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According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Kiski Area School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Kiski Area School District on this momentous occasion.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LONNIE MCKISSIC, SR.

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of a mid-Michigan icon who was a builder in every sense of the word. Lonnie McKissic, Sr. passed away on November 3, 2023, but the legacy he worked so hard to construct in his 88 years on this planet—physically, emotionally, and spiritually—lives on in this community and in the many lives he touched.

Lonnie was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, in 1935, the son of Robert and Myrtle McKissic, and his early years were by no means easy. His father passed away when he was just a toddler, and Lonnie was only able to attend school through the third grade. Though still a child, he was sent to work in the cotton fields, and later at a mill yard, to help support the family. He was just 16 years old when he married the love of his life, Odell, and shortly after the two made the move north to Lansing, Michigan.

When Lonnie picked up his first construction job at age 18 in Lansing, he likely didn't know he was laying the foundation for his future. After years of hard work and learning the ins and outs of the industry, in 1969 he was ready to make a go on his own and launched the family business: McKissic and Sons Construction. Not only did the company break ground on numerous homes, churches, and well-known Lansing-area buildings, Lonnie broke barriers by becoming one of the first Black contractors in the region.

Over the years he also built a large and loving family, raising six sons, three daughters, and ten grandchildren, and prided himself on passing the trade to younger generations. Today, the construction company continues with his son Michael at the helm. In addition, Michael shares his father's lessons with the community through his non-profit, which teaches construction skills to young people in an effort to provide a meaningful path for the future that can help turn the tide of violence in the Lansing area.

A man of profound faith, Lonnie was deeply involved with Mt. Zion All Nations Church, where his 69 years of devotion earned him the title of longest-serving member. During that time, he held various other titles, including Chairman of the Board, Deacon, Vice-Chair of the Executive Council, Elder, and choir mem-

ber. He mentored hundreds of young people over the years, and was known as a spiritual father to many.

In everything he did, Lonnie McKissic used his hands, his heart, and his life to build up the community. Brick by brick, word by word, lesson by lesson, he laid out a blueprint for what it means to be a servant leader, and constructed his life on a bedrock of faith, family, and hard work. I send my condolences to his family, and ask that we now dedicate ourselves to building upon his memory, which will live on in Lansing.

RECOGNIZING THE PORTERVILLE
ELKS LODGE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Porterville Elks Lodge on their 100-year anniversary and thank them for their significant contributions to the Porterville community. The Porterville Elks Lodge was established in 1923 on Porterville's Main Street.

For more than a century, the lodge has served as a meeting place for residents of the community and the home of the Porterville Elks Lodge Club. The club's unwavering commitment to public service and the Porterville community has guided its mission since the lodge's founding. Today, the club has 149 members, all of whom dedicate their time to giving back to and investing in the local community. The club is passionate about the well-being of Porterville's residents and focuses many of their efforts on helping children and veterans

Last year, the club raised more than \$32,000 for the Purple Pig Major Project—the second-largest contribution from the California delegation of clubs. The project's funds are used to support disabled youth with the medical treatments and therapies they need to thrive. Through their affiliation with the Elks National Foundation, the Porterville Elks Lodge Club has also awarded students throughout the community with scholarships to support their academic goals and connected veterans and servicemembers with rehabilitation services.

During the recent flooding in California, the Porterville Elks Lodge Club worked with the Central California Family Crisis Center and Parenting Network to donate jackets, baby formula, and other items to residents in need. Their efforts were critical in helping families in my district recover from the devastating storms. The club's longstanding history of service is ingrained in the fabric of the Porterville community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Porterville Elks Lodge on their 100-year anniversary. Their work to enrich the community of Porterville will be felt for generations to come.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
WYNONA LIPMAN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a great trailblazer from my district, Wynona Lipman, on what would have been her 100th birthday. Born in 1923, Mrs. Lipman was the first African-American woman to be elected to the New Jersey State Senate when she won her seat in 1971. She served the 29th Legislative District for 27 years, the Senate's longest-serving member at the time of her death in 1999.

Before she was a political trailblazer, Mrs. Lipman was a teacher. She taught French at Morehouse College and tutored a famous civil rights advocate, Martin Luther King, Jr. She left that position to pursue a Ph.D. degree at Columbia University. During her time at Columbia, Mrs. Lipman earned a Fulbright fellowship to study at the Sorbonne in Paris for two years. When she returned, Mrs. Lipman finished her Ph.D. degree and eventually moved to Montclair, New Jersey, where she became an associate professor at Essex County College.

In Montclair, Mrs. Lipman became active in local politics. In 1968, she won her first election to become an Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholder, where she became President of the Board in 1971. Then Mrs. Lipman ran for the New Jersey State Senate and defeated Republican Senator Milton Waldor by less than 1,000 votes out of 170,000 cast. During her 27 years in the State Senate, Mrs. Lipman was often the only woman serving there and worked diligently to protect the LGBTQ+ community and children on the Governor's Advisory Council on AIDS and Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Mrs. Lipman's tireless efforts to serve her district earned her induction into the New Jersey's "Women's Hall of Fame" in 1998. Today, her legacy is supported throughout the area. There is the Wynona Lipman Ethnic Studies Center at Kean University, the Wynona Lipman Chairholder at the Center for American Women in Politics and Rutgers University, the Wynona Lipman Child Advocacy Center (known as Wynona's House) for abused children in Newark, and the future Wynona Lipman Courthouse in Essex County. Next week, there will be an exhibit titled "Stronger than Steel: The Wynona Lipman Story" at the New Jersey Historical Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating her life of public service and her legacy in New Jersey politics.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT HEMPFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Hempfield Area School District

for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Hempfield Area School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Hempfield Area School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Hempfield Area School District on this momentous occasion.

SAVING NEMO ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my House colleagues to join in protecting our world's fragile coral reef ecosystems by restricting international imports of protected ornamental reef fish and coral species collected by destructive and unsustainable practices.

Our oceans are indispensable to life on our planet, not only to our global environment but to the billions that are directly or indirectly reliant on its resources. Our oceans in turn rely on the health and diversity of our coral reefs, some of our most diverse ecosystems, with nearly 25 percent of the ocean's fish dependent on coral reefs for shelter, food and reproduction. And our coral reefs are interdependent with healthy, diverse and sustainable marine flora and fauna.

Among these are prized ornamental reef fish and coral species highly valued by collectors. While it is possible to collect them at sustainable levels which do not harm the coral reef or broader marine ecosystem, high demand leads too often to unsustainable and destructive collection practices such as overcollection of species overall, overcollection of younger specimens, collection through reef dredging, gill nets, explosives or poison, and harm to specimens leading to excessive deaths in transit. Most of the collection occurs internationally where most of our world's coral reefs are found, in countries, such as in Southeast Asia, which do not have strong regulation or enforcement regimens against unsustainable or destructive practices.

As the largest importer of ornamental reef fish, our country has both responsibility for creating the demand that leads to such prac-

tices, and the opportunity to channel that demand to sustainable collection. The Saving Natural Ecosystems and Marine Organisms Act would do so by prohibiting the import into our country of protected reef species taken using unsustainable or destructive practices. The enforcement mechanism would be administrative certification, in conjunction with co-operating collecting countries where possible, that ornamental reef fish and species to be imported into our country were collected without following those practices.

I ask for my colleagues' support of this bill which is one piece of a much larger effort to save our oceans from their own worst enemy: us.

HONORING THE HEROICS OF RICHARD FIERRO AND THOMAS JAMES

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, November 19, 2023 marks the one year anniversary of a violent attack in Colorado Springs killing five people and injuring 22 others. I would like to once again extend my prayers of peace and healing for the families and victims. During the incident, two heroes took action that night to prevent further harm and should be honored for their heroic acts.

Richard Fierro and Thomas James stepped up at their own peril to save lives and protect others. The two heroes worked together to stop the gunman and remove the firearm from him, Mr. James even incurred injuries when a bullet was fired into his abdomen. Because of the decisive, quick, and selfless action of these two men, more lives were not taken by the attacker. This is the true spirit of selflessness and duty that we are privileged to experience so commonly in Colorado Springs.

Information Technician 2nd Class Thomas James was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the highest non-combat decoration the Navy can award for heroism.

Richard Fierro, a retired Army Major, received the Lifesaving Military Hero of The Year Award from the American Red Cross.

May we all remember their actions to save the lives of others and thank them for their service to our Nation and community on the anniversary of this terrible event.

RECOGNIZING DAVID KLINE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today the 12th Congressional District recognizes David Kline

for his outstanding contributions as the City of Dearborn's Veteran of the Year.

Born and raised in Detroit, Mr. Kline enlisted in the United States Army in 1966 after graduation from Detroit's Cody High School. During his ten years and eleven months of service, Mr. Kline earned many commendations and certifications, including the Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Citation, Unit Citation, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Good Conduct, and the National Defense Service Medal. After serving in the army, Mr. Kline returned home to Michigan and began a thriving career in construction.

An engaged member of the community, Mr. Kline remains active numerous veterans' organizations in southeast Michigan, including Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 267 and American Legion Post 364. He has held multiple leadership positions at both organizations. He is passionate in his commitment to helping his fellow service members, especially those in need, and works tirelessly to ensure they receive the support and care they deserve.

Please join me in recognizing Mr. David Kline as he is honored as Dearborn, Michigan's 2023 Veteran of the Year. We are grateful for his service and leadership.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT MOUNT PLEASANT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mount Pleasant Area School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Mount Pleasant Area School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Mount Pleasant Area School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Mount Pleasant Area School District on this momentous occasion.