

Harris' box truck doesn't require a CDL, but the resourceful entrepreneur expanded his service capabilities with a built-in cooling system for transporting frozen goods. Harris has plans to grow the company to new heights as time moves on.

Harris has been a business owner in Vicksburg for 13 years, successfully operating Roe's Rims Detailing and YBN clothing. He founded the Boss Talk 21 Podcast and is now owner of R&R Transportation, LLC.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Roosevelt Harris for his passion and dedication to provide economic development to Vicksburg, Mississippi.

BEIRUT VETERANS PROCLAMATION

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, the United States of America has always been a symbol of peace and freedom and has achieved this stature throughout the world because of the selfless service of our veterans. From those who fought in the Revolutionary War to those serving in harm's way now, our country's armed forces have given up the comforts of home, the company of loved ones, and—for some—even their own lives to secure the blessings of liberty for many in our world.

Today, we honor those who served our country as peacekeepers in Lebanon between 1982 and 1984, with courage, honor and valor.

It has been just over 40 years, on October 23, 1983, since the deadly bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, where 241 United States Marines, Navy and Army personnel lost their lives to a deadly terrorist bomb. Many consider that horrific episode to be the beginning of America's war on terror and set the precedent for how our country's military approaches conflict in the Middle East. Almost three dozen more lost their lives as part of this mission.

We will always remember them.

This terrorist attack took the most lives of U.S. military servicemen since the Tet offensive in the Vietnam War and more lives of United States Marines since the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II.

This act has now faded into the obscurity of textbooks, university lectures and most Americans' memories. The Beirut Veterans of America have a motto: "The First Duty is to Remember," to memorialize those brothers who lost their lives and the families who have endured the last 40 years of sacrifice, separation, anguish and loneliness to keep our world free from the tyranny of bullies, thugs and terrorists.

These men "Came in Peace" and gave the ultimate price of freedom: their lives.

Be it proclaimed that this past October 23 and each one to come is dedicated to honoring and recognizing the memory of these souls who shall never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable and I missed the following Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 542.

HONORING THE LADIES OF ELEGANCE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an enthusiastic and self-motivated community organization, The Ladies of Elegance. This powerful team is comprised of both veterans of education and community involvement and leadership. They tirelessly served their community; with this year marking their 23-year anniversary.

The Ladies of Elegance organization was founded by Mrs. Helen Coleman, which she still holds as CEO and President. This group was chartered in 2000. It is an organization of a small group of women who are local citizens, some who have moved away but have kept their membership current. Presently, their membership is 20. Their mission since origination was to work with elderly citizens, spend quality time with them and provide mentorship to the youth in the community. Each year, they give scholarships to graduating seniors who are headed to college or trade school. To date, they still firmly believe the elders have shaped them and the children are the seeds of hope for our tomorrow. The Ladies of Elegance remain dedicated to providing them with the support they need to shape them into productive leaders of the future. They are committed to engaging them in activities that build communication and volunteering.

Additionally, this organization supports St. Jude's Hospital, Relay for Life and most of all, they provide assistance to families in the community that are in need. Its signature event is an annual black-tie gala held to honor various community leaders as well as state and national leaders who have worked hard to support the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Ladies of Elegance for their dedication to support and advocate in their local communities, and their selfless service to Bolivar County, MS.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF PITTSBURGH MASSACRE

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

Fifth Anniversary of Pittsburgh Massacre

The utterly unsettling 83-minute attack on Shabbat morning. Oct. 27, 2018, at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, resulting in the death of 11 worshipping Jews, has been described as the worst antisemitic crime committed on American soil. The name "Tree of Life" connotes the holy Torah whose lessons, including the Ten Commandments, aim to preserve the divine gift of precious human life, proclaiming that freedom and responsibility are inseparable twins.

A 2020 book, "Bound in the Bond of Life: Pittsburgh Writers Reflect on the Tree of Life Tragedy" (University of Pittsburgh Press), offers the traditional Jewish response, asserting life's primacy facing death and loss. The moving volume of insightful reflections by a wide array of Pittsburgh writers connects to their own lives' experiences.

It is a thoughtful and fitting account honoring the memory of the slain who are rightfully placed in the context of the long historical chain of Jewish martyrdom, culminating in the Holocaust and beyond, with the appellation of "Kedoshai Pittsburgh" (Pittsburgh's Martyrs).

The book's co-editor Beth Kissileff is married to one of the attack's survivors, Rabbi Jonathan Perlman of New Light Congregation. Kissileff, who has taught at the universities of Pittsburgh and Minnesota, raises, "Can one heal after gun violence? Can any of us feel safe again? Did antisemitism really not ever go away?" The above interrelated issues are complex and enshrouded by sectarian politics. Yet, we are not free from tackling them while advocating for remedies helping to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Co-editor Eric Lidji is director of Pittsburgh's Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives at the Sen. John Heinz History Center. He oversees preserving the massacre's documentation. "In due time, with persistence, I can know just the tiniest bit more . . . so that others can someday make meaning from it all." However, what "meaning" can be derived from such a calamitous occurrence? Recording aids sacred remembrance and provides a therapeutic dimension.

David M. Shribman who wrote the book's Forward is the former executive editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. His team won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for covering the carnage. His then-newspaper printed in Hebrew the four letters of the memorial Kaddish prayer. Dor Hadash congregation was inspired to conduct a "Refugee Shabbat," for the gunman's ire was at the refugees and immigrants assisted by HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), who sought entry into the United States. "Just as the Holocaust survivors once warned my generation, those of us who saw what happened at Tree of Life must tell those who come next." The challenge is to retain the bond of remembrance and the attack's lessons over time's natural and forced forgetfulness.

Dr. Laura Zittrain Eisenberg teaches modern Middle East history at Carnegie Mellon University. She is a third-generation family member at Tree of Life. Eisenberg shares the constructive response, "organizing blood drives . . . community service activities at libraries, food pantries, and service organizations . . . under the slogan 'Remember. Repair. Together.'" Can this spirit of both altruism and practicality, turning pain into promise, be sustained over time? The life-changing Pittsburgh "pogrom" reflects Jewish vulnerability in "Golden America." Only Tree of Life remains in the building to be redesigned by famed architect Daniel Libeskind, son of Holocaust survivors, who designed the World Trade Center Memorial site following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The

remodeled building will memorialize the Pittsburgh tragedy and serve as the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh. Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. He is son of Polish Holocaust survivors.

HONORING THE ST. LOUIS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to celebrate the 45th anniversary of St. Louis Association of Community Organizations ("SLACO"). For over four decades, SLACO has been an instrumental force in Missouri's First District by fostering unity and strength across our community.

Founded in 1978 by the visionary Father Gerry Kleba, SLACO has evolved into a dynamic coalition of neighborhood associations and community organizations and embodies a spirit of collective action and resilience. SLACO's commitment to enhancing the quality of life in St. Louis through diverse initiatives such as affordable housing production, violence prevention, after-school programming, environmental education, and community organizing has left an indelible mark on our community.

Under the current leadership of Executive Director Kevin McKinney, SLACO has demonstrated its forward-thinking approach to promoting public safety, advancing racial equity, and fostering meaningful change. As a connecting force for neighborhoods across the region, the organization has emerged as a vital catalyst in shaping dialogue and driving impactful societal shifts.

As the Congresswoman for Missouri's First District and on behalf of the entire St. Louis community, it is an honor to celebrate SLACO's 45 years of resilience, unity, and collaboration. May this anniversary serve as a catalyst for further innovation, growth, and meaningful endeavors in the years to come.

HONORING CHIEF JOSEPH WADE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great Chief of Police of Jackson, Mississippi, Chief Joseph Wade.

Chief Joseph Wade is a native of Terry, MS, and now resides in the City of Jackson. He is a highly motivated and energetic professional with a strong background and experience in law enforcement. In 1995, Joseph Wade graduated from the 23rd recruit class. Since then, he has obtained extensive leadership skills as a Sergeant, Lieutenant, Commander, Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, Interim Chief, and now Chief of Police.

Chief Wade's resourceful and dedicated law enforcement profession extends to the Patrol Operations Division, Investigations Division, Standards and Training, Administration, and

Chief's office. Highly decorated and accomplished, he is a two-time recipient of the Meritorious Service Award, a two-time recipient of the MS Department of Public Safety's D.U.I. 100 Club, and many other commendations. Being goal-oriented and driven, he has attained over 80 advanced Law Enforcement Training Certifications.

His prized career accomplishment is the implementation of the Youth Citizens' Police Academy, Police Athletic League (PAL), and Explorers' Program. These youth programs service over 200 youth annually in the City of Jackson and have successfully impacted hundreds by using sports and mentoring as tools.

He graduated from Hinds Community College's Criminal Justice Program, FBI Command Collage, and the DEA Commander's Academy. His civic and community affiliations include Prince Hall Freemason / Lynch Lodge No. 2 / Jackson, MS, and the CBTU/CARAT (Coalition of Black Trade Unionist/Community Action & Response against Toxins). Chief Wade is pursuing his bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration, where he has spent the last two quarters on the President's list.

Chief Joseph Wade's objective is to use his police skills, education, and experience to forge working relationships with the community, reduce violent crimes and rebuild the ranks of the Jackson Police Department to improve the quality of life for citizens of Jackson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief Joseph Wade for his dedication to the City of Jackson.

RECOGNIZING THE RIGHTS OF AMERICANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Rep. GREGORY MURPHY, to speak on behalf of all those Americans who were exposed to the toxic water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. When writing the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, we understood that the only way the veterans, their families and others could get fair and just compensation was through a jury trial. Let there be no ambiguity. Let this be understood to be our unequivocal expression of intent, from the inception of the bill through final passage and into enactment: the claimants who have suffered so intensely as a result of the toxic water at Camp Lejeune have the right to a trial by jury.

We were aware of how the Federal Tort Claims Act worked, through a bench trial, and we specifically rejected that model when we wrote the Act. Indeed, it has always been our intent for the Act to stand separate and apart from the Federal Tort Claims Act in all respects. For these reasons, we expressly included a provision in subsection (d) of the Act confirming every plaintiffs right to a jury trial. The Department of Justice is inexplicably reading this provision out of the statute.

Specifically, the United States Department of Justice has recently filed a Motion in the Camp Lejeune Water Litigation proceeding pending before the United States District Court

for the Eastern District of North Carolina in which the Department asserts that those harmed by the toxic water at Camp Lejeune between 1953 and 1987 are not entitled to a jury trial. This argument is inexplicable.

We fundamentally disagree with the Department's position. When we drafted the Act, it was our clear, unambiguous, and unequivocal express intent to provide all those covered by the Act with the right to a trial by jury against the United States of America for the harm they suffered at Camp Lejeune. We thought it was critically important that people who had been betrayed and misled by the government for decades would have a right to have their claims decided by a jury of their peers.

We want to cite the law as written in "Public Law 177-168 Section 804. Federal Cause of Action Relating to Water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina subsection (d) Exclusive Jurisdiction and Venue—The United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any action filed under subsection (b), and shall be the exclusive venue for such action. Nothing in this subsection shall impair the right of any party to a trial by jury."

We want to take this opportunity to again restate what we have always intended and what is clearly written in Public Law 177-168. We are dismayed that the Department of Justice has taken this wrongheaded position, which flies in the face of everything Congress intended for those harmed by the toxic water at Camp Lejeune. Those who have steadfastly defended our country rate no less than the rights they deserve as American citizens.

HONORING MRS. EILEEN THRALL

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mrs. Eileen Thrall on being named Dumfries, Virginia's 2023 Living Legend by Mayor Derrick Wood.

For years, Eileen has served as an exemplary member of the Dumfries community through her work as a reporter for Potomac News, where she authored the widely enjoyed Dumfries Community Column. Her column provided insight into the community and highlighted the wonderful facets of the town, sharing with her audience what makes Dumfries so remarkable.

Aside from journalism, Eileen has also dedicated her time to advocating for Dumfries and its residents through her various community and public service positions. She selflessly served on the Prince William County Board of Zoning Appeals for over two decades, working for the betterment of her community.

Eileen serves on the Board of Directors for the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation working to provide housing options to those in need and has been an advocate for good environmental stewardship through her leadership of Friends of Quantico Bay and her involvement with the Friends of Quantico Creek.

Eileen represents seniors within the town of Dumfries, serving as an executive committee member on the Prince William Commission on Aging where she advocates for issues related to aging and caregiving. And as an active