

Mr. Williams has served on various local, state, and national boards related to the soft drink industry and economic development. He served in leadership roles in Rotary and founded the Coke 10K Classic, one of the largest 10K races in Mississippi. He has served on the Mississippi Soft Drink Association board and the National Automatic Association and Trustmark Corporation in Jackson, Mississippi. He is also a past chairman of the Mississippi Economic Council.

The value that Mr. Williams has added to his community is evidenced by his awards. In 2020, Mr. Williams was awarded the Red Raspberry Humanitarian Award. In 2009, Mr. Williams and his brother, Sandy, were joint recipients of CREATE's George McLean Award for Philanthropy along with their spouses.

Mr. Williams represents one of four generations to attend the University of Mississippi. In honor of that legacy, his family sponsors the Corinth Coca-Cola Business Scholarship Endowment and formalized the Refreshments Inc. Partners in Business Scholarship Fund, which offers support to University of Mississippi's School of Business Administration students.

Over 80 years old, Mr. Williams has completed over 75 marathons on the 3 continents, including 22 consecutive Boston Marathons. At one point, he ranked fifth in the world in the 80+ age division of marathon runners. Mr. Williams has added cycling, swimming, skydiving, and bungee jumping to his list of hobbies to try.

Mr. Williams and his late wife, Nancy Ann Kincade Williams, were married for over 55 years. The couple has 4 children: Nan Williams Green (Stuart), Sara Williams Berry (Mont), Ken Williams (Edi), and Martin Williams (Adriene), most of whom reside in the Great State of Mississippi. His sons, Ken and Martin, are now part of the family business.

I commend Mr. Williams for a life that is so well lived and is such an example to others.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR AMELIO HOWARD FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO GRACE TEMPLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2023*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Pastor Amelio P. Howard of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Pastor Howard received his calling to the ministry in March 1989 and has served as Pastor of Grace Temple Missionary Baptist Church since being installed as Pastor on May 2, 1993.

Answering the spiritual call to service leads so many people to a rewarding and prosperous life, and that can certainly be said for Pastor Howard. He has upheld his Christian duty to his God, to his family, and to his church of believers for 30 years. That long and steady leadership has certainly changed countless lives for the better, and the Pine Bluff community can be proud of Pastor Howard's commitment to them and to his faith.

Grace Temple Church's motto is, "We Are The Friendly Church That Loves People." That motto is lived by Pastor Howard daily. He has created a church community that embraces,

with love and grace, everyone who is guided by God. We can all learn from the Church's motto and from Pastor Howard's faithfulness. As a cornerstone of the Pine Bluff community, I know that I am joined by many in saying to Pastor Howard, "well done, good and faithful servant." He has earned the respect of his community, and I am proud to share his example with the people of the United States of America today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Pastor Howard for his 30 years of service to his church and his community in Pine Bluff.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RENÉ KEMPER

**HON. HARRIET M. HAGEMAN**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2023*

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, serving the community can take on many different forms, whether picking up trash in one's neighborhood or assisting individuals in need. However, Renè Suzzette Kemper is someone who decided to dedicate her entire life to the service of others. Renè was born and raised on a ranch just outside Cheyenne. At a young age, Renè enjoyed spending time outdoors with the various animals that frequented her family's ranch, including her lifelong favorites, the family's cats. Growing up, her love for writing and limitless imagination would later inspire her to attend the University of Wyoming and graduate with a teaching degree in English studies. Shortly after graduation, Renè moved to Douglas where she pursued her passion for service by working and later serving as director for Youth Development Services in Douglas, Wyoming. Renè later had the privilege to serve as mayor of the community she so dearly loved. During her tenure, she touched the hearts of everyone around her. Renè tragically passed away after a long, courageous battle with cancer on March 2, 2023. Though she is not physically with us anymore, her work, compassion, humor, and tireless service remain steadfast in both the town of Douglas and the hearts and minds of everyone who knew her. It is my hope that we all look to Renè's story for inspiration and leadership so that we may carry on her legacy by positively impacting all our communities.

HONORING THE 21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS 2023 SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

**HON. CHIP ROY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2023*

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, today we congratulate the 2023 Service Academy appointees from the 21st Congressional District of Texas.

The following individuals have accepted Academy Appointments:

Sophia M. Akers, Health Careers High School, San Antonio, United States Military Academy. James C. Cowden III, Greystone Preparatory School at the University of Ozarks, Regents High School, Austin, United States Naval Academy. William S. Crone,

Central Catholic High School, San Antonio, United States Merchant Marine Academy. Lukas C. Decker, United World College East Africa, Arusha, Tanzania, Comfort, United States Air Force Academy. Clay A. Dellinger, Huntsville High School, Alabama, Spring Branch, United States Air Force Academy. William H. French, Boerne High School, Boerne, United States Military Academy. James A. Garcia-Gallegos, Northwestern Preparatory School, Douglas MacArthur High School, San Antonio, United States Naval Academy. Houston K. Hendrix, Boerne High School, Boerne, United States Air Force Academy. Pierce D. Patterson, Deerfield Academy, Austin, United States Military Academy. Trieste A. Perciavalle, Smithson Valley High School, Spring Branch, United States Military Academy. Joshua A. Torres, Ronald Reagan High School, San Antonio, United States Military Academy. Joseph W. White, Alamo Heights High School, San Antonio, United States Air Force Academy. Gavin S. Woods, Smithson Valley High School, Spring Branch, United States Naval Academy. Josephine C. Zink, Ronald Reagan High School, San Antonio, United States Naval Academy.

These outstanding students have much to contribute to their chosen Academy and to our country. We appreciate their talents and their patriotism.

I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating these truly heroic young men and young women.

RECOGNIZING MRS. LAURA LEE KIRKLEY

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2023*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Laura Lee Kirkley for her 40 years of service to the Di Giorgio School Board and the Central Valley community. Mrs. Kirkley has been a Valley resident her whole life—growing up in Tehachapi before eventually moving to Arvin in 1974. In 1976, she married James Kirkley and started a family. As her sons started attending school in the Di Giorgio School District, Mrs. Kirkley knew she wanted to become more involved. This led her to join the school board in 1983—a position she has held ever since.

Mrs. Kirkley attended Bakersfield College and would graduate from California State University, Bakersfield in 1994. One year after her graduation, she was hired by the Arvin Union School District as a 7th and 8th grade math teacher at Haven Drive Middle School. As a teacher, Mrs. Kirkley regularly demonstrated her commitment to her students by helping to lead math competitions for the school. Her students were involved in the County Math Field Day competitions and won many awards—including winning first place in the Arvin High Math Field Day 11 straight years.

Mrs. Kirkley was incredibly involved in the Arvin community throughout her sons' childhood. She attended many Little League, Babe Ruth games, and other extracurricular activities. When they attended Arvin High School, she enjoyed going to their baseball, football, and band performances. Throughout her entire

adult life, Mrs. Kirkley has been a staple in the Central Valley community, supporting not only her own children but the hundreds of students she interacted with during her time in the Di Giorgio School District.

Mrs. Kirkley exemplifies the type of leadership that makes the Central Valley such a wonderful place to call home. Her work on behalf of students living in rural communities is remarkable, and I'm proud to recognize her service. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mrs. Kirkley's 40 years of service on the Di Giorgio School Board and the Central Valley community.

RECOGNIZING THE YPSILANTI  
COMMUNITY CHOIR'S 40TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ypsilanti Community Choir on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of their founding. The contributions they have made to the culture of the city of Ypsilanti is worthy of commendation.

The Ypsilanti Community Choir was founded in 1983 by Denise Rae Zellner, who originally needed a small choral group for her acting group, the Ypsilanti Players. The Choir quickly outgrew that supporting roll, and by March of 1984 nearly 60 musicians stood on the stage at Holy Trinity Chapel for their first official performance.

For the last 40 years, the Ypsilanti Community Choir has participated in special events in and around the city, like the Harvest Festival and sidewalk caroling during the holiday sea-

son. Residents of the local Senior Living Communities have been blessed with countless performances, drastically improving their quality of life. The Choir also sings the national anthem at basketball games for Eastern Michigan University, as well as Memorial Day ceremonies at the local Washtenaw Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

All of these events, large and small, help foster a sense of community in the city of Ypsilanti. Dozens of different voices, working together for a singular purpose, and the end result being more beautiful than any one of them could accomplish alone. The Choir is an excellent example of what we need to do on the local, state, and national level, and what we can accomplish if we work together with a common goal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the founding of the Ypsilanti Community Choir. For 40 years, they have been making the city of Ypsilanti a more vibrant and welcoming place for all residents. We thank them for their contributions to this great city, and I cannot wait till the next time I get to hear those voices ring.