

born on January 23, 1925, in New Orleans, LA, and peacefully passed away on November 29, 2023.

Amos E. Pierce, Jr., was a proud resident of Pontchartrain Park, now recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, and a devoted member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church for over 70 years. Pierce was a distinguished member of the "Buffalo Soldiers" during World War II.

Known affectionately as "Pops" and "Uncle Amos," he married Althea on July 26, 1952, and they had three sons: Stacey Anthony (deceased), Ron Paul, and Wendell Edward. Amos E. Pierce, Jr. was a dedicated employee of the University of New Orleans for 30 years.

Survived by two of his sons, Ron and Wendell, his four grandchildren, Meghan, Logan, Janelle, and Natalie Pierce, daughter-in-law's Debra Pierce and Erica Young, along with his sister-in-law Maryann Edwards and numerous nieces and nephews, Amos E. Pierce, Jr. was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Althea Lee Edwards Pierce.

His story of bravery in the Battle of Saipan was shared in his son's memoir "The Wind in the Reeds," shedding light on the injustice his father faced upon discharge, where his heroic achievements were unjustly dismissed due to racial prejudice.

The Defense Department realized its mistake and offered Mr. Amos his medals, but he declined. Despite the mistreatment, he didn't teach his sons to harbor resentment against the country.

In 2009, Wendell discovered that his dad had been unjustly denied medals. Working with a local TV reporter and Senator Mary Landrieu's office, they successfully corrected the oversight. Amos Pierce, who had earned six medals, was finally honored in a special ceremony at the World War II Museum in New Orleans in October 2009.

He received his medals, including an Asiatic Pacific Campaign medal with a Bronze Service Star and a World War II Victory medal, during a special Armed Forces Day ceremony at The National WWII Museum in 2009. One of the elder Pierce's last public appearances was at the museum's Patriot Awards Gala last month, where his son received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

"He was a man of great resilience, a little boy who grew up in Gert Town, born at a time when everyone and everything around him said his humanity meant nothing, showed that he was something."

Drafted at the outset of World War II, he graduated from Gaudet High School after returning from the war and studied at Southern University and Agricultural & Mechanical College before moving to New York City to study photography.

He is affectionately described as a man of great fortitude who switched gears and became a maintenance man. He changed his profession and found a way to work and support his family, he wasn't overwhelmed by the change. He just adjusted, as men of purpose do.

Southern University held an exhibit of Amos Pierce's photographs, which were lost in August 2005 when Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters destroyed the family's home in Pontchartrain Park, a Gentilly subdivision established in the mid-1950s when segregation was

still official policy, to give African Americans the opportunity of home ownership. The Pierces were among the first Pontchartrain Park residents.

The Pontchartrain Park Community Development Corp., started to buy back homes in the subdivision that had been sold to the government. In 2012, slightly more than five years after moving back into Pontchartrain Park, Amos Pierce's wife, Althea Pierce, died. Amos Pierce kept going.

He was a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, where he was a member of the Knights of Peter Claver. He was praised for giving "the most precious things ever: love and time."

The Greater New Orleans Community has lost an incredible gem. I am proud to have connected with him during my time as a Member of Congress, appreciating the guidance and support he provided. I'll always carry his direction as I serve the constituents of the 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana. May he rest in peace forever.

JONATHAN OSORIO LOPEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

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

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

HONORING SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR RHODE ISLAND MARK HAYWARD

HON. GABE AMO

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, Rhode Islanders know that small businesses are the backbone of every city and town in our great state. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Small Business Administrator District Director for Rhode Island Mark Hayward for his long and important service to our state. Mark's service has benefited small businesses and the constituents of our First Congressional District in innumerable ways. I applaud his decades of commitment, and I express my gratitude on behalf of Rhode Islanders across every community for Mark's dedication.

I understand Mark's retirement has been planned since before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Mark opted to continue to

serve an additional few long years to help ensure that the Rhode Island small business community saw its way through the crisis.

Mark's decision to help his community get to the other side of such a major event is the mark of a true public servant—one who is willing to put others first no matter the circumstances.

The success of so many small businesses across our state is because of Mark's many decades of hard work and expertise. For so many small business leaders, Mark's steady leadership was a lifeline. Whether helping small businesses navigate the Paycheck Protection Program or helping new business owners access the technical resources they needed to be successful, Mark has been relentlessly focused on growing our economy through his public service during his long and effective entire career.

I wish Mark some very well-deserved rest and time off with his wife Nancy, his children, and grandchildren. I know Mark's commitment to our community is thread throughout every fiber of his being and that he will continue to serve his fellow Rhode Islanders for many years to come.

Happy retirement to Mark, and I thank him for all he has done for Rhode Island.

HONORING GUILLERMO A. AHUMADA

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the outstanding contributions of Guillermo A. Ahumada, a distinguished journalist with a passion for giving back to his community.

Mr. Ahumada has demonstrated exceptional professionalism in journalism, lending his talents to various television stations, including Telemundo 52 and Univision 34, and different radio networks. His work on these stations is notable, and his commitment to representing and advocating for the issues of diverse populations shines through in his reporting. He continues to be a prominent voice on immigration, health, and workers' rights issues, and brings attention to stories of impact with his journalism and special reports.

Mr. Ahumada currently serves as the Director of Noticias de Vision, a Latino network where he plays a crucial role in coordinating the news department, scheduling, and supervising the selection of news—particularly topics of interest to the Latino community.

Outside of his role in the media, Mr. Ahumada is passionate about being of service to his community. He is the Executive Director of Chaplains Counselors, a nonprofit organization that has been instrumental in supporting low-income families and fostering self-esteem and personal growth among participants. The organization provides educational workshops on several vital topics, including domestic violence, drug abuse, and family counseling.

Mr. Ahumada also serves as the Colonel of Chaplains of the International Federation of Christian Chaplains. In this capacity, he leads and teaches individuals dedicated to helping those at risk, whether in prison, hospitals, or facing drug addiction.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing Guillermo A. Ahumada for his tireless efforts, professional accomplishments, and contributions to the Latino community.

JUSTIN VALDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

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

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

It is my honor to congratulate Justin Valdez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE PHOEBUS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Phoebus High School Football Team from Hampton, Virginia on becoming the Virginia High School League's Class 4 State Champions.

On Saturday, December 9, 2023, the Phoebus Phantoms won the Class 4 State Championship Game against the Salem High School Spartans with a score of 21–14. This is the third year in a row Phoebus High School has claimed a state championship title following two consecutive victories in the Class 3 division. Led by Coach Jeremy Blunt, the Phantoms won this title on the tail end of an equally astounding season. Phoebus High School closed their season undefeated, with a record of 15 wins and 0 losses, and maintained a 35-game winning streak going back to the two previous seasons.

Throughout the game, the Phantoms and Spartans fought back and forth for control of the scoreboard, with the victor only being determined in the final moments of the game. The two teams, tied 14–14, were seemingly set for a showdown in overtime. But with one second remaining on the clock, freshman quarterback Maurikus Banks completed a pass to senior wide receiver Keyontae Gray, who ran the ball for an 86-yard touchdown to secure the championship. The determination it took for these young athletes to keep fighting down to the end is an example for all of us. Because of their hard work, they have made our community proud.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again congratulate the Phoebus High School Football Team and thank Coach Blunt, the parents, and the entire

Phoebus High School community for supporting these students throughout this remarkable season. I wish them the best in their future endeavors, and I wish the program continued success.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT JAVIER MILEI

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people extend congratulations to the Honorable Javier Milei on being sworn in as the President of Argentina on Sunday, December 10, 2023. His success as a member of the Argentine Chamber of Deputies, as well as a macroeconomics professor, author, and radio host, demonstrates his ability to be a great versatile leader.

Best wishes to President Javier Milei for continued success to address Argentina's economic crisis alleviating poverty, creating jobs, and promoting prosperity.

Historically Argentina with its enterprising citizens and natural resources has been recognized for extraordinary capabilities. I still cherish, as a teenager, in Charleston, South Carolina, meeting Argentine President Arturo Frondizi when he arrived at the Fort Sumter Hotel on the historic Charleston Battery at White Point Garden.

The inauguration of President Milei featured an overwhelming amount of support for him, as thousands of people from across the country and foreign dignitaries from around the world, including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, gathered in downtown Buenos Aires on Sunday.

I am grateful for the commitment of President Milei to strengthen relations with the United States, support Ukraine in response to war criminal Putin's murderous invasion, and diversify trade away from China, currently their second-largest trade nation. Free nations must work together as our adversaries threaten national security and sovereignty.

President Zelensky wrote this week that "Freedom is what unites us, Ukraine and Argentina. We truly cherish it, protect it, and stand ready to strengthen it together."

I look forward to working with President Milei on achieving Peace Through Strength, in the war we did not choose between Dictators with Rule of Gun against Democracies with Rule of Law.

RENEE HERNANDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

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

Renee has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Renee, 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 Renee's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K–8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Renee Hernandez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING TAYLOR DOGGETT FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE 39TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Taylor Doggett and her tremendous work as my Communications Director. In her time in my office, she has been an outstanding leader, mentor, and colleague. It is with gratitude that I thank her for her work and her talents.

From day one, Taylor has been dedicated to ensuring that the constituents of my district felt connected to my work, both at home and in Washington. She developed a streamlined process for expanding and managing contact with constituents on the issues that matter most to them. Under her leadership, we were able to expand our subscriber base significantly and provide accessible channels for the people of the 39th District to feel connected to their Member of Congress and this legislative body.

Taylor proved to be a strong advocate and valuable voice for our most important legislative priorities. She steered our communications team through some of our greatest legislative accomplishments, including the introduction of the Equality Act and the passage of the Korean Valor Act into law. Despite the challenges of being in the minority, her innovative vision for our social media stood out. To the members of her communications team, she has been a mentor and a model of running an effective, relationship-based comms shop.

Above all, Taylor has been a joyful presence in my office. She is cheerful, sharp, and quick-witted, and her jokes often make it to my social media pages. She is known for always being good for a laugh or a heart-to-heart chat among my staff. Wherever she may go down the road, she will always be a member of Team Takano.

I am enormously grateful to Taylor for her contributions. She will be dearly missed, and I wish her luck in her next adventure.

HONORING SHERIFF CULLEN TALTON

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of a devoted patriot and civil servant in Houston County, Georgia, Sheriff Cullen Talton.

Mr. Talton's dedicated career in law enforcement has spanned over five decades,