

Upon entering office, Mayor Kuntz inherited an incredibly difficult situation, as the city faced dire financial challenges. Thankfully, Mayor Kuntz, an accountant by trade, put his professional expertise to good use and worked with Republicans, Democrats, and Independents to restore Wenatchee's financial standing. Moreover, Mayor Kuntz's effective, thoughtful leadership has allowed the city to expand and invest in several development projects that have helped the local infrastructure and economy.

It has been a true pleasure to work with Mayor Kuntz over the past 5 years. His North Star has always been how best to serve the people of Wenatchee. We have shared this goal and worked together in a bipartisan manner to finally make the Apple Capital Loop a reality. Mayor Kuntz and I have also worked together to address crime and theentanyl epidemic, prevent catastrophic wildfires, and support agriculture, rural economies, and local healthcare. I will miss serving alongside Mayor Frank Kuntz but will continue to cherish our friendship. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. DOCK J. AND
CARRIE THOMAS JORDAN

HON. VALERIE P. FOUSHEE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of two civil rights leaders and educators, Dr. Dock J. Jordan, and Carrie Thomas Jordan, who helped shape the education system in Durham and Alamance counties, leading the way for future generations in North Carolina.

Dr. Jordan, the son of a former slave, persevered in a deeply segregated environment in rural Georgia. Despite attending just three months of school yearly, Dr. Jordan graduated high school, and later from Allen University in 1892. During his time at Allen University, Dr. Jordan would go on to receive his law degree, eventually passing the bar in South Carolina in 1892 and in Georgia in 1904.

Following stints as the Professor of Literature at Morris Brown College, Dr. Jordan co-authored, "An Appeal for the Colored Schools in the State of Georgia" with W.E.B. Dubois in 1901 to appeal to the white Georgia legislators and defeat a bill that would close one-half to two-thirds of Black public schools in the state. This was an important step towards highlighting gaps in education, as only 15 percent of public-school property was owned by Black schools, despite 48 percent of the school population being represented by Black children.

In 1917, Dr. Jordan was placed on the United States watchlist when the Raleigh Independent published his letter criticizing President Woodrow Wilson's administration. The letter explained the brutal treatment of African Americans during the 1917 East St. Louis Riots and accused President Wilson of disregarding the feelings and rights of African Americans and not valuing them as humans. This letter would resonate deeply within the African-American community and placed a further spotlight on the mistreatment of Black Americans at the time.

Dr. Jordan's academic career would continue until 1939, serving as the President of Kittrell College in North Carolina from 1902 to 1912. From 1912 to 1920, he served as the director of the Teaching Training Department at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro. And from 1918 to 1939 Dr. Jordan was a professor and the chair of the history department at State Normal School in Durham, now known as North Carolina Central University.

Dr. Jordan's wife, Carrie Thomas Jordan, was as equally dedicated towards advancing African-American education. Growing up in a family with deep ties to educators, Carrie Jordan uniquely emphasized spelling, geography, and nature study during her time as a school administrator. Mrs. Jordan served as the superintendent of colored public schools in Durham and is credited with the construction of twelve new schools, as well as hosting the first commencement exercises in Durham County for African American students.

Mrs. Jordan's new commencement tradition for Durham County's African-American schools became a key pillar for the local community. The county commencements were a time that the Black community could gather and celebrate their achievements, academic or otherwise. Carrie Jordan would later note that these academic achievements were proof to both the Black and White communities of the strength, potential, and resilience of the Black community.

The accomplishments, progress achieved, and contributions to African American students by Dr. Dock J. Jordan and Carrie Thomas Jordan should not go unnoticed. The Jordans were educational powerhouses, contributing immensely to the advancement of African American education in Durham County, Alamance County, and what is now North Carolina's 4th District, as a whole.

BELEN ANGUIANO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

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

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

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING
LEGISLATIVE CAREER OF
RANDAL L. GAINES

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 dear friend, Randal L. Gaines. He is a product of St. James Parish, a parish I serve in Congress. Gaines has distinguished himself as an attorney, public servant, and military leader. He formerly served as a tax attorney for the Internal Revenue Service, Assistant City Attorney for the City of New Orleans, and Associate Director of the Criminal Justice Department at Southern University Baton Rouge. He has played key leadership roles in some of the most significant military actions and crises in this nation's history. While serving as a captain with the 159th MASH, one of the first military units to enter Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, Gaines coordinated the evacuation of over 300 wounded American soldiers from the combat zone. Lt. Colonel Gaines was also awarded the Louisiana Cross of Merit for leadership and bravery in coordinating the rescue and evacuation efforts of over 30,000 evacuees from the Louisiana Superdome during Hurricane Katrina. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Gaines served as Military Advisor and Medical Support Coordinator for Task Force Orleans. Gaines also served on the Southern University Board of Supervisors. He serves as Vice Chairman for Elected Officials for the Louisiana Democratic Party.

In November 2012, Gaines was elected as Louisiana State Representative, District 57. During that term, Gaines was elected with the highest winning percentage of all the State Representative and Senate races in Louisiana. He recently served on a significant Black Entrepreneurship Panel member during the City of Birmingham's Empowerment Week, honoring the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing.

During the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)'s celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, Gaines was awarded SCLC's National Chairman's Award for his leadership and dedicated service to the organization and for being a primary factor in why the organization continues to effectively advance the cause of civil rights and social justice. SCLC was founded and led by Dr. Martin Luther King, with membership that included Jessie Jackson, Ambassador Andrew Young, Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, Joseph Lowery, and many other notable civil rights leaders. He was recently appointed to the position of Vice Chairman of SCLC's National Board. Randal has three children who are his life, Randal Jr., Ariel, and Brienna Gaines.

Louisiana and the Democratic Party were blessed to have this incredible gem in Baton Rouge fighting to make our State a better place. I am proud to say I was able to work alongside him through many challenges throughout my political career in state government, respecting the guidance and support he continues to give. I will forever carry his direction as I serve the Constituents of LA-02.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DANIEL CROSS**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Daniel Cross, a resident of Rankin County and a dedicated public servant of the State of Mississippi for over 30 years. Beginning as a volunteer firefighter while still in high school, Daniel has dedicated his entire life to the service and protection of others. His valuable leadership, academic, and personal skills obtained as a graduate of Northwest Rankin High School, the University of Memphis, and the National Fire Academy not only launched him into a career as a professional firefighter with the Reservoir Fire Department, but also propelled him in advancement within the fire service to senior fire instructor, instructor chief, and deputy director of the Mississippi Fire Academy.

Concurrent with Daniel's distinguished fire service career, he also trained and served as a reserve deputy for the Rankin County Sheriff's Department and was elected to the Rankin County Board of Supervisors, ably serving Rankin County for 8 years. Some examples of Daniel's contributions to the fine service include his long tenure on the Mississippi Minimum Fire Standards and Certification Board, his leadership on the Mississippi state response team during Hurricane Katrina, his design and development of the curriculum for the Mississippi Executive Fire Officer Program, and his role as chief architect of the Mississippi Fire Academy Emergency Medical Technician Training Program.

Daniel is a member of Pinelake Baptist Church and devotes all his spare time to little league coaching and to his beloved wife, Julie, and their two sons, Layne and Clayton. I thank God for public servants like Daniel Cross and am honored to recognize him upon his retirement after thirty years of unselfish and immensely meaningful public service to others. I wish him much success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 692; YEA on Roll Call No. 693; YEA on Roll Call No. 694; YEA on Roll Call No. 695; YEA on Roll Call No. 696; and YEA on Roll Call No. 697.

ERICA REED

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

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

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

CELEBRATING FIRST RESPONDERS
IN GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA**HON. RICHARD MCCORMICK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to the Red, Blue and You initiative that celebrates and honors the first responders of Gwinnett County, Georgia. The community event, organized by local business owners, held its 8th annual celebration on November 16, 2023. The brave men and women first responders honored at the event are the first line of defense for people in distress, and often do not receive the recognition and support they deserve. I want to thank these dedicated public safety heroes for serving their communities every single day. Their work makes a difference and impacts all those in our community. God bless each and every one of them. Semper Fidelis.

HONORING FRANK THORNTON ON
HIS RETIREMENT**HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Frank J. Thornton for his 28 years of service on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors representing the Fairfield Magisterial District. Frank is a history maker, becoming the first African American elected to the Henrico Board of Supervisors in 1995 representing the Fairfield Magisterial District. He was elected as the Board's chairman for the sixth time in January 2023 and will complete his tenure with his retirement at the end of this year.

A native of Richmond, Mr. Thornton co-founded and served as president of the Henrico Civic League. His academic accomplishments include a bachelor's degree from Virginia Union University and a master's degree from American University. Mr. Thornton retired in 2014 after a distinguished 40-year career as a professor of French at Virginia Union, where he earned accolades such as the Teacher of the Year award. Mr. Thornton left an indelible mark on his students, community members, and our Commonwealth.

In 1987, Mr. Thornton initially sought election to represent the Fairfield District, and though unsuccessful, he played a pivotal role in a successful federal lawsuit alongside the Henrico Civic League and the American Civil

Liberties Union. This lawsuit challenged and overturned Henrico's magisterial district lines, with the court ruling against county officials who had ensured that Black residents were the minority in every district.

As Henrico County Supervisor, Mr. Thornton demonstrated unwavering commitment to the residents of the Fairfield District. Under his leadership, initiatives were implemented to expand the Greater Richmond Transportation Company (GRTC) bus service to Short Pump, construct several libraries and recreation centers in the county, and expand access to public health services.

Beyond his local responsibilities, Mr. Thornton extended his public service to various organizations, including the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization, the Capital Region Collaborative Organizing Council, and the Maymont Foundation Board of Directors, among others.

Virginia's Fourth Congressional District has been privileged to benefit from the passionate and devoted advocacy of Mr. Thornton for civil rights and social change. Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Thornton for his outstanding leadership and extend my best wishes for a fulfilling retirement from the Henrico County Board of Supervisors. His legacy, marked by tireless dedication, will undoubtedly endure.

HONORING THE LATE CLAUDE
MORSE OF COFFEE COUNTY,
TENNESSEE**HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. DesJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Claude Morse, who sadly passed away November 12, 2023. Tennessee has long been known as The Volunteer State for a reason, and no one I have met personified the spirit of that motto more than Claude Morse.

Claude was a selfless example of volunteerism, and not the kind of symbolic of volunteerism that simply amounts to adding his name to a group. When a need and a project arose, Claude was never just a worker; he was a planner, an organizer, a manager, and a participant.

Morse was actively involved with several nonprofit organizations throughout Coffee County. Honor Flight, Project Appleseed and the Arnold Community Council are just a few of the organizations to which Morse devoted his time and efforts.

As President of Honor Flight Middle Tennessee, Claude worked tirelessly to take eligible World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans on a free trip to see war memorials in Washington, DC. It remains my great honor to personally welcome as many of these heroes as I can when they come, and it was always a special treat to get to spend time with Claude as well.

Over the past several years, Claude has sponsored hundreds of hero veterans and hundreds of hours of work to see it accomplished. Yet to him, it was simply time well spent to recognize those who deserved it.

In addition, Claude also was a long-time member and President of the Arnold Community Council, a group that promotes, protects,