

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 PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. 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

he was young. He created a 4-year scholarship fund at his beloved Alma Mater, St. Augustine High School. To date, he has gifted over \$1 million in advancing the education of African American males attending St. Augustine High School since the year 2000. To further benefit his beloved High School, Mr. Fritz has donated \$500 thousand to renovate the school library.

Mr. Fritz's generosity did not stop there. He decided to address the increasing homelessness by working with the Corpus Christi—Epiphany Parish Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in New Orleans. The mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is "a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need." Their service provides aid in the form of intervention, consultation, or through direct financial or in-kind service. His generosity has provided over \$200 thousand to date to this organization and continues.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Corpus Christi—Epiphany Parish built a Community Resource Center to provide a facility that serves the needs of the Greater New Orleans Community. This center recently became the home of the New Orleans Public Library REACH Center, as an extension of their current African American Resource Collection (AARC). The REACH Center is a new initiative from the library that will feature a community event and resource center, free coworking space, and a public art gallery. This initiative is guided by a strong focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion and aims to be a thriving community center that empowers individuals and businesses to reach their full potential. The Community is blessed to have Mr. Fritz as a major donor revitalizing a multipurpose property to serve the City of New Orleans.

Mr. Fritz is a gracious life partner to Cheryl Feldman, proud father to his two sons—Derek Fritz and Dorjan Fritz, loving grandfather of five, and doting great-grandfather of two.

The Religious Order of the Josephite Fathers and Brothers, alumni and students at St. Augustine High School and parishioners of Corpus Christi—Epiphany Catholic Church are eternally grateful for the vision, guidance, and philanthropic generosity of Mr. Raymond M. Fritz. He will be forever remembered for all his contributions to improving the lives of those in the community and advancing the student's education.

CELEBRATING MR. JOHN ROBERT McGRATH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. John Robert McGrath Sr.'s 100th birthday and honor his service in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Born and raised in a small town outside of Pittsburgh, Mr. McGrath made the decision to join the U.S. Navy in 1942 to fight for his country. Following the end of the war, Mr. McGrath earned a degree from the University of Pennsylvania before beginning his career as a mortgage banker.

Although his service to his country came to a close, his service and generosity to his com-

munity continued throughout his life, as he was known to make soup for the elderly and care for the sick. Mr. McGrath has always been a dedicated husband and father and is beloved by his large family, with ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He currently lives in Roswell, Georgia.

It is an honor to celebrate Mr. McGrath on this incredible milestone, and I am proud to be his Representative. I wish him and his family many more happy years to come.

KOI ANNINO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

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

Koi has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Koi, 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 Koi's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CON- STANCE "CONNIE" MARRIOTT SELICO

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 businesswoman, former Civil Rights Movement Activist as a Freedom Rider, and Algiers Matriarch, located in my Congressional District and often referred to as a mastermind of all things New Orleans, Mrs. Constance "Connie" Marriott Selico.

Constance "Connie" Marriott Selico went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the age of 90. At the time of her passing, she was the Chief Executive Officer of Murray Henderson Funeral Home and a retired educator of the Jefferson Parish School System. Connie, as she was fondly known, was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Lillie Winnfield and Charles Marriott. At six months, Connie was brought to New Orleans, Louisiana, by her mother and was reared by her Godmothers, Lillian Henderson Dunn and Erma Henderson Gibbs. In 1948 she was united in holy matrimony to Leo Selico of Gretna, Louisiana. To this union, five children were born: Leo, Jr., Lee Andre, Alex, Christopher, and Shelita. Leo and Connie enjoyed life to the fullest, honoring their wedding vows until he died in 1992.

Connie was baptized at an early age by her Godfather, the late Reverend G.B. Franklin, at the family church, First Free Mission of Al-

giers, where she was a member for many years. While there, she worked on numerous committees. In 1995, she moved her membership to Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of Marrero under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Brown, Jr. During her tenure at Morning Star, and she worked as Chairman of the Pastor Anniversary Committee and a member of The Senior Stars. Her love of both churches and her faith provided her with a caring and fulfilled life. Connie attended McDonogh No. 32 Elementary School, L.B. Landry Jr./Sr. High School and was a proud graduate of Gilbert Academy. She furthered her education by attending Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She later attended Southern University in New Orleans and earned certification in Special Education. Never one to sit back and take it easy, Constance was adequately known as a trailblazer and a doer, as was witnessed by her many activities and achievements.

While working on her certification, she actively participated in the Civil Rights Movement as a Freedom Rider, helping organize protest marches and voter registration drives. She was a part of the first group of Black teachers hired in the Jefferson Parish Public School System, where she taught for 33 years. Constance also holds the honor of being among the 100 Black and the oldest funeral director in New Orleans. From the age of 90 years until her demise, she served as Owner/Chief Executive Officer of the Murray Henderson Funeral Home. Connie spent all her adolescent years and most of her adult life at the family funeral home founded by her great Uncle Murray Henderson in 1909.

On August 29, 1978, after completing an apprenticeship under her Godmother Erma, she received her Funeral Directors license from the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. Connie was a member of the Gilbert Academy Alumni Association, Crescent City Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, 100 Black Women of Funeral Services, Jefferson Federation of Teachers, and Louisiana Teachers Retirement System. Connie was preceded in death by her husband, Leo Selico, Sr., two sons, Leo Selico, Jr., and Lee Andre Selico, Sr., her mother, Lillie Winnfield Thompson, her Godmothers Lillian H. Dunn and Erma H. Gibbs, a sister Faye Anderson, a son-in-law James Forges, Jr., a daughter-in-law, Carolyn Joseph Selico Dunn, and her grandmother Ernestine Henderson Winnfield.

Connie leaves to cherish her memories two sons Alex Selico Dunn, Sr. (Janet), Christopher Selico (Sharon)—a daughter Shelita Selico Forges, a foster son Harold Anderson, and a daughter-in-law Edwina Selico, 13 grandchildren Ryan, Leo III (Jill), Lee Andre, Jr., Christen, Fabian and Brandon Selico, Felician S. Robinson (Corey), Alexis Buffington (Jeremy), Alex Selico Dunn, Jr., (Kristen), Alexandra Selico Dunn, James III, Jonathan, and Constance Forges, a cousin/sister Valencia L. Williams, a sister-in-law Melanie Johnson.

She is also survived by 19 great-grandchildren, 18 great, great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

The Greater New Orleans Community has suffered the loss of an incredible gem. I am