

On Monday, July 24, 2023, at half past two in the morning, our Lord and Savior dispatched His angel to carry this beautiful soul home. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Eddie LeBlanc Sr., Florence LeBlanc, Benjamin Stewart, Sr., and Martha Stewart; her aunt Jenette LeBlanc, Uncle Larry O. LeBlanc, and her beloved dog Mocha.

Judge Stewart's memory will be forever cherished by her beloved son, Dylan Jackson, whom she shared with Calvin Jackson; her parents, Benjamin Armond Stewart, Jr. (Regina) and Dianne Mary LeBlanc-Stewart (Harry Albert); sister Tracy Stewart Hill (Gregory); brother Benjamin Armond Stewart, III (Rachel); Stepbrothers David Gillard, Daniel Gillard (Chanitra), and Dominick Gillard; Godchildren Tyler Phillip McMahon and Karina Angelique Brown; a host of aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, other relatives; good friends Glenn Jones, Andrea Foster, and Tina Haines; civic and judicial associates, and the legion of youth she represented.

Her life, legacy, and impact on our community will forever be remembered.

ITZEL CHAVEZ-SANDOVAL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2023*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Itzel Chavez-Sandoval for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Itzel has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Itzel, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Itzel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Itzel Chavez-Sandoval on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR COLONEL EDWARD MESCHKO

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Edward Thomas "Tom" Meschko of Whitesboro, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Colonel Meschko honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War.

In 1961, Colonel Meschko applied to the newly built Air Force Academy and was selected to join their seventh class. He trained as a fighter pilot and was stationed at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base and Bien Hoa Air Base in Vietnam. During his Air Force career, Colonel Meschko participated in 216 combat missions against North Vietnamese

forces in the F-100 Super Sabre jet fighter. Furthermore, he was a flight instructor and test pilot for over 36 models of the most advanced aircraft prototypes at the time, including the F-16 fighter aircraft.

Using test data gained through Colonel Meschko's experimental flights, the United States was able to transform the F-16 into a modern air superiority fighter that is currently in use by 25 countries. Through his extensive qualifications and expertise, Colonel Meschko became the Deputy Commander of Operations for F-16s located in U.S. bases throughout Europe. His efforts help bolster and strengthen our NATO allies' capabilities to defend against Soviet-led aggression. For his outstanding service, Colonel Meschko received numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit and Distinguished Flying Cross.

After returning to civilian life, Colonel Meschko worked as a senior engineer for Lockheed Martin and sought to be a test pilot on the prototype F-22 Raptor. As he experienced health complications that affected his ability to fly the F-22, he retired from Lockheed Martin after 10 years and later became the President and CEO of Fightertown Aviation, Inc., and a senior consultant for military contracts. In 2018, Colonel Meschko retired after decades of important contributions to the Air Force and aviation industry. I commend him for his selfless service and sacrifices to defend our great nation.

I am honored to represent Colonel Meschko 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.

RECOGNIZING THE LOSS OF A GREAT MUSICIAN AND OUTSTANDING LIFE OF DAVID RUSSELL BATISTE, JR.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman, legendary drummer, and New Orleans musical prodigy David Russell Batiste, Jr. Born on December 12, 1965, Mr. Batiste was known for providing the backbeat in groups such as The Funky Meters, Papa Grows Funk, Vida Blue and other well-known Crescent City bands. After years of musical achievement, Batiste passed away on Sunday, October 1, 2023, at the tender age of 57.

Raised in a musical household, Mr. Batiste started behind the drum kit at the young age of 4. Additionally, he learned to play the keyboard, saxophone, guitar, and bass, officially taking a slot in the family band when he was only 7 years old. He and his brother, Damon, joined the Batiste Brothers Band when they were still in grade school. To avoid being confused with his father, David Jr. used his middle name, Russell.

At St. Augustine High School, Russell drummed for the school's Marching 100 marching band. After graduating in 1983, he attended Southern University, where he studied under the late jazz saxophonist, Edward "Kidd" Jordan. After 2 years, he left Southern to become the drummer for singer Charmaine Neville.

The brothers made their New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival debut in 1978 under the band name Young Gifted & Black. They returned the following year with the Batiste Brothers Band, launching a career that eventually landed them a spot with the Funky Meters, the reincarnation of the original New Orleans funk band, The Meters, featuring talents such as George Porter Jr., Brian Stolz, and Art Neville. Mr. Batiste was also a member of the all-star trio, Vida Blue, featuring Phish keyboardist, Page McConnell, and Allman Brothers Band and Dead & Company bassist, Oteil Burbridge.

As a solo artist, Batiste Jr. and the Orchestra from 'Da Hood released two full-length albums, including the 2000 self-titled set and 2003's *The Clinic*. In time, the musician climbed the musical ranks, receiving praise from iconic musicians such as Rolling Stones' front man, Mick Jagger.

Mr. Batiste frequently joined organ player, Joe Krown, and guitarist, Walter "Wolfman" Washington, to perform as the "Krown Washington Batiste Trio." The trio ultimately produced a live album titled, *Live at the Maple Leaf*, in 2008. Batiste carved out a legacy performing alongside Papa Grows Funk, Harry Connick, Jr., Maceo Parker, Champion Jack Dupree, and the late Robbie Robertson among other celebrated groups.

Until the musician's passing, he participated in weekly gigs every Sunday at Le Bon Temps Roule. Just last week, Batiste returned to his former high school to watch the football game, alongside other members of the class of 1983. Prior to the tragic news, Batiste was scheduled to perform three sets at NOLA Funk Fest with his band, the Gladiators, and Leo Nocentelli.

"He never was interested in accolades and money," stated his brother, Damon Batiste. "He wanted to make the music right. Russell loved New Orleans more than anything. He just wanted to be at the Maple Leaf Bar and Le Bon Temps Roule."

Following the artist's passing, family, friends, collaborators, and others shared memories of admiration for Batiste. Included was the musician's brother, Damon Batiste, who wrote, "It's a very sad day. I lost a brother, a friend, and a bandmate for life. We will share all details but remember fame and fortune mean nothing without having the ones that mean the most to share in your success."

Oteil Burbridge shared, "If you knew Russell Batiste, then you know there are no words to describe his talents or his insanely funny personality. Some people live with their knobs turned to 11. I'm pretty sure that I never laughed any harder than when we shared these times." The sentimental message also included thanks to Phish's McConnell for bringing them together in a jam session.

Legendary musician, Cyril Neville, chimed in via Facebook, writin: "Russell Batiste is a New Orleans root culture originator from one of the most prolific music families New Orleans ever produced. The only way to possibly be funkier than Russell is to be born a Skunk! One of a kind!"

Jon Batiste shared a heartfelt message. "He spoke his mind with conviction and didn't ever hold his tongue but somehow, in equal parts, with swagger and compassion. He could be both demanding and magnetic all at once, leaving an impression wherever he was. I've never had stories of a family member relayed

to me by strangers more than about Russ. He could always see the best in people and brought the best out in them, especially in other musicians. Every musician I've ever seen him on a stage with was in awe of him. It was The Russell Batiste University and class was always in session. I didn't fully realize it until later on in my life, but he was a flat-out genius. It's only because as a kid I just saw him as family. Also, you don't assume that you'll ever be up close to that kind of genius, let alone within your own family."

Musicians across the world are eternally grateful for the vision, guidance, and leadership of Russell Batiste. He will forever be remembered for all his contributions to advancing music in New Orleans.

#### RECOGNIZING PAT O'BANNON

#### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Supervisor Pat O'Bannon. A dedicated leader, Pat's career has taken her from high school English teacher to journalist to Certified Planning Commissioner, and these public service perspectives enabled her to serve on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors for 28 trailblazing years.

Pat's composed and congenial leadership style, coupled with her attentive listening, have defined her as an outstanding public servant who genuinely cares about the community's needs. Since 1995, she has been a steadfast advocate for the people of Henrico, weathering elections and securing re-election six times, while making history as the first female member of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors.

Her commitment to public safety and support for those who protect and serve showcases her unwavering dedication. Initiatives like Tuckahoe Town Hall Meetings, which have been newly live streamed since 2020, highlight her innovative approach to transparency and engaging residents in vital discussions in every way possible. Pat's single-minded focus on every community concern, from reducing citizens' tax burdens, to significant public waste and water infrastructure improvements, to multi-phase investments in the county's beloved Tuckahoe Creek Park, reflects her dedication to enhancing the county's amenities and making it such a wonderful place to live. Furthermore, her work with VACO's Telecommunications and Technology Committee showcased her proactive approach to addressing the impact of technology on rural neighborhoods like those in Henrico County, an issue close to my heart.

In 2023, the Tuckahoe Creek Boardwalk was fittingly named "O'Bannon Way," forever commemorating her work for the community in preserving the beautiful Tuckahoe Creek Park. Pat's tireless service has left an indelible mark on Henrico County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Supervisor Pat O'Bannon for her 28 years of dedicated service and commitment to her dedication to her constituents and for keeping the spirit of community alive in her county and in my District. I wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.

JESSICA MENENDEZ

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jessica Menendez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jessica has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jessica, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jessica's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jessica Menendez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

#### CELEBRATING THE THIRTIETH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP DARRYL SYLVESTER BRISTER

#### HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate three decades of faithful, phenomenal leadership from an outstanding New Orleans Minister, Bishop Darryl Sylvester Brister.

Bishop Darryl Sylvester Brister is the Second Presiding Bishop in the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International and was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on September 26, 1966. He received his license to preach in 1989 and was ordained on May 1, 1992, under the administration of Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr.

On January 26, 1996, at the age of 29; he was consecrated to the highest position in the church, the office of a Bishop. He is the Apostle/Overseer of Beacon Light International Ministries and Senior Pastor and Teacher of Beacon Light International Baptist Cathedral New Orleans since 1993, where the membership exceeded 7,000 active members before Hurricane Katrina.

During Hurricane Katrina, church buildings in New Orleans were destroyed and most of the members of the Beacon Light Family were dispersed across the United States. Bishop Brister served tirelessly after the storm and worked to rebuild the Cathedral, which reopened coincidentally on August 29, 2014, exactly nine years after Hurricane Katrina. Beacon Light International Baptist Cathedral New Orleans is once again a thriving ministry in the city of New Orleans that continues rebuilding one day at a time.

Bishop Brister has ministered the Word of God in several countries and continents, such as Japan, Holland, Panama, Korea, Iceland, Africa, Trinidad, Tortola, and Europe. Bishop Brister attended Louisiana State University and later joined and received an honorable discharge from the United States Army. He received a Bachelor of Theology Degree from

McKinley Theological Seminary, a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies, a Doctor of Ministry, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Religious Studies from Friends International Christian University.

Understanding that ministry extends beyond the confines of the church building, Bishop Brister is a man on a mission to reach lost souls. As President & CEO of DSB International Ministries, a non-profit organization, Bishop Brister, reaches those incarcerated by providing them with spiritual reading materials and daily devotionals. The Darryl S. Brister Scholarship Fund supports graduating seniors entering college and assists high school students with the purchase of school uniforms.

Bishop Brister has received numerous awards, and his leadership ability has been recognized throughout the world. In April 2010, he was inducted into the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers. He was featured in the 1995 November edition of Ebony Magazine as one of the Top 50 Leaders of Tomorrow, the January 2000 issue of Upscale Magazine's Millennium Tribute to America's Most Outstanding Pastors, the September/October 2002 & 2005 issue of Gospel Today as one of The World's Most Loved Pastors, and the 2004 New Orleans City Business Success Guide. Most recently, Bishop Brister has been featured in the Who's Who of Houston, TX, and was featured on the cover of an edition of Epitome Magazine in 2013.

Bishop Brister has authored nine books that have ministered to thousands entitled, Exposing the Enemy, The Monster Within, Recovering from Ruptured Relationships, Don't Fight the Process, Talk To Me Afterwards, Look To the Hills, Living the Dream, Doing Right In A Wrong World and most recently Against All Odds: Turning Obstacles into Opportunities.

In March of 1999, Bishop Brister and the Beacon Light Mass Choir released their first CD entitled, It's All About Him. He serves as President and Founder of the Darryl S. Brister Bible College and Theological Seminary, which was established in August 1999, and is the Founder of the Beacon Light Christian Academy, which was established in August 2002. He is the Apostle/Overseer of the Beacon Light Baptist Church of Houma, LA, Beacon Light Baptist Church of Hammond, LA, Beacon Light Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, LA, Beacon Light of Haiti at New Orleans, and Beacon Light Community Church of Panama City, FL. Bishop Brister birthed Beacon Light International Cathedral of Houston, TX after Hurricane Katrina, which is currently in an inactive status.

Bishop Darryl S. Brister is married to Dionne Flot Brister and is the father of five children. He is a man of vision whose life embraces destiny and purpose. He is committed to serving God, dedicated to following wherever God may lead, and excited as God continues to do new things within his life and ministry.

The Greater New Orleans Community is blessed to have him as a spiritual leader to so many. I am proud to say I can call him a dear friend and prayer warrior throughout my entire political career, respecting the guidance and support he gives to me. I am forever grateful for his friendship, love, and guidance, and will forever carry his direction as I serve the Constituents of LA02. I congratulate him on thirty years of spiritual leadership and may he see many more years serving individuals across the country.