

HONORING MSGT. ROBERT HENSLEY

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Master Sergeant Robert Wayne Hensley of Gray, Tennessee. MSgt. Hensley proudly served in the Air Force from 1966 to 1988.

After attending basic training at Amarillo Air Force Base in 1967, he was deployed to Danang Air Base, South Vietnam, where he assisted in providing security during the Tet Offensive. In 1968, he was moved to Misawa Air Base in Japan, and traveled all over the world moving from Air base to Air base.

His last duty station was Soesterberg Air Base in the Netherlands, where he retired in 1988. After returning home, he connected with the American Legion and has held multiple high-ranking positions in his 24 years of service. Currently, he serves in the American Legion as the National Executive Committee Member of Tennessee.

CELEBRATING GSM INSURORS 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to celebrate the 100th anniversary of GSM Insurors, an insurance agency that has been serving the growing needs of Rockport and the blossoming Texas coast for generations.

GSM Insurors was founded in 1923 as the Rockport Insurance Agency by Theodore Johnson, a Rockport pioneer and then President of the First National Bank of Rockport. The agency was the first of its kind in the area, serving the interests of ship builders, ranchers, merchants, businesses, and newcomers to the blossoming Texas Coast.

Five years later, A.C. Glass purchased the agency from the Johnsons and also became the President of the First National Bank. As the agency prospered throughout the following years, James H. Sorenson, Jr. acquired half ownership of the agency in 1946, changing its name to Glass & Sorenson.

On May 1, 1953, the agency once again changed its name to Glass, Sorenson, & McDavid after John M. McDavid, Sr., the son-in-law of Theodore Johnson, purchased one-third of the agency and became the new general manager. In 1978, the present evolution was finished, and the agency was incorporated under the new Agency name, Glass, Sorenson, & McDavid Inc.

In 1991, John M. McDavid, Jr., the grandson of Theodore Johnson and son of John M. McDavid, Sr., became the third generation to serve as CEO and still serves in that role today. In 1998, Glass, Sorenson, & McDavid Inc became a founding partner of The Insurors Group which is now ranked as one of Top 50 Brokers of U.S. Business Insurance by Business Insurance Magazine and one of the Top 20 Agency Partnerships in the Nation by Insurance Journal. To this day, GSM operates

as a 4th generation family business continuing their track record of great success and service to the coastal Texas community.

On behalf of the 118th Congress, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to GSM Insurors for having reached their centennial anniversary. Having served the needs of Rockport and surrounding coastal communities in Texas, GSM Insurors is an American success story that is worth honoring on this historic milestone.

IN MEMORY OF MELINDA GRACZYK

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Melinda Graczyk, a long-time resident of Redford Township in Michigan's 12th District Strong, as we mourn their passing.

I first met Melinda through their advocacy work to end malaria with nonprofit organization, Nothing But Nets. More recently, Melinda embraced their passion to serve the underrepresented, chairing Redford's newly formed commission for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Melinda was also a sitting member of Redford's Downtown Development Authority, hoping to bring fresh ideas to breathe new life into the community.

Melinda was a long-standing member of the Redford Jaycees. Through the Jaycees they volunteered to build and maintain local community gardens, which provided thousands of pounds of fresh, organic vegetables to families in need across Redford. Through their love of nature and gardening, they also helped start a farmers market and worked as a master gardener for years, providing our residents with a local source for fresh, locally grown food at an affordable price.

As a volunteer and eventually president of Redford's festival committee, they helped plan and execute all of Redford's local festivals throughout the year. These festivals have been a great opportunity for residents to gather, creating a stronger sense of community. As a member of Redford's first Community Emergency Response Team, Melinda volunteered countless hours helping to search for missing persons and aiding the public during Redford community events.

Melinda's passion, hard work and love for Redford Township will be greatly missed. Please join me in recognition of their tremendous service, as we honor their memory.

HONORING SERGEANT JOSEPH (JOE) S. HERRON

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Sergeant Joseph (Joe) S. Herron, who started his journey with the United States Army in 1964. After high school, he decided to pursue the life of a Paratrooper.

After finishing basic training and his Airborne Jump school, he joined the 82nd Air-

borne Division and was stationed at Fort Bragg. Shortly afterwards, he deployed to the Dominican Republic after the assassination of the country's president.

In 1966, Herron was redeployed to Vietnam where he joined the 101st Airborne Division, also known as the "Screaming Eagles". He jumped a total of 13 times and earned the rank of Sergeant before his tour ended in 1967. During his service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Bronze Star for his bravery while in a combat zone.

After returning home, he worked with CSX Railroad for 35 years as the Intermodal Operations Manager. He also had a strong interest in politics and in 2002, Mr. Herron was elected to the Sullivan County Commission until his retirement in 2020.

HONORING YAZOO CITY 2023 MHSAA BOYS CLASS 4A BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Yazoo City High School Boys Basketball team's Class 4A State Championship.

On Thursday, March 2, the Yazoo City Varsity Basketball team won their neutral playoff game against Raymond (MS) by a score of 53-43.

At the beginning of school when workouts began, all players had the number 27 on the back of their practice workout gear. They didn't understand why they all had the number 27. The number 27 represented how many years it had been since the school's last boys' basketball state championship. It was a reminder every day to work hard so it would not become 28 years. The team embraced the challenge all season and on March 2, 2023, the 27-year drought of a state championship was over. Yazoo City finished with a 30-5 record.

I would like to recognize Head Coach Anthony Carlyle, who led his alma mater to the second state title in program history in the Class 4A championship game 27 years later. It's Carlyle's 6th championship as a head coach in Mississippi. He's 6-0 in championship games.

I would also like to recognize the student-athletes: Daveon Henry, William Grayson, Damarion Winston, Dalon Henry, Jermon Baymon, Tamarion Hoover, Kortae Meadows, Travis Jones, Jacolby Little, Chris Gates, Demond Collum, Caleb Crozier, Xaquarius Thomas, Cheimion Banks, JaCorion Taylor, TJ Rials, Jr. and Jamarion Bryant.

And finally, I would like to recognize the assistant coaches: Richard Bass, Charles Gates and Vernon Morris, the managers, Josh Young, Laterrian Johnson and Jaylan Carlyle and the entire Yazoo City School District for their support in this historic win.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments and hard work of the student-athletes, coaches, and volunteers of Yazoo City High School's Varsity Boys Basketball program. I look forward to seeing their continued excellence on the court.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF COACH TODD MANESS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Coach Todd Maness. A beloved member of our community, Coach Maness' life was marked by his dedicated mentorship as a football coach.

Coach Maness' strong work ethic and passion for football were evident at a young age. A standout fullback and middle linebacker at North Moore High School, he made up for his lack of size with spirit and determination. He attended Wingate University to play football before he was injured in a car accident during his sophomore year that left him paralyzed from the chest down. Despite this overwhelming setback, Coach Maness took up coaching to satisfy his passion for football. He served as an assistant coach for the North Moore High School football team for over 10 years before moving to coach at the middle school and youth level where he was the head coach for the Broncos in the Sandhills Optimist youth football league. Coach Maness was also a dedicated artist. Determined to continue making art after his injury, he adopted a new painting style where he held the paintbrush in his mouth to accommodate his disability.

Having coached football in Moore County over the span of three decades, Coach Maness was known for his resiliency, positive attitude, and excellent leadership. In addition to instructing players on skills and strategy, he was praised for his commitment to teaching the importance of good character and sportsmanship as well as techniques to improve player safety. Through his strength and determination in the face of adversity, Coach Maness set an excellent example for his players and peers both on and off the field.

Sadly, Coach Maness passed away on March 28, 2023, at the age of 51. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and all who knew and loved him. Coach Maness' passion for football and commitment to teaching others represents the very best of our community. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy, and I join our entire community in gratitude as we honor his extraordinary life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Coach Todd Maness.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE BASE
ACCESS PRIVILEGES IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation that would standardize and streamline military base access for designated support personnel across the Nation. I thank my colleague Congressman DONALD NORCROSS (D-NJ01) for being the bill's original cosponsor.

Our outstanding service members require and deserve a great amount of backing. Every

day, civilians access bases to provide services, transport goods, or conduct training. Unfortunately, from state to state—or even facility to facility—there are different standards of bureaucracy that these support workers must deal with.

The Base Access Privileges Improvement Act will create an overarching set of access standards for people with constant, legitimate need to access military installations. For truckers who already carry national identification credentials, they will be able to streamline delivery of household goods to military members on base. For union workers who are training or repairing systems, it will make the time spent getting on base more efficient and effective.

As Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I'm critically aware that the military requires support from the Nation. Military installations are secure for a good reason: our service members maintain a constant state of preparedness. However, for those civilians who are already appropriately vetted and cleared, we must ease the burdens currently in place for their access to do the job we've asked and the military needs.

Military bases can maintain the highest level of scrutiny for those seeking access, while still equalizing the requirements across the nation. Adding access permissions for those already thoroughly screened will help make our military a more lethal force. The legislation I reintroduce today would ensure just that.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on April 25, 2023 due to a family medical situation. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 193 and YEA on Roll Call No. 194.

ENCOURAGING THE EXPANSION
AND STRENGTHENING OF THE
ABRAHAM ACCORDS TO URGE
OTHER NATIONS TO NORMALIZE
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND
ENSURE THAT EXISTING AGREEMENTS
REAP TANGIBLE SECURITY AND
ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THE
CITIZENS OF THOSE COUNTRIES
AND ALL PEOPLES IN THE REGION

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I have worked on issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for over four decades since I began as a staffer on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1979. Israel, led by leaders like Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan, was David fighting Goliath—a young, bold democracy under threats from every direction. Israel has long been America's strongest ally, and

our support for Israel's democracy, economic stability, and defense is ironclad. On the 75th anniversary of Israel's independence, I am proud to vote for a resolution that supports this remarkable milestone.

With that said, I am extremely disappointed that the resolution missed a crucial opportunity. The juxtaposition is startling: This resolution presumes business as usual when it is anything but. We have reached an inflection point in the U.S.-Israel relationship. For 70 years, we have found common cause with Israel because they have been the only democracy in the Middle East. For the first time in our history, an Israeli Prime Minister has put bipartisan support for Israel in jeopardy by exploiting partisan fissures within the United States, rejecting the notion of a two-state solution and opting to advance his own right-wing political agenda.

Netanyahu's cabinet of right-wing extremists has put the very rights and political inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals, women, secular Jews, Palestinians, and Arabs alike in peril. As the United States continues to play a crucial role in supporting Israel, on a bipartisan basis, we must be clear that an aggressive anti-democratic tilt in Israel threatens our strong, longstanding partnership based on shared democratic values.

The resolution unfortunately did not mention the longstanding, bipartisan support for a two-state solution, nor did it condemn attacks against Israel's democratic institutions, including an independent judiciary, and incitements of violence against Palestinians.

When Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich made comments on March 3, 2023, suggesting the Palestinian city Huwara "needs to be wiped out, but the State of Israel needs to do it," Arab nations involved in the Abraham Accords immediately condemned this abhorrent incitement of violence. To be clear, the actions of Ministers Ben Gvir and Smotrich to bless settler violence, incite violence against Palestinians, and threaten annexation of large portions of the West Bank imperil the Abraham Accords themselves, let alone the prospects for expansion to other Arab nations.

I will cast my vote in support of Israel and the Abraham Accords, with great concern. My hope is that constructive U.S. engagement, and the will of the Israeli people in favor of a peaceful, demilitarized, democratic Jewish state, will be the forces that prevail.

RECOGNIZING THE FOOD BANK OF
THE ALBEMARLE FOR THEIR
40TH ANNIVERSARY AND YEARS
OF SERVICE

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Food Bank of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Since the food bank started serving its local community 40 years ago, it has been striving to ensure neighbors, friends, and families always have a meal.

Since its early days, the Food Bank of the Albemarle has distributed more than 46 million meals to hungry men, women, and children in