

Dr. Conner for her many contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL
R. GLASS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Michael R. Glass of Salem, Virginia, who passed away on June 4, 2023. Glass was described by his loved ones as an "out-standing father, husband, brother, friend, mentor, and Firefighter." Mike dedicated his life to serving his community, following in his father's footsteps, and becoming a volunteer firefighter at Fort Lewis Fire Department in 1978. Mike then became a career firefighter with Salem Fire Department in 1987, where he obtained his EMT certification and served as part of the Regional HazMat team.

Committed to expanding access to fire service training programs, Mike was influential in starting Roanoke County's Volunteer Firefighter Academy, where he continued as the Lead Instructor. He also helped start a second fire academy in conjunction with the Elliston Fire Department in Montgomery County. Mike retired from the Salem Fire Department in 2008 after 20 years of service and from the Fort Lewis Fire Department in 2019 after 41 years of service. While at Fort Lewis, he served as treasurer and lieutenant and won service Firefighter of the Year awards.

Over the years, I had the privilege of attending many Fort Lewis Chicken Barbeque dinners, which Mike organized twice a year and were the department's biggest fundraiser, with proceeds going toward the department's budget and providing training and safety equipment for the station. When not fighting fires, Mike loved making trips to the Smoky Mountains with his family and friends. He also had a great love for dogs and had a special place in his heart for children, making sure to hand out a few dollar bills to any youngsters he came across.

Mike joins his wife Bonnie, his parents Harrison and Barbara, and best friend Kevin Sheppard in heaven. Mike is survived by his son, Stephen Palmer (Stephanie); grand-dog, Ace; his baby sister, Becky Ayers (Justin); special nephews, Jase, and Ryan Ayers; brothers, James and Ronnie Glass; Sister, Anne Paitzel (David); special nieces, Sylvia Paitzel (Cedrick); great niece, Leia; and special aunt, Sandra Dawley. I wish them condolences on the loss of their loved one. Mike served as a mentor to countless Volunteer Firefighters, and his contributions to Salem and the fire departments around Southwest Virginia will not be forgotten. He will be greatly missed.

THANKING ARKANSAS COMMUNITY
AFTER TORNADO

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of central Arkansas during

the recovery period after our devastating tornado that hit our district last month.

Our neighbors immediately began to work hand in hand, neighbor to neighbor, to rebuild our community.

Many volunteered and worked tirelessly to set up emergency shelters in our local schools and churches to ensure those impacted by this severe storm had safe housing in the wake of the tornado.

The response of our leaders at the state, county, and city level was invaluable to be commended.

The incredible efforts and active emergency response from Governor Sarah Sanders, Pulaski County Judge Barry Hyde, Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott, Mayor Terry Hartwick of North Little Rock, Mayor Jeff Elmore in Jacksonville, and Mayor Mary Jo Heye-Townsell of Sherwood, and many others all saved lives and accelerated the recovery process.

Not only did we witness their outstanding response and an outpouring of local volunteers, but we saw the swift action of our first responders and our essential businesses.

Entergy Arkansas began repairs to the local power grid as soon as the storms passed, and many of our linemen and women worked countless hours to restore power, even when themselves were affected.

One lineman I met with was in his bed at the time of the tornado and the roof torn off his apartment, and after a day off from that tragedy was out there working 16 hours a day to connect the power to his neighbors.

Countless time put in neighbor for neighbor. Entergy Arkansas's corporate office also donated \$50,000 to the American Red Cross to be used toward tornado recovery efforts, with an additional pledge of up to \$50,000 matching employee donations.

The Arkansas Food Bank did an incredible job of delivering food, water, and other necessary items throughout our communities to ensure those affected by the storms were supported by necessary goods.

Additionally, our local restaurants, our local businesses all donated hundreds of meals and supplies to those in need.

I thank our community for demonstrating generosity and thoughtfulness during a time of great need. They simply demonstrate that core value that we all take pride in Arkansans and Americans.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TEPHRA INSTITUTE
OF CONTEMPORARY ART

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. This non-profit endeavor was founded in Reston, Virginia as the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) in 1974 to showcase the phenomenal talent of Northern Virginia.

Tephra ICA works with artists, galleries, institutions, thought leaders, and collectors around the globe to promote creativity and the generation of ideas and growth that the arts can facilitate. They are committed to promoting innovative contemporary art and inno-

vative thinking to accompany it. By building intimate connections between artists and audiences, including insights into the creative processes by which this art comes to be, Tephra ICA is able to extend their impact beyond the museum itself and instill these values into the Northern Virginia community at large.

Northern Virginia is one of the culturally richest and most diverse regions of the Nation, and Tephra ICA seeks to illuminate that diversity. They curate globally conscious experiences that seek to contextualize artists' work in the historical and cultural canon from which they are derived, simultaneously promoting contemporary artists, and deepening their audience's understanding of artistic movements altogether.

The organization recently rebranded as Tephra ICA to emphasize their growing audience beyond just the Reston Town Center, including Fairfax County and the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area. The word tephra means "matter ejected from geothermal eruptions settling upon and changing the landscape." I cannot think of a more fitting name for this institute, which seeks to showcase the eruption of talent in the region and reshape perceptions of art for tens of thousands of visitors, both in person and online.

Of particular importance to the community is Tephra ICA's annual Arts Festival, a celebration in which contemporary artists from across the country can present their original work to festival audiences. This is one of the most exciting and unique events of the year, and one to which thousands of my constituents and I look forward to. The individual and group experiences, performances, and special events exemplify Tephra ICA's commitment to the cultural education and enrichment of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art on its 50th anniversary and in recognizing the visionaries and leaders who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

HONORING THE MANHEIM TOWNSHIP
SCHOOL DISTRICT UNIFIED
TRACK TEAM

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Manheim Township Unified Track Team on their PIAA championship win. Manheim Township school district is in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

The Manheim Township team was only assembled in March of this year and quickly grew into a team of 28 athletes. Coach Shannon Sloss and Assistant Coach Shawna Givens led this team to success with no prior track experience. Members of the team came from a variety of backgrounds in sports. Some played field hockey, others played football, and some had no prior experience at all. Yet, athletes found themselves in search of a spring activity. For others, this was their first opportunity to join a team.

Unified Track teams present a unique opportunity for athletes with intellectual disabilities to work with their classmates and compete as a team. The Manheim Township

School District's Unified Track Team was sponsored by Special Olympics of Pennsylvania, who currently work with 358 schools throughout the Commonwealth.

On May 27th and 28th, the team competed at Seth Grove Stadium at Shippensburg University, where they ultimately won their title and captured the gold, against stiff competition from a total of nine teams from across the Commonwealth. I am proud to represent a district with such accomplished athletes. Again, congratulations to the Manheim Unified Track team for all that they have accomplished and best of luck to them in the coming season.

RECOGNIZING MARGARET GAINES ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margaret Gaines, who celebrated her 100th birthday on February 19th of this year.

Margaret Gaines has been a resident of Central Arkansas her entire life.

She grew up in Griffithville, Arkansas, and currently resides in Searcy, where she's lived for the past 62 years.

Throughout her life, she's seen and remembers many historic events, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and President John F. Kennedy's visit to Arkansas to dedicate the Greers Ferry Dam in Heber Springs.

Mrs. Gaines believes the secret to her long life is plenty of exercise from gardening which she learned to do during the Great Depression.

She still grows a garden every year.

I wish Margaret Gaines a very happy 100th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency, unfortunately I missed votes on June 20 and June 21. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 272; YEA on Roll Call No. 273; NAY on Roll Call No. 274; NAY on Roll Call No. 275; YEA on Roll Call No. 276; NAY on Roll Call No. 277; YEA on Roll Call No. 278; NAY on Roll Call No. 279; NAY on Roll Call No. 280; YEA on Roll Call No. 281; NAY on Roll Call No. 282; and NAY on Roll Call No. 283.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE ENGLISH EMPOWERMENT CENTER'S 61ST RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the newly renamed English Empower-

ment Center (EEC), previously known as the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) and to congratulate the volunteers, instructors, students, community partners, and many others who will be recognized at the 61st EEC Recognition Ceremony.

The mission of EEC is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English in order to empower them to participate more fully and confidently in their communities and in society as a whole. EEC serves low-literacy and limited English language proficient adults with a selection of low-cost, moderately intensive courses to help them transition into the workforce or other educational opportunities.

EEC provides the crucial first steps of language and literacy proficiency for workplace, citizenship, and community integration to help adults make measurable improvements in their lives. This past year, they have served over 1,900 ESL students hailing from 95 different countries and natively speaking 50 different languages. It is evident EEC is making measurable improvements in the lives of the adults it serves.

Each year EEC recognizes students and members of the community who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to achieving the organization's mission. EEC will also recognize the recipient of the Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2023 EEC honorees and scholarship recipient:

Community Partners: Accenture, The Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC), Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.

Student Essay Readers: Reojin Ko, Martha Molina, Rose Nguyen.

Volunteers of the Year: Stan Citron, Jeanne Johnson, Sarah Krisher.

Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship Recipient: Eunice Carvajal.

I also want to recognize those volunteers who are celebrating service anniversaries with LCNV. These volunteers are being recognized for the service milestone of 15 years.

Volunteer Service Anniversaries: Veronica Cartier, Shelley Deutch, Betsy Mitchell, Jeffrey Randorf, David Webber, Glenn Allen, Stefanie Carr, and Maryanne Knockenhauer.

I have always believed that education is one of the most fundamental and important skills to have in one's life. As we have learned here in our own community, reading is one of the basic foundations on which to build a person's education and their career opportunities, regardless of their age I want to extend my personal thanks to the Center and its many volunteers for your tireless efforts to promote literacy as a lifelong skill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the English Empowerment Center and in thanking and congratulating each of the honorees of the 61st EEC Recognition Ceremony. I wish all of them great success in their future endeavors.

HONORING BILLIE JOHNSON ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Billie Johnson, a Founder and CEO of the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio in our district. Mrs. Johnson is retiring after 49½ years at the helm of the agency she helped create. Her legacy is writ large and there is a special tribute to her today as her colleagues, peers and our region honor her.

Mrs. Johnson is a pioneer in the aging network. Her accomplishments are legion and boundless. Under her leadership, the Area Office on Aging has grown from a small divisional office into a comprehensive regional agency serving nearly 200,000 older adults in ten counties with a staff of nearly 200, along with 2,000 senior volunteers, 180 service providers, advisors and professional Board Members. The Area Office on Aging is considered one of the premier Area Agencies on Aging in the United States. Nationally recognized for its work, the agency has received eleven national achievement and innovation awards.

Mrs. Johnson has helped open community centres in neighbourhoods, facilitated countless meals delivered, provided seniors with needed counselling, expanded services, including seniors and veterans housing, health care, and gained access to tens of thousands of our seniors and new mothers to the Farmers Market Nutrition Program. The Area Office on Aging has helped hundreds of thousands of people in Northwestern Ohio and taught others how to be leaders in their own communities. Everyone here today knows Billie Johnson's commendable record of public service.

During her tenure with the agency, Mrs. Johnson led the effort to develop three, wholly owned subsidiary corporations. These separate corporations provide apartment living for low-income senior citizens in Northwest Ohio. She also organized the agency's Foundation Board and has been instrumental in developing a senior campus of 46 acres that provides a full continuum of care for older adults.

Mrs. Johnson is a recognized leader in the field of aging and has served on numerous national boards and state committees. She has been a speaker and presenter nationally and internationally on aging and women's issues. She has twice been a presenter at the World Conference on Women. She is also a leader in our community and serves on many local civic boards and foundations.

Billie Johnson leaves a legacy unmatched. She is a treasure to those who are privileged to know her and a mentor to many. Our community has been graced abundantly by her efforts.

After 49½ years as the President and CEO of the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, retirement is surely deserved. We all acknowledge the profound impact Billie Johnson has had on the millions of lives she touched in our corner of the world. Knowing her retirement is near, we wish her days be shared with those she loves doing what she most enjoys.