

who has been operating Planter's Hardware & Building Inc. for over a century.

A member of the Runyan family has been operating Planter's Hardware & Building Inc. on the square in downtown Ashland, Alabama since approximately 1916. The business got its name from its original clientele, and originally catered to the needs of local farmers. Planter's Hardware has altered its inventory to reflect changing times in favor of supplies for timber, poultry, and cabinet making. Planter's Hardware offers customers cost-effective solutions and personalized service 6 days a week.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the hard work of the Runyan family for their work in operating Planter's Hardware for over a century.

HONORING APRIL F. CHRISTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hardworking and dedicated public service worker, April F. Christon.

April Christon was born April Spencer on April 1, 1985, in Marks, MS, to Joyce Tennin Spencer and the late James Jones. She grew up on a home with her mother and 2 of her siblings in Lambert, MS. April attended school in the Quitman County School District and graduated with honors from Madison S. Palmer High School in 2003. While in high school, April gave birth to 2 daughters. Despite being a young, teenage mother, April had hopes and dreams of a better life and was determined to continue her education. With the support and assistance from her mother, extended family members, and friends, April went on to pursue postsecondary education at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. In 2008, April graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Art. In 2009, April married her husband, Marcus Christon. They share 3 children together and settled in Batesville, MS.

April went on to start her career in the public service field by counseling individuals with severe mental health, behavior, family, and alcohol and drug issues. While gaining work experience and becoming more knowledgeable in her field, April decided to go back to school and pursue more education. She received her Master of Science in Continuing Education in Counseling and Psychology from the University of West Alabama in 2012. She also received a post graduate certificate in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of North Texas in 2018. April currently works for the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) in the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, heading the Supported Employment division. April serves the state of MS by assisting Mississippians with most significant disabilities with services to obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment. She is a member of the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) and the Rehabilitation Association of MS (RAM). She also assists with the Project SEARCH program within MDRS, which recently was awarded the 100% Outcome Award for her work with Merit Health River Region Hospital in Vicksburg, MS, and the Ex-

cellent Outcome Award for her work with MS Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, MS.

Not only does April serve her community and state in public service through her professional work, but she also serves her community through volunteering her time in various organizations and programs in Panola County. April, along with two others, founded a non-profit organization, Pure Justice, Inc., that is focused on the positive development of youth and their artistic talents. This organization was developed to provide social and educational activities for children and youth in Batesville, MS, Panola County, and surrounding areas. Within the organization, Pure Justice dance team was formed and has been a productive part of the community, promoting physical fitness and wellness, and traveling and participating in dance recitals and competitions. April is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and diligently serves in her local chapter by helping implement programs to benefit the local community. She also serves on the administrative team of Connor Disaster Relief organization, which is a disaster relief organization that helps people in Panola County and the surrounding counties with disaster relief aid. April loves the act of service—for God, her family, her community, and for the people that seek assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing April F. Christon for her dedication to serving this great State and country.

RECOGNIZING CORYDON CENTRAL PANTHERS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ERIN HOUCHIN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Corydon Central Panthers Girls' basketball team and congratulate them on a great 2022–2023 season.

Making the Indiana High School Athletic Association's State Championship game is no easy task. Every member of the Panthers team should be proud of the season they put together. The team had a tremendous performance throughout their season and into the playoffs, especially senior Ava Weber who is the program's all-time leading scorer. Corydon Centrals' program is well positioned to continue to compete for future championships. I congratulate them. They have made their hometown proud.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT (NYPD) 19TH PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the NYPD 19th Precinct Community Council. Precinct Community Councils have existed in various forms in New York since the 1940's and pro-

vide the community with a direct line of communication to their local NYPD precinct. Council members regularly meet with the precinct Commanding Officer and Community Affairs Officers to discuss public safety issues, provide feedback and input regarding local policing services, and organize events like street fairs and beautification programs for the neighborhood.

Since 1973, the NYPD 19th Precinct Community Council has brought together residents who volunteer their time and resources to ensure that the Upper East Side is a safe and thriving neighborhood. In addition to hosting an annual street fair that raises funds to assist with the needs of the precinct and sponsoring a National Night Out Against Crime event every summer, the Council constantly seeks to provide new opportunities for the public to interface with their local police officers and promote crime prevention awareness. The Council has also sponsored and recruited volunteers for NYPD initiatives including the Court Monitoring and Block Watchers programs.

I applaud the NYPD 19th Precinct Community Council and its volunteers for their commitment to public safety and the quality of life of their neighbors. I am proud to honor the Council's contributions to the Upper East Side over the past fifty years and recognize it as a successful model for police-community partnerships across the city. The legacy of the Council's work will be felt for generations and I wish for its continued success in the years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. ROBERT COPE

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, we shall never forget Cope. Idaho recently lost a great man with the passing of Dr. Robert Cope. Cope, as he was known, was a cattle veterinarian in Salmon, Idaho, for 44 years. In addition to his work as a vet, Cope was a public servant, serving on the Lemhi County Commission and many advisory committees and task forces focusing on natural resource issues throughout Idaho and the western United States.

Cope helped so many in the Salmon area, and the community loved him. He was genuine and good natured. What you saw was who he was, and you could expect the facts without sugar coating. Cope spent his days researching bovine diseases, educating ranchers on how to keep their herds healthy, and of course doing the hands-on work. On cold nights he could be found in a neighbor's barn helping with a new calf. He was there for everyone who needed him whether they were a rancher with a large operation or a kid in the 4-H program.

Cope was an expert on subjects such as wolf depredation and grazing, with a noted ability to find common ground between different groups. It should be known he had a great impact here in Washington on federal lands policy. My staff and I had numerous meetings with Cope when he travelled to D.C., where he made an indelible mark on all of us. His rural common sense was a breath of fresh

air on Capitol Hill and when he spoke, people listened.

Cope will be greatly missed and never forgotten. My thoughts are with his wife Terrie as well as the people of Lemhi County.

HONORING BROWNSVILLE POLICE
DEPARTMENT

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor four courageous police officers, who risked their lives providing aid to two people who escaped a burning car and rescuing another two people from the car on January 28, 2023, in Brownsville, Texas.

Brownsville, Texas is home to over 187,000 residents who are served by the Brownsville Police Department. Their unwavering commitment to the protection of our communities was put on nationwide display when Brownsville was named the 16th safest city in the United States. Their work was more recently recognized due to the lifesaving cooperation between the Brownsville PD and other emergency services personnel on January 28.

At the 2:00 a.m. hour of January 28, first responders were called to the scene of a single-vehicle crash. When the officers arrived, they discovered the vehicle had been flipped over. While 2 men had managed to escape with noticeable injuries, there was a time-sensitive emergency still happening in the vehicle. The officers were notified of 2 others still trapped in the burning vehicle and they quickly reacted to save their lives. Body cam footage showed the dramatic situation as police officers pulled these 2 men to safety, who were actively being burned inside the vehicle, which was still engulfed in flames.

With amazing assistance from the Brownsville Fire Department, Patrol Officer Erik Balboa, Officer Erick Amaro, Officer Federico Jaramillo, and Officer Gilberto Hernandez were able to breach the burning vehicle's doors and save the people in the car.

Our first responders are often unsung heroes, but today we get the amazing opportunity to praise and thank the Brownsville Police Department for their heroic work and for their constant commitment to the safety and security of South Texas.

Mr. Speaker, Officers Balboa, Amaro, Jaramillo, and Hernandez, the Brownsville Police Department, and all first responders who dedicate their lives to our amazing communities, and thank them. I have no doubt that these heroes will continue to go above and beyond to provide lifesaving support to those in need, and I am forever thankful for their service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF WILLIAM LOUSHINE

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William "Bill" Loushine, who

died February 26 in Chisholm at the age of 102. Bill graduated from Chisolm High School in 1939 and received his BS degree in 1943 from the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse. During WWII, Bill served as a first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in the South Pacific and as company commander of the Chisholm Army National Guard Unit, where he was recalled to active duty during the Korean War with the 47th Infantry Division of the Minnesota Army National Guard. Upon his return from Korea in 1953, he continued to serve in the National Guard for 25 years, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Bill was a teacher and a coach in Chisholm for 36 years. He coached swimming, baseball, and curling. He was the coach of Chisholm's 1948 state championship winning baseball team, and the 1963 state championship curling team. Bill started a junior bonspiel in Chisholm in 1963 and continued to run it for 20 years until 1983. While in his 80s, Bill wrote a 32-page history of the Chisholm Curling Club from 1960 to 2010. This book has allowed Chisholm's flourished curling history to live on. Bill continued to curl well into his 90s.

Bill was devout in his faith. He served on the liturgy and pastoral councils in the St. Joseph's Parish, and as a commentator, lector, and Eucharistic minister, as well. Bill served for many years in the Charter and Planning Commission and as Citizens Committee Director in the Department of Military Affairs. All these accolades serve as a testament to Bill's commitment to community engagement and the Iron Range. I had the pleasure of meeting Bill when I presented him with a flag that was flown over the Capitol in honor of his 100th birthday 2 years ago. His service to his country and his community made our Nation and our State a better place to live. I thank Bill. The Iron Range has truly lost a giant. Rest in peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT
BOARD INSPECTOR GENERAL
ACT OF 2023

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Inspector General Act of 2023, which would create an independent Inspector General (IG) for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB). The FRTIB administers the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the retirement savings and investment plan for federal employees.

On June 1, 2022, the FRTIB launched a new system with the goal of modernizing TSP's recordkeeping, improving customer service and bolstering cybersecurity. There have been widespread problems with the new system, including account access, account balances, missing or incomplete information in accounts and hours-long wait times to reach customer service. While many problems have been fixed, problems remain.

As of December 2022, TSP had approximately 6.8 million participants and \$765,154,000,000 in assets, making it the world's largest defined contribution plan. Fed-

eral employees dedicate their careers to serving our country, and they deserve a retirement savings and investment plan that provides top-tier customer support and security.

While the Employee Benefits Security Administration has oversight responsibility for TSP, as it does for private sector 401(k) plans, there is currently no IG for the FRTIB. The problems with the new TSP system are evidence enough that the FRTIB needs an independent IG.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PHILIP
INNES ESCHBACH, JR., "THE
COLONEL"

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a true southern gentleman and patriot of great distinction, Mr. Philip Innes Eschbach, Jr., affectionately known as "The Colonel".

During World War II, Mr. Eschbach was stationed in Dijon, France, where, despite the odds of survival, he piloted a B-26 Martin Marauder on 56 bomber flights against the Axis in Italy and France.

During the war he received the French Croix de Guerre. More recently, on May 4, 2013, he was further personally honored by the French government for his heroic deeds in the liberation of their country when they made him an honorary commandant. His daughter, Mary, coordinated his itinerary, and his son, Phil, accompanied him on his trip back to France for the festivities.

After the war, Mr. Eschbach earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Florida. He became active in community affairs and began teaching school. Katie, I, and many others were fortunate enough to have him as an English teacher before he went on to teach in high school and college.

He never shared any of his war experiences with his students, and they were unknown to me, until he wrote his memoirs in 2004 in a book titled, THE KICKING MULES.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing this hero, dedicated teacher, friend, and role model to so many, congratulations for completing another mission—his upcoming 100th orbit around the Sun.

Happy Birthday to the Colonel.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF SEN.
MITCH MCCONNELL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Kentucky colleague in the Senate Chamber, Republican Leader MITCH MCCONNELL who recently became the longest-serving party leader in American history. On January 3, 2023, Senator MCCONNELL surpassed the record held by