

whether in New York or Connecticut, Pierce made certain to stay active in organizations that shape neighborhoods and towns.

Upon his permanent move to Connecticut, Pierce very quickly established himself as a lynchpin in the southeast Connecticut business community. By 1974, Pierce was appointed president of the Southeast Connecticut Chamber of Commerce—truly a meteoric rise given his just coming to the region in 1971. By 1981, his position in the chamber changed from President to Executive Director—an office he held until 1984. Pierce was not content serving his community in merely a business capacity. Some of his additional involvement includes acting as president of the New London Rotary, serving as a trustee of the Savings Bank of New England, and as vice president of the Connecticut Retail Merchants' Association. He was also heavily involved in the United Way of southeast Connecticut, sitting on its Board of Directors and being named Residential Chairman. He is remembered for the vigor he attacked his work with at the United Way, urging fellow community members to generously give to its drives.

By 1980, Pierce retired from managing Sears stores and focused his new-found time on realty and government. In 1984, Pierce was elected State Senator and served in the prestigious and powerful position of co-chair of the Appropriations Committee. After his tenure came to an end, Pierce remained active in his community. In 1993, he helped lead the response to the decline of the defense industry in Eastern Connecticut, championing retraining programs for those workers laid off by a shifting economy in the wake of the Cold War.

Mr. Speaker, I consider myself incredibly lucky to represent constituents as community oriented as Pierce. Pierce showed up in every aspect of his life—whether for his family or for his neighbors. Pierce served not for his own glory or fame, but because it was right to do so. Although his passing leaves a hole in Eastern Connecticut's community, we can take solace in the knowledge that his legacy of selfless volunteerism and care for his fellow citizens lives on in the thousands he touched. We mourn his passing with his surviving family—children Michael, Thomas, Stephen, and Patricia as well as their respective spouses and children. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest admiration and appreciation for a life well lived.

RECOGNIZING GARY
BRYNJULFSON

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable man, Mr. Gary Brynjulfson.

Gary was born on February 25, 1947, in Black River Falls, WI to parents Leonard and Mae Brynjulfson. At just 20 years old in 1967, Gary courageously signed the dotted line to join the United States Army where he served for two years before he was honorably discharged in 1969. During his time in the Army, Gary earned several commendations such as the Purple Heart, Expert (81mm Mortar) Sharpshooter (Rifle) Vietnam Service Medal

with two Bronze Service Stars, and the National Defense Service Medal Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Following his time in the service, Gary met the love of his life, Ethelyn "Lynn" Jensen, and the two were married on May 27, 1978. As the years went by, Gary and Lynn welcomed two children, a daughter, Camille, and son, Scott. As Gary's family continued to expand, he and his wife enjoyed traveling to see his grandchildren: Tabitha, Evan, Harper, and Mabel, participate in various activities.

Gary was a family and community-focused man in all aspects of his life. After his time in the military, Gary became heavily involved in the community and was one of the top advocates for local veterans. A member of VFW Post 2778, Gary was a member of the honor guard, and became the President of Vets & Friends, an organization that serves free breakfast every Friday and free lunch on Saturdays for veterans throughout the community. I was honored to meet Gary at their breakfasts numerous times, and I am grateful for his leadership and commend him for his lifelong dedication to his country and community.

Gary's kindness and thoughtfulness will surely be missed by his friends, family, and the entire community. A husband, father, veteran, business leader, advocate, and friend—Gary touched many lives throughout Northeast Wisconsin. I commend Gary for his commitment and unwavering service to the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Northeast Wisconsin extend their sincere thanks to Mr. Gary Brynjulfson for his extraordinary service to this country and community. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and to all the lives he touched. I offer my sincere condolences to Gary's wife, Lynn, and their entire family during this time. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and to all the lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING JACKSONVILLE
STATE UNIVERSITY'S NEW ORLEANS
BOWL VICTORY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jacksonville State University football team for winning their first bowl game in program history in their first season as an FBS team.

On December 16, 2023, The Jacksonville State University Gamecocks battled it out at the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, beating the University of Louisiana 34 to 31 with a walk-off field goal in overtime to secure their win. The game was played at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Jacksonville State University Gamecocks finished their regular season 8–4. This was head coach Rich Rodriguez's second year with the program, the first bowl game victory in program history, and the team's first year playing at the FBS level.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Rodriguez, the Jacksonville State University football team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Gamecocks.

HONORING SONJA L. JOHNSON

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank and celebrate Mrs. Sonja L. Johnson for over 25 years of dedicated service to our country and its Veterans.

Sonja served as a part of the U.S. Army for five years. During that time, she served our country selflessly and with honor. Following her time in the Army, she joined the Marine Corps System Command as a Contract Specialist where she excelled and achieved Contracting Level 3 Career Field Certification with the Department of the Navy.

In February 2012, she joined the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a Contract Specialist at the Strategic Acquisition Center. In 2017, Sonja was promoted to Procurement Analyst because of her exemplary credentials, experience, and professionalism. During her tenure at the VA, Sonja has followed through on delivering Veterans, their widows, and their children with extraordinary service and support.

Sonja has been a compassionate public servant and supportive colleague. She has provided her teammates with training and developmental opportunities—proving to be an asset to all around her. Her work ethic and love for service extend past her job. In her free time, Sonja volunteers with her church and her sorority.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Mrs. Sonja L. Johnson for her service on behalf of our country and our Veterans and in wishing her the best as she retires to spend time with her family and loved ones.

HONORING ASHLEY SKINNER

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Grand View Christian School teacher Ashley Skinner of Des Moines, Iowa, for her achievement in receiving an award for Excellence in Christian Education from the Herzog Foundation.

Born to a military family, Ashley grew up a resident of the world. She attended Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary where she graduated with a B.A. in Elementary Education and Bible in 2008. She has spent her career in Christian education and currently teaches at Grand View Christian School—the same school her mom taught at in the 1980s. As a 2023 recipient of the Herzog Christian Teacher of the Year Award, she was selected for demonstrating the highest levels of excellence and innovation in her classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Ashley Skinner for her incredible work in being a phenomenal educator and mentor. Her achievement demonstrates the highest dedication to education and a selfless commitment to her students. I join Ms. Skinner's family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating her for receiving this award.

HONORING ST. LOUIS CITY AND
COUNTY LIBRARIES**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today with gratitude to St. Louis Public Libraries and St. Louis County Libraries for their continued partnership in providing lifesaving resources as part of my office's Congress in Your Neighborhood program. This initiative was started in October 2021 at four public libraries in the region to help residents across Missouri's First District in navigating federal agencies, handling casework, and meeting with casework staff in their communities. Its success is largely attributed to the reliability and proximity of our beloved network of public libraries.

Our libraries continue to help build healthy communities. Not only do they provide access to free education, but they also do the essential work of providing vital services and safe spaces to gather. Constituent service is about meeting our neighbors where they are, and our libraries do that every day.

I am proud to partner with our public libraries, and I will be forever grateful to our librarians, administrators, staff members and volunteers for their dedicated service to our community.

CONCERNING SITUATION IN
HONDURAS**HON. WARREN DAVIDSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to a situation in Honduras that threatens American investment in the region.

President Castro has threatened to expropriate resources from U.S. investment in Honduras in contravention of the Dominican Republic–Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). Seven of my Republican colleagues and I wrote a letter to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai urging the Biden Administration to enforce investor protections in U.S. trade agreements. We cannot allow U.S. trade agreements to go unenforced or leave U.S. investors defenseless.

While I received a response to our letter, it did not clarify how the State Department will defend the rights of U.S. investors if the Honduran government follows through on its statements and actions, which indicate an intent to take that property. Americans invest money in Central and South America with the reasonable expectation that the U.S. will protect their investments from theft. These investments help extend economic stability to the region.

In addition, China's efforts to replace the United States as a trade partner with Honduras pose a national security threat near our southern border. On September 21, 2023, the President of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, spoke at the United Nations, where she bragged that her nation had "officially opened relations with the People's Republic of China." In addition, she condemned sanctions on communist

countries like Cuba and Venezuela. These are troubling statements from President Castro, especially when paired with her government's actions.

The PRC's influence is rapidly increasing in America's backyard. I urge the Biden Administration to reassert the principles of the Monroe Doctrine and protect American interests in the Western Hemisphere.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present during Roll Call vote No. 722, 723, and 724 on December 14, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted: on Roll Call No. 722, NO, on Roll Call No. 723, YES, and on Roll Call No. 724, YES.

RECOGNIZING 313 DODGE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 5th anniversary of 313 Dodge.

313 Dodge in Kaukauna opened its doors in 2018 and is a staple of Kaukauna that offers a creative and unique menu for everyone to enjoy. Located at 313 Dodge Street, the location holds historical significance as it was originally a home built in 1883 before being fully repurposed and renovated.

Throughout the years, 313 Dodge has grown dramatically and I applaud local Kaukauna-natives and owners Kyle and Janel Megna for their continued success. They have become well known for their delicious drinks and tasty food items featured on their menu. Over the years, 313 Dodge has increased their customers' experience by hosting events for all to enjoy, such as live entertainment, Food Truck Tuesdays, and their walk-up window service. Recently, 313 Dodge crafted the world's largest old-fashioned flight that included 104 glasses of hand muddled brandy old fashioned. For five years, 313 Dodge has been committed to offering outstanding customer service and is a wonderful business for people in Kaukauna and throughout Northeast Wisconsin to enjoy.

Given their successful business operation and emphasis on customer service, 313 Dodge has been recognized by local organizations, evident from the fact that Kyle and Janel were the recipients of the 2022 Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Heart of the Valley Chamber. I commend the entire 313 Dodge team for their commitment to customer service and wish them nothing but the best for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize 313 Dodge in Kaukauna on their 5th Anniversary. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Kyle and Janel Megna and the entire 313 Dodge team on this milestone and wish them years of continued success.

HONORING FREDERICK DOUGLAS
DELOCH**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to recognize the extraordinary life and legacy of the late Frederick Douglas Deloch, affectionately known as "DIRT", and to express our deepest condolences to his family on news of his passing. His passing has left a void in the hearts of all those who knew and loved him.

Frederick's journey was marked by resilience, determination, and unwavering commitment to service. His pursuit of engineering, despite financial constraints, led him to enlist in the Army, where he excelled both academically and in the line of duty. Serving with honor during the Korean War, Frederick's sacrifices were justly acknowledged with the Purple Heart, a testament to his bravery and dedication to the defense of our Nation.

Beyond his military service, Frederick continued to serve within the community. His 37-year tenure with the United States Postal Service, starting as a Postal Clerk and rising to the esteemed position of Postal Inspector, is a reflection of his exemplary character and dedication to public service.

A true pillar of faith and community, Frederick was a devoted member of the Antioch Baptist Church for over 50 years. His commitment to community service extended through his active involvement in organizations such as the National Organization of Blacks in Law Enforcement (N.O.B.L.E.), exemplifying his dedication to making a positive impact beyond his immediate circles.

Frederick's contributions to the Albert Holman Lodge No. 179 of Prince Hall Masons, where he achieved the prestigious rank of a 33rd Degree Mason, and his role as Honorary Past Potentate of Medinah Temple No. 39, Prince Hall Masons, are indicative of his commitment to the principles of brotherhood, charity, and service.

In remembering Frederick, one cannot overlook his motto: "If I can help someone along the way, then my living will not be in vain." His 90 years were a testament to a life well-lived, sowing seeds of goodwill and leaving an indelible mark on his community. In recognition of Frederick Douglas Deloch's extraordinary life and service to his country and community, Missouri's First District and I again extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May his legacy continue to inspire others and serve as a source of strength for those whose lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT CHUCK POWERS**HON. PAUL TONKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Chuck Powers, an exceptional member of the Air National Guard, for his distinguished service and dedication to furthering the mission of the National Guard.