

Dr. Coon led the College of Marin into a new era. He fostered positive relationships with students, staff, and trustees. He oversaw two community-funded facility modernization projects with a budget of more than \$515 million. Under his leadership, the college developed innovative programs including COMPASS and Summer Bridge that are models for other community colleges throughout California. He developed partnerships with Marin County's primary and secondary schools and nonprofits to strengthen pathways to higher education. Dr. Coon responded to many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic with innovative solutions and calm and collaborative guidance.

Dr. Coon has a deep commitment to equity and inclusion which extends beyond his work with the College of Marin both as the co-chair of the Marin Promise Partnership and member of the Board of Directors for the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce. His accomplishments earned both the College of Marin and Evergreen Valley College prestigious accolades, including the Dr. John W. Rice Diversity & Equity Award.

Known for his thoughtfulness, integrity, collaboration and good sense of humor, Dr. Coon exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. And it is no surprise that his years of service more than double the average tenure for community college superintendents. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Dr. Coon for his enduring commitment and invaluable contributions to the College of Marin and greater community.

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RECOGNIZING EDWARD VINER, MD

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**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Edward Viner, MD on his Retirement.

Dr. Edward Viner, a graduate of Harvard College, earned cum laude status before continuing his education at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. During his time at the University, he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. For two years following the completion of his residency, Dr. Viner completed a fellowship in Hematology/Oncology with his alma mater at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Edward Viner is a trailblazer and leader. Through his own personal experience as a critically ill-patient a few years prior, Dr. Edward Viner roughly 50 years ago decided to begin the first hospice program in the entire Philadelphia region. A major step toward his mission of improving end of life care throughout the nation. Through his expertise and hard work, Dr. Viner was invited to testify before the House of Representatives Select Committee on Aging only 10 years after starting the program.

Dr. Edward Viner stepped into the role of Chief of Medicine at Cooper University Hospital in 1987 and remained in the position for another twenty years. During his tenure, he led the development of an academic Department of Medicine and created Cooper's Suburban Practice Network. Under his guidance,

Cooper University Hospital adopted a hospitalist system to care for patients and is recognized as the first in the Philadelphia region to do so.

Today, he is recognized for his unrelenting effort toward the creation of the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, the 135th allopathic medical school in the United States. For his efforts, he was honorably named the first Dean of the school in 2009. He is a board member of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and is the recipient of several awards dating back to 1984 when he received the Philadelphia Caring Award for his work to provide hospice care to the region.

Dr. Edward Viner has been listed in Who's Who in America and has been acknowledged several times as one of the nation's best doctors. Dr. Viner received Laureateship from the American College of Physicians in 2003 before achieving Mastership within the college as well. He has been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Humanism in Medicine from the school he fought so hard to create as well as, the prestigious Strittmatter Award from the Philadelphia County Medical Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commanding Dr. Edward Viner of Cooper University Hospital, a practitioner dedicated to his community and who has thoroughly served his patients to the best of his ability.

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CELEBRATING RITA JOSEPHINE LYNCH ON THE OCCASION OF HER NINETY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY

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**HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the birthday of Rita Josephine Lynch, who on October 27th reached the incredible milestone of her 95th birthday.

Rita Josephine was born one of seven children to Behia and James Thomas, who emigrated from Lebanon in the early 1920s to pursue the American Dream. Rita graduated from Olean High School, attended Canisius College, and is a proud graduate of Mercy School of Nursing in Buffalo, New York. Before meeting the love of her life, Thomas "Tom" Meecham Lynch, she worked at hospitals in Olean and Buffalo, New York.

Rita and Tom married in 1955 and later moved to Dunkirk, New York, where Rita worked as a nurse and Tom as a pharmacist. Rita and Tom grew their family to six children, even as Rita continued to pursue her career in nursing for local families and friends.

Throughout her life, Rita has always been a committed volunteer for many selfless causes. Rita has volunteered with the Red Cross, providing blood pressure appointments at local drugstores, she has served on the Altar Rosary Society at her local Catholic church, and the Brooks Hospital Auxiliary Board.

Rita has always helped others; from caring for her mother and mother-in-law to her youngest brother, Rev. Donald N. Thomas, after his retirement and her late husband until his passing.

Today, friends, family, and her faith continue to be focal points in her life as she stays in contact with old friends from nursing school

along with her six children and their families, which includes 18 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

While at home, if she isn't watching EWTN, she is watching Fox News, TMC, or her favorite sports—football, hockey, or golf. In her free time, she loves to go for drives around the Point and Dunkirk Pier—sometimes, she looks for bargains at T.J. Maxx.

She loves to see her great grandchildren and watch them compete in baseball, football, volleyball, and dance performances every opportunity she has. Every week, when she is able, you can find her in a pew at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fredonia, New York.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and my colleagues in celebrating the wonderful occasion of Rita Josephine Lynch's 95th birthday. I cannot wait to wish her a happy 100th.

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HONORING JOSEPH ARENA, JR.

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**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the life and remarkable contributions of a South Jersey native, who has dedicated himself to his community and the local industry, Mr. Joseph Arena, Jr. The roots of his family's business run deep in the community. In 1920, his grandfather had the vision to establish the enterprise of Arena Automotive, and it quickly became a local institution. As time passed, the torch of responsibility was passed down to the next generation. When his grandfather and uncle chose to retire, it was in 1978 that he and his father assumed the mantle of sole ownership of the business, solidifying their commitment to its enduring legacy. In 1992, he embarked on another significant journey when he married his wife, Rose. Together, they have been blessed with two sons, Andrew and Nicholas, who have undoubtedly inherited his values and sense of community. Throughout his entire adult career, he has remained steadfastly dedicated to Arena Automotive. This unwavering commitment has not only enriched the local industry in South Jersey but has also fostered deep connections within the community. Mr. Arena's contributions to the community of Hammonton were so outstanding that he was honored by the New Jersey Sons of Italy at this year's Christopher Columbus celebration. His remarkable dedication and commitment have made him a pillar of the local industry, earning him the respect and admiration of his peers. It is essential to acknowledge and honor individuals like him who have made a lasting impact on their community, and I thank Mr. Arena for his dedication. God Bless Joseph and God Bless the United States of America.

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HONORING THE MEMORY OF ALVA GREENE

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**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize longtime Detroit and 12th District

resident, Alva Greene as we mourn her passing.

Born and raised in Tyler Town, Mississippi, Ms. Greene was the eldest of eight in her close-knit family. She was a proud graduate of Mississippi Valley State University, where she met the love of her life Joe Green, who she married in 1960.

Ms. Greene was drawn to a career in education. She worked as a home economics teacher in the Water Valley Mississippi Public School System and in Detroit Public Schools when she and her family moved to Detroit in 1966. Her dedication to caring for the youth of our community, combined with her love of the church made her an absolute beam of light to be around. Her work throughout her life speaks volumes to her courageous and generous character. She was a beloved educator at Detroit's Northwestern High School for more than thirty years, retiring in 2000 to spend more time traveling and enjoying time with her family, especially her granddaughters Breanna and True.

In addition to her teaching career, Ms. Greene was always involved in her church community. As an active member of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, she dedicated her time volunteering to visit sick and hospitalized church members in need of empathy and cheer and working with the Hartford Vacation Bible School.

Alva Greene's ambitious, kindhearted, and encouraging attitude will be greatly missed. Please join me in honoring her memory.

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CONGRATULATING PEST END ON BEING NOMINATED TO AMERICA'S TOP SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT

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**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pest End, a New Hampshire small business that was recently nominated to the 2023 America's Top Small Business Summit. For over 40 years Pest End has embodied our state's values of hard work and service, driven to provide quality customer service and innovative solutions. This recent recognition from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is a testament to its strong skills, impact on the local economy, and involvement in the community. The next generation of New Hampshire business leaders will look to Pest End for inspiration.

Pest End is an industry leader and a trusted community partner. Attention to detail, years of experience, and a customer-focused approach define the team at Pest End's hard work in keeping our community pest-free. Additionally, their business is intimately involved with service opportunities addressing local needs through active outreach. The Granite State is thankful for small businesses like Pest End that not only protect our homes from termites and rats, but foster relationships between neighbors and strengthen the local economy.

I look forward to seeing all that the Pest End team accomplishes in the years to come, and I am confident that they 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 Pest End for its commitment to the values of business innovation and community compassion. I wish Pest End continued success in its future endeavors.

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CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM GRIFFIN

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**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of a trailblazing engineer for the City of Chicago, my best friend's father, Mr. William Griffin, who passed away on his 100th birthday, on October 24, 2023.

Mr. Griffin was born on October 24, 1923, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Willie Griffin and Alma Daigre. He was raised in Chicago, Illinois, growing up in the Washington Park community. Mr. Griffin attended DuSable High School, where he excelled in classical literature and mathematics while making a name for himself as a tight end on the Black Panthers football team. Upon graduating in 1943, he continued his education at Wilson Junior College to pursue engineering.

Mr. Griffin was drafted into the United States Army as an Army Private in 1943, working his way up the ranks as a Basic Instructor, Airplane Handler, and Rifleman, until he found his niche as a Heavy Machine Gunner. Serving in the 365th Infantry, 92nd Division, Mr. Griffin operated heavy weaponry and supported infantry units to break through enemy defenses. He was honorably discharged as a well-decorated officer on February 15, 1946. His military awards and recognitions include the Good Conduct Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Battle Stars, and a World War II Victory Medal.

Mr. Griffin met his life partner, Esther Murphy, a beautiful southern belle, who moved to Chicago from Sheffield, Alabama, when she rented a room in his mother's boarding house. The couple wed on March 31, 1959, and from their union had three children.

Following his Army discharge, Mr. Griffin resumed his education at the Illinois Institute of Technology, earning his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1951. He became a licensed Civil Engineer by 1957 and would go on to obtain his Structural Engineer license in 1964. Mr. Griffin began his trailblazing career in engineering for the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois. Mr. Griffin held numerous lead civil engineering and supervisory roles in the Bureau of Engineering, Bureau of Construction Services, and Operations Division, ultimately becoming the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Works for the City of Chicago in the Harold Washington Mayoral Administration.

The engineering legacy of Mr. Griffin lives on in the infrastructure of Chicago. The inner workings of the engineering systems throughout the city have felt the impact of Mr. Griffin's creativity and dedication to his craft, which traces back to him riding the L train as a child.

From his childhood he developed a deep appreciation and curiosity for urban systems

and architecture. His love for the City of Chicago is felt in every gear, beam, and buttress of the bridges and left an undeniable mark on the engineering system of one of the most visited cities in the United States.

Mr. Griffin was a community leader in the Jeffery-Yates Neighbors Community Organization. Mr. Griffin stayed active into his later years, nurturing his longtime loves such as debate, sports, classic literature, and music as a talented trumpet player.

Above all, Mr. Griffin was a committed family man. He was preceded in death by his parents and beloved wife, Esther Murphy. He is survived by their three children, Ava, Tara, and Eric; his cousin, whom he considered a brother, Elliott Daigre; his furry, four-legged family members: Ebony, Chewbacca, and Milo, as well as Kavik, Prince, Hunter, Langston, Sade, Starlight, Puffy and Friskie; and a host of cousins, dear friends, and family who we know will miss him dearly.

On a personal note, I was honored to get to know Mr. Griffin as the beloved father of my law school best friend, Tara. Mr. Griffin was one of a kind. His quick wit, robust knowledge of all things, and warm and engaging demeanor were a part of his perpetual charm that made him a true Renaissance man. Mr. Griffin excelled in everything he did—as a trailblazing engineer for the City of Chicago, a devoted husband, a self-taught handyman, and a connoisseur of classical literature, jazz, sports, and life learning. I will cherish all the wonderful memories of being in his presence. I am so grateful to Tara, Ava, and Eric for sharing their father with me. I know the legacy of Mr. Griffin will live on through the many people he impacted. We are all blessed that he lived to be 100 years old.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of William Griffin for his contributions to the engineering profession and decades of service in transforming the City of Chicago.

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ATLANTICARE'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

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**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that we celebrate AtlantiCare, an institution deeply ingrained in the fabric of the State of New Jersey, as it marks its 125th Anniversary on November 30, 2023. Sharing the same name as the city it was founded in, AtlantiCare's journey began in 1898 as Atlantic City Hospital, known for its compassionate care of its first patient, eleven-year-old Gussie John. From those humble beginnings, AtlantiCare has blossomed into a cornerstone of healthcare excellence, serving South Jersey with an unwavering commitment to exemplary service. Today, AtlantiCare stands as a testament to the resilience and adaptability required of healthcare institutions over time. With more than 6,500 dedicated employees spread across more than one hundred locations in South Jersey, AtlantiCare continues to evolve to meet the dynamic needs of its community and patients. The numerous accolades bestowed upon AtlantiCare, including designations from The Baldridge Foundation, The