

tireless advocacy on behalf of effective education for students of color changed the trajectory of hundreds of young lives in mid-Michigan.

Dr. Eva Evans was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and grew up in Detroit, Michigan, where she attended Northern High School in the early 1950s. Former teachers and fellow students remember her as one of the most willing, giving and compassionate people they'd ever met, traits that would ultimately define her entire life of service. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University and both Master's and Doctorate degrees from Michigan State University.

Dr. Evans served in a number of administrative positions in the Lansing School District, from Director of Elementary Education to Deputy Superintendent of Schools—the first female to ever hold that position. As a leader in the school system, she developed and implemented innovative programs, such as schools of choice and a district-wide talent fair for students and staff. She connected the school district with Lansing Community College and Michigan State University for the 2+2+2 Program, which channels minority students into MSU's College of Engineering. While she had a particular passion for math and science, she also created the "Be a Star" performing arts program. These programs and partnerships have endured over the years, benefiting countless individuals and shaping practice and policy in education, health care, social services and beyond.

Outside the school buildings, Dr. Eva Evans tirelessly devoted herself to dozens of causes, giving of herself in leadership roles. She was the 24th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the chair of the Lansing Community College Foundation, President of the Lansing Woman's Club, and Grand Marshall of the African American Parade and Family Picnic in Lansing. Evans was also appointed by the governor to serve on the Michigan Council for the Humanities and was Chairman of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. She championed causes with the American Red Cross and created programs to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS. I like to think of her as the great connector—connecting underprivileged students to education beyond high school, connecting communities in need to programs that had the capacity to help, and simply connecting people to one another.

Dr. Evans, who passed away in 2020, received numerous honors in her adopted hometown of Lansing, including the YWCA's Diana Award for Excellence in Education; the NAACP's Educator of the Year; the Lansing Chamber of Commerce's Athena Award; the Crystal Apple Award for Education from Michigan State University, and the Applause Award from the Lansing Center for the Arts. But I believe the greatest honor and the most profound title she ever received was to be called a teacher.

#### COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF THE SUMGAIT POGROM

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the po-

grom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. Beginning on February 27, 1988, and over the course of three days, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. The violence left dozens of Armenian civilians dead and hundreds injured, women and girls were raped, and some victims were burned alive after being tortured and beaten. Thousands were forced to flee their homes, leaving behind their belongings. Armenian homes and businesses were left to be looted and destroyed.

The pogroms came about as the result of years of hateful, racist anti-Armenian propaganda woven into the very fabric of Azerbaijani society by Azerbaijani leaders, who made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait and denying the government's role in instigating the killings. This unprovoked violence against Armenians was a precursor to subsequent attacks on ethnic Armenians, including the pogroms in Kirovabad, Baku, and the Maragha Massacre.

Time has not healed the wounds of those victimized in the pogroms or their families because three decades later, Azerbaijan's aggression against the people of Armenia and Artsakh continues.

Beginning on September 27, 2020, and over 44 days, Azerbaijani forces once again targeted and murdered innocent Armenians in Artsakh and displaced tens of thousands more. Azerbaijan's violence again escalated in September of 2022, when Azeri forces shelled homes in the villages of Karmir Shuka and Taghavard in Artsakh and launched an unprovoked assault on sovereign Armenian territory.

Today, Azerbaijan continues to terrorize the people of Artsakh by blocking the Lachin Corridor—the only road connecting Artsakh to Armenia. Since the blockade on December 12, 2022, the humanitarian crisis in Artsakh has grown more dire by the day, with widespread shortages of food, medicine and other necessities and rolling blackouts amid freezing temperatures. The effect has been devastating to the 120,000 individuals living in Artsakh, including children and the elderly.

These are the horrific consequences when aggression and hatred grow unchecked and when Aliyev's hostility is met with deafening silence, emboldening him to continue, and expand, his unprovoked attacks on the Armenian people, knowing there will be no repercussions. This is why Azerbaijan considers it acceptable to annihilate Armenians in their historical homeland. We cannot allow violence and crimes against humanity to go unanswered.

The United States must immediately and permanently stop all U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan and impose sanctions. It must also direct U.S. humanitarian assistance to Artsakh, call for the safe and unconditional release of the remaining Armenian prisoners of war and captured civilians, hold Azerbaijan accountable for the destruction of religious and cultural sites, and support democracy in Armenia and a free, independent Artsakh.

On this tragic anniversary, as we pause to remember the innocent victims of the pogroms, we are also reminded that despite the trials the Armenian people have faced, it has not broken their faith, determination, and their will to survive in the face of constant threats from Azerbaijan. Today, let us recommit our-

selves to doing everything we can to bring liberation to our Armenian brothers and sisters abroad, once and for all.

#### COMMENDING NICHOLAS AYERS ON HIS WORK FOR ALABAMA DISTRICT ONE

**HON. JERRY L. CARL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicholas Ayers for his service to Alabama's First Congressional District. A Virginia native, Nicholas graduated from George Mason University, where he also received his Master of Public Administration. Nicholas has been on the Hill for nearly six years and has dedicated his time serving for the U.S. House of Representatives. Starting off as a Legislative Intern, Nicholas researched information about legislation and issues which affected that district. He was then promoted to Staff Assistant, Legislative Correspondent, Legislative Aid, and then I hired him on as my Legislative Assistant. His extensive knowledge of health care made him an asset to my office, and I know wherever he goes next, he will continue to be a leader. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF LANSING'S OWN EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of the greatest basketball players of all time, a man who brought so much magic to the game it quite literally became part of his name. And it all began in Michigan's capital city of Lansing—his hometown.

To say that Earvin "Magic" Johnson came from humble roots is an understatement. His mother was a school janitor and his father worked the General Motors assembly line by day, and collected garbage in the evenings. Johnson would often help his father on the garbage route, earning him the nickname "Garbage Man" with the neighborhood kids. But all the teasing ended when he hit the basketball court. Johnson started playing as a youngster, and by the time he graduated from Lansing Everett High School—where he led his team to a state championship and was dubbed "Magic"—he was already considered the greatest high school basketball player to ever come out of Michigan. He moved just down the road to East Lansing, attending Michigan State University where he became a two-time All-American, leading the Spartans to the 1979 National Championship while being voted the Most Outstanding Player of that year's Final Four. He was the number one overall selection of the 1979 NBA draft, chosen by the Los Angeles Lakers where he would go on to play for his entire professional career.

The stats are dazzling: in his 13 seasons with the Lakers, Johnson was a key member

of five NBA Championships, as well as being a 12-time All-Star, three-time NBA Finals MVP and three-time league MVP. During his NBA career, Johnson averaged 19.5 points per game, 7.2 rebounds per game and 11.2 assists per game. He was a member of the original NBA Dream Team, winning a Gold medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Both his Spartan jersey and his Lakers jersey were retired, and Magic Johnson has been inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the MSU Athletics Hall of Fame and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

Johnson stunned the world in 1991 with the announcement that he had tested positive for HIV. It was a seismic moment, as an athlete of Johnson's stature vowed in public to raise awareness about a virus that was shrouded in stigma. In the decades since that pivotal moment, his advocacy off the court has been as impressive as his skills on the court, and has not been limited to one topic. He's used his platform to support so many causes, from HIV and AIDS to mental health to COVID vaccines and the transformational power of wealth-building for Black families.

Johnson has said this about his legacy: "Now these kids dream that they can become not only a basketball player or a football player, but they can become a businessman. So that's what's important, that we have power and that we have a seat at the table."

With gratitude for his enduring contributions, Earvin Johnson not only provided a seat at the table, he helped construct it. A table, formed in the heart of Lansing, Michigan, shaped by a fierce work ethic and raw talent, and sprinkled with Magic.

#### HONORING DR. CHARLES MAGEE

#### 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 dedicated husband, loving father, accomplished professor, stellar researcher, and admiring trailblazer, Dr. Charles Magee. Dr. Magee was honored on Sunday, February 26, 2023, at an African American History Program at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Cairo, Georgia.

The genesis of Dr. Magee's began in Prentiss, Mississippi. He is a proud graduate of Johnson High School. Dr. Magee's higher education journey began at Alcorn State University where he received a bachelor's degree in Animal Science in 1970. He went on to receive a master's degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Minnesota at St. Paul in 1973. Finally, he received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from Cornell University in 1980.

Excellence has defined his extraordinary professional life. His professional career has taken him to some of the finest universities in the world to include the University of Minnesota at St. Paul, North Carolina A and T, Cornell University; the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Fort Valley State University, and Florida A and M University.

Throughout his career he has been a trailblazing professor and scholar. He was the first African American to earn a master's degree

from the University of Minnesota; the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in Agricultural and biological engineering from Cornell University; the first African American graduate of a historically black college or university (Alcorn State University) to earn a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering; and the first African American assistant professor in the college of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. He developed the first patent in the history of Fort Valley State University and the Biological Systems Engineering (BSE) program at FAMU. He is a founding and charter member of the National Society of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences and the first African American Engineer to be elected in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2020. Although he has been a trailblazer, his life has not been without his share of difficulties and obstacles. He has persevered and our Nation and world are better for it. Sometimes he had to stand alone, but he stood tall.

A selfless servant, Dr. Magee has always had at the forefront of his mind the fact that he must address the issue of underrepresented populations in STEM careers. Dr. Magee has meant the world to his students through his mentorship, some have even followed in his enormous footsteps. His influence has been paramount in their lives.

Dr. Magee is a creative genius who has had eight U.S. patents that have been approved and eight that are pending. His life is an example of how one person can make a difference when carrying out God's plan for their life.

The great Agricultural Chemist, George Washington Carver once said, "It is not the style of clothes one wears, neither the kind of automobile one drives, nor the amount of money one has in the bank that counts. These mean nothing. It is simply service that measures success." Charles Magee is truly a servant.

Dr. Magee has accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Audrey and his children, Candace and Darian.

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 in Georgia's Second Congressional District in extending our sincerest gratitude to Dr. Charles Magee for his service to God, humankind, and our world. To God be the Glory.

#### RECOGNIZING BOB SAVAKINUS, ANTHRACITE CULTURAL PERSON OF THE YEAR

#### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Bob Savakinus who was named the 2023 Anthracite Cultural Person of the Year by the 250th Anthracite Commemorative Board. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have promoted Anthracite heritage for more than 20 years through special projects. Bob will be honored on February 19, 2023.

An avid history buff, Bob had dedicated much of his time to uplifting Northeastern Pennsylvania's cultural contributions and bringing attention to the rich history of our region. With his film company, Cannon Fire Productions, he has produced many documentaries on the subject, including *The Rocky Glen Movie*, *Return to Rocky Glen Movie*, *A Token to the Past: The Story of the Electric City*, *Full Steam Ahead: Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Steamtown NHS*, *The Confederation of Union Generals*, *Hanson's Amusement Park*, *Agnes*, and *Scranton's Championship Season*. Each of these films has been a thoughtful, well-researched and dynamic look into institutions that have defined Northeastern Pennsylvania's history and identity.

Following the success of these documentaries, Bob has turned his attention to full length feature films, and he has been advocating for bringing both national and international filmmakers to the Anthracite region.

In addition to championing Northeastern Pennsylvania's past, he also volunteers his time to work for a brighter future by serving on the boards of many local organizations. He is a board member of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Special Education Advisory Panel, United Nations Association of NEPA, Lackawanna Valley Conservation Association, the Lackawanna County Industrial Development Authority, among others.

When not focusing on his filmmaking endeavors and board memberships, he works as a transition education specialist for the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 and produces and hosts *In a Nutshell* on Comcast Channel 19 to further explore Northeastern Pennsylvania history. Bob has also been a driving force behind the annual Santa Train stop in Scranton, and he is a founder of the Arts on Fire festival in Scranton.

It is an honor to recognize Bob as a titan of historical preservation of the Anthracite region. I deeply admire his unwavering commitment to preserving and promoting our history and culture and wish him all the best for many productive years to come.

#### HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. RUTH NICOLE BROWN

#### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a visionary social justice innovator and academic who is making space for African American women and girls to celebrate who they are and what they bring to the world, and bringing new and critical opportunities to students at Michigan State University.

Ruth Nicole Brown is the Inaugural Chairperson of and Professor in the Department of African American and African Studies at Michigan State University. Dr. Brown, an internationally recognized leader in Black Girlhood, joined MSU on July 1, 2020, and quickly got to work creating and advancing the mission of this new degree-granting department of the university. Thanks to her efforts, beginning in the 2022-23 school year, MSU students were able for the first time to declare a major in African American and American Studies, and many have jumped at the opportunity.