

Building Safety Month was created by the International Code Council and its partners to remind the public about the professionals who ensure buildings are safe, resilient, efficient, and livable. This year's Building Safety Month theme is "It Starts with You," which encourages the public to recognize the critical role of our local code officials who work around the clock to keep our communities safe and mitigate the risks posed by natural disasters.

Building codes and standards include important safeguards to protect the public from hurricanes, tornadoes, snow and ice storms, and earthquakes. As Americans rebuild following these events, we recognize and thank those who implement and enforce building codes for protecting lives, property, and businesses, and ultimately ensuring our communities are resilient to future events.

Development, adoption, and implementation of up-to-date codes and standards has enabled Louisiana to rebuild stronger following the devastation stemming from Katrina and Rita in 2005; Gustav and Ike in 2008; Lee in 2011; Isaac in 2012; the Baton Rouge flooding of 2016; Harvey in 2017; Laura, Delta, and Zeta in 2020; and Ida in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking ICC Board President Michael Wich, as well as ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, the International Code Council leadership, and ICC's Members and staff as they recognize Building Safety Month 2023.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HELEN
REYNA

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Helen Romero Reyna.

As the fourth oldest of 10 siblings, Helen was raised not too far from the local dairy farm by the Santa Ana Riverbed. Helen is a Santa Ana native and completed her education in Orange County at a time when segregation was still in place. Although she lived in Santa Ana, she was bussed to Hoover Elementary in Westminster and graduated from Garden Grove High School.

Helen and her husband, Tomas Rangel Reyna, raised 4 children in the city her own family raised her: Tomas Reyna, Denise Reyna, Kenneth Reyna and Roman A. Reyna. She worked at Baxter until 1990 as a crossing guard and enjoyed her family to the fullest in the last 30 years. She loved family time, especially with her 8 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. She also enjoyed her weekly bingo, and cheering on the 49ers and the Lakers.

Helen leaves behind a legacy of love to all those who knew her. Let us join in mourning the loss of Helen. Her family and her community will never forget her.

HONORING THE CAREER OF ADELA
JONES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Adela Jones, a beloved educator and superintendent.

Adela Jones has served the students of Sanger Unified for 36 years. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Fresno State, and her Master's Degree in Bilingual Education from Fresno Pacific University. She began her teaching career in 1984 and joined Sanger Unified as a classroom teacher in 1987. Since then, Mrs. Jones has held many positions within Sanger Unified, including Reading Development Teacher, Elementary Principal, Area Administrator, and Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. In 2018, Adela was appointed Superintendent of Sanger Unified.

Throughout her career in education, Adela has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the education and well-being of Sanger Unified students. One of her proudest achievements lies in the creation of a strong and dedicated team of teachers and staff who have tirelessly worked to meet the needs of students—particularly during the challenging times brought about by the pandemic. From the teachers on the front lines to the support staff behind the scenes, Adela has fostered a sense of unity and purpose within the district which has prompted an excellent education to every child.

What sets Adela apart as an exceptional educator is the lasting impact she has made on the lives of her students. Many Sanger Unified employees were once her students, and they fondly remember her love of singing in class and the invaluable knowledge she imparted to them. It is a testament to her dedication and mentorship that these former students still cherish the influence she had on their lives. Adela's commitment to her students goes beyond the classroom, extending to supporting their growth and achievements long after they have left school.

Under Adela's guidance, Sanger Unified has achieved remarkable milestones and received well-deserved recognition. The opening of Sanger West High School, the establishment of six community schools through an \$8 million-plus implementation grant, and the distinction of all middle schools being recognized as Schools To Watch are testaments to her impeccable leadership. However, Adela humbly attributes these accomplishments not to herself, but to her team as a whole.

Amidst these successes, Adela Jones has faced numerous challenges during her superintendency, with the most significant being the unprecedented closure of schools due to the pandemic. The decision to keep students and teachers apart was undoubtedly one of the hardest moments she had to endure, but it also brought about a sense of unity among her team. Adversity has a way of revealing the strength of character, and Adela's leadership shone brightly as she guided the district through uncharted territory, ensuring the continuation of learning and supporting her community during these trying times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Adela Jones for her dedication and commitment to improving the lives of many students through education. May we never forget her contributions and continue to be inspired by her legacy.

HONORING DR. EMILE-BACKER

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the Record a Proclamation honoring Dr. Magalie Emile-Backer.

Whereas, Dr. Magalie Emile-Backer is a native of the Republic of Haiti and migrated to the United States as a child.

Whereas, beyond science, Dr. Emile-Backer is an entrepreneur, investor, trusted community leader and advocate for global diaspora communities. From research to her community advocacy in global development, her life's work and vision is to leave a legacy of economic freedom in low middle income countries (LMICs) and to service the vulnerable by being a vessel for God's work.

Whereas, as a community advocate, Magalie spearheaded COVID-19-related initiatives throughout the African-Caribbean diaspora to address vaccine hesitancy, economic impacts of COVID and other civil society engagement programs including World AIDS Day, Malaria Nothing but Net campaigns, COVID townhalls, and advocacy for recent Census, etc.

Whereas, she is a global health advocate committed to health systems strengthening in the U.S., particularly, in developing nations. Her life's work is improving global health and eradicating poverty through creative community-based development solutions for economic empowerment.

Whereas, since 2010, Magalie and her husband Firmin Backer, Co-Founded the Haiti Renewal Alliance (HRA), a non-profit based in the Washington, DC area committed to promoting business development and foreign/diaspora direct investment for the socio-economic growth of the Caribbean, especially, Haiti. HRA's motto is building sustainable institutions through infrastructure and trade opposed to perpetuation of aid and charity.

Whereas, HRA convenes, connects and brokers through strategic community engagement partnership models. In 2021, HRA launched another platform in partnership with USAID, diaspora partnership accelerator (DPA), in response to the growing call to action around diaspora direct funding models. HRA's Diaspora Framework and integration models provide innovative solutions in a resource constraint global development landscape.

Whereas, after the 2021 Haiti Earthquake, through her advocacy for empowering localization, she helped raise 1M through HRA's corporate donor strategy and other govt donor grants to help direct funding to diaspora locally led projects.

Whereas, the campaign also help create OneDiaspora, a network of diaspora, private sector and local NGOs committed to strengthening community-based initiatives and localization priorities. HRA has become a leading

institution focused on strategic global development consulting, effective community-based engagement, particularly, diaspora and private sector integration for sustainable growth and investment.

Whereas, Dr. Magalie Emile-Backer has over 20 years experience conducting research in the biopharmaceutical industry and federal government. She is currently a Director in Vaccine Safety, at Moderna Therapeutics, supporting the manufacturers global health safety surveillance for the COVID-19 pandemic and global expansion of its innovative mRNA science portfolio. Prior to Moderna, Magalie has served as a biomedical research SME at NIH and supported the nation's COVID-19 response within ASPR/HHS.

Whereas, Dr. Emile-Backer holds a clinical doctorate from Howard University, Bachelors from Temple University and postdoctoral fellowship training from Rutgers University, and Hoffman Laroche Pharmaceuticals, as well as, several certifications and publications in major scientific journals. Magalie serves on several community, scientific and county boards (e.g. Alexandria Commission on HIV, Myocarditis Advisory board and Fairfax Health systems).

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Emile-Backer for her extensive work recognizing Caribbean Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING WHEELERSBURG
SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wheelersburg High School Softball Team on winning the 2023 Ohio High School Athletic Association Division III Softball State Championship.

The Wheelersburg Pirates won their second straight state championship following a 6-0 shutout victory over Indian Lake. The Pirates have posted an impressive 57-1 record over the past two seasons and a perfect 32-0 this season. Wheelersburg head coach Teresa Ruby remarked that she was "speechless" and so proud of how her team played this season.

The Pirates broke the game open in the 3rd inning, scoring four runs, and Pitcher Andi Jo Howard took control after, recording two strikeouts and only allowing two hits in a shutout.

I want to congratulate Coach Ruby and her players, including four of whom were named to the All-State team, on their amazing season. I look forward to watching them chase a three-peat next spring.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ALDERWOMAN SCHEKETA
HART-BURNS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend Alderwoman Scheketa Hart-Burns and to recog-

nize the important contributions she made to the City of Aurora, Illinois.

Mrs. Scheketa Hart-Burns was born in Fort Meyers, Florida on December 1, 1954, and moved to the City of Aurora in 1978 making it her home and her community. She dedicated herself to improving the lives of residents in the city she loved.

Alderwoman Hart-Burns is a history-making, award-winning elected official, community leader and mentor to many. She holds the distinction of being the first African American elected to Aurora City Council in 1991, originally in the 6th Ward. When the 7th Ward was added, she became its alderwoman. The ward is on the east side of Aurora, south of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad line. She was also appointed the first-ever African American Mayor pro term from 2016-2017.

A stalwart figure in the community, Alderwoman Hart-Burns spearheaded and served as a member and advisor to dozens of organizations and initiatives for Ward 7 residents and the City of Aurora as a whole.

Her ward and neighborhood initiatives include establishing a ward committee and several apartment-complex resident councils, establishing community gardens, and hosting annual holiday programs for Ward 7 communities.

Citywide she started the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon, started the effort to install commemorative street signs for prominent Black residents, established the annual citywide Black History Program, hosted annual holiday musicals for food pantries, and made holiday dinners for senior citizens and disabled persons.

She was especially committed to helping Aurora's children, founding many programs to help youth and their families. These include founding the Back-to-School Bash at Martin Luther King Park, which serves more than 5,000 students, co-founding the annual Coats-for-Kids drive which provides winter coats, hats, and gloves to thousands of students, acting as founding advisor and Mother Emeritus of Boys II Men, Inc., mentoring Aurora University Students pursuing degrees in social work, and co-founding the City of Aurora's STEAM Academy.

Alderwoman Hart-Burns was also involved in organizations serving surrounding communities, including working as the Chairperson of the Circle of Wise Women for the Kane County Health Department and the Chairperson of Weed and Seed with the Kane County State's Attorney's Office. She was a Board member and Advisor of the Quad County Urban League for 33 years, a founding Advisor for the City's African American Heritage Advisory Board, a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens, and a board member of the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry and Childcare Center.

Alderwoman Scheketa Hart-Burns had a strong faith and was an Evangelist Missionary at Greater Mount Olive Church of God In Christ.

I am proud to represent Aurora, and I am grateful for the service and kindness Mrs. Scheketa Hart-Burns has shown over the years. Mrs. Scheketa Hart-Burns is an Aurora legend, and her commitment and contribution to the city will never be forgotten. I offer my condolences to her family and to the city for the loss of this trailblazer, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating my dear friend Scheketa Hall-Burns' incredible life.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN
KLINKENBERG FOR TWO YEARS
OF SERVICE TO THE NEW DEMO-
CRAT COALITION

HON. SUZAN K. DeIBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. DeIBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin Klinkenberg for his incredible 2 years of service to the New Democrat Coalition as Senior Policy and Outreach Advisor.

Under my tenure as Chair of the New Dems, Kevin was an invaluable member of the Coalition team, leading our work on health care, trade, and immigration. His unbridled commitment to expanding the reach and influence of the New Dems on these critical issues will continue to positively impact the work of the Coalition, and the well-being of the American people, for years to come.

Kevin was key to growing the Coalition's outreach initiatives, helping to foster strong relationships with outside stakeholders. His efforts strengthened our various initiatives and helped solidify our Coalition's reputation as a group of pragmatic lawmakers who deliver results for our constituents.

Beyond his exceptional contributions to the Coalition, Kevin has been a warm and helpful presence to all who have had the pleasure of working with him. While we will miss him dearly, we could not be more excited for his next chapter as a Senior Advisor and Congressional Liaison at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

HONORING WHITLEY COUNTY HIGH
SCHOOL BASEBALL STATE
CHAMPIONS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Whitley County High School Colonel Baseball Team and Coach Jeremy Shope for winning the 2023 Kentucky High School Athletic Association State Championship at the Kentucky Proud Park.

The Colonels brought home the 13, Region's-first-ever state baseball title, returning top honors to the mountains for the first time since 2001. Rising from defeat after a district championship loss, Whitley County closed out the season with an impressive 39-4 record, defeating LaRue County, South Warren, Henderson County, and finally beating the Shelby County Rockets 2-1 to earn the state tournament crown. Our mountain student athletes have a long-held legacy of competing with tremendous grit, talent, and pride, and I am personally proud of their determination and tenacity to show the entire state what our students are capable of achieving.

When Coach Shope took over the helm of the baseball program in 2018, the Colonels had not made a tournament appearance since 2005. The team has since improved by leaps and bounds, steam rolling past their opponents, winning the regional title in 2021 and 2023, and sweeping the state tournament this