

for their recent act of bravery in the Town of Alton. When a man's jet ski began to sink into the frigid November waters of Lake Winnepesaukee, seven New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) employees and five Top Notch Tree Service employees stepped in to save the man from drowning. I commend the NHDOT workers and the Top Notch Tree Team, as well as the EMS response crew, for their efforts to rescue the man and provide him with needed care.

While removing an old dock from the Alton shoreline, the team of good samaritans heard screams and cries for help from the water. As soon as the workers discovered that a man on a jet ski was sinking deeper into the lake, they jumped into action. Some rescuers ran to Sandy Point Beach Resort to secure a kayak and canoe to row to the man, others called 911 and urged him to continue swimming. When the kayaker reached the sinking jet ski, the drowning man latched onto the rescuer's kayak and was paddled to shore. Although the man was initially unresponsive when brought to shore, hard-working EMS personnel quickly revived him.

The NHDOT and Top Notch Tree teams' quick and effective response to the situation is a result of their empathy, brilliance, and sound judgment. By acting quickly and delegating responsibilities, the rescuers were able to reach the man and save him before it was too late. I commend these individuals for demonstrating a calculated and successful save in a difficult situation.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank these selfless and courageous individuals. Let their courage and heroism serve as an example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL LEE SHAW,  
JR.

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 12, 2023*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Gabriel (Gabe) Lee Shaw, Jr., a dedicated individual, a family-oriented man, a lifelong learner, and one of my dearest friends. I fondly referred to him as my "brother-in-love," it saddens me to say that Gabe passed peacefully on Thursday, December 7, 2023, with his beloved wife of 41 years, Shirley Ellis, District Director of Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District by his side. The breadth of Gabe's accomplishments far exceeds his 78 years.

Gabe was born in Osceola, Arkansas, into the loving union of Gabriel Lee Shaw and Mary Hall Shaw. Gabe's life began as the first son among eight children, including five daughters and three sons. Graduating from North Division High School in 1963, he embarked on a path of hard work and continuous learning, which led him to proudly join the United States Air Force at the age of 17 the same year.

His dedication was evident as he graduated from the U.S. Air Force Explosive Ordinance

Disposal School at Eglin AFB in Florida. Gabe's military service was exceptional, marked by holding one of the highest security clearances during the Vietnam era, concluding with an honorable discharge in 1968. Gabe's work ethic and commitment to detail became a hallmark of his character. He often declared, "you cannot talk work done," demonstrating his resolve to address and solve any challenge thrown his way. Following his military service, his pursuit of knowledge persisted, leading him to enroll in both UW-Platteville and UW-Milwaukee with a focus on mathematics. His passion for cars propelled him to become an Automotive Service Excellence Certified technician.

Known for his love of challenges, Gabe accomplished the remarkable feat of passing all eight comprehensive exams required for the Automotive Excellence certificate on his first attempt, maintaining this certification for an impressive 15 years. He later attended Milwaukee Area Technical College and became a certified Air Conditioning and Heating Specialist. Gabe retired from Miller Brewing Company in 2005 after 30 years of service. His illustrious 30-year tenure at Miller Brewing Company showcased his dedication and loyalty.

Gabe, son of a carpenter, had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge that extended to various subjects, including taxes, carpentry, electrical work, masonry, and heating/cooling. This extensive expertise paved the way for his successful career, culminating in becoming a licensed Real Estate Broker in 1977. With a wealth of knowledge, Gabe thrived as a property owner. His ability to repair and maintain properties enabled him to support his family and community. He bailed out countless people with home and auto repairs operating as a contractor under the telling banner of GOOD AND FAIR.

Gabe's four daughters, son and grandchildren all benefited from his talent, intelligence, love, and generosity. In the weeks before his death, Gabe shared with me a message to all our progeny. "Don't make excuses, if you work hard, look forward and not backwards you can accomplish anything with just an average aptitude." Gabe shared his life with his beloved wife, business partner and best friend, Shirley A. Ellis, who for over 41 years supported each other in health and sickness, exemplifying a dynamic and supportive partnership.

Gabe's role as a great provider extended beyond his immediate family, as he generously shared his wisdom with mentees, especially young men, offering valuable insights into the trade.

Personally, Gabriel supported me during some of the most challenging times of my life. My brother-in-love was a comforting resource for me as an 18-year-old new parent, as a candidate without a dime to donate to my own campaign, as a "handy" friend who rescued me time and time again as a new homeowner of an old house.

Mr. Speaker, Gabriel Lee Shaw, Jr., was a cherished member of Milwaukee, the 4th Congressional District, and the entire State of Wisconsin. He is an example of how patriotism, hard work, lifelong learning, and kindness can create a fulfilling life,

I will always treasure his personal impact on me, and I rise to honor the late Gabriel L. Shaw, Jr.

HONORING ANDREW JOHNSON

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 12, 2023*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Minneapolis City Council Member Andrew Johnson for his hard work and dedication to public service over the past decade. Over the years, Mr. Johnson has been applauded for his community engagement and commitment to small businesses and affordable housing. I had the pleasure of working for Mr. Johnson from 2013 to 2015 as his campaign manager and then Senior Policy Aide.

Council Member Johnson was first elected to office in 2013 and, at the time, was the youngest member on the Council. For three terms, he has proudly served the constituents of Ward 12, which includes the neighborhoods of Cooper, Ericsson, Hiawatha, Howe, Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Morris Park, and Standish, in the southeastern corner of Minneapolis. During his tenure, Mr. Johnson served as the chair of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, Intergovernmental Relations Committee, and the Information Technology Subcommittee.

Over the past ten years, Council Member Johnson has participated in nearly 400 community meetings with his constituents. As a devoted advocate for housing, he worked on the creation of hundreds of housing units within Ward 12. Mr. Johnson also led the City in creating its first new public-housing project in more than a decade. He has been a champion for transit throughout his tenure, working on ordinances to ensure that sidewalks were clear of ice for residents, pushing for funding for street repairs, and advocating for more lanes and safety precautions for bikers. He worked to ensure that all constituents, whether they walked, biked, drove, or used public transit had access to safe transportation.

Council Member Johnson has had an impressive track record of serving his community. Key accomplishments that I want to recognize include the creation of the Small Business Office and Business Portal to serve local small business owners. He also authored the ordinance that allowed gender-neutral single-stall restrooms, led the efforts to rewrite the Animal Care and Control Ordinances to improve the quality of life for animals in shelters and was a co-founding member of the Transgender Equity Council. Last, but certainly not least, Mr. Johnson was also the lead sponsor of an ordinance that granted paid sick leave to over 100,000 constituents.

No problem has ever been too big or too small for City Council Member Johnson. Although his time as a city council member is coming to an end, the legacy of his work for our community and the City of Minneapolis will never be forgotten. He will truly be missed at City Hall and by his constituents.

QUENTIN BANKS

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 12, 2023*

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

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

**RECOGNIZING KAREN CLEVELAND  
FOR HER SERVICE TO LEADERSHIP FAIRFAX**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 12, 2023*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend Karen Cleveland on an inspired career in community service. Earlier this year, Karen announced she would be transitioning from her role as President & CEO of Leadership Fairfax (LFI), which is Northern Virginia's premier leadership development organization.

Karen has become a pillar of our community during her eight-year tenure with LFI, so I am

pleased to report this is not so much a retirement as a turning of the page to her next chapter. I've had the pleasure of knowing and collaborating with Karen for the past three decades, starting with my service on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Since 1988, LFI has dedicated itself to shaping the future leaders of tomorrow. The dedication of LFI to this endeavor is one that I know well; a number of my staff from my time as Providence District Supervisor and later as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors are LFI alumni.

I know firsthand the value that LFI adds to both the graduates and the organizations to which they return. When you walk into a crowded room it's easy to spot the graduates of LFI—they just stand out!

Karen has been an invaluable resource to leaders in both the public and private sectors, serving as a facilitator, mentor, partner, and friend to us through her work on multiple community initiatives.

In addition to her role with LFI, Karen has made important contributions to our community as the first executive director of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, inaugural chair of the Reston YMCA Board of Directors, and executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia. She also previously served on the Wolf Trap Foundation Board of Directors, supporting the only national park dedicated to presenting the performing art.

On behalf of our grateful community, I wish Karen, her husband, Jim, and their family all the best as she embarks on her next chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation for Karen Cleveland's commitment to helping our community reflect the LFI motto to lead, unite, and thrive.

**SALUTING THE SERVICE OF  
STAFF SERGEANT WILLIE A.  
CURTIS, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED**

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 12, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Staff Sergeant Willie A. Curtis, U.S. Army, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His excellent service to both the Army and his local community is a shining example of citizenship and commitment to duty.

During SSG Curtis's 20+ years of service to the United States Army, he went above and beyond to serve his country. Due to his extensive period serving our country, he earned many awards such as the Army Commendation Medal, an Army Achievement Medal, and a National Defense Service Medal, among other medals, decorations, and badges.

Upon retirement, SSG Curtis settled in Taylor, Texas. An eternal optimist, he has an enormous heart and an endless capacity to contribute his time, energy, and resources to assist local students, the homeless, and first responders. Whether it's organizing public music events or celebrating the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., SSG Curtis is renowned as a man unafraid to do the hard work to do good for his neighbors.

When I reflect on SSG Curtis' life of service over the years, I am reminded of the teachings of Christ when he taught, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." To SSG Curtis, these are not mere words but a summons by which to live a fulfilling life. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.