

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 PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. 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 CONSTANCE "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 Valenca 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

proud to say I was able to connect with her throughout my entire political career, respecting the guidance and support she gave. I will forever carry her direction as I serve the Constituents of LA02. May she forever rest in peace.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BILLY
SOLLIE

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the twenty-eight years of service to Lauderdale County, Mississippi, from Sheriff William D. 'Billy' Sollie. Born and raised in Meridian, Mississippi, Billy graduated from Meridian High School in 1973. After his graduation, he entered law enforcement in June of 1974. On March 28, 1975, Billy graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy and started his duties serving in and around Meridian, Mississippi.

His service to the community was recognized in 1982 when he was promoted to Patrolman II in January of that year and then in June to Detective. His work extended to the schools in the community when he was assigned and trained as the first D.A.R.E. Officer in the City of Meridian.

Through the years, Billy was promoted to Lieutenant, Assistant Chief and Deputy Chief, and he retired in 1994 as the Chief of Police. Upon his retirement from the police force, Billy served as the Security Coordinator for Meridian Public School system. In 1995, Billy won the race for Sheriff of Lauderdale County.

After becoming Sheriff, Billy served as the Second Vice President, First Vice President, and President of the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association and is currently commissioned by Governor Tate Reeves as a member of the State Jail Standards and Training Board.

Billy has been a fixture of the Lauderdale County community serving in various capacities, on boards, and in volunteer roles throughout his time as Sheriff. I am proud to recognize Billy's career of service and dedication to the Meridian and Lauderdale County community, and I wish him the best in retirement.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I will vote Present on H. Res. 894, a resolution that aims to condemn antisemitism throughout the world. Several of my Jewish colleagues voted Present as well.

I strongly agree that Congress must condemn all forms of antisemitism. The House of Representatives has voted in favor of several resolutions condemning antisemitism since

Hamas's horrific October 7th attacks on Israel, multiple of which I've supported and cosponsored. However, this latest resolution, H. Res. 894, contains overly broad language that weaponizes the real scourge of antisemitism and uses Jewish people as pawns to play partisan political games. For this reason, I could not support the resolution.

For example, H. Res. 894 suggests that "anti-Zionism is antisemitism." While some forms of anti-Zionism are antisemitic, there are many members of the Jewish community that identify as anti-Zionist. Lumping together factions of the Jewish community as "antisemitic" is clearly problematic.

Some language in H. Res. 894 also appears to be a veiled attempt to police the free speech of Americans who have demonstrated in favor of human rights for Palestinians. Again, while some demonstrators have disturbingly engaged in antisemitic actions that should rightfully be condemned, H. Res. 894 is too broad.

H. Res. 894 also fails to condemn antisemitic acts from those on the far right, including white nationalists who have increasingly promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories and have threatened the lives and livelihoods of Jewish Americans.

Let me be clear: I unequivocally condemn all forms of antisemitism, and I am appalled by the significant rise in antisemitism we've seen in recent years and especially after Hamas's October 7th terrorist attacks on Israel. If the House Republican majority were serious about tackling antisemitism, they would support President Biden's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, would quit trying to defund the Office of Civil Rights for Title VI enforcement which protects Jewish students and would increase funding for the High-Risk Nonprofit Grant Program to secure Jewish institutions as a start.

That's why I've cosponsored H. Res. 907, introduced by Representatives NADLER, RASKIN, and GOLDMAN. H. Res. 907 thoughtfully and powerfully condemns the rise of antisemitism in the United States—including on college campuses—and calls on Congress to support the above substantive actions to tackle antisemitism, which congressional Republicans have so far refused to do. Had H. Res. 894 been written as carefully as H. Res. 907, I would vote in support.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
CLAUDE AUNDRAY STEWARD, SR.

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 a mastermind of all things New Orleans, Mr. Claude Aundray Steward, Sr.

Claude Aundray Steward was born to Freddie Stewart and Elfreda Arnold Stewart on a beautiful Wednesday, February 12, 1941. He took pride in being a son of Uptown New Orleans and was able to receive his education in his hometown. Claude graduated from the historic Walter L. Cohen High School in 1959 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from

Southern University. He then went on to serve in the United States Army until he was honorably discharged. Claude was a Life Member of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure club, which is known for its famous Mardi Gras parade, as well as for its members' commitment to giving back to the Greater New Orleans community and positively impacting the lives of those in need.

Mr. Stewart began his career in government at the United States Post Office, eventually transitioning into a variety of different positions in the field. In the evenings he would spend his time immersed in politics, and through God's favor, he became a political mastermind. Claude spent time working as an Accounting Analyst for the City of New Orleans's HUD Program at the New Orleans City Hall under the auspices of Mayor Moon Landrieu, Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial, Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, and Mayor Marc Morial. After his illustrious career at City Hall, Mr. Stewart took on the position of Administrator for the Small Business Incubator at Southern University at New Orleans, where he worked until Hurricane Katrina ravaged the region.

The period after Hurricane Katrina was a trying time, but Mr. Stewart remained optimistic, rebuilt his home, and was eventually able to return to his hometown which he loved so dearly: New Orleans, Louisiana. Claude continued working in government, as he accepted a senior position with the then Orleans Parish Clerk of Court, Kimberly Williamson Butler.

After so many years working for the government, no one would have expected Mr. Stewart to change careers. However, God said, "I have a wonderful new chapter for you." Claude retired from a nearly 50-year successful career in politics, and took on what was supposed to be a "temporary", six month position as Director at the New Orleans Council on Aging Lower 9th Ward Senior Center. He had been appointed by Senator Jon Johnson "just to get the program off its feet", however six months at the Lower 9th ward Senior Center quickly became eleven years. Under his guidance, the center won several awards, and was celebrated in the city of New Orleans as the best Senior Center, with record-breaking attendance. Change-makers from all across the state visited his center participants in order to present their legislative plans. Among these were his favorite visitors—his "adopted son," Senator Wesley Bishop, and his "adopted nephew," (then State Senator) Congressman TROY CARTER.

On Monday, June 26, 2023, Claude Aundray Steward, Sr. was surrounded by his family as he peacefully transitioned from this Earthly life. He left a host of treasured family to mourn: his wife of 57 years, Elaine Warrick Steward; his sons, Claude Jr. and Clinton Sr.; his two daughters-in-law, Ora and Kayron, his five beloved grandchildren, Clinton Jr., Ciara, Braelynn, Katherine and Chennai, as well as Coda, his soon-to-be-born sixth grandchild; his dearest cousins Darrel Ann Stewart, Gerbera Smith, and Rufus Arnold; and his dear godchildren, Tiffany Howard Finister, Winfred Warrick, and Shonna Smith.

Mr. Stewart was preceded in death by his parents, Freddie and Elfreda Stewart; his great-grandmother, Harriet Jones; his dear grandmothers, Victoria Variste and Clara Houston Arnold; his siblings, Freddie Stewart, Harold Stewart; and Caroline Stewart, and