They also became the first WNBA team in 21 years to win consecutive championships.

Hall of Fame head coach Becky Hammon led the team to victory and became the third coach in either the NBA or WNBA to win two championships in her first two seasons.

Even before the playoffs, the Aces had an incredible season, clinching first seed in the playoffs after dominating the regular season with a record of 34-6. They set a new league record for wins and led the league in points per game and field goal percentage.

At home, the Aces went 19-1 in the regular season and undefeated in the postseason, setting attendance records and even hosting the All-Star Game.

Owner Mark Davis and Team President Nikki Fargas proved once again that investing in women's sports is investing in success, thereby setting an example for others to follow.

In the championship-clinching game, Finals Most Valuable Player A'ja Wilson led the way with 24 points and 16 rebounds, while Jackie Young added 16 points and seven assists. And Kelsey Plum delivered a well-rounded performance of eight rebounds, five assists, and seven points. The Aces never trailed in the fourth quarter.

The Aces certainly raised the stakes when securing another championship for Vegas, firmly establishing District One as the Sports Capital of the World.

All of Southern Nevada is very proud and I can't wait to cheer the team on next year as they go for three in a row.

RECOGNIZING BOB GATT'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF NOVI

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Gatt, Mayor of Novi, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement. His decades