

Through the revolutionary contributions of research scientists and considerable medical advancements, fertility treatments have vastly improved since the first successful IVF pregnancy and live birth occurred in 1978. Such advancements include early infertility detection through detailed and data-driven testing, advanced egg-freezing technology, and progressive procedures that allow young cancer patients to preserve their fertility before undergoing lifesaving chemotherapy treatments. Organizations like RESOLVE: the National Infertility Association, advocate for millions of individuals and couples in this country who need medical assistance to have a family. Other groups, such as the Military Family Building Coalition (MFBC), have focused on raising awareness for active-duty service members and their spouses facing unique challenges with family building. They are actively working to bring awareness to these unique challenges and advance laws and policies to help our servicemembers sacrificing for our country achieve their dream of building or expanding their families. There are also organizations, such as the Alliance for Fertility Preservation, that stand up to voice the importance of affordable fertility preservation options for individuals undergoing cancer treatment. In fact, without comprehensive and reliable fertility preservation and family-building healthcare coverage, the option of having children may not otherwise be available for millions of Americans without the financial assistance of organizations like RESOLVE, AFP, MFBC, and countless other worthwhile organizations.

Since 1978, and because of extraordinary medical advancements and steadfast advocacy organizations, millions of Americans have received life-affirming treatments that have resulted in the delivery of babies. And while advancements have been a substantial step forward for family building, significant medical, financial, and health equity barriers still exist for others who require medical assistance to combat in fertility.

During this National Infertility Awareness Week, I am calling on my colleagues in Congress to do more to remove many of the barriers currently existing for those experiencing infertility challenges in their pursuit of having a child. The ability to have children and the timing of building a family is a fundamental human right. Thus, we must work together to pass legislation to create a path for these American families. I also applaud my colleagues, including Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Congresswoman BROWNLEY, Congresswoman DELAURO, Congresswoman STRICKLAND, and Congressman RICK LARSEN, for introducing legislation to eliminate obstacles to building families. I salute the millions of infertility warriors throughout the country and the world who advocate on behalf of that most precious of gifts, that of family.

HONORING JOHN SIMS

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, and renowned East Texas radio personality, John Sims, who tragically passed away the morning of Friday, March 31.

John was a proud Philadelphia native who fully embraced his adopted home of East Texas, where he served our community on air for over forty-three years, most recently with KTBB.

Through his reporting and commentary, John played a direct role in our daily lives, filling an otherwise silent morning commute with community updates, state and national news, guidance, and laughter.

When John wasn't filling the radio waves, he was out in our community. John was active in many civic organizations, working with those in need and those with disabilities.

In particular, John was devoted to his work with the Tyler Together Race Relations Forum, in addition to the League of Women Voters, the March of Dimes, the Tyler Church and Community Network, and East Texas Wheelers and Walkers.

Even further, John was also the former president of Leadership Tyler and the Smith County Community Partnership Council, raising up new leaders in our community advocating for its success.

A devout believer, John always prioritized his time serving with the church and other community groups.

John's un-timely passing will undoubtedly take a toll on East Texas.

I am proud to join his family, his friends, his colleagues, and the entire First District of Texas in remembering John and honoring his lifetime of service. He will be sorely missed.

HONORING THE BASILICA SHRINE
OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACU-
LOUS MEDAL

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Miraculous Medal Shrine, a Marian devotional destination and ministry of the Vincentians of the Eastern Province in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, as it has been elevated by the Vatican to Minor Basilica status. This designation is shared by only one other church in the City of Philadelphia, the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, and 91 others across the United States. The Shrine, along with the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception that houses it, are now known as The Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

The new designation follows a multiyear application that culminated in a decree issued by Pope Francis. The Shrine is now promoted as an exemplary site of liturgical and pastoral activity within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Minor Basilicas are given prominence among other churches and shrines, receive certain honorifics, and are tasked with special responsibilities.

The Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, a ministry of the Vincentians of the Eastern Province of the United States, is a sanctuary of prayer and an inspiration of Marian devotion for Roman Catholics throughout the world. Established in 1927 on the grounds of Saint Vincent's Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Shrine, and the Romanesque church that houses it were elevated to a Minor Basilica by the Vatican in 2023.

Visitors come to the Basilica Shrine daily for Holy Mass, solemn prayer and meditation, and pilgrimage to God and the Blessed Virgin Mary, while beholding its breathtaking artwork, sculptures, stained glass, altars and architecture. The Basilica Shrine is also home to the Perpetual Novena, a prayer of devotion to Our Lady recited in person.

It is indeed an honor to have such a prestigious decree bestowed upon one of Philadelphia's faith based institutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on April 27, 2023 due to a family medical situation.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 201.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 201, I mistakenly voted YEA when I intended to vote NAY.

HONORING E-4 RICHARD DEAN
WHITE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent E-4 Richard Dean White of Mountain City, Tennessee.

E-4 Richard White served in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 until 1975 and was one of 70 chosen to serve in the USAF Security Command. He was stationed at many air force bases such as Lackland, TX Goodfellow, Iraklion in Crete, Greece, and Andrews Air Force Base. He was present on August 9, 1974, when President Nixon resigned and departed from Andrews Air Force Base.

Following his discharge, E-4 White attended college and pursued a career in Law Enforcement, continuing his calling to serve.

RECOGNIZING BECKY HATTAN FOR
HER SERVICE

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to thank Becky Hattan of Lincoln for her service to my office.

Becky has worked over the last several months as a constituent services representative.

During her time on the team, Becky brought exceptional organizational skills playing a key role in establishing our District Office in Lincoln.

This work was particularly evidenced by her work on behalf of constituents, which helped recover hundreds of thousands of dollars in constituent resources from federal agencies.

Her coordination of the First District Congressional Art Competition made the program successful.

But most of all, Becky is a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother.

Becky has a passion for serving others and provided quality customer service to people. And that is leading her to return to the healthcare sector.

As she departs, I want her to know that everyone appreciates her work and that we will greatly miss her. On behalf of the First District of Nebraska: Congratulations and best wishes to Becky.

HONORING THE LATE RICHARD STEWART

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mrs. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Richard Stewart, a beloved and well-known figure from my hometown of Petersburg, in Virginia's Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Stewart was the honorary "Mayor of Pocahontas Island," one of the oldest Black neighborhoods in our nation.

Since 1732, enslaved, escaped, and free African Americans have called Pocahontas Island home, and Mr. Stewart fought relentlessly to preserve artifacts, properties, and the stories of those who lived there. He even created the Pocahontas Island Black History Museum, the first Black history museum in Petersburg, to educate visitors and memorialized the storied history of the neighborhood. He was a veteran, a community leader, and an engaged citizen who devoted his life to preserving our history and preparing the next generation through storytelling and learning.

He leaves behind a lasting legacy and will be sorely missed by the Petersburg community and our Commonwealth.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize and celebrate Israel's 75th anniversary.

Like so many Americans, I am amazed by all that Israel has achieved in the face of immense challenges. Born in the aftermath of the horrors of the Holocaust and the Second World War, Israel's short history is full of success. In a short time span, Israel has become one of the world's leading nations for innovation and technology; its contributions to fields like cybersecurity, healthcare, and agriculture benefit Americans every day.

We also cannot lose sight of the fact that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East and a beacon of hope for not only Jews, but freedom-loving people of all faiths and backgrounds. Our relationship with Israel is a mutually beneficial partnership that reinforces America's moral values and strategic interests, promoting stability in a highly volatile region. Our two nations face many of the same threats, making it imperative that America does not waiver in our commitment to strengthen Israel's ability to defend itself.

The U.S.-Israel relationship is truly the embodiment of "peace through strength". By standing together, we demonstrate to our adversaries that we will not be intimidated and that we will defend our shared values and interests. As malicious regimes like Iran continue their quest for nuclear capabilities, it is vital that America remains committed to ensuring a strong and secure Israel.

As a Member of Congress, I remain steadfast in my support for Israel and look forward to helping advance U.S.-Israel defense cooperation. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Israel's 75th anniversary and reaffirming our commitment to this important partnership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, due to committee obligations, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 194. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 194 (House Res. 311).

RECOGNIZING ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL'S SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN OF WYANDOTTE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Theodore Roosevelt High School in Wyandotte, Michigan on the occasion of their Centennial Celebration. Their steadfast commitment to the education of our area's youth over the last 100 years is worthy of commendation.

The cornerstone of Roosevelt High School was laid in 1921, and over the next two years while the school was being built not a single power tool was used. "The pride of Wyandotte" as it was referred to at the time, is still to this day a beautifully conceived building, with a limestone facade and hand-carved English Oak throughout the building. Though there were only 500 high school students at the time, the new school was built to hold 1,400, allowing it to serve the city of Wyandotte for the next century.

Since the first graduating class crossed the stage in 1923, tens of thousands of students have walked the halls of Roosevelt High School. Many renovations and additions have happened, from the five large WPA murals that were installed in the auditorium in 1942 to

the new gym and workout facilities that were built in 2003, with many in-between. What hasn't changed is the staffs drive to educate and empower the children of Wyandotte, as well as the tradition of parental involvement and partnerships with local businesses. From the many events John and I attended over the years, it has been so heartwarming to see the entire community committed to the mission of helping their students succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the staff, students, and community that have made Theodore Roosevelt High School a tremendous educational environment for the last 100 years. From athletics and debate club to the Roosevelt Marching Band participating in President Obama's inauguration, we have always been so proud to see how they represent the state of Michigan. I am excited to see them produce amazing graduates to send off into the world for the next 100 years.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF DEFIANCE, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a historic milestone in Defiance, Ohio in our District. Today, citizens are gathering to celebrate the Bicentennial Anniversary of the City of Defiance. Events throughout the day will focus on "Remembering our history, Honoring our present, and Envisioning our future."

On April 28, 2023, after being surveyed by Captain James Riley, the plat for the Village of Defiance was recorded in Wood County, Ohio by Horatio G. Phillips. He purchased thirty acres of land in the Village of Defiance at the confluence of the Auglaize and Maumee Rivers, gateway to the Great Lakes. Thus, Defiance was born and is the County Seat of Defiance County.

The history notes that "Benjamin Leavell would join with Phillips to market the property. It was divided into 150 lots. Their 1823 newspaper ad stated the streets are wide, with alleys for the convenience of the lots, which are of handsome size. It also stated the proprietors have laid off lots for religious societies, schools, and a courthouse. The location of the 1794 Fort Defiance was set aside as a public park."

Residents named the community after Fort Defiance, once a western-most outpost in the Ohio country in early America. Constructed by General Anthony Wayne before 1794's Battle of Fallen Timbers, Fort Defiance was also an important defense in Ohio from invasion by British soldiers during the War of 1812.

Growth continued following "speculation of the construction of the Miami & Erie and Wabash & Erie Canals and their route as they connected to Lake Erie. Ultimately the canals would join together 10½ miles southwest of Defiance at a location named Junction. The canals used the same channel through Defiance. The Wabash & Erie connecting Fort Wayne, Indiana and west to Toledo, Ohio, was completed in 1843 and the Miami & Erie canal, connecting Cincinnati to Toledo, was completed in 1845." The canals' completion fueled much of the growth in western Ohio lands, including Defiance.