

of 16, he joined the Crockett Fire Department as a volunteer and later went on to obtain an Associate of Arts degree in Fire Science from Columbia Junior College. While in college, Chief Thomas worked and lived at the firehouse as a member of the sleeper program. He eventually joined CalFire as a sleeper serving at the Twain Harte and Sonoma stations.

In 1986, Chief Thomas joined the Woodland Fire Department as a Firefighter after ranking first on their fire service test. His dedication to fire service and Woodland persisted while commuting from Crockett for his first year of service. Seventeen years after joining the Woodland Fire Department, Chief Thomas was promoted to the rank of fire captain in August of 2003. While serving in the Woodland Fire Department, he was acknowledged by the City of Woodland with a Proclamation for rescuing a victim from a house fire in zero visibility conditions.

Chief Thomas was promoted to battalion chief in December of 2012. He has been involved in many aspects of the Woodland Fire Department, including the Fire Department Honor Guard, Arson Investigation Team, and he is President of the Woodland Firefighters Association. Additionally, he built the department's first-grade program, an educational program dedicated to teaching kids about fire service. This program is still in use today throughout all schools in Woodland.

When not on duty, Chief Thomas loves spending time with his fire family and his non-fire family. He has also been a baseball coach for the last twelve years and enjoys volunteering.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Richard Thomas is deeply appreciated for his decades of selfless service and commitment to the Woodland Fire Department and our community. His efforts have made our district a safer and more enjoyable place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this spring, we mark the 30th anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act, known as FMLA. This groundbreaking law allows millions of workers to take unpaid leave from their jobs when necessary, without the fear of losing their jobs or being forced to choose retaining a job over the needs of themselves or their families.

Prior to the passage of the FMLA, there were no uniform laws or guaranteed leave for workers. None. In 1993, with bipartisan support, Congress passed, and President Bill Clinton signed into law, the Family and Medical Leave Act.

FMLA has remained crucial for workers all over the United States for three decades. It has provided workers across the country with 12 weeks of leave to care for a new child, an ill family member, or their own health. During this time, one's job is guaranteed. Unfortunately, FMLA leave is entirely unpaid, only

about 56 percent of workers are eligible for the program due to strict eligibility requirements regarding tenure and worksite size, it restricts the definition of family to exclude millions of caregivers, and the stark reality is that many workers cannot go without income.

As we celebrate 30 years of FMLA, Congress should recognize that paid family and medical leave is long overdue. The pandemic made crystal clear that the current patchwork system fails to cover many workers, especially low-paid workers, and harms our economy by removing millions of workers from the labor force and hundreds of millions of dollars in earnings. Limiting leave to those who can afford time off without pay harms workers of color and lower-wage workers, in particular. For example, Black workers are 86 percent more likely to be unable to take leave when they need to care for others or themselves. Indeed, 68 percent of Black women are the sole breadwinners in their households, making any loss of pay due to illness or caregiving a tremendous hardship. Families should not face the unethical choice of earning a paycheck or caring for their loved ones or themselves.

As the lead Democrat of the Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support, which has jurisdiction over paid leave, I am proud that House Democrats passed out of the House the first-ever, universal, comprehensive paid family and medical leave program. Had the Republicans in the Senate not blocked its final passage, this program would have provided all U.S. workers with up to 4 weeks of paid leave to address a serious personal or family health issue, or to care for a newborn or newly-adopted or fostered child.

Universal paid leave is not a gamble; we have decades of research from state and international implementation that comprehensive protections help businesses retain qualified workers and government support helps level the playing field for small businesses while supporting workers and strengthening the economy. Fourteen states and the District of Columbia have passed laws to provide or require paid leave: Arizona; California, New Jersey; Rhode Island, New York; District of Columbia; Washington; Massachusetts; Connecticut; Oregon; Colorado; New Hampshire; Maryland; Virginia; and Delaware.

Research by the Rutgers University Center for Women and Work found that implementing universal paid family and medical leave would result in higher post-birth wages for women who take paid leave than for those that do not. Given that women are more likely to serve as primary caregiver and, therefore, are more likely to need leave, a federal paid leave program would strengthen the economic security of women. Additionally, research by Zero-to-Three found that the well-being of children would improve dramatically given the availability of parents to care for children and help obtain needed healthcare. Finally, the improved economic well-being of families would boost the economy and business revenue. In fact, paid leave policies creating gender equity would boost GDP by \$2.4 trillion by 2030, and policy allowing caregiving for older adults \$1.7 trillion by 2030.

I am proud to recognize my home state of Illinois is one of three states (i.e., Illinois, Maine, Nevada) that has enacted mandatory earned time off, a policy that is a substantial leap forward to universal paid family and med-

ical leave. The Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act will begin in 2024. It allows workers to accrue one hour of paid leave for every 40 hours workers, with a limit of 40 hours per year. Importantly, workers can use this leave for any reason, not just health care. I also am proud to recognize that ordinances in Cook County and Chicago proved that these policies benefit both workers and employers. This flexible time off for shorter life events coupled with paid family and medical leave for longer periods could substantially support workers, allowing them to remain in the workforce and advance their careers over time while still meeting the needs of themselves and their families.

We must take action to ensure equity for women, workers of color, and low-income workers through comprehensive, universal, paid family and medical leave legislation. Although my Republican colleagues have repeatedly blocked Democratic efforts to enact paid family and medical leave, I promise to continue to champion comprehensive paid family and medical leave legislation to give workers the protections they deserve that will strengthen families, communities, and our country. As we recognize the 30th anniversary of the Family Medical Leave Act, we must commit ourselves to moving toward a future in which all workers enjoy the right to paid leave.

HONORING TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of a special group of women from Transylvania University. Transylvania is located in Lexington, Kentucky and holds a special place in Kentucky history as the first institution of higher learning west of the Alleghenies.

Today Transylvania is honored for another place in history. The women's basketball team, under the direction of head coach Dr. Juli Fulks, won the NCAA Division III Women's National Championship. This is the first NCAA Championship in school history. The women completed a perfect 33-0 season and defeated Christopher Newport University 57-52 for the championship: Madison Kellione, from Harrison County, Kentucky, was named Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA Division III Tournament.

Members of the team include Amara Flores, Gracie Haywood, Madison Kellione, Keaton Hall, Sierra Kemelgor, Aubree Littlejohn, Sadie Wurth, McLain Murphy, Samantha Cornelison, Sydney Wright, Kennedi Stacy, Laken Ball, Kennedy Harris, Dasia Thornton, Micayla Hurdle, and Emile Teall. The coaching staff includes Juli Fulks, Hannah Varel, Loren Bewley, Tim Whitesel, and Lea Wise Prewitt.

This team and its perfect season, culminating in a championship, brings pride not only to the Transylvania campus, but to the city of Lexington and indeed the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I congratulate Coach Fulks, all the staff members, and especially the players on winning the NCAA Championship and having such a memorable season. I am proud to honor them before the United States Congress.

HONORING THE 70TH
ANNIVERSARY OF INDUCTOTHERM

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an integral company within New Jersey's Third District, Inductotherm, and the legacy of their founder, Henry Rowan, as part of their 70th anniversary celebration taking place this year.

In his life Henry was guided by a deep sense of determination and an entrepreneurial spirit. He began his first business at age nine, raising chickens and selling eggs. Even at that young age he was passionate about his work. He carried this same passion for hard work throughout his career including serving as a trained bomber pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II before returning home and founding Inductotherm, wanting the opportunity to apply his own new ideas to induction furnace design. He was also dedicated to using the profits of Inductotherm to give back to others, most notably to southern New Jersey's own Rowan University, and the very communities in which Inductotherm's network operates.

Since their original founding in 1958, the Inductotherm Group has expanded, ensuring their customers can obtain a broad range of products and services to meet the needs of every industry, and in over 20 countries around the world. While Inductotherm began simply, with its first order being built in Henry Rowan's garage, the company has become a staple of New Jersey's Third District over the past 70 years as well as a global leader in thermal processing technologies.

We are proud to celebrate the legacy of Henry Rowan and the accomplishments of Inductotherm throughout their 70-year history. I look forward to all they will continue to accomplish and wish them many more years of notable milestones and success.

RECOGNIZING THE SPIRITUAL
LIFE OF MOST REVEREND
FERNAND JOSEPH CHERI, III,
OFM, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF
NEW ORLEANS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Orleans' beloved native son, a true spiritual leader, mentor, and confidant. It is with great sadness that the Archdiocese of New Orleans announced the passing of the Most Reverend Fernand Joseph Cheri, III, OFM, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans, who died on March 21, 2023. He was 71 years of age. He was the son of Fernand J. Jr., and Gladys Marguerite Epps Cheri.

In a recent message, Archbishop Aymond shared the news with clergy, the community of New Orleans, and the religious of the archdiocese writing, "It is with a sad heart that I inform you that Bishop Fernand Cheri died. He has been called home to the Lord. We mourn his death and thank God for his life and min-

istry. May he rest in the arms of the risen Christ."

Bishop Fernand Cheri was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 28, 1952. He attended Epiphany Elementary School, New Orleans, St. John Prep, New Orleans, and St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict. He received a Master of Divinity at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and a Master of Theology from the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University, New Orleans. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 20, 1978, at St. Louis Cathedral.

After his ordination, Bishop Cheri served as Associate Pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Church in Marrero, Louisiana, and later in New Orleans serving at St. Francis de Sales, St. Theresa Child of Jesus, and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Churches.

In 1996, he made his solemn profession in the Order of Friars Minor in the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and became a Franciscan priest to serve disadvantaged communities such as incarcerated individuals and the homeless. Bishop Cheri spent several years dedicated to campus ministry at Quincy University in Quincy, Illinois.

He returned to the Archdiocese of New Orleans after his Episcopal Ordination as Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans and Titular Bishop of Membressa on March 23, 2015. He served as Auxiliary Bishop since his ordination and recently served the people of St. Peter Claver Parish as Administrator.

Bishop Cheri was also a popular guest speaker and revivalist. He traveled both within the Archdiocese of New Orleans and nationally, preaching and sharing his love of music.

In addition to his pastoral assignments, Bishop Cheri served as a member of the College of Consultors, was a teacher at St. Augustine High School, New Orleans, and campus minister at Xavier University, New Orleans. He also served as the vocation minister for the OFM St. Louis Province, served on the Archbishop James P. Lyke Foundation, Catholic Campus Ministry Association, Episcopal Liaison to the African Congress Board of Trustees, and convener of the U.S. African American Bishops. Bishop Cheri was also very influential and active with the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver and the Institute of Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University.

The world is suffering a loss of a great Auxiliary Bishop that continuously prayed and worked to serve those often forgotten. We know that he will continue to watch over us as we live to fulfill his mission.

HONORING DR. FREDERIC "FRITZ"
A. REID

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Frederic "Fritz" A. Reid in recognition of his career with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and immense contributions to the protection of wildlife habitats.

Dr. Reid grew up in Edina, Minnesota where he loved hunting ducks with his grandfather. In 1978, he received an A.B. in Biology from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. He then attended the University of Missouri at Co-

lumbia, receiving a Master of Science degree in 1983 and a Ph.D. in 1989, both in Fisheries and Wildlife Ecology.

For decades, Dr. Reid has played a key role in efforts to conserve wetlands and other habitats. He joined Ducks Unlimited in 1990 and as a result of his professionalism, hard work and determination, eventually became their Director of Boreal and Arctic Conservation. He has also helped lead the Central Valley Joint Venture, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, International Sea Duck Joint Venture and Arctic Goose Joint Venture. Dr. Reid is the recipient of numerous awards for his conservation work including the J. Martin Winton Conservation Award, the Holly Andre Award, and the International Canvasback Award.

Dr. Reid has worked across North America to preserve and protect fragile habitats which are increasingly at risk due to the effects of climate change and other man-made impacts. With Ducks Unlimited, Dr. Reid helped conserve one billion acres of Canada's boreal forest, a major breeding ground for American birds. He has supported countless efforts to research and remedy water management including work with the Central Valley Grassland Water District, Suisun Resource Conservation District and the California Rice Commission. Dr. Reid has also committed himself to the next generation of conservationists, having been a Visiting Assistant Professor in the biology department of Southeast Missouri State University and a Postdoctoral Fellow in wetland ecology at the University of Missouri. Currently, Dr. Reid is an Adjunct Professor of Wildlife, Fisheries and Conservation at the University of California, Davis.

Outside of his work, Dr. Reid enjoys traveling and spending time with his partner Kim Forrest, her son Forrest Hansen and his dog Boreal.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Reid is most deserving of many accolades and appreciation for his decades of hard work and dedication to conservation efforts. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor my duck hunting buddy Fritz Reid here today.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
MATTHEW "MAC" McCLUNG

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Matthew "Mac" McClung of Gate City, Virginia, who on February 18, 2023, won the NBA All-Star slam dunk contest. With just over 2,000 residents, Mac's incredible accomplishments have put Gate City on the map.

After graduating from Gate City High School as a three-star recruit in 2018, Mac played college basketball for Georgetown University and Texas Tech University, before declaring for the 2021 NBA draft. I've followed Mac's basketball career since high school, attending a few of his Gate City and Georgetown games.

Mac has worked hard on his craft, playing in the NBA G league since turning pro. He won NBA G League Rookie of the Year for the 2021-22 season. In February, Mac was not only the first NBA G League player to participate in the NBA All-Star slam dunk contest,