

Donald J. Herrington to the New Holland community, as he retires from public service as a member of the New Holland Borough Council.

Mr. Herrington's selfless service to the New Holland Community exceeds thirty years across two millennia. He entered service to the borough as a member of the Planning Commission, serving seven years followed by a term as Mayor of the borough for four years ending in 1989.

Mr. Herrington was recalled to the service of the borough in June of 2000, as a Borough Council Member, a position which he held through the end of this year.

In addition to his dedication to the borough, he also served his community as a coach for several local Garden Spot sports teams, and with the local Jaycees, eventually serving as the 37th President of the Pennsylvania Jaycees.

Mr. Speaker, our communities across the nation are enriched through the selfless service of dedicated and talented individuals like Mr. Donald J. Herrington. We offer him our thanks and gratitude for his work to strengthen his community and we wish him well in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING EYOLE MBONGO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Eyole M. Mbongo of San Antonio, Texas, who received the Outstanding Congressional Staffer Award on December 1, 2023 from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) in recognition of his exceptional dedication to advancing equity in education.

In 2014, Mr. Mbongo joined my Congressional staff as an intern while completing his master's degree in public administration at the University of Texas, San Antonio. After his graduation, I hired him as a constituent services representative in my district office, where he worked to help residents of the 20th District of Texas access programs and services within the federal government. After almost two years in my district office, he joined my staff in Washington D.C., where he now serves as a senior legislative assistant.

Over the course of his work with my office, Mr. Mbongo has led the fight to bring hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding back to San Antonio schools and universities—helping them chart a path forward through the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic and close racial and socioeconomic gaps in college attendance and completion.

During the current session of Congress, Mr. Mbongo has been a critical advisor in the introduction of several bills and resolutions, including:

The Hispanic Educational Resources and Empowerment Act (HERE Act), which would authorize a grant program to support partnerships between Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and school districts with high enrollment of Latino students to improve college readiness and degree attainment.

The Advanced Coursework Equity Act, which would authorize a grant program to address equity gaps in enrollment and performance in advanced programs and courses.

A resolution to designate the week beginning on September 11, 2023 as National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week.

There is no one more qualified or deserving of this award than Mr. Mbongo, and I am grateful to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities for recognizing the profound impact of his work.

I congratulate Mr. Mbongo—he makes San Antonio proud.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL CATES

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brigadier General Michael "Mike" Cates of Frisco, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. General Cates honorably served in the United States Army as the 23rd Chief of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.

In 1980, General Cates followed in his family's footsteps and joined the Army after obtaining his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Texas A&M University. He specialized in veterinary services in South Korea and Germany, and was the first veterinarian to command the Army's Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine. I commend his extensive efforts to improve public health and the wellbeing of animals in the military. For his exemplary service, General Cates was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, and several other awards. In 2005, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine.

After his retirement in 2008, General Cates continued to make profound impacts in his community in many ways. He became a professor at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and served as their Master of Public Health Graduate Program Director. As the Program Director, General Cates helped prepare students for success in public health careers. When he retired from academia, he served as a board member for the Heritage Association and Pet Partners in Frisco. In these roles, General Cates helped preserve Frisco's rich history and supported local animal shelters so that they may have a safe place to call home. These actions highlight his commitment to uplifting the world around him and being a voice for those in need.

I am honored to represent BG Cates in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

OSCAR ORTIZ'S COMMENDATION

HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and constituent, Oscar Ortiz, a devoted orga-

nizer and champion for educational equity. Oscar was a visionary: he fought for a just, inclusive future where everyone thrives. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, son, and respected member of the Illinois Third Congressional District community.

Born in our great City of Chicago on April 21, 1962, to Benito and Mirta Ortiz, Oscar dedicated his life to empowering our community through education. He believed that education was a powerful tool to build a just future. He knew education could unlock our collective potential and enable us to realize our dreams. With that in mind, Ortiz became an elementary and high school teacher, helping our young people find their power and joy in learning. Whether it was at Jahn and Lowell Elementary Schools or Jefferson Alternative School, el maestro Ortiz was always present for all his students, their parents, and faculty.

His desire to serve our community and defend public education in Chicago led him to join the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) in May 2003, where he quickly became a committed and active member, never missing a meeting or event. There, Oscar served as a sergeant-at-arms, as the Lowell delegate, and as a member of the Legislative Committees, always with the intention of advancing social justice and equity through education.

Oscar generously committed his time on earth to countless social justice causes. He believed in the power of organized communities and worked tirelessly to build a better future for Chicago and our nation. I, personally, will miss his calls to action and the way he could stir our passions and stoke our courage on the bullhorn at direct actions. May his passion for change and love of community always guide us! I will miss him dearly, and I know that countless others will, too. He was a true, loyal friend.

His wife, Sabina; sons, Gabriel and Daniel; brother Ed; parents, Benito and Mirta; all his loved ones, and to the entire CTU family, are in my heart and in my prayers. Together, as we mourn his passing, let us celebrate the blessing he was in all of our lives, the impact he had on our community, and the mark he has left in our great City of Chicago. Oscar vive, la lucha sigue. Rest in power, Oscar.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF PASTOR CHARLES GILCHRIST ADAMS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today the 12th Congressional District mourns the loss of Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams, a beloved spiritual and community leader and activist in our district whose influence reached many across our state and the world.

Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams graduated with honors from the University of Michigan and Harvard University and went on to become a doctoral fellow in Union Theological Seminary in New York City. From 1962 to 1969, Dr. Adams served as Pastor of the historic Concord Baptist Church in Boston. Shortly after, Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams was appointed as lead pastor for the historic Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit, a role

he held for more than fifty years. As pastor, he dedicated his life and mission to service, fighting for justice for our communities and improving the lives of residents in Northwest Detroit. He was a tireless advocate in the fight for safe housing for all and for affordable childcare for working families. Pastor Adams served as President of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP in 1984 and served on its executive board consecutive years until 1992.

His bold and grounded leadership is a testament to his impactful work and legacy. The 12th Congressional District sends our deepest and heartfelt condolences to Pastor Adams's family and to the entire Hartford Memorial Baptist Church family on this significant loss to our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Agnes Adams and his children, Dr. Tara Adams Washington and Reverend Charles Christian Adams.

Please join me in remembering Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams for his incredible spiritual leadership and impact on our district and the community. May he rest in love and his legacy continue to impact our community.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MARYLAND ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR LINDA LAMONE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend Linda Lamone: Maryland's longest-serving Elections Administrator and the second-longest-serving chief elections official in America. In September, she retired after overseeing our elections for more than a quarter century. Linda is a woman of tremendous vision, integrity, and reverence for our democratic institutions, and we appreciate her outstanding service.

After serving Marylanders for decades as a Counsel to the Maryland State Assembly, the Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Schaefer's legislative office, a private attorney, and an Assistant Attorney General under Governor Glendening, Linda started as Elections Administrator in 1997. She oversaw 13 federal general elections, including six presidential elections, over the course of her impressive career.

Linda started the role at a pivotal moment for American elections. New digital technologies offered new opportunities to enhance our electoral system. Around the same time, the 2000 presidential election revealed how vulnerabilities in our elections can undermine the American people's faith in our democracy. That experience led me and a bipartisan group of Members to pass the Help America Vote Act to keep our elections secure, accessible, and transparent.

Linda was instrumental in helping the Election Assistance Commission and I implement HAVA in Maryland and beyond. From modernizing and standardizing our state's voting machines to digitizing campaign finance and voter registration resources, Linda brought our elections into the twenty-first century. She helped other states make progress in these areas through her involvement with the National Association of State Election Directors.

Linda also helped our state and our democracy weather unprecedented crises. She led

the effort to ensure that Marylanders could vote safely in the 2020 election during the Covid-19 pandemic. She also sought to maintain Americans' faith in their democratic system amid a wave of election denialism. We were fortunate to have Linda's leadership in 2020 and all the years before and since.

No matter the task at hand or the challenge before her, Linda tackled it with determination. She always knew that she could count on the support of her family—especially her husband of 53 years, Rudy. As Dean of the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park, and as a prominent academic and entrepreneur, Rudy was another crucial leader in our community. We all mourned with Linda when he passed away earlier this year, and we continue to keep him in our prayers.

As Linda brings her career to a close, we find ourselves at another pivotal moment for American elections. We see leaders openly cast doubt on the outcome of free and fair elections. Some people deliberately try to erode our electoral system and other democratic institutions. Linda Lamone serves as an example of the countless hardworking, principled elections officials across the country who help uphold our democracy in the face of these threats. Their work isn't easy, but it is absolutely essential.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Linda and the democratic principles she devoted her career to protecting.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM ANDERSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Anderson of Denison, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. CPO Anderson served in the United States Navy, and his impressive career experience highlights his genuine passion for helping our community.

CPO Anderson was inspired to join the Navy after gaining a deep respect and appreciation for our nation's veterans of prior conflicts. Originally, CPO Anderson wanted to stay in the Navy Reserves, but after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, he wanted to do more to bring the perpetrators of this attack to justice. To accomplish this, he pursued a deployment to Iraq in 2005 and Afghanistan in 2008, where he served in numerous support roles, including the Naval Security Forces and Navy Customs. Furthermore, CPO Anderson qualified as a Seabee Combat Warfare Officer. Seabees are well known for being able to build infrastructure anywhere around the world at a moment's notice. If you needed a military base, airfield, or bridge halfway around the world, CPO Anderson is the person you'd call to get the job done. For his service to our nation, CPO Anderson was bestowed the Bronze Star, Army and Navy Commendation medals, and many more awards. In 2005, he met his future wife Teresa, and they married three years later. Together, they raised two children.

After his retirement from the Navy in 2013, CPO Anderson continued to serve his nation

through various civilian roles, and even supported counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan. When he returned to Texas, CPO Anderson worked at the Denison Dam Power Plant to help maintain Texas' electrical grid. Today, he continues his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers providing emergency power relief to those affected by natural disasters. In his recreational time, he is a Scoutmaster for Troop 55 in Pottsboro and Denison, where seven boys have attained the rank of Eagle Scout under his guidance.

I am honored to represent CPO Anderson in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was serving as Ranking Member in the House Financial Services Committee on November 29 when votes were called on the House Floor. The Chairman did not recess the committee in time for me to make the first vote of the series, therefore I missed recording my vote on Roll Call No. 678.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 678.

WELCOMING DAMIAN SCIPIO JOHNSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate my Legislative Director and Counsel, Julian Johnson, and his wife Agnieszka Johnson (née Dziadek), on the birth of their first child. It was my honor to officiate the couple's wedding on October 22, 2016, and now I am delighted that their family continues to expand.

Damian Scipio Johnson was born at 4:14 a.m. on Sunday, October 8, 2023, in Washington, D.C., and he is quite possibly the cutest baby the hospital has ever seen. His given names represent strength and an indomitable spirit. Damian is a dual citizen by birth, and he will always have a home in the United States and in Poland.

I have known Julian since 2009 and have long valued his contributions over the years to my office and to the people of the Second Congressional District of Georgia. He is an integral member of my team and champion for the American people, and I continue observing with great pride what the future holds for him both personally and professionally.

My wife Vivian and I give our best wishes to Julian and Agnieszka, their respective families, and their own growing family.