

ask that my colleagues join me in thanking her for her years of devotion and public service.

HONORING SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT ATHLETES ON THEIR SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the student athletes of Sandhills Community College (SCC) on achieving GPAs of high remark.

SCC has a proud history of both academic and athletic excellence and is a regional leader on both fronts. I was proud to see so many SCC student athletes carry on this great tradition.

In particular, I would like to recognize the following members of these teams on their achievement of this honor. Student athletes, Ava Ray, Trinity Ahing of the Women's Golf team, Emma Brown, Lannah Huneycutt, Keke Lawrence, Alyssa Maragelis, Anna Ty Ivey, Jalasia Ray, Mackenzie Swett, Rachel Burley, Olivia Barlowe Britta Martin of the Beach and Court Volleyball teams, Alon Hanani, Isaiah Nelson, Zac Sledge, Sam Stoltz, Kendall Woodriddle, and LeNijel Robinson of the Basketball team, and Logan Hay, Noah Maness, Alex Martin, Liam Harris, Supinat Rvjraran and Ben Read of the Men's Golf team.

Their great success in the classroom is proof that each of them truly embody what it means to be a student athlete. I think I speak for everyone in our community when I say they have made Pinehurst and the whole of Moore County proud.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the SCC Athletics Department for this great achievement and to wish them continued success both on the court and in the classroom.

HONORING CURTIS LACEY

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 tenacious and selfless leader, Mr. Curtis Lacey. Curtis has shown dedication to the citizens of Warren County.

Curtis Lacey, tree and brush foreman for the Warren County Road Department, is commended for his lifesaving actions on October 30, 2023. On that afternoon, Lacey approached the scene of a wreck that left Linda Blissett, 76, trapped in her vehicle. He acted quickly, administering lifesaving care until the authorities arrived.

The Warren County Board of Supervisors issued a proclamation commending Lacey for his heroic efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Curtis Lacey for his passion

and dedication to the City of Vicksburg and Warren County.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT
LYNETTE ZELEZNY

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my friend and colleague, Congressman DAVID VALADAO, to recognize President Lynette Zelezny on her retirement today as President of California State University, Bakersfield. Over the course of her 35-year career in the education field, President Zelezny has inspired students, professors, and administrators through her passion for improving the academic success of our next generation, especially within the California State University system.

President Zelezny's career with the California State University system started in 1974 with her enrollment in Humboldt State University, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in 1979 and her Master's Degree in Psychology in 1981. Following her completion of a Doctorate in Social Psychology at Claremont Graduate University and an MBA from the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno, President Zelezny stayed at Fresno State, serving in a variety of educational and leadership roles. Most notably, President Zelezny served as Chief Academic Officer, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Fresno State. In 2018, President Zelezny made history when she became the first female President of California State University, Bakersfield.

Over the past five years, under President Zelezny's leadership, California State University, Bakersfield has successfully navigated new challenges and achieved several important milestones. She not only led the university through the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic but did so with an unwavering commitment to the well-being of students and faculty. One of President Zelezny's top achievements has been developing CSUB's California Energy Research Center into a robust hub for energy research throughout the Central Valley. As Kern County gains and sustains ever more national importance as a hub for energy production, future generations in our region will look back on President Zelezny's initiative with great appreciation.

A true champion of Central Valley education, particularly in Bakersfield, President Zelezny's passion for the community has been a driving force behind her efforts. She recognized the unique challenges and opportunities presented in the region and strengthened the ties between the university and our community.

On behalf of the Central Valley of California, we would like to express our gratitude for President Zelezny's leadership to California State University, Bakersfield and her role in shaping the future careers of countless students. We would like to congratulate President Zelezny on a well-deserved retirement, a successful career in education, and for her many contributions to our community.

HONORING REVEREND DOCTOR
LUKE TORIAN

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and honor the Rev. Dr. Luke Torian on his 35-year career in ministry. Dr. Torian has dedicated his life to serving and ministering to others through his work in the church, in the community, and in Virginia's House of Delegates.

A strong believer in the power of education, Dr. Torian graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Winston-Salem State University, followed by a Master of Divinity degree from the School of Theology at Virginia Union University, and finally a Doctor of Ministry degree from the School of Divinity at Howard University.

Throughout his career, Dr. Torian has served in many roles including youth minister, associate pastor, and chaplain. In 1995, he was installed as Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, where he has led a vibrant congregation of more than 4,000 people. He has been a fixture of the community, providing his congregation with support, kindness, and fellowship. Dr. Torian has built a church community that ministers to its congregants through Sunday services, Bible studies, social activities, music and arts, scholarship opportunities, and more.

Dr. Torian's outstanding leadership has been recognized by many over the years. He was awarded the James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of Faith Award by Howard University, a reflection of his dedication to his work and his positive contributions to his community. As a trusted source of knowledge and service, his impact has extended past Prince William County—first with his appointment to the Virginia Board of Counseling by Virginia Governor Mark Warner, and later with his 2009 election to represent the 52nd District in the Virginia House of Delegates.

As a Delegate, Dr. Torian has served his constituents faithfully, advocating to improve education and criminal justice policies in the Commonwealth. In 2020, he was chosen to chair the Virginia House Appropriations Committee—a historic appointment that made him the first African American in Virginia's history to lead the Committee, and a role he will resume in 2024 as he continues his legislative service.

As we look back on his career in the church, Dr. Torian has been a tremendous leader in his community, providing exceptional service and ministry to those in Prince William County and beyond. I am certain that his next chapter will also be guided by his love for service, love for learning, and his faith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Rev. Dr. Luke Torian, I wish him, his beloved wife Clarice and their daughter Constance, the very best as they prepare for the next step in his career.

HONORING ROSLAND E. CLINTON

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 Rosland E. Clinton.

Rosland E. Clinton was born on December 31, 1980, to the late Jessie and Estella Clinton in Clarksdale, Mississippi. She was welcomed by four siblings: Leslie Clinton-Johnson, Peter T. Clinton, J. Audre Clinton and Alexis Clinton. She grew up on Lewis Street in Marks, Mississippi.

Rosland attended K–8th grade at Westside Junior High School (currently Quitman County Middle School). After completing Junior High School in 1995, she attended Quitman County High School (currently Madison S. Palmer High School). During her time in high school, she received notable honors/accolades such as highest scorer on the Functional Literacy Exam (FLE), Miss Belle in the Belles & Beaus Pageant, Miss Sophomore, Miss Junior, Senior Class President and the 1st Miss Madison S. Palmer High School. She graduated number 3 in the class of 1999. Rosland continued her education at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi. In May of 2003, she graduated with an associate of arts degree in general business. Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi, was her next stop. She graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in business administration in May 2006. After years on an educational sabbatical, Rosland enrolled in Kaplan (Purdue) University in 2012 to obtain a master's degree in business administration. She completed the program with honors in July 2014. Currently, she is preparing to enroll in an educational specialist program for spring 2024.

Rosland has been employed with the Quitman County School District since joining the team in October 2001. She has served in multiple roles such as an assistant teacher, library aide, reading teacher, special education teacher, cheer coach, powerlifting coach and assistant principal. Currently, she is the principal at Quitman County Elementary School. This is her third year serving as principal. The school has obtained and sustained a 'B' accountability rating. She believes in building capacity in her students and staff.

Rosland is the mother of two children, De'Marcus Rucker and De'Maya Thompson. She has one grandson, Aaron Jackson III. She also has a goddaughter, Paris Riley that she loves like her own. She often says that her children give her the drive to push harder in spite of the turbulence brought on by life.

Rosland is an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She currently serves as second antibasileus in the Zeta Psi Zeta Chapter Clarksdale. She stands on the sorority's founding principles: scholarship, service, sisterly love and finer womanhood. She is a board member for Reclaimed (The Village) in Marks, Mississippi. She is also a member of Silent Grove MB Church in Marks under the leadership of Rev. Ezra Towner, Jr. She serves on additional panels that work toward improving humanity and the community.

Life has issued Rosland many trials and tribulations such as losing her dad at a young age, becoming a teen mom, suffering depres-

sion/anxiety, and experiencing rejection. Her entire outlook on life changed August 5, 2006, when her mother suffered a heart attack and stroke, which caused an internal brain aneurysm. She began to focus on putting things in order by priority and doing things that made her happy. She tries to find the positive in every situation. If people were asked to describe her with three words, they would probably say that she is analytical, supportive, and compassionate. Her motto is: "If God is in it, the devil can't do you any harm".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing principal Rosland E. Clinton for her dedication in serving her school and community.

CONSIDERING THE PROPOSED MENTHOL BAN**HON. MIKE EZELL**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express deep concern regarding the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s decision to ban the sale of menthol cigarettes. If the Administration continues with this proposal, it must work with the appropriate law enforcement agencies to mitigate the potential increase in illicit cross-border activities related to menthol cigarette smuggling.

While I acknowledge the negative health effects of cigarettes, the consequences of opening an illicit market could be detrimental. As a career law enforcement officer, I have seen the effect of imposing federal bans on contraband firsthand. Mandates such as this encourages terrorist and cartel organizations to smuggle cigarettes across our wide-open southern border. With the increasing influx of drugs, including fentanyl and narcotics, already coming across our border and the number of cartels reportedly expanding operations to include cigarette smuggling, our nation cannot afford to give terrorist and cartels another revenue stream to terrorize our communities.

As the Administration looks to finalize this rule, I urge the administration to consider all the consequences of this rule and take steps to lessen the risks associated with this ban.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT E. 'BOBBY' BURNS**HON. AUGUST PFLUGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert E. 'Bobby' Burns on his retirement from the Midland Chamber of Commerce after twelve years leading the organization, and more than four decades of service to the Midland community.

Bobby is officially retiring after an illustrious career as a business owner, three-term mayor, and most recently as the President and CEO of the Midland Chamber of Commerce. Under Bobby's leadership, the city of Midland and its business community soared to new heights.

As Mayor, he led the charge to connect Midland and Odessa to the rest of the country

through the creation of the Midland International Airport and connected Midlanders through the construction of Loop 250. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Scharbauer Sports Complex.

While leading the Chamber, Bobby revitalized the organization and oversaw the Four-Star Accreditation of the Midland Chamber with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He was instrumental in the development of the first-class Barbara & George H.W. Bush Convention Center in the heart of downtown Midland, and he raised funds for the life-size sculpture of the President and Mrs. Bush.

I especially want to recognize Bobby for his love of Midland and this great nation. Under his watch, Bobby organized the 4th of July Star-Spangled Salute and the Midland-Odessa Fly-In to Washington D.C. The Salute is still the most widely attended annual single-day event in all of Midland, and the Fly-In brings West Texas values—especially those foundational to the oil and gas industry—to our nation's capital.

Above all else Bobby is a family man: husband to Denise 'Deni,' father of two, and grandfather of three. I want to sincerely thank his family for their service and for supporting his efforts. Please join me in recognizing Bobby for his decades of selfless service to the community of Midland.

HONORING THE ST. LOUIS COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to congratulate the St. Louis Metro Area Chapter Coalition of Black Trade Unionists on their 50th anniversary.

For 50 years, CBTU has been the voice of Black workers within the trade union movement in St. Louis. By pushing organized labor to create more equitable conditions and meet the needs and aspirations of Black and low-income workers, CBTU has truly been a voice for the people.

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists played an integral role in defeating right-to-work in Missouri, and they never stopped fighting and coordinating workers across our region and state to vote and remain civically engaged. Through education and outreach, CBTU has been on the frontlines fighting for our workers, teachers, and most marginalized communities, and ensuring that our democracy is protected.

St. Louis and I are forever grateful for CBTU's unwavering solidarity. CBTU is continuously leading with compassion for our entire St. Louis community in the struggle for racial equity, justice, and freedom. Congratulations on 50 years of service.

HONORING LTC NAYARI CAMERON**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 Lieutenant Colonel