

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 our 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 plaintiff's 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

member of the Dumfries United Methodist Church, Eileen has served in various capacities supporting the church and her community.

Eileen's love and dedication for the Town of Dumfries is clear, and the work she does on behalf of her community serves as a pillar of inspiration across Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Mrs. Eileen Thrall, a Living Legend, for her contributions to the community and the Town of Dumfries.

HONORING THE LATE JAMES C.
"SAM/SAMMY" BRADFORD

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 life and service of James C. "Sam/Sammy" Bradford.

Sammy was born on July 11, 1942, in Memphis TN. Mr. Bradford started trying to make a difference early in the NAACP youth chapter. In March of 1961, he became the youngest of the "Tougaloo Nine" to desegregate the Jackson Municipal Library System. It was during that selfless act of service he created the concept "You can recognize what's the right thing to do . . . because the right thing is rarely comfortable, convenient or popular".

Sammy graduated from Douglass High School and began his freshman year in 1960 at the esteemed Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, MS where he studied music. His love for music and beautiful tenor voice is what joined him with the love of his life, his wife, Shirley Ann Faulkens.

In December of 1969, Sammy married Shirley Ann Faulkens. They were married for 53 years and 10 months and had two children together, Ako and Pili.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late James C. "Sam/Sammy" Bradford for his dedication, advocacy, and sacrifices to the Civil Rights Movement.

HONORING THE GLOBAL MEDICAL
RESPONSE 2023 STARS OF LIFE
AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Global Medical Response Stars of Life award recipients for 2023.

Each year, the American Ambulance Association (AAA) honors a select group of Emergency Medical Services professionals for their commitment to patient care, integrity and compassion through the Stars of Life program. Global Medical Response, a member of the AAA and the world's largest provider of emergent and non-emergent medical transportation and healthcare services, has identified 32 of its frontline heroes for this distinction, representing the best of the best in the air and on the ground.

We will find these heroes all around us in our communities. From a small village outside

Anchorage, AK, where a pilot landed his aircraft with nothing but the community's off-road vehicle headlights for light to the paramedics in Buffalo, NY and Jackson, MS, who showed immense strength in leadership and skill while saving multiple lives during mass casualty incidents to the several brave individuals, who voluntarily went into harm's way to support the communities of Florida and face Hurricane Ian head on and to Temple, TX, where the innocent life of a small child was saved by a paramedic following an accident on a ride-on mower.

There are many stories to share and so much that we can learn from the day-to-day lives of these heroes. We must learn to exhibit integrity in everything we do and everything we say. We must act with compassion and grace in even the most daunting and challenging of situations. We must be vigilant, never wavering in our commitment to doing what is right for the community and answering the call to serve.

So that we will never forget the immense contributions to our communities made by the 2023 Global Medical Response Stars of Life award recipients, I include in the RECORD their names to honor their service and humbly thank them for showing us what it means to truly serve, while providing care to the world at a moment's notice.

Global Medical Response

2023 STARS OF LIFE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Danny Abalama, B200 Instructor Pilot of Anchorage, AK.

Jacob Ambach, Paramedic of Spokane, WA.

Michael Arquette, Operations Supervisor of Buffalo, NY.

Jack Asbury, EMT of Bushnell, FL.

Cindy Betts, Base Medical Manager of Wichita, KS.

Jason Burns, Flight Paramedic of Salida, CO.

Ian Carroll, Flight Nurse of Logan, WV.

Preston Crotwell, Paramedic of Jackson, MS.

Zach Dayton, Firefighter Engineer/EMT of Mesa, AZ.

Victoria England, Flight Nurse of Mather, CA.

Rick Fikes, Paramedic/Field Training Officer of Abilene, TX.

Marlon Flanders, Paramedic of GMR Trinidad and Tobago.

Sean Fuller, Paramedic/Field Training Officer of Clackamas, OR.

Karina Galvez-Martinez, Paramedic of North Las Vegas, NV.

Kelly Hamill, Flight Nurse of Mattoon, IL.

Andy Hardy, Paramedic of Athens, TN.

Fidencio Hernandez, EMT/Field Training Officer of San Jose, CA.

Matthew Kohl, Paramedic of Evansville, IN.

Daniel Lee, Flight Nurse of Klamath Falls, OR.

Jesse Mascarenas, Flight Nurse of Salida, CO.

Stephanie Nocita, Paramedic of Monterey, CA.

Randall Roberson, Advanced EMT of Prestonsburg, KY.

Hiram Sanchez, SOS EMT of Napa, CA.

Dakota Shadwell, Flight Nurse of Mattoon, IL.

Jay Shintaku, Firefighter Paramedic of Tempe, AZ.

Brad Sparks, Flight Nurse of Oceanside, CA.

Rob Spencer, Paramedic/Field Training Officer of Temple, TX.

Michael Taboniar, Paramedic of Lihue, HI.

Bill Weber, Paramedic/Field Training Officer of Lake Havasu City, AZ.

Riley Wolfe, Paramedic of Redlands, CA.

Danny Workman, Flight Paramedic of Concord, CA.

Daniel Yandell, EMT of Vancouver, WA.

RECOGNIZING NEWTOWN BOROUGH
TREASURER PATRICIA OURS

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Patricia Ours. Patricia began serving as Bookkeeper for the Borough of Newtown in 1997. Since then, she has worked tirelessly to support the Borough and its citizens as bookkeeper and as treasurer. Now, after more than 26 years of dedicated public service and professional commitment, Patricia is transitioning from her public position. I am proud to recognize and celebrate Patricia as an exceptional administrator who has provided outstanding financial guidance and general stewardship to the benefit of the residents of Newtown. Patricia finishes her government career as the Borough Treasurer, where she is widely respected for her accurate, strategic, and careful financial advice. She is recognized and respected as deeply knowledgeable in all areas of governmental financial management, whether it be budget planning or perceptive awareness of potential impacts to the Borough. She has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to overcome complex challenges, including those innumerable challenges that have arisen because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Patricia's expert guidance and thoughtfully caring leadership have helped the Borough community face challenges and overcome adversity. Her dedicated and diligent work has contributed to keeping our citizens well cared for.

We are incredibly grateful for the positive impact Patricia has had through her long career of public service, and we wish Patricia countless blessings during her new chapter.

HONORING ROBERT GEORGE
CLARK, JR.

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 a trailblazer, the Honorable Robert George Clark, Jr. He has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a strong desire for change.

Robert George Clark, Jr. was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1967. He was the first African American elected to the Mississippi State Legislature since the Reconstruction era and remained in office until 2003.

Clark was born on October 3, 1928 to the Late Mr. Robert and Mrs. Julia Anne Clark of Ebenezer, Mississippi, the youngest of three children. He attended Holmes County Training School in Durant, Mississippi, and later received his B.A. from Jackson State University