

name to honor Mr. Traynor's commitment to making entertainment accessible to all residents of Camden County. His efforts as the architect of the summer concert series are fueled by his beliefs that music and entertainment should be the means to drive people to visit Camden, New Jersey; keeping him both active and work focused even in his time of retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Mr. Roland Traynor of Winslow Township, New Jersey, a resident dedicated to his community and who has thoroughly served them to the best of his ability.

Be it known to all, that I hereby honor Roland Traynor, and extend great appreciation for outstanding service to our community.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES  
ARMY CAPTAIN EDWARD DOWNING  
FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE TO  
NORTHERN MICHIGAN

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2023*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and celebrate the life of retired United States Army Captain Edward Downing. Passing away on February 10, 2023, at the age of 87, Captain Downing has lived a life of unparalleled service and dedication to his community. Throughout his life, Capt. Downing has served in our Nation's military, as the President of Interlochen Center for the Arts, and President of Traverse City Rotary. I commend him for his leadership and steadfast commitment to help those around him.

Captain Downing began his professional life in music and arts in the early 1970s, acting as the director of the Interlochen Center for the Arts and being named Michigan's 'Music Teacher of the Year' in 1974. Edward Downing continued his career in music for another 46 years in various capacities across the state of Michigan, and his genuine love for the arts made him an exemplary instructor, mentor, and friend to those who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Captain Edward Downing for his life of service to Interlochen, our nation, and the arts across the state of Michigan. Captain Downing's passing has saddened many in the community, but I am certain his legacy will continue for generations to come. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I wish Captain Edward Downing's family, friends, and colleagues the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING WHITNEY S. FRENCH

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Whitney S. French. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Whitney S. French was born on January 6, 1986, to Willie and Shirley French. Except for a few childhood years in Jackson, MS, and

her college years at Alcorn State University, Whitney is a proud lifelong resident of Marks, Quitman County, Mississippi.

Whitney is a 2004 graduate of Madison Shannon Palmer High School (MSPHS). In 2010, she received her Bachelor of Social Work from Alcorn State University. To give back to her alma maters, she actively serves on the QCHS-MSPHS Scholarship Gala Committee, is the Chaplain and Recruitment Committee Chair for the North Delta-Clarksdale Alcorn Alumni Chapter and is a member of the Advisory Board for the Alcorn State University Department of Social Work.

Whitney has a long history of serving her community through church. As a child, she used to accompany her grandmother, Cora Burrell Walker, to Valley Queen M.B. Church to help prepare boxes for their food pantry and would assist with other Kitchen Committee and Missionary Society duties. Whitney was baptized at College Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, MS, where she participated in the youth choir and holiday programs. Once Whitney returned to Valley Queen, she remained active in the choir and served as a welcome and announcing clerk. She is currently a member of Brown Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves on the Brown Everywhere Virtual Community Core Team, in the Single's Ministry, and as Virtual Greeter Team.

Whitney has always been known for being a talker. This has led her to several leadership positions throughout life. In high school, she served as class president from freshman to senior year. During her high school years, she represented Quitman County in a statewide Sankofa knowledge bowl, at a Congressional Black Caucus conference, through the youth credit union board, and as a member of the QC Performing Arts Choir.

Whitney makes sure to advocate on behalf of her community in meetings revolved around community resources and planning. She serves as a board member for the Quitman County Arts Council and on the Board of Directors for Quitman County Economic Development and Tourism, Inc. Whitney is currently honing her leadership skills as a 2023 fellow of Delta Regional Authority's Delta Leadership Institute. She also works to increase access to education and resources needed for young people to have healthier outcomes.

Even before she could vote, Whitney was passionate about her community exercising their rights to vote and being fully represented. As a youth, Whitney worked as a poll watcher and canvassed the community during election and census terms. After returning to the community from college, Whitney was active with the local Democratic Executive Committee and Voters' League. She currently uses her voice on social media to encourage her friends and followers to be aware active in the political process.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Miss Whitney S. French for her contributions and service to her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2023*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was unable to attend session on July 11, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 290, and YEA on Roll Call No. 291.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARRISON

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2023*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Village of Harrison on the celebration of its 10-year anniversary.

The residents of the Village of Harrison are celebrating 10 years since their incorporation as a Village. Harrison covers nearly 32 square miles throughout in Northeast Wisconsin, stretching into parts of both Calumet County and Outagamie County. The Village is home to around 14,000 great Wisconsinites, and it is truly a great place to call home.

Harrison is located on the beautiful north-east shores of Lake Winnebago and is a combination of both rural and urban areas. The location was originally chartered as the Town of Lima in 1853 and later became the Town of Harrison in 1858. In 2013, a referendum passed to incorporate the entire area into a Village.

Throughout the last ten years, the Village of Harrison has taken many actions to improve the community, especially when it comes to the improvement of local parks. The Village recently installed new volleyball and tennis courts and created new pickleball courts for community members and families to enjoy. The Village is constantly working to improve trails and update playground equipment—all these actions make the Village of Harrison a great place to live and raise a family.

Each year since 2019, the Village of Harrison hosts the Fox Cities Festival of Lights located at Darboy Community Park. The festival is a free family event that works to create a holiday light display and each year it raises tens of thousands of dollars for area nonprofits.

The Village celebrated their 10-year incorporation by holding a community event on July 19th that featured a parade, a brat fry, food trucks, sports & games, live music, fireworks, and more. The whole community has come together in celebration of this outstanding accomplishment.

I would like to acknowledge this noteworthy milestone in the Village's history, and I wish the Village prosperity and success in its future.

HONORING THE DIAMOND  
PROJECT, INC.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the accomplishments and exceptional work of The Diamond Project, Inc. The Diamond Project is a remarkable youth mentoring organization that empowers and uplifts the youth in our community. Founded in June 2017 by Andrea S. Lee.

The Diamond Project emerged as a beacon of hope and inspiration for countless young people. Its mission to cultivate excellence, resilience, and compassion resonates deeply with the core values we hold dear. The Programmatic Points of The Diamond Project are Health and Wellness, Professional Development, Personal Development, Community Service, Empowerment, and Prevention. It focuses on working with pre-teen and teen girls by introducing them to mentors who not only grew up in the same small towns but also graduated from the same schools. Through the organization, the participants are exposed to numerous networking and growth opportunities.

In July 2022, The Diamond Project organized a visit to Washington, DC where they met with female staffers on Capitol Hill. During a private tour of the Chambers of Majority Whip JIM CLYBURN, a truly remarkable experience unfolded as they ventured into the tunnel beneath the chambers. A site of historical importance and a major tour highlight as it was the exact location the British entered the Capitol during the War of 1812.

In February 2023, members of The Diamond Project had the honor of traveling back to Washington to visit The White House, where they were invited to attend a private screening of the movie "Till" alongside the movie cast. Furthermore, they had the privilege of sitting in the front row during President Biden's inspiring speech. On February 25th 2023, The Diamond Project's Mentee of the Year traveled to Los Angeles, CA, to attend the prestigious NAACP Image Awards. In May 2023, The Diamond Project awarded their first high school graduating seniors with \$5,500 in college scholarship funds, helping to ensure these bright and deserving individuals have the means to pursue higher education and continue their journey towards success.

The Diamond Project has organized numerous enlightening workshops that have included influential speakers who have made significant contributions in their respective fields. Notable workshop speakers include Jill Scott, Derrick Johnson—a leader in civil rights advocacy, and Angela Rye.

The Diamond Project's dedication to education, empowerment, exposure, and civic engagement is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Diamond Project, Inc., for their passion and dedication to serving the Mississippi Delta and their admirable desire to positively impact the future of young girls.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAKESTATE INDUSTRIES

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2023*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Lakestate Industries for 50 years of continued service to the state of Michigan and for their celebratory anniversary event held on June 28, 2023. Lakestate Industries is the Upper Peninsula's leader in employment and training opportunities for those experiencing intellectual disabilities. Before the establishment of Lakestate Industries in 1969, employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities were severely lacking in Michigan. Their work throughout their impressive history has helped reshape the lives of those they serve, their staff, and the surrounding community.

Acting as a private non-profit organization, the agency has cemented itself as a trustworthy and exemplary source of support for those with disabilities and their families. They have been a voice for the voiceless and will continue to stand in the gap and affect real change by providing life changing services for years to come.

I commend all involved in Lakestate Industries' extensive history of success and cannot wait to see what they have planned in the future. They have helped one of our most vulnerable populations become more independent and flourishing members of society, and I extend my wholehearted appreciation for the organization's exceptional work and selflessness.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Lakestate Industries for 50 years of continued service to Michigan and to offer my congratulations for holding a successful event in celebration of that milestone. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I wish Lakestate Industries, their staff, and the families they serve the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CHINO CHIEF OF  
POLICE WES SIMMONS

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2023*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wes Simmons and his 28 years of public service and dedication to the City of Chino. The calling to be a police officer is an incredibly difficult and important vocation of public service. Those who risk their lives for the good of the community are worthy of the highest respect and appreciation of our district, State, and nation.

Chief Simmons joined the Chino Police Department in 1995 after graduating from the California State University at Fullerton. Throughout his distinguished career, Chief Simmons served as Police Officer, Field Training Officer, SWAT Team Operator, Corporal, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain. He was appointed as the Chief of Police in July 2019.

Additionally, Chief Simmons graduated with the 255th Session of the FBI National Acad-

emy and Class 60 of California's POST Command College. He has a master's degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix and completed the Harvard Kennedy School's Senior Executives in State and Local Government program.

This July, Chief Simmons is officially retiring. I hope that he gets to rest and enjoy time with his family. We are grateful for his service to our community.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Chief of Police Wes Simmons. His years of civic service and commitment to the city and the people of Chino are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF RORY ANTOINE MICOU

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a safety officer and a self-motivated community leader, Rory Antoine Micou. Rory enjoyed a long career of policing, teaching and serving.

Rory's love for all genres of music was cultivated from his great-grandmother, Henrietta Cleggs, his grandmother, Dorothy Micou and his mother, Herdy Micou. His formal education was in the public-school systems, graduating with Honors from John F. Kennedy (JFK) High School in May 1981. While at JFK, Rory played football, was in the marching band, and formed a talented group called The Dynamic Connection (DC Gang). The DC Gang performed throughout the delta and won numerous awards including a radio performance on WDIA radio station in Memphis, TN. His talent as a soloist guided him to an offer of a four-year scholarship at Alcorn. Rory was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and he was also a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Rory married Cheryl Elaine Sias on July 25, 1992. To this union, one child was born, Alexis.

In 2008, Rory became employed with the Cleveland Police Department as a patrolman and went on to become the school resource officer for the Cleveland School District. Rory was extremely dedicated to his job in the district. He believed in supporting the children, parents and staff. Many people in the community associated him with his animated school crossing duties. Rory retired from the Cleveland Police Department in October 2022 due to health issues. As he battled his health issues, he was strong enough to return to work in the capacity of the school crossing guard (he loved this job). He continued until his health issues would not allow him to. Many residents of the Cleveland area have stated how it brought a smile to their face as they started their workday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the life, legacy, and service of Rory Antoine Micou.