

in 1952. In 1959, he earned a Master's Degree in Administration and Educational Services from Michigan State University. In 1979, while in the Mississippi State Legislature, Clark served as a teaching fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

After earning his B.A. degree, Clark worked as a teacher in Holmes County. His first experience in politics was running for and winning an elected board position Holmes County Community Action Program (CAP) in 1966. In 1967, he agreed to run for state legislator on Holmes County's Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) ticket. He won the election and became the first black person elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives since Reconstruction.

Clark's election signaled the emergence of black electoral politics in Mississippi. As late as 1964, only ten black people were registered to vote in Holmes County, though the county was roughly 75 percent African American. By 1967, the black community of Holmes County built one of the strongest and most sophisticated political organizations in the state.

Ten years after he was first elected, Clark became the first black committee chairman in the Mississippi House of Representatives when he was named to head the Education Committee. During his term as chair, the legislature passed the 1982 Education Reform Act and the 1984 Vocational Education Reform Act. The 1982 act significantly reformed Mississippi's educational system, helping to modernize school classrooms and other physical facilities, replace worn-out textbooks and purchased replacement school buses.

In January 1992, Clark was elected as Speaker Pro Tempore, serving in that post until 2000. When he retired from the Mississippi House of Representatives in December 2003, he was the longest-serving member in continuous House service. I stand on the shoulders of men like him as I am encouraged to continue fighting to make Mississippi a better place for all of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Honorable Robert George Clark, Jr. for his dedication and years of service to the state of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF MR. BARRY CHASTAIN

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen, Mr. Barry Chastain, a remarkable individual who has devoted over 38 years to federal service. Currently serving as the Area Port Director for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in North Carolina, Mr. Chastain's contributions to the Carolinas and our Nation are immeasurable. In his capacity as the Area Port Director, Mr. Chastain shoulders the responsibility of overseeing six international ports of entry in North Carolina, where he manages a workforce of more than 150 dedicated employees. These ports collectively process over 3.5 million passengers and handle over 4 billion dollars in imported goods annually. Under his vigilant leadership, the seamless flow of legiti-

mate trade coexists with stringent security measures to safeguard our national interests. Mr. Chastain serves as the senior CBP representative to all federal, state, and local law enforcement partners in North Carolina. His ability to foster cooperation and collaboration among these agencies is integral to the safety and well-being of our citizens.

Mr. Chastain's illustrious career extends beyond his current role. His previous leadership assignments within the United States Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Quarantine Division in North Carolina exemplify his unwavering dedication to protecting our agricultural and biological resources. He also served as the Officer in Charge in South Carolina and Eastern Georgia, where he provided leadership and innovation to shield our natural resources from invasive plant pests and foreign animal diseases.

Mr. Chastain's career within Customs and Border Protection includes various leadership roles, such as serving as the Assistant Area Port Director for Trade Operations and the Assistant Area Port Director for Passenger and Tactical Operations. In these roles, he managed international passenger clearance programs, trade processing, maritime and military clearance operations, and led all CBP enforcement programs for the Area Port of Charlotte.

Mr. Chastain's commitment to national and regional security extends to his involvement in high-profile national projects, including the Democratic National Convention, the G-8 Summit, and numerous FEMA Region IV hurricane response events. His capacity to manage complex and critical tasks on a large scale is a valuable asset to our nation. Moreover, Mr. Chastain has excelled in establishing stakeholder partnerships and currently serves as an Executive Steering Committee Member of the North Carolina Joint Terrorist Task Force (JTTF). His contributions to this task force are crucial to our state's security efforts. Mr. Chastain's outstanding career in federal service, his commitment to national security, and his exemplary leadership in Customs and Border Protection are truly commendable. The Carolinas and our Nation are fortunate to have such a dedicated public servant. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for his remarkable service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WORDS MATTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Words Matter for the District of Columbia Courts Act, which would remove the term "retarded" from Title 11 of the District of Columbia Code and replace it with more appropriate and respectful terminology. I am pleased that Representative MARC MOLINARO is the co-lead of this bill.

Removing the term from the law has bipartisan support. In 2010, Congress removed several instances of the term from federal law by passing Rosa's Law (P.L. 111-256). Earlier this year, I joined both Republican and Democratic colleagues in introducing the Words Matter Act, which would remove several more instances of the term from federal law.

The term is used three times in Title 11 of the D.C. Code, and, under the D.C. Home Rule Act, only Congress can amend Title 11 of the D.C. Code.

There was a time when the term was a clinical term, but in more recent years, it has become a slur used against people with intellectual disabilities. Words indisputably matter, and I know our country is better than keeping such language in our law.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING CVSOA PRESIDENT BRUCE WILBER

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Bruce A. Wilber, who has dedicated his life to serving both his country and his community. Mr. Wilber's journey is one of resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment to those he serves.

Born in June 1957 on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Keshana, Wisconsin, Mr. Wilber emerged as a beacon of leadership, being the oldest of seven children. His father's legacy as a Korean War veteran instilled in him a profound sense of duty to his country and eventually inspired him to join the military. After answering the call to serve, Bruce Wilber became a motor transport operator stationed in Caserma Ederle, a base in Livorno, Italy.

Upon concluding his military service, Mr. Wilber transitioned to the civilian sector, where he contributed to the logging industry and later served in law enforcement. Unfortunately, his law enforcement career was cut short due to an injury. However, this setback did not deter him. Mr. Wilber's tenacity shone through as he pursued an associate degree in alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) counseling from the College of Menominee Nation.

His journey took a significant turn as he assumed the role of an AODA counselor at the Maehnowesekiyah Wellness Center, the treatment facility for the Menominee Nation. In this capacity, he was instrumental in establishing and maintaining mental and physical wellness programs for veterans and members of the Menominee Tribe for a decade. At each stop in his career, he continued to serve a greater purpose and those around him.

In August 2016, Mr. Wilber became the Tribal Veterans Service Officer (TVSO) and a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) for the Menominee Nation and Menominee County, respectively. He extended his service by joining the Wisconsin County Veterans Service Officers Association (CVSOA), a vital organization that represents all 11 recognized tribes and 72 counties in Wisconsin.

After several years as a CVSO, it is with great pride that we acknowledge Mr. Wilber's election as the first Native American president of the State County Veterans Service Officer Association (CVSOA). I am sure that with his experience and unwavering dedication to the veteran's community, Mr. Wilber will excel in this new role.

Mr. Wilber's dedication also extends to his family, having celebrated 30 years of marriage and having raised seven children. The Wilber family's sacrifices have been profound, including the loss of a son who served with the Marines in Iraq and tragically passing away in an

accident at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Mr. Wilber carries the memory of his son in his heart and draws inspiration from his son's legacy to continue being a positive role model for others.

I am proud that my office has been able to work with Bruce in his role as TVSO and CVSO. It is an incredible honor to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Bruce as he continues to make a profound impact on the lives of our veterans, the Menominee tribe, Northeast Wisconsin, and our country.

CONGRATULATING HERMIT WOODS WINERY AND EATERY ON BEING NOMINATED TO THE 2023 AMERICA'S TOP SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hermit Woods Winery and Eatery, a New Hampshire small business that was recently nominated to the 2023 America's Top Small Business Summit. For 13 years Hermit Woods Winery and Eatery has embodied our state's values of determination and innovation, heightened consumer experiences with high-quality, locally-sourced products. This recent recognition by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is a testament to Hermit Woods Winery and Eatery's impact on our local economy and involvement in the community. The next generation of New Hampshire business leaders will look to Hermit Woods for inspiration.

Hermit Woods is an industry leader and a trusted community partner. Its model of brewing with the fruits, flowers, and vegetables grown by local farmers and foragers showcases its culinary creativity and commitment to fostering community connections. Each bottle at the Winery is brewed with the spirit of community that defines the work at Hermit Woods. The Granite State is thankful for these small businesses that provide quality products, build relationships between neighbors, and strengthen the economy.

I look forward to seeing all that Hermit Woods accomplishes in the years to come, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as a guide for other business leaders in the state. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I applaud Hermit Woods for its commitment to the values of business innovation and community compassion. I wish Hermit Woods continued success in its future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING OKALOOSA STEMM ACADEMY

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a school from my district, the Okaloosa Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medical (STEMM) Academy, on achieving the remarkable milestone of

being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. Okaloosa STEMM Academy is one of only 13 schools from the State of Florida to earn this distinction and one of only 353 nationwide in 2023. This achievement is a testament to the teachers and staff's dedication to student success and their pursuit of excellence.

The Okaloosa STEMM Academy is an innovative middle school that provides a free and public education to sixth through eighth grade students in Okaloosa County with a curriculum focused on academic rigor and excellence. The STEMM Academy was established in 2012 as part of the Okaloosa STEMM Center. The curriculum has been specifically designed to enable students to transition to high school having completed numerous high school courses, including Algebra I Honors, Geometry I Honors, Physical Science Honors, Fundamentals of Web Design, and Earth Space Science Honors. I am proud that Northwest Florida is home to a multi-faceted academy for students interested in pursuing STEMM careers.

I, along with all of Northwest Florida, thank Principal Scheree Martin, the teachers, administration, and staff at Okaloosa STEMM Academy for their hard work and dedication to their students, families, and this community.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am privileged to recognize Okaloosa STEMM Academy on this incredible achievement.

HONORING RHONDA GIVENS BOLES

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 breast cancer hero, Mrs. Rhonda Givens Boles.

Rhonda Boles was born on March 1, 1972, in Clarksdale to Roger Givens and Jamie Sharkey Givens. She has two amazing sons, Preston II—a freshman pre-veterinary medicine major at Mississippi State University, and Matthew Jamison—a junior at Pillow Academy.

Rhonda was a 1990 graduate of Greenwood High School and completed a Bachelor of Science degree at Jackson State University in 1994. She completed her master's degree at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Obtaining both a Bachelor and Master of Science in nursing before becoming a board-certified family nurse practitioner. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated.

Rhonda married Dr. Preston Boles of Greenwood after moving back to Mississippi from Nashville, and they have enjoyed 21 years of marital bliss.

Rhonda has a love for her New Zion Missionary Baptist Church Family and has served in many capacities: as speaker, advocate, and facilitator for health-care discussions during the months of October and February, where she educated the congregants on breast cancer awareness and other health-related topics.

Rhonda was named The Greenwood Commonwealth's 2023 Mother of the Year in May. The title she proudly claimed was being her two sons' biggest cheerleader who did not carry pom-poms and was often heard giving

the quick retort when asked why something had to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a breast cancer hero, Mrs. Rhonda Givens Boles.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHARTER SCHOOLS USA AND CEO JONATHAN HAGE

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of Charter Schools USA and its President and CEO, Jonathan Hage.

Mr. Hage worked closely with former governor Jeb Bush in developing charter school legislation in Florida, opening the first charter school in the state. He has diligently worked with legislative representatives on both sides of the aisle to create equitable student learning opportunities. He has provided high-quality educational options for more than 95,000 students in Florida, Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Furthermore, Mr. Hage is a veteran who served in the Army Special Forces as a Green Beret. He is committed to supporting the military community through hiring practices that recruit, maintain, and promote veterans from all military branches. Additionally, where permitted by each school's charter agreement, students from military families are given enrollment preference. These commitments helped a Florida school receive the Florida Purple Star School of Distinction, recognizing schools that support the unique needs of military families and provide resources for military-connected students when transitioning to a new school environment.

I am pleased to honor Mr. Jonathan Hage and Charter Schools USA for their continued commitment to student excellence by providing an educational environment that builds strong minds and good hearts to ensure a brighter future for all.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MILDRED MCKINNEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Mildred McKinney and her dedication to St. Thomas United Methodist Church.

Mildred McKinney was born on December 12, 1945. She is the daughter of the late George and Lillie Oden and is the wife of Mr. Ralph McKinney. Her siblings are the late Carolyn Oden Jackson, the late Rudolph Halcome, and the late Willie Joe Oden.

Mrs. McKinney retired as an administrative secretary from the Sylacauga City School System after 27 years of service.

She is a proud member of the Coosa Valley Medical Center Auxiliary and has contributed over 1900 hours of volunteer service to Coosa Medical Center in Sylacauga.