

Seamheads); they will never reveal the constraints that Black ballplayers faced, lack of coaching among them; and they will always have been generated independent of the majors, an injustice that can never be corrected.

Hinchliffe invites you to consider difficult questions: consider if baseball had integrated a decade or two earlier, or if the game had never been segregated at all; consider if Paige, Gibson, Leonard, Oscar Charleston, Cool Papa Bell, and dozens of others had enjoyed their primes in the majors, what the record book might look like today, how different our understanding of the game would be. Consider also the fate of the Black players who never made it to the show because they came of age too soon or found themselves shut out of the game, unable to find a team, after the color line was broken, the leagues they helped build vanishing like a ghost ship into darkness. In a bittersweet twist, when Black fans flocked to see Robinson at Ebbets Field, the demise of the Negro Leagues soon followed, even as major league teams were slow to sign Black players: The Red Sox, for instance, took 12 years after Robinson's debut to integrate. And finally, consider the forces that kept baseball segregated, and how those forces persist today: Witness the declining percentage of Black ballplayers in the majors and the continuing struggle to diversify the coaching and front office ranks.

In the thickening shadows of Hinchliffe, after the Jackals' victory in their home opener, I stood with Nilo Rijo, the team's second baseman, as he fielded questions from reporters. He attended high school in nearby Passaic and often drove by Hinchliffe on the way to his workout facility without recognizing the then-ruin as a ballpark. Like so many others, he has now started learning its history.

Standing there in that repository of myths, I thought back to my chat with Reynolds after the ribbon-cutting. During his playing days he had befriended Buck O'Neil, the legendary first baseman turned manager from the Negro League's Kansas City Monarchs, who had passed along stories from his fabled career. And now, as members of the next generation step through the gates at Hinchliffe, they too can discover the history of the Black owners and managers who built the Negro Leagues, and the Black ballplayers who changed the sport. Reynolds, for his part, hopes that a trip to the ballpark will convey a simple yet transformative truth: "that baseball was a Black sport."

Eric Wills is a former senior editor at Architect magazine whose work has appeared in The Washington Post, Smithsonian, and GQ.

RECOGNIZING KAREN AYALA FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Karen Ayala for her substantial contributions to the well-being of Illinois residents throughout her career in public health. Ms. Ayala has spearheaded efforts to improve health outcomes at the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD), including playing a central role responding to the opioid crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Under her successful leadership, DuPage County was re-

cently rated the healthiest of Illinois' 102 counties for the third consecutive year. She tirelessly endeavored to mitigate multiple public health crises while simultaneously establishing programs that will maintain the DCHD's track record of success for years to come.

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Wartburg College and her Master's in Public Health from the University of Illinois-Chicago, Ms. Ayala began working in Winnebago County, Illinois as a case manager for pregnant and parenting teens. She supported the delivery of services to approximately 350 families and witnessed the capacity of local government to improve the well-being of residents, an experience that solidified her commitment to helping others as a public health official. Ms. Ayala transitioned to the DCHD in 2007 to serve as Unit Director of Community Health Services. She quickly proved her capabilities and was named Executive Director in 2014.

As Executive Director, Ms. Ayala has worked to combat the opioid crisis, an effort that has benefited not only DuPage County but the nation as a whole. She helped lead a comprehensive crisis management approach including an opioid education program, the collection of unused medications, partnerships with mental health service providers, and increasing Narcan usage, which is an essential tool in the event of an overdose. Eager to share DuPage County's hard-learned lessons, Ms. Ayala submitted testimony to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform to detail options to address the opioid crisis. Her innovative approach, which utilized community assessment and community collaboration, created a model for other public health departments.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Ayala led the DCHD through the public health crisis. Under her leadership, the DCHD kept residents informed with nuanced and accurate information despite initial uncertainty regarding the virus's characteristics. The DCHD provided guidance on masking and social distancing despite the intense scrutiny faced by public health departments and constantly fluctuating infection rates. Upon the rollout of the vaccine, Ms. Ayala facilitated the establishment of a mass vaccination clinic at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. Her steady leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic provided essential guidance to DuPage County residents, heightened vaccination rates, and helped save lives.

Ms. Ayala has worked diligently to mitigate health crises within her local community and across the country. She has made life-changing impacts on Illinois residents and paved the way for the future of improved public health in DuPage County. I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Ayala, who has recently announced her upcoming retirement. It is a privilege to recognize the achievements of Karen Ayala and express my immense gratitude for her years of public service and contributions to the citizens of Illinois and the country.

RECOGNIZING CARL BOLCH, JR. FOR HIS SERVICE TO RACETRAC, INC. AND THE STATE OF GEORGIA

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of Georgia's finest business leaders and an outstanding individual, Carl Bolch, Jr., Executive Chairman of the Board of RaceTrac, Inc.

Throughout his career, Carl has been a pioneer in the convenience retail industry, driving innovation and redefining convenience for millions of consumers. During his more than fifty years with the company, Carl helped RaceTrac grow from 100 stores in two states, to more than 780 stores in 12 states with over 10,000 employees—and today, RaceTrac is the second largest privately held company in Georgia and the 22nd largest in the United States.

Carl joined RaceTrac, his family's business, after earning a degree in Economics from the Wharton School of Business and a Juris Doctor from Duke University School of Law, moving through various roles until he served as CEO and now continues as Executive Chairman of the Board.

Beyond RaceTrac, Carl has also left his mark on the convenience store industry through his service as President of the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America and Chairman of the Board of the National Association of Convenience Stores.

It has also been Carl's mission to give back to his community. He served as a 25-year member of the Atlanta Rotary Club's Board of Directors, as well as the Board of Directors for Camp Sunshine, a Georgia-based organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children with cancer. Carl also serves on the Patient Council for the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research and is a pivotal reason RaceTrac and its guests have contributed more than \$7 million to the organization over the past decade.

Additionally, Carl and his wife, Susan, have made significant contributions to education, including founding the Bolch Judicial Institute at Duke University School of Law. A father of five—all of Carl's children have served RaceTrac in different capacities over the years, including Carl and Susan's two daughters, who currently lead the company's day-to-day operations, and their son, who serves on the Board.

Carl Bolch, Jr. is an inspiration to us all. His contributions to society will have a lasting impact. I am honored to represent him in Congress. Please join me in recognizing and celebrating his achievements.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BYRON OTTO "MANNIE FRESH" THOMAS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a Mastermind Record

Producer, Rapper, and King of DJ'ing, Mr. Byron Otto Thomas, best known by his stage name, Mannie Fresh. Thomas is applauded for his work with Birdman's Cash Money Records, both solo and as a member of the label's then flag-ship group, Hot Boys in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Byron Otto Thomas (born March 20, 1969), better known by his stage name Mannie Fresh, is an American record producer and rapper. He's best known for his productions on Cash Money Records releases, as well as being half of the hip hop duo (alongside label co-founder Baby, later known as Birdman) the Big Tymers. He produced most of the songs on the 17 multi-platinum, platinum, or gold albums for Cash Money from 1998 to 2004 before leaving the label. He was also their only in-house producer when the company started in 1991.

Thomas was born and raised in the 7th Ward of New Orleans. Influenced by his father DJ Sabu, Thomas became a DJ for New Orleans hip hop crew, New York Incorporated, in 1984 at age 15. In the late 1980s, he began a partnership with New Orleans rapper MC Gregory D. They released their first album together, *Throwdown* in 1987, with Mannie Fresh producing and MC Gregory D rapping. They released two more records together in the late 1980s and early 1990s. After their last album together, in 1993, Thomas met Bryan "Baby" Williams, who gave him an opportunity to become the in-house producer of his record label Cash Money Records. With Williams' help, Thomas made chart-topping albums for the Hot Boys, which was composed of Lil Wayne, B.G., Juvenile, and Turk, producing all the group's albums. He also produced all tracks on the members' solo works as well.

Later, Thomas formed the Big Tymers along with Williams, as Mannie Fresh and Birdman respectively, bringing him fame, and released five albums. In 2004, he released his own debut solo album *The Mind of Mannie Fresh*, which consisted of 30 tracks and featured the single "Real Big," which peaked at No. 72 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. In 2005, he split from Cash Money and later joined Def Jam South, to which he is currently signed. On October 27, 2009, Mannie Fresh released his second solo album, *Return of the Ballin'*. The album was entirely produced by Fresh himself and featured prominent guests Rick Ross and Lil Jon.

Mannie Fresh is most deserving of the highest recognition for proudly representing the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana as a globally recognized musical artist. I am proud to acknowledge Byron Otto "Mannie Fresh" Thomas for his musical and cultural contributions, recognizing his pivotal role in popularizing the New Orleans Rap and Bounce style of music around the world, extending sincerest wishes that he continues to flourish in all his endeavors, both in Louisiana and across the country.

HONORING THE CAREER OF BOB HAMMERSCHMIDT

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career and celebrate

the retirement of Bob Hammerschmidt, my constituent in Springfield Missouri.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Hammerschmidt for his exceptional 49-year career in banking and finance, and especially his 35 years of service to Commerce Bank. Mr. Hammerschmidt's unwavering commitment to excellence throughout his tenure at Commerce Bank has had a profound impact on the financial community of Southwest Missouri.

From his early days as a young professional to his current position as Chairman of Commerce Trust Co., Mr. Hammerschmidt has consistently demonstrated his expertise and integrity to the benefit of countless businesses and individuals in our community.

At the young age of 28, Mr. Hammerschmidt became the youngest bank president in the history of the state of Arkansas. After serving the first 13 years of his career in Arkansas, Missouri was lucky to gain Mr. Hammerschmidt's talents in 1988, and we have been blessed by his knowledge and experience ever since.

As Mr. Hammerschmidt prepares to celebrate his retirement with Commerce Bank after 35 years, it is my privilege to honor him in this way, and to represent him here in Washington, D.C.

CELEBRATING THE MANCHESTER LIONS CLUB CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Manchester Lions Club for their centennial of service, devotion, and benevolence. As New Hampshire's first chapter, all members strive to uphold the centenary tradition of service not for oneself. The Manchester Lions Club supports and empowers underserved Granite Staters, and ensures our veterans receive the proper care and respect they deserve. It is through their generosity and altruism that we may grow as a community, and as the Granite State.

The Lions Clubs International began as a 1917 experiment by founder Melvin Jones in testing the benefaction of citizens in improving their communities. The result is an organization with more than 1.4 million members across 48,000 global clubs. The admirable mission of Lions Clubs International extends far beyond the borders of local communities. They acknowledge and employ the power of community service as a force to change the world. There is no task too small or too inconsequential for Lions Clubs International, and it is through that ethos that they affect and uplift our communities. As the local chapter of this organization, the Manchester Lions Club holds close the importance of service, and the global mission of Lions Clubs International.

The Manchester Lions Club's unfettered dedication to service over self is a valuable contribution to our community, and the epitome of their distinguished motto, "We serve!" From health-related services such as fighting hunger and providing accessibility devices, to protecting our environment and honoring our veterans, you represent the very best and brightest that our community has to offer. Your

service is of the highest quality and maintains a high standard for all of us to strive for. Your continued investment into the Queen City of Manchester will yield unprecedented results and growth for generations to come.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend the Manchester Lions Club for 100 years of service and dedication to our communities. We are fortunate to call them trusted investors and protectors of our community and our success. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, I was not present to vote due to a minor medical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 249, On Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 495; YEA on Roll Call No. 250, On Agreeing to H. Res. 495; YEA on Roll Call No. 251, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3099; NAY on Roll Call No. 252, On Passage of H.J. Res. 44; YEA on Roll Call No. 253, On Passage Objections of the President To The Contrary Notwithstanding, H.J. Res. 42; YEA on Roll Call No. 254, On Agreeing to Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 1615; YEA on Roll Call No. 255, On Passage of H.R. 1615; and YEA on Roll Call No. 256, On The Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 377.

REMEMBERING MRS. STEPHANNIE FORTUNE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the life of community service of Mrs. Stephanie Fortune, who was taken from us too early by leukemia on June 13, 2023. Simply put, Mrs. Fortune was a loving champion of the Pikes Peak Region.

Stephanie Fortune had a remarkable career as a public servant in numerous capacities. Most recently she served on the Colorado Springs City Council and was a champion for the U.S. Olympic Museum which opened in July, 2020. Early in her career, Stephanie was part of President George H.W. Bush's advance team; served as Assistant Director and Legislative Liaison for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; as Executive Director for University Partnerships and Public Policy at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; as President of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy for the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce; as Chief of Staff to Lt. Gov. Jane Norton; and as Chief of Staff to U.S. Congressman Scott McInnis. Everywhere she served, she made an impact with her strong will, determination, and compassion.

Stephanie's love for community was also evident in her service on numerous non-profit