

much more pleasant memory of the camaraderie he experienced when he and his shipmates crossed the equator, transforming them from slimy "Pollywogs" to trusty "Shellbacks" in the Navy's famous "Crossing the Line" ceremony. Upon his return home, George was honorably discharged from Active Duty on February 6, 1946, but he continued to serve in the United States Naval Reserve for many years to come.

Milekovich settled in Lansing, Michigan, where he married his late wife, Lureta, on February 14, 1947. Together, he and Lureta had four sons: James, Anton, Edmund and George Jr.; and had the pleasure of spoiling another generation of grandchildren. George retired on June 1, 1985, from Michigan State University, where he served as an operating engineer for 26 years at the University Power Plant.

The selflessness of veterans like George Milekovich, Sr., who answered our Nation's call to serve during World War II, defines the true character of our greatest generation. It is my privilege to wish him a happy 100th birthday, and to thank him for his inspiring service in the United States Navy and his lifelong dedication to his community and his family.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ZACH
BENJAMIN MERRILL

HON. RUBEN GALLEGOS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. GALLEGOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a friend and proud Marine, Zach Benjamin Merrill.

I served with Zach in Iraq, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, as part of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines. We were among the survivors of a 7-month tour where our battalion suffered among the worst casualties of the conflict. During the chaos of war, Zach showed immense courage and selflessness in responding to enemy action. Unfortunately, the war followed Zach home. On March 23, 2023, at the young age of 37, he passed away after a courageous battle with Leukemia caused by the toxins we were exposed to in Iraq. Even as he fought his final battle, Zach always made everyone around him smile, regardless of the circumstances.

Zach's legacy is that of service, honor, and sacrifice. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of his family, and the hearts of every Marine he served with. I am praying for his wife, Andrea, and his children, Zachary, Julien, and Jaden.

Zach was cherished by those who knew him and will be deeply and sincerely missed. May he rest in peace.

Semper Fidelis, Zach Benjamin Merrill.

HONORING MARY KIMBALL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Kimball whom I have named the 2023 Woman of the Year for

Yolo County because of her service to our agricultural community. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Kimball's leadership in the Center for Land-Based Learning's growth has been invaluable in turning the organization from a small group of 30 high school students to a program with five models. This program helps thousands of students and adults across California learn more about agriculture and the management skills necessary to run a farm. It now partners with hundreds of organizations, businesses, and government agencies to help up and coming farmers succeed.

Ms. Kimball's civic work has been essential in supporting the agricultural community by funding scholarships for women in the industry and investing in the Sacramento region as a critical food system. She has also worked to protect agricultural and natural resources, particularly when it comes to preserving agricultural land use designations.

Her efforts have had a tremendous impact in making the agricultural industry more accessible to new farmers through education and assistance programs. In doing so, she has helped thousands across the state learn about the best ways to run their businesses while maintaining their land in a sustainable manner.

Born in Carson City, Nevada, Ms. Kimball grew up on a small farm in Woodland where her family continues to live today. She has spent her career in public service for Yolo County and currently works as a Director for Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation board. She spends her extra time as a member of the Sacramento Chapters of Les Dames Escoffier and the Land and Economics Society.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Kimball has been a strong leader in Yolo County's agricultural community. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Yolo County's 2023 Woman of the Year.

HONORING MR. RANDALL
ROBINSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with the Congressional Black Caucus, to honor the extraordinary life and career of Randall Robinson, a legendary activist, lawyer, and a true fighter for racial justice. From reparations for Black Americans to ending apartheid in South Africa, Mr. Robinson dedicated his career to advocating for equity and human rights for all people of African descent. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Randall's family, his wife Hazel Ross-Robinson, and his three children, Anike, Jabari, and Khalea. They are in my prayers during this difficult time.

Mr. Robinson's story is one of tremendous courage and is a testament to the goodness that exists in humanity, even in the face of racial injustice. Born in the Jim Crow South, Mr. Robinson's worldview was heavily influenced by the racial discrimination he faced from a

young age, as he grew up in a society marked by institutional racism and attended segregated schools. From these experiences, Mr. Robinson found a deep passion for political activism and racial justice. He rose to become a leader in representing the African diaspora and African people in the United States.

Randall was a proud graduate of Harvard Law School, a Ford Fellow, a Congressional staff member to Representatives Bill Clay & Charles Diggs, and founder of the TransAfrica Forum. Through TransAfrica, Mr. Robinson organized sit-ins and civil demonstrations, influenced US foreign policy to the Caribbean and throughout the African continent, and ultimately established the leading foreign-policy think-tank for African Americans.

But perhaps, Mr. Robinson's most notable achievement was his contributions to the end of apartheid, as he forced the United States to confront the evils occurring in South Africa. His organizing efforts included leading daily sit-ins in the South African embassy calling for Nelson Mandela's release from prison. Randall's commitment to South African liberation earned him seven arrests for civil disobedience, but ultimately helped influence a congressional override of President Ronald Reagan's veto of economic sanctions against the South African government.

Mr. Robinson's dedication to the African community never ceased, even after Nelson Mandela's successful release and the official end of apartheid.

He famously missed President Mandela's inauguration, as by then he had already led a month long hunger strike to protest the treatment of Haitian refugees fleeing a military junta. Mr. Robinson ended his hunger strike only after President Clinton committed to granting those fleeing violence in Haiti asylum hearings.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of working with Randall when he was a senior staffer to the late Congressman Diggs and myself with Congressman Ron Dellums. I vividly remember helping Randall organize TransAfrica and the hard work, brilliance and passion of this effort. He never lost his vision and purpose. Because of this, he changed the world.

Randall Robinson was a shining example of public service and activism. He was the first to give voice to so many unheard and ignored African communities in the United States and throughout the world. May his incredible legacy serve as an example to us all, as the work for racial equity remains unfinished. While we mourn his loss, we celebrate a truly remarkable individual who served as a force for justice until the end. May he rest in Peace and Power.

RECOGNIZING PLANTER'S HARD-
WARE AND BUILDING INC. FOR
OVER A CENTURY IN BUSINESS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Runyan family, who has been operating Planter's Hardware and 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 six days a week.

On March 13, 2023, one of the pioneers of Planter's Hardware, Joseph Walton Runyan, Sr., passed away at the age of 89. Joseph was deeply loved by his community and will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Runyan family for their hard work in operating Planter's Hardware for over a century, as well as honoring the memory of Joseph Walton Runyan, Sr.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
QUINTON ROSEBORO SMITH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the impact and celebrate the life of the late Quinton Roseboro Smith. Affectionately known by his loved ones as "Smitty," this native son of South Carolina made the City of Buffalo his home at an early age. Through the many years that followed his move north, Quinton was able to leave his mark in our community—whether it was at church, the hair salon, or through the lens of his camera, Smitty's lovable spirit followed him everywhere.

A student at Buffalo Public Schools 31, 75, and 87, Quinton would later become a student at Burgard High School. It was there that he was given the chance to study aviation mechanics and pursue a career with the United States Air Force. Upon Smitty's discharge from the military, he worked for decades at the General Motors Tonawanda Engine Plant. However, it was his passion for cutting hair and the beauty industry that was clearly evident throughout his other ventures.

He started cutting hair at age 13 with his cousin, Israel "June" Blackmon. He cut hair while stationed in Alaska with the Air Force, and he eventually took night classes at Culver Beauty College while working at GM. So, after gaining his license, it was not long before he opened Studio 322. This hair salon was not only an instant success, but it was something that he shared with the love of his life, Mary.

Smitty was a devout Christian and irreplaceable member of St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Church. Quinton's commitment to Buffalo could be tangibly felt by countless people, not just those who frequented Studio 322. His actions toward others created a legacy that will long outlive him. Survived by his 5 children, 9 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild, there is no shortage of loved ones to recount their fond memories of Smitty. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Quinton for his commitment to the Western New York area and for the warmth he provided to so many. He will be dearly missed.

HONORING ALEXIS KOEFOED

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexis Koefoed whom I have named the 2023 Woman of the Year for Solano County because of her service to our agricultural community. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Born in Danville, Ms. Koefoed started her agricultural life when she stumbled upon a 56-acre property in Vacaville and became a farmer on a whim. What started as a small-scale chicken and egg farm eventually evolved into the Soul Food Farm, a hub for community events where she teaches workshops and supports local producers and farmers.

Ms. Koefoed currently serves as the president of the Pleasants Valley Agriculture Association, an organization of Vacaville farmers focused on promoting local businesses and sharing their sustainable agricultural practices. In doing so, she has helped her community's economy grow while providing a positive environment for farmers to share their stories and experiences. She is also a member of the policy board of the Community Alliance of Family Farmers, where she advocates for state and national policies that help sustainable agriculture.

Her work in creating the Soul Food Farm Farmstand and the Soul Food Farm Reserve, food hubs for local and regional farmers to sell their produce, has also been invaluable for members of our community to have more choices when deciding where to get their food. Through this hub, she has been able to expand access to healthy and affordable alternatives to processed food, all while supporting regional farmers.

Ms. Koefoed's work at Soul Food Farm and with the Pleasants Valley Agriculture Association has helped farmers across Solano County by teaching them about the business of running a farm while also bringing the community together. She has taught new farmers about the best ways to grow their business and their crops more efficiently. Her work also extends to organizing events where members of the community can connect with industry leaders.

Mr. Speaker, Alexis Koefoed has been a strong leader in Solano County's agricultural community. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Solano County's 2023 Woman of the Year.

RECOGNIZING EDWIN F. SMITH

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Edwin F. Smith.

I am proud to join the community of Glasgow in celebrating Edwin Smith's 100th birth-

day on April 12, 2023. The community is not only recognizing the Kentucky native for his momentous birthday milestone, but also recognizing his service to our nation.

U.S. Army Air Force 2nd Lieutenant Edwin F. Smith is a veteran of World War II. He played football at Glasgow High School and was offered a scholarship to play at the University of Louisville. However, his life went down a different path after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He enlisted in 1941 to fight for our country and became a pilot. Shortly after serving in World War II, he was one of two people to survive a deadly plane crash during a military training exercise.

Following his service, he attended the University of Tennessee before transferring to Bowling Green Business University, which is now Western Kentucky University, and graduated with a degree in accounting. Edwin Smith continued to give back to his community following his military service through volunteer work and sharing his experience in the military with students.

Edwin Smith is a father, stepfather, grandfather, and great-grandfather. A piece of advice he gave one of his children is to "count your blessings—not your troubles." He has lived a remarkable life of service. I thank him for his service and wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

CHERYL SHERMAN DAY
PROCLAMATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in honor of Cheryl Sherman.

Whereas, Cheryl Sherman began her public service to the Village of Prairie Du Sac in 1983 by serving on the Plan Commission, and was first elected to the Village Board in 1991; and

Whereas, Cheryl Sherman has played a vital role in her community's growth and development through her service on a variety of boards, commissions, and committees throughout her tenure; and

Whereas, Cheryl Sherman has consistently proven herself to be a thoughtful, effective, and dependable community leader by continuously serving as Village President since 1995; and

Whereas, Under Cheryl Sherman's leadership, the Village has more than doubled its population, expanded its community spaces, entered into a variety of future oriented inter-governmental cooperative agreements, and seen multiple community projects successfully come to fruition; and

Now, therefore, I hereby proclaim April 25, 2023 as Cheryl Sherman Day in honor of her 40 years of public service to her community, the Village of Prairie Du Sac, and the State of Wisconsin. I join her friends, family, and colleagues in offering her best wishes on her much-deserved retirement.