

RECOGNIZING ROBERT C.
FREEMAN ESQ.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and congratulate Robert Freeman on receiving the 30 Under 30 award presented by Business First of Buffalo to individuals who have impactful careers and accomplishments in their industry.

Mr. Freeman started his education at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, and continued his education there earning a Juris Doctor from the University at Buffalo's School of Law. During his time at the University at Buffalo, Mr. Freeman was a member of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, and a recipient of the Milton Plesur History Honor Award.

Mr. Freeman is a partner at Nesper, Ferber, DiGiacomo, Johnson & Grimm, LLP, where he has been since Oct. 2019. There, he focuses his practice on commercial and residential real estate law. Some of his previous work experience includes internships with the New York State Supreme Court, 8th Judicial District, and the Erie County District Attorney's Office.

Outside of work, Mr. Freeman is actively involved with Saints Peter and Paul's Chapter of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and is an on-ice volunteer with the SABAH program. Also, he is a member of the UB Law Alumni Association and sits on the Town of Amherst's Employee Suggestion Merit Award Board. He is a proud recipient of the Father Nelson Baker Service Award and is an Eagle Scout.

Today, I ask that we recognize and give thanks to leaders in the Western New York Community, such as Robert Freeman for his continued dedication and selfless service to his community.

HONORING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA LIONS MOBILE SIGHT AND HEARING SCREENING UNIT

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Northern Virginia Lions Mobile Sight and Hearing Screening Unit. Since 1976, they have dutifully served our community members—including approximately 550,000 children—across Virginia's Seventh District in the counties of Culpeper, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and the City of Fredericksburg.

The Mobile Sight and Hearing Screening Unit's primary mission has been to detect vision or hearing impairments that may restrict someone's ability to learn or develop emotionally—and then refer these individuals to healthcare providers. Virginia volunteers have conducted screenings at schools, churches, county fairs, and health clinics across Northern Virginia at no cost to patients.

Thanks to advances in technology, Lions Clubs are now able to use portable sight and hearing equipment to conduct screenings in

our communities. As a result, the Northern Virginia Lions Mobile Sight and Hearing Screening Unit conducted its final mobile screening event on March 29, 2023. The last remaining van is now being sold, and the remaining funds will be used to purchase new portable sight and hearing equipment, which will be distributed to Lions Clubs across Northern Virginia. For the past 47 years, the Northern Virginia unit has admirably exemplified the Lions Club International's motto, "We Serve."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring all the men and women of the Northern Virginia Lions Mobile Sight and Hearing Screening Unit for their years of dedicated, selfless service to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIANA JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today to congratulate the Indiana Jewish Historical Society as the organization celebrates its 50th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, I would like to take the time to honor the Jewish community in the state of Indiana and to commemorate the organization's mission of historic preservation.

The Indiana Jewish Historical Society is a non-profit organization that works to collect and safeguard historical Jewish records, documents, photographs, and other pertinent materials related to the history of Jewish people throughout the state. Through exhibits, educational programs, publications, and a yearly podcast, the organization continues to share the story of Indiana's Jewish community with the public. As our society faces increasing division and intolerance, the Indiana Jewish Historical Society seeks to promote understanding and to celebrate diversity. For its remarkable contributions to preserving Jewish history and culture throughout the state of Indiana and beyond, the Indiana Jewish Historical Society is to be commended.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge the leadership and Board of Directors consisting of members from throughout the state of Indiana. The Executive Director is Michael Brown, and the Board of Directors includes Kevin Krulewitch, Barbara Goldman, Lori Katz, Larry Adelman, Alan Gilbert, Trent D. Pendley, Elaine Zuckerman, John Planer, Sheila Greenwald, Kevin Corn, Mike Wolinsky, Isabel Silverman, Alex Feldman, Tory Schendel-Vyvoda, and Steven Bulloff.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the Indiana Jewish Historical Society on its 50th anniversary. The work of this truly admirable organization is a great asset to the people of Indiana, and the leaders and members are worthy of the highest praise.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VERNETTA JORDAN GLASS AS SHE CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of the U.S. and, I might indicate, is a member of my family, the Glass Family. Before my mother married my father, her maiden name was Glass. The lady that we celebrate today as she celebrates her 100th birthday is Mrs. Vernetta Jordan Glass. I am proud to wish her a happy birthday and to wish all of my Glass relatives well.

Vernetta Jordan Glass was born on May 27, 1923, in the historic town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Of course, Mound Bayou traces its origin to the 1820s to a white planter, Joseph Davis, the older brother of Jefferson Davis who was President of the Confederate States who left the Union and formed the Confederacy which led to the Civil War. After the war, Joseph Davis sold his land to a former slave, Benjamin Montgomery, and it was Isiah T. Montgomery who led the foundation of Mound Bayou in 1887.

Vernetta was born on May 27, 1923, in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, and grew up in this all-Black town. She went to school, church, and was taught values by her parents that have guided her life to this day. She married Winston L. Glass, and she and her late husband migrated from Mississippi to Detroit, Michigan, in 1947, where they created for themselves very productive lives and raised seven highly-educated and accomplished children.

After retiring from her nursing career, Vernetta increased her volunteer activities at her church, the community center, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, and senior citizen centers. Understanding the value of electoral politics and the Civil Rights Movement, for many years Vernetta worked elections as a judge.

She is grandmother to more than 50 grand and great grandchildren and enjoys visits from friends and family. She also loves music and gardening and is a superb scrabble player.

As she reaches the ripe age of 100, I am pleased to wish this dynamic lady who has accomplished so much a happy birthday, and, by the way, I am pleased to know that she is my cousin.

RECOGNIZING MS. LINDA C. DAVIS

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ms. Linda C. Davis, also known as the "First Lady of the 75th Ranger Regiment," for her many years of dedicated service to our country.

Originally from Alexandria, Virginia, Ms. Davis worked as a clerk steno at Lawson Army Airfield in Georgia when she applied for a position at the 75th Ranger Regiment. On

November 4, 1984, Ms. Davis was hired as the Regiment's Secretary to the Commander, just 31 days after the Regiment was founded at Fort Benning. On that day, Linda Davis found a place she says is a family.

For more than 31 years, Ms. Davis has served as an unfailingly reliable and invaluable asset to the 75th Ranger Regiment, including leading the scheduling for the Regiment's command team travel, working with the 75th Ranger Regiment Alumni "Ranger Graybeards," and providing guidance and assistance for Ranger Regiment Gold Star families.

During her time with the 75th Ranger Regiment, Ms. Davis has been recognized with the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the Order of St. Maurice-Civis for civilian service, two Commander's Awards for Excellence, and was awarded the Mr. Charles E. Pimble Special Operations Department of the Army Civilian Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.

In 2008, November 4 was designated as "Linda Davis Day" by former 75th Ranger Regiment Commander Col. Richard Clarke. Despite these accolades, Ms. Davis maintains the most honorable titles she has held in her career are being called 'Ranger Sis' and 'Ranger Mom' by those she serves and supports.

Throughout her years of service and leadership, Linda Davis has demonstrated unwavering loyalty and dedication to our country and a commitment to supporting those who protect our freedom. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and the people of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, I wish to thank Linda Davis for her service to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting on H.R. 1076 and H.R. 1156. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 228, and YEA on Roll Call No. 229.

HONORING THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Los Angeles Times newspaper, based in the 36th Congressional District of California, which won two Pulitzer Prizes this year for excellence in photography and investigative journalism.

A strong Fourth Estate is essential to our democracy. Good journalism shines light on injustice, holds power accountable, and informs the public. Since 1881, the Los Angeles Times has been a critical source of news for our community, and I want to congratulate them on these two recent honors. The staff of the Los Angeles Times, as well as our community in general, should be extremely proud of the Times' exceptional journalism.

We have seen a tumultuous decade for the journalism industry in general—from a changing business landscape to growing hostilities directed at journalists. Despite these challenges, the Los Angeles Times and its reporters have worked diligently to provide Southern California and the rest of the country with impactful journalism. I commend Los Angeles Times photographer Christina House for her Pulitzer for Feature Photography this year. I also congratulate the entire staff of the Times for their Pulitzer for Breaking News Reporting.

I often quote Abraham Lincoln, who once said: "In this age, in this country, public sentiment is everything. With it, nothing can fail; against it, nothing can succeed." No pillar of democracy is more important in providing information to the public than a free press. I want to thank the Los Angeles Times for its consistent dedication to the necessary and difficult work of informing the public. I am proud to honor Los Angeles Times leadership, reporters, and staff as they celebrate their Pulitzer Prizes.

HONORING RABBI MICHAEL C. SIMON

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Michael C. Simon, a respected scholar and spiritual leader, and to recognize him for eighteen years of exemplary service to Temple Beth Kodesh, the oldest conservative synagogue in Boynton Beach, Florida.

Rabbi Simon has invigorated Temple Beth Kodesh through his meaningful and topical sermons. After practicing law for 20 years, Rabbi Simon turned to this calling full-time and has spread nothing but joy and enthusiasm to all of those he has encountered. As a full time scholar and teacher, Rabbi Simon has been dedicated to encouraging his congregants through innovative and interesting services, programs, classes and lectures, warmth, kindness, and compassion.

Rabbi Simon also serves the community as the Chaplain for Jewish War Veterans, Instructor at Florida Atlantic University, and faculty member at Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, where he is a popular lecturer on Jewish subject matter and history. Rabbi Simon was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Mesifita Adas Wolkowisk in recognition of his many years of service to the Jewish community.

Rabbi Simon's commitment to the Synagogue and his service to the Jewish community is truly remarkable. I am honored to recognize him today and wish him continued success.

CONGRATULATING ROB GELDER

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and to

wish a hearty farewell to one of my constituents and friends, Rob Gelder. Rob is leaving his post as Kitsap County Commissioner to work as assistant county manager for Thurston County.

After receiving a degree in political science from the University of Rochester in 1988, Rob relocated to the Pacific Northwest in January of 1990. Commissioner Gelder worked for Group Health Cooperative for over eight years, before joining Hopelink and then the Washington Health Foundation. With over a decade in senior leadership and executive management, he moved to Poulsbo to become part of the leadership team of Martha & Mary.

Rob was first appointed to Kitsap County's Board of Commissioners in 2011 and just celebrated 12 years of service to the residents of Kitsap County.

Commissioner Gelder has been an active member of the Kitsap community and has been involved with the Poulsbo Historical Society, Jewelbox Theatre, Poulsbo Rotary Club, and Hospice of Kitsap County. Rob is also a member of the State Council on Aging as well as the board of the Washington State Association of Counties.

He has been integral in creating a positive culture of collaboration between the various jurisdictions, elected officials, and staff for which our region has benefited.

Some of the Commissioner's accomplishments over his time in office include making the Kingston Village Green community center a reality, partnering with Coffee Oasis to expand into the Kingston community, adding over 4,000 acres of public open space for community enjoyment, and partnering with the Suquamish Tribe to create the Port Madison Dialogues.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to recognize Rob's dedication and service to Kitsap County. He has been a great friend and partner to me. His leadership and commitment to the community have never wavered. He has made a tremendous difference in Kitsap County and throughout the state of Washington. His service to our community is greatly appreciated and will be long remembered. We wish him all the best on his next endeavor.

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING LIFE OF UNITED STATES AIR FORCE VETERAN LEON ROBERT FULTON

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Orleans' beloved native son, a true mentor, friend and confidant to many. Leon Robert Fulton was born on September 27, 1932, in New Orleans, Louisiana and passed away on Saturday, April 29, 2023, in Fairburn, Georgia. He was the seventh of eight children born to Clinton and Martha Pugh Fulton. He accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age when he was baptized by the late Rev. Felton Raphael, pastor of Second Bethlehem Baptist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana. He later converted to Catholicism, serving as a devout member of St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church,