

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDGAR T. PICKETT, JR.

HON. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Edgar T. Pickett, Jr. a servant and guardian of our Lakeland community who passed away peacefully with family by his side on April 6th. Edgar served our community for nearly 30 years as an officer with the Lakeland Police Department. He was a trailblazer in many ways, both as one of the Department's first black officers and as a pioneer in the field of forensics.

Edgar began his law enforcement career in 1954 at a time when segregation was still in effect in America. He persevered through many challenges, including when he was shot in the line of duty responding to a call in 1964. After surviving his ordeal, Edgar went on to become one of Polk County's first black detectives. In this new role, Edgar distinguished himself as a remarkable investigator. He taught himself fingerprinting, photography, evidence collection and how to identify bullets from evidence left at crime scenes. He converted his home kitchen into a dark room to develop his film and learned to develop photos professionally with the help of Duane Perkins' photography shop.

Edgar's remarkable skill set earned him a certification in forensic science and he became a fingerprint technician in 1973. He studied at the American Institute of Applied Sciences in Chicago and became a plainclothes detective specializing in fingerprinting. Edgar would go on to develop Lakeland Police Department's first fingerprint filing system and worked with the FBI in 1980 to identify a local suspect threatening to assassinate President Jimmy Carter.

After nearly 30 years, Edgar retired in 1983 and continued consulting for various law enforcement agencies across Florida. In 2019, he returned to Lakeland Police Department to close a 38-year old cold case murder investigation he once worked on as a detective. The Lakeland Police Department named its fingerprinting lab after Edgar in honor of his diligent and nationally-recognized work.

He will be deeply missed by his family, his fellow officers and our community. On behalf of the 18th Congressional District of Florida, I thank Edgar T. Pickett, Jr. for his service and sacrifice. We will be forever grateful.

HONORING BRIAN LALINE

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Laline. Born on Staten Island, New York, married to Carol with three children: Christopher, Peter, and Kelly Anne and five granddaughters Olivia, Madeleine, Elle, Mila, and Katherine. Mr. Laline graduated from New Dorp High School and went on to receive his Bachelors in English at LaSalle University as well as a master's degree in education from Wagner College.

Mr. Laline taught High School English in Philadelphia before coming to the Advance as a reporter in 1972. He served various capacities as copy editor before being named editor in 1992. In 2015, Mr. Laline achieved executive editor at the Staten Island Advance.

Currently, Mr. Laline is an active member of the community, taking on roles such as Chairman of the Board of Directors at the St. George Restoration, Inc. where he received the "Georgie Award." Additionally, he served as Secretary of the Board of Trustees at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the College of Staten Island Foundation and Secretary of the Museum of Maritime Navigation and Communication. Previously he was a participant on several boards and organizations important to the Staten Island community such as the YMCA, Meals on Wheels, and Boy Scouts of America. He was also a founding member of The Italian Cultural Center at Casa Belvedere.

Proving to be an outstanding member of our district, Mr. Laline has been awarded many recognitions for his work both in education and in the community. These include several distinguished service awards from organizations such as The American Red Cross, the Center for Migration Studies, and the Boy Scouts of America. He has been recognized by the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Heart Association, the Zoologist Society, and the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Mr. Laline has also received the Community Resource Award, the Safe Harbor Award from the Society for Children and Families, the College of Staten Island Dolphin Award, the Teddy Award from the Teddy Atlas Foundation, the Richard M. Silberstein Award from Staten Island Mental Health, United Activities Unlimited Community Service Award, the Community Service Award from the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin, and the Community Service award from the Staten Island Board of Realtors.

Mr. Laline has been an exemplary member of the Staten Island community and leads by his example of volunteerism and constant acts of giving back. His lifelong love of education and career in editing has been supplemental to his dedication to volunteering and to these charities. Mr. Laline is the epitome of a New Yorker, constantly giving back to the neighborhood and continuing to champion for the streets that raised him.

I am proud to be honoring Mr. Laline and thanking him for all he has done for Staten Island.

HONORING PAST CHIEF AND CURRENT ASSISTANT CHIEF JON BARRETT

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Past Chief and Current Assistant Chief Jon Barrett on attending his 10,000th alarm with the Cicero Volunteer Fire Department.

Chief Barrett grew up in a house across from Cicero Fire Station No. 1, he officially

joined the Cicero Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) as a full member on August 1, 1996.

In the 27 years of his membership, Chief Barrett has held the firematic ranks of Captain, 2nd Assistant Chief, 1st Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, and Chief of Fire. He has served as Vice President and President for the Corporation. Along with interior firefighter duties, he is a New York State Emergency Medical Technician Basic (EMT-B), and a New York State Fire Police Officer. He has served as the Cicero Fire District Building and Grounds Maintenance Employee and the Apparatus Maintenance Employee.

Chief Barrett has received the Onondaga County Volunteer Fireman's Association (OCVFA) Medal of Valor and Red Jacket Award, the Lt. Howard "Howie" Crowell Officer of the Year Award (2004), the Liberty Mutual Insurance Firemark Award, and the Central New York Emergency Medical Services (CNY EMS) Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) of the Year Award. On several occasions he has received the CVFD Top Responder award, Top Ten Responder award, Life Save award, and the Stork Pin for assisting in out-of-hospital births. Chief Barrett also serves as a member of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) on the Training Education Committee.

On December 23, 2022, Chief Barrett attended his 10,000th alarm since the CVFD started electronic alarm record keeping on January 1, 1998. His first alarm in that system was on January 2, 1998. In his nearly 27 years as a member, he has averaged over 373 alarms per year.

I commend Chief Jon Barrett for his dedication to protecting our community and congratulate him on his 10,000th alarm.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL PEO WEEK

HON. ERIN HOUCHIN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National PEO Week, which starts May 21 and ends May 27, 2023.

National PEO Week will celebrate the important contributions of the professional employer organization (PEO) industry, which provides payroll, employee benefits, compliance assistance, and HR services to hundreds of thousands of small and mid-sized businesses that employ more than 4 million people.

PEOs play a critical role in helping businesses survive and thrive, particularly during challenging times. In the dark days of the COVID pandemic, PEOs ensured that their clients stay afloat by securing PPP loans and loan forgiveness, managing employee leave, and applying for available tax credits. In fact, businesses that partner with a PEO were nearly 60 percent less likely to have permanently closed than those that did not use a PEO during the pandemic.

PEOs help small businesses improve productivity and profitability, focus on their core mission, and grow. Through a PEO, the employees of small businesses gain access to important employee benefits such as: 401(k) plans; health, dental, life, and other insurance; dependent care; other benefits they might not

typically receive as employees of a small company.

I can attest to the value of PEOs. Before coming to Congress, I worked for a PEO and saw firsthand the positive impact they had on small businesses in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the PEO industry for all they do to help our Nation's small businesses and their employees prosper.

HONORING MR. BERNARD E. GROSSMAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I to honor the life of Mr. Bernard E. Grossman of Lexington, South Carolina, and offer my sympathy to his family.

I was honored to present Mr. Bernard E. Grossman with his Bronze Star Medal that he earned while serving as a Specialist Four in Phan Thiet, Vietnam on April 21, 1966. Mr. Grossman's platoon in Vietnam received heavy casualties from enemy fire. Specialist Grossman quickly took charge of the survivors, assisted the wounded, relayed the instructions of his platoon leader, and brought effective fire on the enemy positions. It was only after successful defeat of the enemy that he then informed his platoon leader of his wounds. We appreciate his great service and personal courage that was with the highest traditions of the military service. His valiant actions also reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the Army. I include in the RECORD the following obituary for Bernard E. Grossman:

Bernie Grossman, 77 of Lexington, SC passed away Thursday, March 30th peacefully at his home. Born in Rochester, New York, he worked over 35 years as an aerospace executive for Lockheed, Burbank, California, Fairchild Republic, Maryland and Long Island, and United Technology (United Space Booster), Cape Canaveral, Florida. His last position was with GE Middle River Aerospace running the trust reversal division where he retired in 2005. He served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army's 327th Infantry Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. He was awarded both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Metal for Valor.

He is survived by his loving wife of over 42 years Rosalind Grossman who he met and served with in the United Army Reserves at a Non-Commissioned Officer Academy as Instructors. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed traveling. Survivors also include his daughter, Jean Grossman, son, Michael Taylor, five grandchildren and one great-grandson all of California. Sister, Leah Ganoe and brother Samuel Grossman both of New York as well as numerous nieces, nephews from their blended family. There will be a celebration of life service 12 PM, Saturday, April 15th at Christian Life Church, 2700 Bush River Drive, Columbia, SC 29210. The family will hold visitation prior to the service from 11-11:45 AM In lieu of flowers, the family requests donation to: Harvest Hope Food Bank, P.O. Box 451, Columbia, SC 29202 in Bernie Grossman's name.

HONORING MINISTER ALFIE A. JELKS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated man of God, a selfless humanitarian, and a humble servant, Minister Alfie A. Jelks. Minister Jelks was honored at his annual event, The Soul of My Footprint Brunch Gala on April 15, 2023, in Columbus, Georgia.

The journey of Minister Alfie Jelks began with his birth on April 14, 1968, in Tuskegee, Alabama. Minister Jelks is a proud product of the Muscogee County School System, graduating from Kendrick High School in 1986. An avid learner, Minister Jelks also earned an Associate of Science Degree in 1995 from the Chattahoochee Community College. He also received a B.S. Degree in Theology from Troy University in 2005 and a Master of Divinity Degree in 2015 from Great Plains Baptist Divinity School. Building on his love of God and his country, Minister Jelks received his commission as a United States Army Reserve Chaplain in 2009.

In 2000, Minister Jelks began his humanitarian journey to Jinga, Uganda with and only one credit card and no personal ties to anyone there. From this initiative, The Soul of My Footprint was born. The Primary purpose of this initiative is the dissemination of provisional supplies of medicine, clothing, and basic care items for the people of Jinga, Uganda. Another mission of this wonderful organization is to provide scholarships to high school seniors who are philanthropic and plan to major in the fields of science, social services, education, theology, or non-profit work. Minister Jelks was moved by his faith to begin this ministry. His commitment to humankind has been based on Matthew 25 when Jesus said that He wanted to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit those that were in prison as the center of His ministry. Minister Jelks made subsequent trips to Uganda in 2001, 2007, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2022. Through his continuous effort and labor of love, the Soul of My Footprint Hospital in conjunction with Cook Dental Care will open in the fall of 2023. Because of his gift of collaboration with many different organizations in Columbus, Georgia, over one thousand pairs of shoes have been donated to the people of Jinga.

As a man who is proud of his heritage, Minister Jelks opened Alfie's African Treasures, selling rare and unique African Artifacts and Greek Fraternal Paraphernalia. Always seeking ways to educate youth about their heritage, Minister Jelks established "Alfie's African Treasures Annual Cultural Show."

Minister Jelks has created many partnerships in the furtherance of his mission of cultural enhancement to include The Muscogee County School System, The Boys and Girls Clubs, Big Brother-Big Sisters of Columbus, The Wellness Center, Columbus State University African Student Organization, The Black History Museum, and The Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home.

It has been said that, "The true person of success is not the person that climbs the ladder of this life with two hands but climbs the

ladder of this life with one hand and reaches back with the other." Minister Alfie Jelks has dedicated his life to the uplift of others by climbing the ladder of this life with "one hand and reaching back with the other."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the 765,000 people of the 2nd Congressional District, in honoring Minister Alfie Jelks for his lifetime of service to God, his community and humankind. May God continue to rain down his richest blessings on this remarkable ministry. To God Be the Glory.

HONORING THE CAREER OF ADMIRAL CECIL HANEY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Admiral Cecil D. Haney for his distinguished 38-year career in the United States Navy. Admiral Haney blazed a trail as the first Black four-star submariner, the first Black Pacific Fleet commander, the first Black Strategic Command commander and the second Black four-star admiral in the history of the Navy.

Admiral Haney graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1978. He holds a master's degree in Engineering Acoustics and System Technology from the Naval Post Graduate School and a master's degree in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University.

Admiral Haney received the Navy Distinguished Service Medal twice, the Defense Superior Service Medal three times, the Legion of Merit four times, the Navy Commendation Medal three times and the Navy Achievement Medal twice. Most recently, the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association honored him with the 2023 Distinguished Graduate Award.

Since his retirement from the Navy, in 2016, Admiral Haney has served in leadership roles for multiple organizations, including the Aerospace Corporation, General Dynamics, Tenet Healthcare and Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. He is chairman of the Board of Directors for the Military Child Education Coalition. Admiral Haney has also served as a Blue and Gold Officer assisting applicants from predominantly underserved communities and currently serves as Naval Academy Foundation Board of Directors vice chairman. He is also on my Service Academy Selection Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to recognize Admiral Cecil Haney for his trailblazing career in the Navy and his incredible work in preparing the next generation of service members.

HONORING THE BRAVERY AND SERVICE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN J. KING

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and recognize the bravery of