

Throughout her career, Barbara has also been a devoted mother. Her two children have expressed their admiration for her work ethic and for her abiding love. She was their biggest cheerleader at baseball games and swim meets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Barbara Wainman. Her commitment and passion for public service and for our country has been immeasurable. I wish her the best as she takes the next step in life to enjoy time with her family and friends.

#### HONORING JAMES EARL BROWN'S LIFE AND LEGACY

#### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 2023*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the life of Mr. James Earl Brown, a true servant for North Texas. Mr. Brown was born to Mr. Jim Brown and Ms. Pearlie Mae Evans on January 18, 1942 and was raised the youngest of three siblings in Clarksville, Texas.

For over 40 years, Mr. Brown served students across North Texas and completed his career as an Adjunct Professor at Tarrant County College. In 1959, he began his academic career by graduating from Carter G. Woodson High School in Haynesville, Louisiana. Mr. Brown then earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Grambling State University. In 1979, he would go on to acquire a Master of Education degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and received his teacher certification only a year later.

Mr. Brown held many titles over the years from a teacher of art, technology facilitator, computer applications, and even assistant principal. One of his greatest recognitions came in 1985 when Fort Worth Independent School District named him "Teacher of the Year".

In his community, Mr. Brown was known for making meaningful, long-lasting connections full of exploration and beloved memories. He was loved by so many Green B. Trimble Tech High "bulldogs" of all graduating classes and backgrounds—who flocked to social media to express condolences and love upon his recent passing. Mr. Brown continued to champion conservation efforts throughout his educational career, and thanks to him, his legacy and impact on young Texas lives will remain past his time. James submitted his last assignment on May 30, 2023.

He is preceded and reunited with his Father and Mother; Jim Brown and Pearlie Mae Evans, Brothers, Charles Brown, Sr. and Joseph Brown, Sr.; as well as his sisters, Velma Jean Johnson and Doris Jean White. He will fondly be remembered by a host of family, friends, and colleagues.

#### HONORING DISTINGUISHED NEIGHBORS, LEADERS, AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS DURING NATIONAL IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of many individuals and organizations who have served my district during the pandemic. Through selfless service, these individuals have invested in America and their new communities to help us recover from the pandemic as a united community and Nation. I recognize these distinguished leaders in Florida during National Immigrant Heritage Month.

Henry Mendoza, an industrial engineer, fled to the United States from Bucaramanga, Colombia, due to physical beatings, death threats, and acts of violence against him by illegally armed groups. He had been working with Colombia's Civil Conflict victims as a community organizer. In the United States, Mr. Mendoza has dedicated himself to the service of others. He has worked tirelessly as the director of Outreach and Health Initiatives of the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. In these roles, he has addressed hunger and health disparities and met the basic needs of the Azalea Park and Oviedo communities. Mr. Mendoza also helps other refugees adapt and serve their new communities. Mr. Mendoza co-founded Corpus Care, Inc., a 501(c)(3) dedicated to promoting health education and access to healthcare in Central Florida.

Hoover Cajicá is a Catholic priest and psychologist who came to the United States from Bucaramanga, Colombia, after being gravely assaulted and threatened for his community work by illegally armed groups. In Colombia, Father Hoover worked as a psychologist supporting families and victims of abuse in the minority and vulnerable communities impacted by the Colombian Civil Conflict and many impoverished communities. This work put his life in danger. He has continued providing mental health support to those struggling with addiction, victims of domestic violence, and others in Chicago and Central Florida. Father Hoover founded and is the Executive Director of the Renacer Foundation, a project of Renacer en Vida Nueva, Inc., a 501(c)(3) dedicated to promoting mental health in Chicago and Central Florida.

Hernando Elias David Torres is a retired Catholic priest and professor who fled to the United States with his family from Cali, Colombia, after being tortured, gravely assaulted, and threatened by illegally armed groups for his community work. In Colombia, Father Hernando worked tirelessly for the cause of the poor. During the Colombian Civil Conflict, he worked as a hostage negotiator and assisted the United States Embassy in Bogotá in retrieving the remains of United States citizen casualties of the conflict. Illegally armed groups assassinated both his bishop and his brother for this work. At the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret, Hernando has dedicated his efforts to supporting the Healing Hunger Food Pantry and the church's many public health initiatives in Central Florida.

Yoluiscla Ustariz, a public accountant, and her family came to the United States from Barcelona, Venezuela, after receiving death threats due to their political differences with the Venezuelan government. In 2022, she and others worked to provide COVID-19 testing to vulnerable communities at supermarkets and evening testing events during the height of the Omicron variant wave in Kissimmee and Orlando. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian. In 2023, Mrs. Ustariz co-founded Florida Health Station, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting health education and well-being in Central Florida.

Carmen Freitez, a medical doctor, and her family came to the United States from Cagua, Venezuela, after being victims of extortion, kidnapping, and persecution for being members of a founding family of a political party opposed to the Venezuelan government. She is a surgeon with 30 years of experience and has supported community health projects and vaccination in Central Florida. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

María Rueda, a medical doctor, and her family came to the United States from Maracaibo, Venezuela, after being victims of political persecution, kidnapping, and death threats by armed groups affiliated with the regime. She is a pediatrician with 30 years of experience. She worked as a community health worker in supporting public health programs, including Alzheimer's education clinics and vaccination programs to address meningitis and hepatitis outbreaks in the Azalea Park neighborhood. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Franklin Yorio, a medical doctor, and his family fled from Venezuela to the United States seeking protection from death threats, extortion, and political persecution. He is an ophthalmologist with 27 years of experience. He worked as a community health worker in the Azalea Park neighborhood, where he partnered with numerous organizations to promote health and education. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, he supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Silvia Sierra, a medical doctor, and her family fled to the United States from Maracay,

Venezuela, as victims of political persecution due to her work as a medical director supporting her local community. She is a medical epidemiologist by profession with 27 years of experience. She is a community health worker promoting vaccination and addressing COVID-19, meningitis, hepatitis, and monkeypox outbreaks in Azalea Park. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Emily Salamanca, a medical doctor, and her family came to the United States from Maracay, Venezuela, fleeing death threats for belonging to political groups opposed to the Venezuelan regime. She is a gynecologist and obstetrician with 26 years of experience. She worked as a community health worker supporting many public health projects and hurricane recovery efforts in Azalea Park. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Liliam Mayora, a medical doctor, fled to the United States from Maracay, Venezuela, with her family. They were victims of political persecution, threats, and harassment by the Venezuelan government. Mayora is a medical anesthesiologist by profession and has 27 years of experience. She worked as a community health worker in Azalea Park, where she supported health education and COVID-19 recovery projects. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Silvia Estrada de Losada, a medical doctor and former medical school professor, fled to the United States from Maracay, Venezuela, with her family. They were fleeing political persecution and acts of violence, which put all of them in grave danger. Estrada is an obstetrician and gynecologist with 26 years of experience. She worked as a community health worker in the Azalea Park area. She promoted health and helped create a community health program at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret, which served a multi-county region. She now works at the Florida Department of Health.

Clorinda Vitoria Contreras, a medical doctor and medical researcher, fled to the United States from Valencia, Venezuela, with her family. She was a victim of violence by armed groups of the regime. She also faced the reality that the Venezuelan government would seize her research and life's work. Contreras is a medical research scientist with 32 years of experience. She currently works as a community health worker supporting public health, establishing a nonprofit focused on health

education, and bringing medical technology to the United States. She has obtained three U.S. patents for medical technology that has the potential to benefit all Americans. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian. In 2023, Contreras co-founded Florida Health Station, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting health education and well-being in Central Florida.

Jhon Fabio Gamboa and his wife, Tamaira Picón, came to the United States from Bucaramanga, Colombia, with their children Jhon Franco and Tammy, due to death threats, extortion, and acts of violence against Gamboa for his business interests in the Chicamocha National Park. Gamboa lent his entrepreneurial spirit and talent to the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King, Jesús de Nazaret, and the Renacer Foundation, supporting multiple public health and social services projects. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, Gamboa supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. Picón supported a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida in partnership with the Renacer Foundation. Together, they helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Joaquin Hernández, an elementary school student, and his family fled Bucaramanga, Colombia, to the United States to escape death threats and acts of violence against his family—his mother, Silvia; his father, Fidel; and his uncles, Henry and Hoover—by illegally armed groups. His family was targeted for their organizing work supporting local communities negatively impacted by Colombia's civil conflict. In the United States, Hernández found protection and a new calling: to keep his friends and new neighbors safe during the pandemic. He partnered with his church and local community-based organizations to create several videos urging vaccination. His videos reached thousands and motivated many to get their children vaccinated. As a first-grade student, Hernández has shown that no one is too young to serve and help make America stronger. Hernández's family recently received permanent resident status, and he looks forward to the day that he can celebrate the Fourth of July as an American citizen with his sisters, Isabella and Violeta.

Marianne Long, a medical doctor, was born a United States citizen but was residing in Venezuela when the country's political upheavals displaced her. Unable to practice medicine in the United States, she still wished to serve the public, so she volunteered her time practicing medicine worldwide with Doctors Without Borders. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the

pandemic and Hurricane Ian. Today, she continues to volunteer her time at the church. Recently, she facilitated an ecology Spring Break camp for elementary school children at the church, and she also supports the Healing Hunger Food Pantry.

Joselina Reyes, a local community leader, and her husband, Generoso Mateo, are naturalized citizens of the United States. Originally from the Dominican Republic, they have prospered in America and give back to help those in need in their community. Both are trained community health workers who worked to bring health and education access to Kissimmee and Orlando during the pandemic. As a family, they support their local food pantry with their children, Elian and Maria Victoria Mateo, who serve as volunteers and generously give their time to help their neighbors. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, they supported a disaster relief and community health team at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. As a family, they helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Anabel Maria Cohen Negron, a business administrator, came to the United States from Caracas, Venezuela, in 2022, fleeing threats and abuses against her and her family by illegally armed groups. She immediately began working to support her community by supporting local public health programs and vaccination events during the COVID-19 emergency in Orlando. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Luisana Edith Leon Flores, who worked in manufacturing, came to the United States from Maracay, Venezuela, in 2022, fleeing death threats and violence against her by illegally armed groups. She worked with a group of public health workers and medical professionals to promote community health programs and other public health initiatives during the COVID-19 emergency in Orlando. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Hugo Molero Omana is a professional musician and special education teacher who fled from San Cristóbal, Venezuela, to the United States. His community work in Venezuela supporting education and the welfare of children led to political persecution, threats to his safety, beatings, and other violence. Together with his husband, Franklyn Martinez, they fled to the United States, where they volunteered at local food pantries and promoted community health in Orange and Osceola Counties. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, he supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Renacer Foundation. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Ricardo Arria is a medical doctor and permanent resident of the United States. He fled to America to escape threats and violence by illegally armed groups. During the COVID-19 emergency, he and others worked on public health programs and vaccination events in Orlando. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, he supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Leslyn Milla Méndez, a mother of two school-aged children, including a special needs child, and her family came to the United States from Honduras after receiving death and extortion threats from criminal gangs in her country. She is dedicated to her children, one of whom has cerebral palsy. She volunteers to support the many programs that aid families in Azalea Park at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported programming that helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Oscar Mauricio Vega, a journalist, and his wife, Jenny Botello, fled to the United States with their son, Santiago, from Bucaramanga, Colombia, after receiving death threats against their child. The threats were in retaliation for Vega's refusal to be extorted by illegally armed groups that have ravaged Colombia. In the United States, Vega and Botello used their skills and talents at the Healing Hunger Food Pantry, where they created content and supported families experiencing hunger and food insecurity in the Azalea Park neighborhood. They also volunteered extensively at the Renacer Foundation, where they helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Yuri Zelaya Membreno, a small business owner, and her family came to the United States from El Salvador, fleeing violence from organized crime and criminal gangs. She and her husband, Yaisón José Cordero Zalazar, own a business together and work to support the food pantry and social programs at the Healing Hunger Food Pantry. Zelaya works on projects that support leadership development among women. She also coordinates events and volunteerism in support of social support programs that aid families in Azalea Park at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, Zelaya and Cordero supported programming that helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Virginia Brown, a mental health counselor and medical doctor, was born a United States citizen but displaced by Venezuela's political upheavals. Unable to practice medicine in the United States, she attended Rollins College to study mental health. In the United States, she worked for decades serving vulnerable children and families in Orange County. She is the executive director of Warm Welcoming Arms, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization focused on meeting the basic needs of newly arrived immigrant children. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she came out of retirement to manage a disaster relief team funded by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of

Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the hurricane.

William Josué Trejos Zelaya, a local community leader, was brought to the United States as a young child by his parents from El Salvador, fleeing violence from organized crime and illegally armed groups. The United States is the only home he knows. He graduated from high school with top honors and maintains top honors at Valencia Community College, where he will graduate in the fall. He loves America and in high school was chosen to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. He has volunteered to support the local food pantry and the social programs at the Healing Hunger Food Pantry. Trejos has dedicated himself to reaching his American Dream and helping build a stronger local community by partnering with his neighbors to fulfill his duty of care to all in need.

José Alfredo Quintero Zelaya, a local community leader, came to the United States from El Salvador, fleeing violence from organized crime and illegally armed groups. For many years, he has worked as a volunteer in support of the local food pantry and the social programs at the Healing Hunger Food Pantry. He has also supported the work of his church, uplifting and assisting the many displaced United States citizens in Orlando in the aftermath of multiple disasters, from Hurricane Maria to Hurricane Ian. Quintero has dedicated himself to serving his community and making the Azalea Park neighborhood a better place for all its residents.

Rafael López Acevedo is a local community leader who fled to the United States from Bucaramanga, Colombia, due to threats and violence from illegally armed groups. Since arriving in Orlando, he and his wife, Luz Dary, and their two children, Esteban and Pablo, have dedicated themselves to volunteering and supporting the Healing Hunger Food Pantry in Orlando, hunger relief, public health, and childhood programs in the Azalea Park neighborhood. López and his family also volunteer extensively at the Renacer Foundation, where they have helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Lizeth Juliana Carvajal Quintero is a community organizer who fled to the United States from Bucaramanga, Colombia, to escape threats and violence from illegally armed groups due to her work supporting local labor in her community. She has worked in support of the Healing Hunger Food Pantry and the Renacer Foundation, both in Orlando, supporting various projects in support of families in need in the Azalea Park neighborhood. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Yasseys Piña, a medical doctor, came to the United States from Coro, Venezuela, fleeing threats and abuse against her and her family by illegally armed groups. She supported a team of medical professionals and community health workers during the COVID-19 emergency and in support of other public

health emergencies in Orlando. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team that was established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Susana Vivian De La Fuente Grosch is an attorney and public accountant who fled to the United States to escape threats and violence against her and her family by illegally armed groups. During the COVID-19 emergency, she and others worked on public health programs and vaccination events in Orlando. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, she supported a disaster relief and community health team established through a workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret. The team helped hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Jhon Franco Gamboa fled to the United States as a child with his family to escape death threats, extortion, and acts of violence against members of his family. As a talented young adult, Gamboa supports the work of not only the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret, but also the Renacer Foundation. He supports multiple public health and social services projects. Through a youth workforce development program managed by CareerSource Central Florida at the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret, Gamboa supports work that assists hundreds of Central Florida families recover from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

Mariana Chavez is an elementary school student who immigrated to the United States from Bucaramanga, Colombia. She is the granddaughter of a U.S. citizen, and she came to the United States with her family to contribute to our Nation's prosperity. She is the youngest volunteer at the Healing Hunger Food Pantry, where she faithfully serves by unpacking food and welcoming families. Her energy outpaces all of the adults who volunteer alongside her, including her father, Diego Chavez, her mother, Ingrid Gonzalez, and her older brother, Deiby Rodriguez.

The work of community members, churches, and community-based organizations that empower neighbors to help neighbors makes our communities more resilient. It also helps those of us in governance hear, see, and meet the needs of all who live in our districts.

The Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida and its churches in Orange County, the Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesús de Nazaret, the Healing Hunger Food Pantry and Osceola County, Trinity House at Saint John's Kissimmee, are churches with immigrant leadership that work to serve not only immigrants but the entire community. The Rev. Dr. José Rodríguez, the Rev. Maytée de la Torre, the Rev. Scott Anderson, the Rev. Steven Heisler, the Rev. Emilio González, and the Rev. Canon Dr. Luis Manuel de la Cruz support programming with a dedicated team of professionals and volunteers that build resilience and uphold the dignity of our immigrant community. Laurie Schoomaker managed a food pantry that has served thousands of neighbors and immigrants alike through the pandemic, multiple natural disasters, and life's challenges.

The Renacer Foundation promotes the well-being and mental health of immigrants through innovative programming and interventions aimed at welcoming immigrants and facilitating acculturation while celebrating and preserving the cultural differences that enrich our shared community. The Rev. Hoover Cajica and Renacer's team of professionals and volunteers leverage years of work in mental health and providing social services to build up our local immigrant families.

CareerSource Central Florida provides unfettered access for Central Florida families who wish to access the many professional opportunities that make our local community a beacon of hope and opportunity for many living and moving into the region. Pamela Nabors, Nilda Blanco, and Yaralise Colón have worked tirelessly for our community not only in assisting them through career transitions but also in assisting them as they recover and rebuild after tragedy. The programs overseen by Colón in the aftermath of multiple natural disasters and the pandemic have empowered and equipped workers to achieve and actively contribute to our local economy.

A Coalition of 100 Black Women, together with the Central Florida Black Nurses Association, extended unity and healing into our local immigrant communities during the pandemic by working with others to close gaps and mitigate health disparities in minority communities. Lawanna Gelzer and Dr. Jennifer Sankey worked tirelessly throughout all of Central Florida's counties to equip our immigrant community with the knowledge necessary to promote the health and well-being of our entire community by supporting workforce development projects aimed at empowering community health workers to bring healing knowledge and resources into our most vulnerable communities.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
DR. WILLIAM E. SPRIGGS

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 2023*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my late friend, Dr. William E. "Bill" Spriggs, who

passed away on June 6, 2023. Serving as both the Economics Department Chair at Howard University and as Chief Economist for the AFL-CIO, Bill was a champion for working people and economic justice. His legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of those of us that had the opportunity to learn from and work with him over the years.

Bill was born to World War II veterans and he continued their public service through his years of work in the federal government. He served as the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy during the Obama Administration, and before that he served in the Clinton Administration in a variety of roles. Bill graduated from Williams College with a bachelor's degree in economics and political science and then attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, where he earned a master's degree and doctorate in economics. This was at a time when there were very few Black Ph.D.s in economics, and he maintained that trail-blazing spirit throughout his life and career.

Bill was steadfast in his commitment to uplifting working people through economic policy. He was focused on many issues, including education, minimum wage, and workplace safety and he was particularly passionate about closing racial disparities in the labor market. His work highlighted how people of color, particularly Black Americans, were disproportionately lower income in our country, and he believed economic policy makers had an obligation to address these inequities. At times, he spoke the uncomfortable truth. For example, Bill bluntly stated that "the reason that racist policies have continued to exist is that racism involves an unexamined set of assumptions."

This was quite evident during my first term in Congress as we debated the 1994 Crime Bill, and I looked to Bill's scholarship to resist draconian, slogan-driven legislation. Many people were trying to codify tough-on-crime slogans and soundbites, such as "you do the adult crime, you do the adult time," or "three strikes and you're out." Bill steadfastly researched and presented evidence of how programs like Head Start, after school programs and other prevention and intervention strategies did more to effectively reduce future criminal behavior than the slogans and soundbites.

On a personal note, Bill and I shared both a personal and professional bond. I first met

Bill while serving in the Virginia General Assembly, when he was a professor at Norfolk State University. We were both admirers of the Attucks Theater on Church Street in Norfolk, Virginia that was noted for its unique architecture designed by an African American architect and financed by a Black bank in 1919. Bill's work has significantly influenced how I approach policymaking, especially in my role as the former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. I had the honor of calling him a friend, and I can attest to his personal kindness and fundamental good nature.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my condolences to his wife, Jennifer, his son, William, his loved ones, and everyone else who was influenced by his work.

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ARC NATURE COAST 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 2023*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Arc Nature Coast.

The Arc Nature Coast is an organization that assists adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. They provide individually tailored quality support and advocacy to promote their self-determination and inclusion in community life. They serve about 200 individuals annually through various programs such as residential, skill training, transportation, and employment. More than 80 individuals have secured employment in the community through their employment services programs.

Under the leadership of their current Executive Director, Mark W. Barry who has served for the past 20 years, the Arc Nature Coast has established itself as a quality organization that makes a profound impact on the lives of those it serves and their families.

The Arc Nature Coast provides an invaluable service to our community, and we are better for it. I thank everyone involved for their tireless dedication and wish them nothing but continued success.