

A former Pittsburgh Pirates manager, he led the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1986 through 1996. Even though it was his first Major League head coaching gig, he did a damn fine job. Over his 11 seasons with the Bucs, he accrued 851 wins with the team—the third best record in Pirates history.

Jim Leyland led the club to three straight division titles and was named Manager of the Year twice (and then again as manager of the Detroit Tigers). He of course led the Florida Marlins to win the 1997 World Series, and he won the American League pennant in 2006 with the Tigers.

He's a die-hard baseball guy and a beloved Pittsburgher. I'm proud to represent him as my constituent in Thornburg, PA.

I welcome Jim to the Hall, and I congratulate him on this historic achievement.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES VAUGHAN

**HON. JEFF DUNCAN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community and military service of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Vaughan, who celebrated his 100th birthday on December 10, 2023.

Lt. Col. Vaughan began his collegiate career in 1941 at Clemson College, which is now known as Clemson University, before leaving school to serve in WWII as a Combat Engineer in the U.S. Army. After his discharge in 1948, Lt. Col. Vaughan returned to Clemson University and completed a degree in Agricultural Engineering. Next, Lt. Col. Vaughan earned a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

In January 1953, Vaughan married Evelyn Lancaster Vaughan, who passed away earlier this year. He then left to defend our country in the Korean War. He would later retire from the U.S. Air Force Reserve after 28 years of faithful service and begin a new career with the South Carolina Soil Conservation Service—where he worked for 28 years before retiring in 1983.

Lt. Col. Vaughan is a loving father to three children, with seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, Charles Vaughan's life is one of devotion to his country and local community. General Douglas MacArthur once said, "No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation." After 100 years of life, Lt. Col. Vaughan continues to embody the vigilance that Gen. MacArthur described. I hope he will continue to inspire those around him in the years to come.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding votes I missed during the week of December 11, 2023.

I was unable to be in Washington this week as I was home for the funeral and associated mourning period for my sister-in-law, Debra Dann Kay, who lost her four-year battle with lung cancer on December 9, 2023. May her memory be a blessing.

For legislation passed under suspension of the rules, Roll Call Votes 707, 709, 712, 713, 714, 715, 724, I would have voted YEA on these important bipartisan bills. For the procedural motions, Roll Call Votes 710, 711, 719, 722, I would have joined with my Democratic colleagues in voting NO.

On passage of the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act, I would have voted NO during Roll Call Vote 708 because this is comprehensive legislation that deserved thorough consideration and debate, and should not have been considered under suspension of House rules, precluding the ability to offer amendments.

On the Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act, I would have voted YEA on the Democratic Motion to Recommit during Roll Call Vote 716 and would have voted NO on final passage during Roll Call Vote 717. This legislation would needlessly hinder important governmental rulemaking and, if it becomes law, would infuse ambiguity into these administrative processes.

I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Vote 718 to support final passage of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act to expand milk options for schools serving federal school meal programs.

I would have voted NO on Roll Call 720, reflecting my opposition to the absurd Republican impeachment farce. Despite months of focus, Republicans have provided no evidence supporting their claims about President Biden, and in fact have yet to explain specifically what or why they are investigating.

I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 721 for passage of House Resolution 927 condemning antisemitism on university campuses and believe we must do more to urgently address the troubling national trend of growing antisemitism on campus and across the country.

I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Vote 723 on passage of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Finally, I would have voted YES on Roll Call Vote 724 in support of my colleagues Reps. GUS BILIRAKIS and PAUL TONKO's important work to bring more research into combating Parkinson's Disease, a brutal diagnosis and disease impacting their families and millions around the country. I lost my uncle, Stephen N. Berkowitz, this past September to Parkinson's following a heroic 35-year battle with the disease. I am proud to join with and commend Reps. TONKO and BILIRAKIS for their leadership on this issue and pray for the families of Reps. BILIRAKIS, JENNIFER WEXTON and others around the country who have been impacted by Parkinson's.

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HONORING JUDGE DEBORAH MCDONALD

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge, Deborah McDonald.

Judge McDonald grew up in Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District, Fayette, Mississippi and graduated from Jefferson County High School. She is a mother to one adult son and is a faithful member of East Mount Olive MB Church in Lorman, Mississippi. She is a graduate of Alcorn State University, where she studied social science education. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law, where she served on the Moot Court Board.

In 1991, Judge McDonald entered private law practice. Her private practice areas included civil rights, employment discrimination, consumer law, personal injury, product liability and family law. She did extensive work in voting rights litigation, including legislative redistricting.

Judge McDonald served as Fayette Municipal Judge for 23 years. She was attorney for Jefferson County Hospital and Jefferson County Nursing Home for 24 years. She was an attorney for the city of Port Gibson for almost seven years and represented the Hazlehurst School District for three years.

On November 27, 2018, Judge Deborah McDonald was elected and began her judicial term on January 7, 2019. Judge McDonald began her legal career as an attorney representing the poor at the former Southwest Mississippi Legal Services McComb. She worked for Legal Services for nine years, serving as a State Attorney, Managing Attorney and Executive Director.

Judge McDonald has been admitted to practice before all State and Federal courts of Mississippi and the U.S. Supreme Court. She was recently honored with the Pathfinder Award on October 26, 2023, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a trailblazer, Judge Deborah McDonald.

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RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF NORMA TORRES

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Norma Torres. Ms. Torres will retire today, on December 15, 2023, after three decades of service to the Brownsville and Rio Grande International Railway (BRG). She was the first and only Hispanic female president of a short line railroad in Texas history.

Norma joined the Brownsville and Rio Grande International Railway as a Customer Service Agent in 1989, rose through the ranks becoming President in 2001. During her tenure as president, BRG's carload grew exponentially from moving 10,000 cars per year to more than 52,000 cars today.

Norma recently stated, "When I started 20 years ago, I was the only woman in many rail industry meetings. And for me, coming from being the one woman in the meeting, it's always a proud moment to see all the women contributing to the rail industry today with high leadership positions."

Mr. Speaker, Norma Torres is a trailblazer and a leader. Her contributions to the Brownsville and Rio Grande International Railway and the Rio Grande Valley are invaluable, and I congratulate her on her retirement.

## HONORING BRAYLON MEADE

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary constituent of mine, Braylon Meade. Braylon's dedication to athletics, commitment to academics and service to others is an inspiration to our entire community. Kind, positive, and contagious work ethic are just some of the several descriptions of Braylon's outstanding character.

As a student at Washington-Liberty High School Braylon displayed commitment to academics taking all International Baccalaureate classes. Outside of the classroom he dedicated himself as both a football and basketball player for the Generals. One coach remarked, "Braylon went above and beyond to make himself the best athlete that he could be. He was the kind of player that, if you asked him to run through a brick wall, he'd do it and not complain."

Off the court, Braylon served his community by coaching youth sports, organizing a basketball tournament to raise funds for cancer research, and volunteering at a local food pantry.

As a fan, Braylon's dedication to the Maize and Blue was unmatched—ultimately gaining acceptance into the University of Michigan.

As his birthday approaches and we enter the holiday season, I wish Braylon's mother Rose, father Kris, sister Kerry, brother Bryan and countless friends, teammates and classmates peace knowing and feeling the love that surrounds Braylon.

## HONORING MAHARAT RORI PICKER NEISS

**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to honor Maharat Rori Picker Neiss, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis for her steadfast advocacy for the people of St. Louis. As Congresswoman for Missouri's First District, I have seen firsthand how her leadership has helped to bring greater understanding and compassion throughout our district and the state of Missouri.

Rori is a passionate advocate for the Jewish community, the LGBTQIA+ community, and for social justice, and she is a trailblazer in her own right. As one of the first graduates of Yeshivat Maharat, a groundbreaking institution training Orthodox Jewish women to be spiritual leaders and halakhic authorities, she has paved the way for others to follow.

Rori also works relentlessly to advance interfaith initiatives by bringing together diverse local and national leaders. She has been a strong advocate and friend to my office as we work to do the most for every person in St. Louis—starting with those who have the greatest need, and we are grateful for her leadership. Missouri's First District is undoubtedly enriched by Rori's service. On behalf of Missouri's First, I thank her for all that she does to strengthen our community.

## HONORING D'ASHLEY COHEN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Black professional, D'Ashley Cohen.

D'Ashley Cohen is a native of Grenada, MS, and a graduate of Grenada High School. She is the daughter of Darin Cohen and Andrea Cohen. She is the mother of Addison Garner, and the late Madison Garner. She is also the youngest of her siblings.

After graduating high school, she attended South Alabama where she received her bachelor of science in K-6 elementary education and joined the illustrious Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, where she served as the leader of the Economic Development Committee. After entering her career in teaching, she pursued her master's degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on reading and language arts.

D'Ashley developed the love for students during her teaching career, which motivated her to pursue her specialist degree in educational administration and supervision.

D'Ashley is currently the owner/founder of Inspire Educational Services, LLC, where she provides educational consulting for struggling schools and tutoring services.

D'Ashley is an English language arts instructional coach, where she specializes in training, co-teaching, and modeling effective implementation of the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards, Mississippi Teacher Performance Standards, and Louisiana State Standards.

She is currently pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership at Nova Southeastern University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing D'Ashley Cohen for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be a light that shines even in her dark times.

## HONORING SYLVIA OGRON

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish my constituent, Sylvia Ogron, a Happy 100th birthday. Sylvia is the proud mother of four, grandmother of nine, and great-grandmother of 19—the matriarch of a big, beautiful family that is her pride and joy.

Sylvia, once an avid baker and tennis player, has lived in South Florida for decades, where she has enjoyed watching the new generations of her extended family continue to grow.

Always the competitor, Sylvia has lived a long, full life, surrounded by family and friends who love her dearly and cherish every moment spent with her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Sylvia a Happy 100th birthday—here's to many more.

## RECOGNIZING NADINE WOODWARD

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2023*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nadine Woodward and thank her for both her dedication and service as the 45th Mayor of Spokane.

Nadine has been a trusted member of our Spokane community since 1990, when she first arrived after earning her degree from the University of Portland. She began her career—and quickly became a household name—working for two of our region's television news stations, KREM and KXLY.

In 2019, after nearly three decades as a broadcast journalist, Nadine decided to step into the political arena and run for public office. In 2020, she was sworn in as mayor and got to work for our city. For 4 years, she worked tirelessly and dedicated herself to making Spokane a better place for people to live, work, and enjoy.

This wasn't always easy. Mayor Woodward took office during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and she quickly proved herself to be the fierce leader we needed in times of uncertainty. She fought to protect individual liberty, get children back in school, and did everything she could to keep businesses open—all while making sure people had access to the health care they needed during an unprecedented time in our nation's history.

Nadine also made it a top priority to support our city's men and women in blue who work around the clock to keep our community safe. She was instrumental in establishing a violent crime task force that empowered law enforcement officers to do their jobs and get dangerous offenders off the streets. She also tackled the homelessness crisis head-on, working hard to clean up Camp Hope, which was at one time the largest homeless encampment in Washington state and a hotbed for drug dealing and other criminal activity.

Leading with compassion on this issue, Mayor Woodward worked side-by-side with shelter organizations to increase capacity by more than 500 beds. But she didn't stop there, instead championing efforts to increase homeownership within our community, working with the city council on the Spokane Housing Action Plan to help increase affordable and accessible housing options for families. The plan, which included new zoning laws to fast-track construction, will have a long-lasting impact by making it easier to create new residential areas that meet Spokane's current and future housing needs.

Perhaps what I'm most grateful to Mayor Woodward for is her commitment to being a steadfast partner in the fight against fentanyl. It has been encouraging to work with her to bring together law enforcement, community leaders, and families in an effort to stop the flow of this deadly poison that is destroying lives and families in our city. Her leadership on this issue has been so important to not only raising awareness, but actually beginning to get these drugs off our streets.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Nadine's committed service to the Spokane community that I am blessed to call home. She has been a tremendous advocate for our city, and as she moves on from her position as mayor, I