

guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Katherine's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my deep concern with H. Res. 894 and the way it fails to address the rise in hate speech and threats occurring in our country and around the world. Over the last several weeks, the House has rightly made efforts to condemn antisemitism and show support for the Jewish people. However, this resolution does not seriously address the rise in antisemitism in any tangible way, and the actions of the Majority to treat this issue as an opportunity to confuse and sow division is redundant, devoid of meaning, and ultimately harmful to the cause of rebuking hate in all its forms.

Congress must take meaningful steps to fight against antisemitism. We can do this by stepping away from political games and fully implementing the Biden Administration's National Antisemitism Strategy, a whole-of-government approach to fighting antisemitism in the United States.

I also want to underscore the importance of prioritizing the safety of Jewish, Palestinian, and Muslim communities. The resolution before us today is silent on the concurrent rise of anti-Arab hate and Islamophobia happening in America, and by failing to include all instances of bigotry stemming from the conflict, we are missing an opportunity to condemn hate in all its forms.

In Congress we must be open to discussing and disagreeing about challenging topics, including about Israel and Gaza. I remain committed to condemning hate speech and the violence it inspires and believe that any actions considered in the House must also do so. For these reasons, I must vote present on this resolution.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PHILIP M. BAPTISTE, 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 a native of my Congressional District, often referred to as "The Leader in Firsts", Mr. Philip M. Baptiste, Jr.

Philip M. Baptiste was born and raised in New Orleans, LA and dedicated himself to serving and bettering New Orleans' urban

community. Baptiste attended two Historically Black Universities, Dillard University of New Orleans, and Atlanta University School of Social Work.

Baptiste lived a lifetime of firsts; in 1967 he was appointed by Mayor Victor Schiro as the city's first black mayor aide. In a 1996 interview with Data Newsweekly, Baptiste said "I was the only Black in City Hall at that time." That position would open the doors for other black Louisianians to follow. Baptiste was also the first Black man to serve the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in New Orleans. As President and Owner of Philip M. Baptiste Insurance Agency, Inc. which handled all lines of general insurance, i.e. Life, Fire, Casualty, and Hospitalization, Baptiste became one of the first Black citizens to hold such a license in the State of Louisiana.

Baptiste was recruited by the U S. Army on February 6, 1950, and honorably discharged on May 25, 1950 after completing the 14 week basic training program.

Conceivably, Baptiste's greatest passion was his love for the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club. A member for 40 plus years, Baptiste once served as the organization's Recording Secretary and obtained the status of "Honorary Lifetime Member" and a Zulu Hall of Fame Member. In the 1980s, Baptiste organized the 1st Motor Patrol group of riders and became a welcoming presence every Mardi Gras Day on his scooter. As the official narrator for the annual Zulu Coronation Ball, in typical Baptiste fashion, he created a unique toast for coronation and other official Zulu events; "All Hail Sip, All Hail Sip, All Hail Swallow!" Anyone present at his toast will never forget how Baptiste went deep in the Merriam-Webster dictionary to describe King Zulu 1994 as "being in all his splendorousness."

Zulu's official historian noted that Baptiste is responsible for design changes to the organization's official medallion from a dull bronze to a bright gold color, as well as for securing Fischer's Jewelry as the maker of the official King's ring. Baptiste is also credited with leading and supporting many of Zulu's fundraising activities for its charitable activities.

During the time Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, Baptiste had served as Executive Director of Opportunities Industrialization Center of Greater New Orleans (OIC of GNO) for approximately 35 years. Founded in 1971, the entity's mission is to train and place the unemployed and under-employed individuals into unsubsidized jobs in New Orleans by helping them to overcome barriers to economic opportunity and social justice Baptiste assumed the leadership helm in February of 1972, taking the Manpower program from the threat of termination to one of the more successful programs under the OIC of America umbrella.

Under Baptiste's leadership, he guided the entity through important initiatives including CETA City of New Orleans Home Energy Rehabilitation, Office of Community Affairs LIHEAP, DOE/PVE Home Weatherization, Housing and Community Development Home Weatherization and Minor Repairs, JTPA City of New Orleans Carpentry, Department of Social Services DOE/PVE, LIHEAP, State of Louisiana Governor's Special Grant, and a Re-entry and Work Release programs in partnership with the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriffs Office which provides training in construc-

tion trades in the areas of carpentry, electrical work and plumbing for prison inmates preparing to return to society. He was one of the first to introduce the GED program to participants of OIC, thus helping hundreds to complete that high school education.

A close friend of New Orleans' first Black mayor, the late Ernest "Dutch" Morial, Baptiste, along with Leah and Dooky Chase, were the first financial contributors to Dutch's campaign fund during his run for mayor. A 1950 graduate of McDonogh 35 High School, Baptiste had known Dutch Morial since their days together at the school where Morial was a quarterback and Baptiste was a water boy on the football team Baptiste was also an early supporter of the elder Morial's son, Marc Morial who served as Mayor of New Orleans from 1994 through 2002. As a member of the Louisiana Federation of Electors (LIFE), one of the most powerful Black political organizations in New Orleans, Baptiste remained politically active for decades Countless other African American elected officials would come to learn that they could count on Baptiste's support as well.

Baptiste's social and civic affiliations support his theory of reaching out to the community. Baptiste was a member of the Board of Directors, Southwestern Providence, KAPPA ALPHA PSI Fraternity (pledged in 1954, Beta Gamma; Polemarch from 1969 through 1970) and member of the New Orleans Alumni Chapter, Solicitor to Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, and eventually Honorary Deputy, Parish of Orleans for contributing and participating in the Orleans Parish Grand July. Baptiste was the founder and First Vice-President of Frontiers International, Past President of Toastmasters International, Dryades Street YMCA, the Urban League of New Orleans, and the NAACP among others.

Always a believer in self-improvement, Baptiste continued to receive training to help improve his management skills; including courses such as Management Skills Development Course sponsored by General Electric Management Development Institute, Executive Directors Management Training Course I, II, III and IV (OAMT) Opportunities Academy of Management Training OIC/America, Management Certificate in Non-Profit Organizations, IBM Community Executive Program and IBM Management Development Staff Program and others.

Baptiste's work has earned him many honored awards and certificates: Individual Achievement Award Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity 1975, Street YWCA Century Club 1976-1978, National Consumer Information Center Award 1974-1975, Honorary Citizen Certificates (Baton Rouge, LA, Albuquerque, New Mexico and Saginaw, Michigan), State of Texas House of Representative Congratulation Certificate 1977 and Certificates of Merit City of New Orleans 1972-73, 1977, the 1996 Joseph "Scoop" Jones Trailblazer for the month of December, 2001 Mayor's Division of Housing & Neighborhood Development Golden Hammer Award are just a few awards of recognition collected in his repertoire.

Baptiste died June 21 in Atlanta after a lengthy illness. He was 91. He and his wife Nell, who died in 2021, relocated to Atlanta after Hurricane Katrina Prior to that, he spent his entire life in his hometown of New Orleans Baptiste once said that he would like to be remembered by these words, "I came, learned,

served, and passed on to others." Most who know Baptiste would agree that he has accomplished his goal.

The Greater New Orleans Community has lost a gem. I credit much of my political successes to him because of his guidance and support. I will forever carry his direction as I serve the constituents of LA02. May he forever rest in peace.

HONORING CYNTHIA MURRAY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize the outstanding tenure of Cynthia Murray as President and CEO of North Bay Leadership Council (NBLC).

Born in New York, Cynthia grew up in New Jersey where she earned a BA in History from Rutgers University. After relocating to Marin County, California in 1978, Cynthia began her substantial and impactful career in public service, community advocacy, and professional leadership in the North Bay.

Over a span of 15 years, Cynthia honorably served the people of Marin County as Novato City Council Member, including one term as mayor, and Marin County Supervisor. Known for her passion and fortitude, Cynthia played a pivotal role in creating greater transparency and accessibility to local government, advancing public health services, and bolstering countrywide emergency response initiatives.

As President and CEO of North Bay Leadership Council, Cynthia successfully shaped NBLC into an influential advocacy organization to address the issues impacting employers and their employees in the North Bay. Under her direction, NBLC became an effective champion for public policy issues including comprehensive quality education from preschool to higher education, workforce development, public transportation, affordable housing, and workforce retention. Known for her ability to foster collaboration and promote equity, Cynthia successfully brought together stakeholders from the public, non-profit, education, and private sector to address and solve challenges in the North Bay. Her leadership has been vital to the region's advancements in economic development and prosperity, as well as environmental sustainability.

Outside of her many professional accomplishments, Cynthia's volunteer work is far-reaching, and she never shies away from thorny issues. She serves on many boards including the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, First 5 Sonoma County Commission, Sonoma County Health Action Council, Marin Schools to Careers Partnership, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Policy Advisory Council. She also is chair of the Marin County Housing Crisis Action Group.

Cynthia has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to education and mentorship to future generation of leaders by serving as an adjunct professor at Dominican University and Sonoma State University. As a fearless advocate for labor and education, Cynthia has been awarded numerous accolades in recognition of her achievements, including the 2010 Women in Business award by the North

Bay Business Journal, and the 2017 Champion for Children award by the North Bay Children's Center, among others.

Mr. Speaker, the indelible positive contributions of Cynthia Murray cannot be overstated. With an outstanding record of public service spanning over three decades, Cynthia has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to enhancing the lives of the residents and employees of the North Bay. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her legacy of accomplishments which will benefit the region for generations to come.

KAYRA RODAS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kayra Rodas for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Kayra has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Kayra, 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 Kayra'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 Kayra Rodas on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR SPECIALIST KELVIN HICKS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Specialist Kelvin Hicks of Lamar, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Specialist Hicks honorably served in the United States Army in the Iraq War and the Global War on Terrorism.

Since he was a young man, Specialist Hicks knew he wanted to serve his country and contribute to a greater cause. In 2000, Specialist Hicks joined the Army and served as an Automated Logistical Specialist at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was deployed to Iraq and Kuwait, where he was tasked with the management of military equipment and timely deliveries of crucial supplies for our troops.

After returning to civilian service, Specialist Hicks has continued to make an impact on his community in many ways. He worked as the Safety and Security Director for Marriott Hotels & Resorts and as a Child Welfare Specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Here, Specialist Hicks devoted much of his time and efforts to supporting a teenager that was placed under his care. Even when faced with overwhelming odds, including homelessness, Specialist Hicks made numerous sacrifices to ensure that his ward's needs are being met. His willingness to put the

needs of others above his own is an extraordinary display of courage and selfless service.

Specialist Hicks currently serves as the Upward Bound College Prep Program Coordinator at Paris Junior College where he helps students from low-income families pursue postsecondary education. In addition, he is an inspirational speaker and takes opportunities to mentor and advocate for our youth so that they will be successful. Specialist Hicks is a devoted man of faith, and he serves as the Chaplain and Associate Minister at the St. Paul Baptist Church in Paris. I commend Specialist Hicks for his devotion to uplifting and empowering our students.

I am honored to represent Specialist Hicks 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 A GREAT HUMANITARIAN AND OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS OF MR. RAYMOND M. "RAY" FRITZ

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 and blessing to the Greater New Orleans Community, Mr. Raymond M. "Ray" Fritz. He was born on November 30, 1945, in New Orleans, Louisiana to the late Rosemary Favre. He grew up in the 7th Ward of New Orleans, attending Corpus Christi Elementary School.

Mr. Fritz's mother and grandparents, Mr. Joseph Favre and Mrs. Cecilia Milanes Favre, supported him and helped shape him into the honorable man he is today. His mother worked three jobs to provide him with the opportunity to attend St. Augustine High School. Allowing him this opportunity was important to her because she wanted Mr. Fritz to attend a school that was designated for the education of young men from African American families of New Orleans who embrace a willingness to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and grace. In addition to his mother and grandparents, his uncle, Dr. Anthony Favre played an instrumental role in his life.

Upon completion of his secondary education in 1963, an instructor at the high school, Father Phillip Berrigan, SSJ saw something special in him and urged him to go to St. Benedict's College in Atchison, Kansas. Father Berrigan even helped him acquire financial support. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Mr. Fritz completed a degree in Finance, and later completed double master's degrees in finance and taxation. He put his Finance degree to use and has worked for many well-known corporations like Shell Oil, Xerox, Clarify, Inc. and Terayon, Inc., to name a few. He was even involved in taking both Clarify, Inc. and Terayon, Inc. public.

Mr. Fritz has travelled the world and has seen extreme poverty firsthand. In his heart, he wanted to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, and he chose to focus his efforts on his hometown. He vowed not to allow mothers and their sons to be subjected to the hardships he and his family faced when