

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 Ostalkiewcz. 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’s 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 life-saver. 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.

Always the visionary, he began several initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for inmates while housed at the jail. These initiatives include the Veterans Dorm, the Fatherhood Dorm, and the GED Dorm.

The Veterans Dorm was the first such initiative in the country and provided vast resources for those Veterans who were incarcerated. It helped them to deal with the ever-present issues of PTSD and substance abuse. In short, this initiative helped to prepare these Veterans for life after incarceration.

The Fatherhood Dorm initiative focused on inmates being able to be present fathers after their release from incarceration. This initiative focused to improving the literacy of fathers so that after their release they would have the literacy skills to better themselves and to be able to read to their children. Finally, the GED Dorm helped incarcerated individuals to obtain their GED's.

Because of these initiatives and his focus of Mental Health, Lt. Col Darr was responsible for the removal of a Federal Consent Decree that the jail had operated under since 1999.

Lt. Col Darr's remarkable service as Sheriff ended in 2016. He always looked for ways to help himself and his community. He came back at the Lt. Col for jail operations under current Muscogee County Sheriff Greg Countyman.

John Darr has held many titles in his life, but the most befitting is that of Servant. It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." John Darr has paid his rent and he has paid it well.

Lt. Col Darr has accomplished much in this life, but none of it would have been possible with the love and support of his wife Linda and their four children: Rachael, Michelle, Courtney and Troy.

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 Lt. Col John Darr on the occasion of his retirement from the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office and remarkable career in Law Enforcement. To God be the Glory.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAL PECK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all South Carolinians, I am grateful to wish World War II veteran, Mr. Harold (Hal) Peck, a happy 100th birthday.

Mr. Hal Peck, was born on February 22, 1923 in Shelbyville, Indiana. In the spring of 1943, he was drafted and made his way across the Atlantic, arriving in Normandy on June 17th, eleven days after D-Day, with the area having been secured. As a member of the 226th Signal Corps, he was a "climber," responsible for going up and down telephone poles to help keep the lines of communication intact. He did not carry a rifle while on pole duty, as he could not be perceived as a threat. The only shots he's taken, says Mr. Peck, deal with basketball.

After his wartime experience, he was recruited by one of his former high school bas-

ketball coaches to play for Tulane University, in New Orleans. At 5-foot-eight, he excelled in college basketball, and was asked by the National Basketball League Commissioner, Doxie Moore, to play on one of the National League teams. He declined the offer and instead decided to coach basketball in a little town in northern Indiana, Kewanna. After 5 years of coaching, he went on to become a successful businessman as an insurance salesman and executive.

In 1949, Mr. Hal Peck, married his Tulane sweetheart, the former Gwen Bailie. They had a happy marriage of 60 years, filled with adventure, having traveled to almost every country, with Goshen, Indiana as their home base. In 1992, they retired to Aiken, South Carolina. Hal and Gwen had 2 sons, Rich and Josh Peck, who we join in celebrating their father's birthday.

I also join the family and friends of Mr. Peck in congratulating him for the French Legion of Honor which he was awarded by the French government in October of 2022 for his service during the war. It is the highest distinction, rewarding eminent military and civil merits, that can be conferred in France on a French citizen as well as on a foreigner.

Today, I honor Mr. Hal Peck for his service to the American people and wish him a happy 100th birthday and the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS OF CLIFTON WHARTON, JR.

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a man who has spent his entire life and career breaking racial barriers and paving the way for future generations of Black scholars and leaders. The name Clifton Wharton Jr. is known by many in the Michigan State University community thanks to a prominent campus landmark: the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts. But in addition to his name, I want them to know his story, as it features a persistent rise against the odds, a tale worthy of being staged inside the building that now bears his name.

By the time Clifton Wharton Jr. became president of Michigan State University—the first African-American to head a major, predominantly white university in the United States—he was no stranger to being first. Wharton, who grew up in Boston, entered Harvard University at age 16. There he became the first Black announcer at the campus radio station and the first Black secretary of the National Student Association, a lobbying group he founded. Later, he was the first African-American admitted to Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago. He worked for about a decade with the Agriculture Development Council, a non-governmental agency, before returning to the academic world.

When the MSU trustees appointed him the University's 14th president in 1969, it was a time of tremendous change and cultural up-

heaval for the country, with college campuses taking center stage in the civil rights movement and protests over the Vietnam War. Against that tumultuous backdrop, Wharton set another first: unlike any other major university president of the time, he supported students who demanded that their concerns be heard, even offering to personally take student petitions against the war to Michigan's Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

Wharton's eight-year tenure at MSU's helm was marked by his successful efforts to maintain the quality of the University's academic programs in the face of major budget cuts, his commitment to serving underprivileged students, and the integration of the College of Osteopathic Medicine with the other medical schools. In 1978, Wharton achieved another first when he stepped down from MSU to become the chancellor for the State University of New York system, making him the first African American leader of the nation's largest university system.

But he wasn't done breaking barriers. In 1987, he was named the president and CEO of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund, making him the first Black CEO of a Fortune 500 company. He held that role until 1993, when he became Deputy Secretary of State under President Bill Clinton, not surprisingly, the first African American to ever hold this second highest foreign policy post.

I salute Dr. Wharton for his groundbreaking career and the path of excellence he has blazed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ANTHONY RAMOS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the many contributions of Anthony Ramos, a long-time community leader and resident of Dearborn in Michigan's 12th District, as we mourn his loss.

Anthony was a beloved community youth basketball coach and co-founder of the Dearborn Basketball Association, where he also served as vice president. He saw the community's need for affordable sports programming for young people and was moved to act. Anthony's love for the game inspired enthusiasm in the young people he coached. He instilled the values of good sportsmanship and importance of teamwork while teaching the fundamentals.

Please join me in honoring the life of Mr. Anthony Ramos and extending condolences to the Ramos family as the 12th Congressional District honors his life and legacy.

HONORING LEGENDARY EDUCATOR DR. EVA EVANS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a legend of Lansing, Michigan whose