

will forever be remembered. Her legacy as an educator and leader will serve as an inspiration for future generations, and her dedication to empowering underserved youth will continue to shape the future of education in Arizona.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL
TERRY WAYNE PARTIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Terry Wayne Partin, retiring as Colonel, having served as a Chaplain with over two decades of military service. A decorated Officer, he worked as a dual-status military technician, climbing to the State Chaplain of Mississippi National Guard.

Colonel Partin is an Officer for both the Mississippi National Guard and the U.S. Army. Chaplain Partin graduated from all professional military education courses for chaplains and religious support leaders. He is decorated with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and many other awards and decorations. He served in many tactical, operational, and strategic assignments, including two overseas combat tours to Iraq in 2005 and again in 2010, where I personally served alongside him. Chaplain Partin's career culminated with his promotion to the grade of Colonel and his selection as the Mississippi Army National state chaplain, where he donned the stole for three years. He has worked at and served the service members of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center for many years in the areas of religious support, mental health, resiliency, and counseling.

He is a true American hero and a proud Mississippian who always made his family, friends, and fellow soldiers proud; we are immensely grateful for his dedication to our country and the great state of Mississippi.

CELEBRATING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S
235TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy birthday to the greatest state in our union: New Hampshire.

For 235 years, New Hampshire has been a pillar of freedom and democracy. From our beautiful streams and scenic lakes to the stunning peaks of Mount Washington, the 'Live Free or Die' state has so much to offer.

And in 235 years, New Hampshire has been home to some incredible people and places: trailblazing explorers, including Alan Shepard and Christa McAuliffe; innovative artists and inventors like Ken Burns, Dan Brown, and Dean Kamen; and impressive centers for education and research like the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, Keene State College, and my alma mater, Dartmouth College.

Happy 235th birthday, New Hampshire. Here's to many more.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE CITY OF EL
PASO

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the rich history, culture, and community that the City of El Paso has built over the last 150 years.

The City of El Paso was officially incorporated in May 1873 by the Texas Legislature. Since the inception of the city, we have been inextricably linked with Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua and communities in Southern New Mexico. We are home to the Ysleta del Sur Tigua tribe, the University of Texas at El Paso, the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, and Fort Bliss, our nation's second largest military installation. We are a dynamic region, a vibrant metroplex where cultures and traditions blend.

El Paso is known as the 'Sun City,' where people can enjoy a Chihuahuas or Locomotives game, go on a hike or bike ride on a scenic trail in Franklin Mountains State Park, walk through our historic downtown, or enjoy the poppies in the spring at the Castner Range National Monument. The beauty of our Chihuahuan desert is unmatched. And at night, the Star on the Franklin Mountain always shines bright.

The City of El Paso is one of a kind. Our people are known to be warm, friendly, and hardworking. Our city comes together for unifying events, as we did for the Chamizal Treaty of 1963 when the United States and Mexico came into a peaceful settlement of a century-long dispute. We are a community of kindness and good will, one that always welcomes the stranger. But we also come together to love and help each other during times of great challenge, as we did after the domestic terrorist shooting on August 3, 2019 that took 23 souls. El Pasoans are resilient, and we have never lost touch with our humanity.

I am proud to call the City of El Paso my home and it is my privilege to honor the 150th anniversary of our beautiful city. The future is bright for our community.

HONORING THE AFIYA CENTER OF
DALLAS, TEXAS

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Afiya Center, a Dallas-based reproductive health organization that has been at the forefront of providing refuge, education, and resources to address the unique needs of Black women and gender-expansive individuals. Established in response to the disproportionate impact of the HIV-AIDS epidemic on Black women and girls in Texas, the Afiya Center stands as the only Black women-led, Black women-centered, and Black

women-inclusive reproductive justice organization in the state.

Through their life-enriching programs, the Afiya Center has worked tirelessly to address socioeconomic disparities among Black women at risk, or living with, HIV-AIDS. The organization has also been instrumental in promoting birth justice and improving Black maternal health outcomes in Dallas and throughout Texas. As a safety network, collaborator, resource center, and info-hub, the Afiya Center has played a pivotal role in mobilizing grassroots organizing and advocating for policy changes throughout the state.

The Afiya Center's "Get Tested, Grab a Bite" community HIV testing day event, celebrating its 10th year, demonstrates the organization's commitment towards decreasing HIV, destigmatizing HIV-AIDS within the community, and addressing the social determinants of health that disproportionately affect Black women in Texas by providing free HIV testing. Moreover, this year's event goes beyond HIV testing by providing additional resources such as COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, Medicaid enrollment, and other services. Given that an estimated one-in-seven people living with HIV unaware of their status, testing events like the Afiya Center's are vital to not only raise awareness and promote responsible relations but also to encourage individuals to prioritize their health and destigmatize this preventable disease.

Texas, and particularly Dallas County, continues to face significant challenges regarding HIV prevalence. Over 18,000 people in the Dallas area are living with HIV, and despite advances in testing and medicine, the United States still experiences high rates of new infections. Black women and girls bear a disproportionate burden, with more than half of Black Texans living with HIV being women. The Afiya Center's unwavering dedication to addressing these disparities and providing support to those affected is commendable.

I urge my colleagues and the public to recognize the crucial work that organizations like the Afiya Center provide and support their ongoing efforts. Together, we can promote HIV awareness, eliminate stigma, and ensure that all individuals have access to the necessary resources and care they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

I commend the Afiya Center for their tireless advocacy, their commitment to reproductive justice, and their transformative influence on the countless lives they have touched. Their remarkable achievements and the impactful work they do each and every day is a testament to their mission of empowering individuals, eliminating stigma, and striving for a healthier and more equitable future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was unable to attend session on June 20, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA Roll Call No. 272, and YEA on Roll Call No. 273.

HONORING SHAUN MARIE
LEVINE'S LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shaun Marie Levine, Executive Director of the New York State Conservative Party.

Shaun Marie Levine was born in Massachusetts in 1947. Raised in New York, Shaun Marie would go on to graduate from the Academy of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Sag Harbor and attend the Queens Hospital Center School of Nursing with a Regents Scholarship. During the 1964 presidential election, she campaigned for the first time for Republican candidate Barry Goldwater (R-AZ).

Shaun Marie shifted her focus from national politics to local politics, centering herself in New York City. Beginning as an associate district leader, she rose in the ranks to become a member of the New York State Conservative Party's statewide committee, eventually running as a Party nominee for the New York Assembly in 1986. She earned a position working for Conservative Party Executive Director Serphin R. Maltese and followed him to the New York State Senate where she worked on policies ranging from veterans' issues, consumer protection, law enforcement, to constitutional rights.

Shaun Marie remained an active member of the Conservative Party in the decades that followed, serving on statewide campaigns before accepting the role of Executive Director in 1995, a position she held for the next twenty-eight years. A capstone of Shaun Marie's tenured career was serving as the Executive Director for her longtime mentor, New York State Conservative Party Chairman Michael Long. Shaun Marie served as Chairman Long's right hand, confidant, sounding board, advisor, and deeply respected friend. She has held integral concurrent roles with the Conservative Party since, including as the first female State Vice Chair, the Regional Vice Chair, and the Executive Vice Chair. Throughout her decades of service to New York, Shaun Marie has worked closely with nearly every national, state, county, and local elected official and candidate in the conservative movement.

Shaun Marie has dedicated her entire professional life to serving the people of New York with unwavering principles and commitment. She has made significant contributions that have positively impacted the lives of countless individuals across New York State and the nation. Shaun Marie will always remain a beacon of light and a backbone of steel in the conservative movement. During this lifetime of service, Shaun Marie proudly raised her three children as a single mother while balancing the demands of professional and political work for decades. Today, she is a proud mother, dedicated grandmother, hard-working New Yorker, and patriotic American who is deeply respected by all who know her.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, it is my honor to recognize the extraordinary lifetime achievements of my dear friend, Shaun Marie Levine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the Legislative Day of June 20, 2023 on H.R. 1606—the Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 272.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL
JASON A. CLARKE ON THE OCCA-
SION OF CHANGE-OF-COMMAND
AT FORT IRWIN

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Jason Clarke, the outgoing Garrison Commander at Fort Irwin National Training Center in California's 23rd Congressional District. Colonel Clarke has served our country since he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1998. He started his military career as a platoon leader in the 95th Military Police Battalion before transitioning to Special Forces. Colonel Clarke has served in many military roles and deployed for operations in Africa, Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere.

During his tenure, Colonel Clarke successfully led Fort Irwin NTC through challenging times following the COVID-19 pandemic. Long-term solutions implemented under his command led to an improvement in quality of life for those stationed at this remote and isolated base. Under his leadership, numerous projects were completed at Fort Irwin such as: renovated community spaces, multiple new vendor services, and an energy resilience project. We are thankful for Colonel Clarke's service in California's 23rd District and across the world. I wish Colonel Clarke, his wife Dejeun, and their 4 daughters continued success as he becomes 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade Commander at Fort Liberty.

HIGHLIGHTING TERRI STILLSON'S
COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS

HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated teacher and community member who consistently goes above and beyond what is normally expected of educators today. Terri Stillson is a reading teacher at Castaic Elementary School whose passion for education and inspiration have encouraged her to take a unique and creative approach to rewarding academic achievement. The result of these efforts is increased motivation for students and teachers alike.

Every Wednesday, Mrs. Stillson mounts the "Treat Trike", a decorated tricycle with Castaic

Elementary School swag and a cart filled to the brim with toys and prizes. She rides around the school's campus playing cheerful music and going classroom to classroom to reward children for their academic work. But she doesn't just reward the top of each class, she utilizes an online program that captures students' performance to recognize different types of progress and praise students of all different stripes. Mrs. Stillson also motivates teachers to do their best by using stuffed plushies to award the educator in each grade level who passed the most lessons each week, encouraging playful competition among staff.

Now more than ever, children are struggling to remain engaged in their education, as the effects of prolonged lockdowns and Zoom learning continue to be felt. It is heartening to see Mrs. Stillson lead other educators across the nation by example and offer a roadmap for how teachers can make the classroom a fun place to be while also driving students' success. All it takes is a little creativity and whimsy.

Once again, I want to recognize and thank Mrs. Stillson for all the work that she does to make Castaic Elementary School a shining example of educational excellence in our community. Her creativity and hard work are a blessing to her students, and we look forward to all she will accomplish throughout the rest of her career as a teacher.

HONORING MRS. SUSAN
SPANNAGEL

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Susan Spannagel and wish her a happy 100th birthday. Mrs. Spannagel is my Chief of Staff's Grandmother and former constituent of mine. She will celebrate her 100th birthday on June 22nd. Susan Spannagel was born June 22, 1923, in Harvey, Illinois to Annie Inglis Wilson and George Drummond Wilson.

Her parents immigrated from Glasgow to New York in 1923 and left for Harvey, Illinois after two weeks in America. Susan grew up in Harvey, Illinois and attended Whittier school until the completion of the 8th grade when they moved to Pacific Grove, California. She attended Pacific Grove High School and graduated in 1941 at the age of 18. After High School Susan then moved with her parents to South San Francisco where she lived and worked in the Post Office. During this time, a handsome sailor named "Robert (Bob) Spannagel" came into the post office to pick up the squadron mail and they became friends.

After dating for a short while, Bob and Susan married in South San Francisco on April 8, 1944. Soon after their marriage, Bob received orders and shipped out to Ford Island at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Bob worked as an "Aviation Mechanist Mate" on airplanes for the war and Susan continued to work at the post office in South San Francisco. Bob returned from the service in 1945 and the couple continued to live in South San Francisco. Bob and Susan's first child, David Wilson Spannagel, was born in July 22, 1946.