

for countless federal programs to spur community development projects in his community, and he has been instrumental in working with local government and the various federal departments and agencies to improve the quality of life for Georgians.

As the Planning Director for the Middle Flint Area Planning and Development Corporation and the River Valley Regional Commission, Gerald Mixon has become a vital resource to the dozens of local government officials and non-profit institutions that fall within his reach. His deep knowledge and experience of the grant-writing process and bottom-up community development has positioned him to serve as an essential lifeline for these community leaders who often seek technical assistance and sound advice as they work to improve their communities and neighborhoods. His service in this regard served the community tremendously as local officials are often tasked with working together to implement region-wide projects under the Community Development Block Grant, including in transportation and infrastructure, housing, and anti-poverty programs.

Gerald has built an impressive career in his lifetime, planning and overseeing the successful completion of countless community development projects, including leading the efforts to implement numerous comprehensive plans for efficient and sustainable solid waste management in the Middle Flint and River Valley Regions. Amid frequent destructive tornadoes, hurricanes, and other severe weather-related incidents, Gerald authored eight pre-disaster plans for counties and cities across the region to help mitigate damage and the need for costly repairs following disasters. And he modernized his region's public safety apparatus by conceptualizing and organizing a seven-county Enhanced 911 center covering the largest service area in Georgia that went on to become the Middle Flint E-911 system, which is still in operation today.

Gerald has accomplished much throughout his life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Diane, and his three children, Heather, Stuart and David.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." The Middle and Southwest Georgia region is a better place today because Gerald Mixon gave so much to so many for so long to make our communities stronger, better place to live. As a man of tremendous work ethic, organizational talent, vision, and tact, his life's work has helped create prosperity and opportunities in Georgia that many may have once not thought possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Gerald Mixon upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career of service to his beloved community.

HONORING THE GROUNDBREAKING  
CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
CARRIE OWENS

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of an extraordinary educator who shaped the lives of thousands of mid-Michigan students during her groundbreaking career.

Carrie Owens grew up in Florida during the time of segregation and high racial tensions, and she knew from an early age she wanted to work toward dismantling the systems she saw all around her. Though her parents had no formal education, they pushed their kids to have what they had not, and a young Carrie thrived in school. She eventually became a teacher and was hired by Okemos Public Schools in 1964, becoming the first Black teacher in the district.

It's said that when Mrs. Owens first interviewed for a job at Cornell Elementary School in Okemos, she vowed to help each student individually, because she recognized what many even in education circles did not yet grasp—that all students learn at different paces and in different ways. Just as she thrived in school, Owens did everything to ensure her students did the same, and she was put in charge of a transitional class of elementary students, who up until that point had had limited success in school. Owens made sure each of her students progressed to grade level, and empowered them to understand how they learned.

Word of her tireless dedication to student success and her innovative teaching philosophy spread quickly, and many families moved to Okemos just so their children could be in her class.

By the time she retired from teaching in 2001, she had touched thousands of young lives and helped change the face of education in the community. Not only did her hiring pave the way for other teachers of color, by the end of career Okemos had its first Black superintendent, and the district was overall a more diverse, inclusive community.

As we mark Black History Month, I salute Carrie Owens, who is Black history in Okemos. This trailblazing teacher has left her mark on the hearts and minds of the entire community, and we are so much better for her service. May her lessons live on in all the students she touched, and in all the lives she changed.

HONORING YING LEE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of my dear friend and first legislative director, Ying Lee, and her incredible contributions to her community and our country. I want to extend my deepest condolences to Ying's children, Sarah and Max, her grandchildren, Max Jr. Kelley, and Olivia, and Ying's entire extended family. They are all in my prayers during this difficult time.

Ms. Lee's story is one of tremendous perseverance, resilience, and fortitude in the face of struggle. Born in China, Ms. Lee arrived in the United States as a refugee from Shanghai during World War II. Her life before immigrating was marked with hardship, as Ms. Lee faced firsthand the brutal realities that stem from war and militarization. By the young age of 13, Ms. Lee had survived more than most people do in a lifetime, witnessing poverty, famine, and sickness, all brought on by devastating warfare. Her experiences in childhood were fundamental in shaping Ms. Lee's identity as an activist, educator, city councilmember, and anti-war movement icon.

Her family's escape from an invading Japanese army brought Ms. Lee to the Bay Area. Settling in Berkeley, Ms. Lee spent most of her fighting for progress, peace, and equity, as a councilmember and as my legislative director. Her journey in political activism began in the halls of UC Berkeley, where Ms. Lee studied political science, earning her bachelor's and master's degrees. There, she became involved in the civil rights movement, fighting for racial justice; and the anti-war movement, calling for an end to the Vietnam war.

Ms. Lee's commitment to serving the greater good began with her career as a teacher at Berkeley High School, where she spent years educating young minds. In 1973, Ms. Lee made history as Berkeley's first Asian American council member and helped shape the city's ongoing legacy as a haven for progressive politics. She continued her journey in public service as a Congressional aide for Congressman Ron Dellums and, later, for myself, as my first Legislative Director when I came to Congress. Here in D.C., Ms. Lee spent years by my side advocating for equity, global peace, and legislative change. Together, we worked to advance global peace and security on many fronts, including our visit to Japan to discuss the consequences of war in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. Ms. Lee's work to advance equity measures included her contributions to the Living Wage, Jobs For All Act, which sought to codify basic economic rights for all Americans and improve the quality of life.

Ying Lee was a tireless warrior, as her activism never ceased. In 2020, Ms. Lee joined historic crowds of people to fight for Black Lives, marching in the streets of Berkeley with her "Black Lives Matter" sign. At 83, she protested the closure of Berkeley's post office, handing out pamphlets and participating in rallies. Ms. Lee exemplified a true public servant, an advocate, and fierce warrior for justice.

I spoke with Ying two weeks before her passing. She sounded strong and energetic. As always, she encouraged me to keep fighting the good fight. While I will always remember our last conversation with a heavy heart, I will meet our challenges head on with Ying's fervor and passion, in her honor.

While we mourn her loss, we celebrate her remarkable life, which will be remembered as one of love, passion, compassion, dedication, and brilliance. Her legacy will provide us guidance in rising to the occasion as we continue her fight for peace and justice. I loved Ying and will miss her tremendously. May she Rest in Peace and Power.

HONORING DORIS “JILL” CARSON

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Doris “Jill” Carson, of Pennington Gap, Virginia. A native Bostonian, Mrs. Carson was a beloved figure in the Pennington Gap community since moving to the town in 1986.

An active member of her Pennington Gap community, Mrs. Carson served as a Member of the Town Council since 2014, the first African American woman to hold the office, and as Vice Mayor since 2019. Shortly before her passing, she was elected as the President of the Virginia Municipal League. She spent many years volunteering for the Lee High School guidance department, assisting students with college applications. She also served as a member of the Wells Chapel Church choir.

Known for her skilled community organizing and engagement work, Mrs. Carson dedicated her life to raising the voices of the unheard. As a community organizer, she was involved in several matters, including the reformation of the jury selection process in Lee County, the restoration of voting rights to nonviolent felons in Virginia, and the reopening of Lee County’s only hospital.

She, along with her husband Ron, co-founded the Appalachian African American Cultural Center in Pennington Gap, to highlight the experiences and history of African Americans in Lee County. They collected oral histories from Black residents in rural Appalachia, while also hosting seminars on racism and oppression.

Mrs. Carson is survived by her husband of 45 years, Ron Carson, and two children Kevin and wife Jacintha Carson (Alexandria, VA) and Alexis and husband Mark Perkins (Bristol, VA). Additionally, two precious granddaughters Zara and Mya Carson, sister Jackie Barrows and husband Anthony, special niece and nephew Tracey Stanley and Troy Johnson, mother-in-law Shirley Taylor, uncle Roy Carson and cousin April Matthews. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

She leaves behind a lasting legacy in Southwest Virginia and, her presence and friendship will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING CHERYL MOORE FOR HER RETIREMENT FROM A CAREER OF SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cheryl Moore, a true servant-leader who is retiring this month after forty years of service to the residents and communities across Central Florida and Florida’s Space Coast.

For the last 13 years Cheryl has been a cherished member of my staff, serving as Director of Community Relations covering North Brevard and Orange County and assisting constituents all over the District resolve com-

plex cases involving federal agencies like the IRS, OPM, Postal Service, veterans’ benefits, and Medicare to name a few.

Cheryl began her public service career in 1984 as a member of the Orange County Code Enforcement Board, a position she held for eight years. Cheryl would go on to make significant contributions to the state legislature, serving as Chief Legislative Aide to State Representative Tom Feeney and later State Senator John Ostalkiewicz. Cheryl even worked as a staff member in the State Redistricting Office, helping oversee the operation to draw new State Legislature and Congressional Districts. In 2000, she returned to the Florida House as top aide to then-Florida House Speaker Feeney, and upon his successful election to Congress, served as his District Director from 2002 to 2008. Before joining the 8th Congressional District staff, Cheryl served in the same role for Congresswoman Sandy Adams.

Cheryl is known as a trailblazer for women and a legend in her industry, often setting the standard for professional and effective public service. Throughout her career Cheryl was recognized with the President’s Award from the Orange County Sheriffs Office, the Seminole County Sheriffs Office Legislative Award and the Orange County Sheriffs Award for “Exceptional Leadership” for restoring the special risk assessment for law enforcement to 3 percent. However, what Cheryl is truly known for is her caring servant’s heart and the difference she has made in the lives of so many.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cheryl Moore on her long and distinguished service and wishing her all the best in this next chapter of her life.

HONORING HIRAM ARCHER, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN GRADUATE OF OLIVET COLLEGE

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor one of the first African American college athletes and scholars who paved the way for students of color across the state of Michigan and this Nation.

Hiram Archer was the first student of color to be officially documented as a graduate of Olivet College, located in Eaton County, in Michigan’s 7th Congressional District. He attended Olivet from 1888 through 1904, and played on the school’s varsity baseball team, making him one of the first ten Black athletes in the nation to play intercollegiate sports. While a student at Olivet, Archer was active in music and other creative endeavors. A gifted public speaker, Archer won several oratory and debate contests, and spoke at prominent events including the inauguration of College President William G. Sperry in 1893. The school considers him to be a model representative of both the history and the future goals for students of color at Olivet College.

Archer remained at Olivet to complete his Master’s degree in science, and went on to earn a doctorate. He went on to serve in leadership positions at several academic institutions, including Director of Science and Assist-

ant Principal in the Agricultural and Mechanical College in Normal, Alabama, which is today known as Alabama A & M University. He finished his career with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. as a nationally-recognized scientist. Archer passed away in 1945 having made Olivet College and the state of Michigan proud. His alma mater says Archer’s life’s work is a testament to Olivet College’ academic vision: Education for Individual and Social Responsibility.

According to Olivet’s current President, Dr. Steven M. Corey, Archer’s successes were extraordinary for anyone, but for an African American in the late 1800s, they were truly groundbreaking and added much to the rich Black history that has shaped the college and this country. Dr. Corey says he is proud that Hiram Archer is an Olivet College alumnus and left such an incredible legacy.

Today, his legacy lives on at Olivet College, with the Hiram Archer Student Success Academy, a mentorship and support group for students of color on campus. I ask that he be forever remembered for his pioneering contributions to the great state of Michigan.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN DARR

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving husband, dedicated father, seasoned law enforcement executive, dear friend of longstanding to my wife Vivian and me, Lieutenant Colonel John Darr. An event celebrating his remarkable career in law enforcement was held on Thursday, February 23 at the Saint Luke Ministry Center in Columbus, Georgia.

The journey of Lieutenant Colonel Darr began in Fort Benning, Georgia. He attended Hardaway High School and Columbus State University.

Lieutenant Colonel Darr began his career with Muscogee County Sheriffs Office in 1988 serving in a variety of bureaus to include The Fugitive Apprehension Bureau, The Jail Bureau, Patrol Bureau, Court Bureau, and Investigative Bureau.

Because of his vast experience and his penchant for service, Lieutenant Colonel Darr ran for and was elected Sheriff of Muscogee County in 2008. He was subsequently re-elected in 2012. During his tenure as Sheriff, Lieutenant Colonel Darr was a visionary leader who organized various community outreach programs. One of the first programs that he initiated was a program called project lifesaver. This program was the first of its kind in Muscogee County.

The program provided tracking bands to families of program individuals with cognitive disabilities to Autism and Alzheimer’s. A compassionate community servant, Lt. Col. Darr helped to secure funding for bands for families that could not afford them as well as provided training for his deputies to be able to locate these individuals if they were in distress. He also found resources to promote these two programs by having an Autism Patrol Car and the All Cancer Support Vehicle.

Lt. Col Darr was also committed to reducing the recidivism rate at the Muscogee County Jail.