

HONORING THE SMALL BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law an act of Congress establishing the Small Business Administration (SBA) with the purpose of promoting and supporting small businesses across the United States of America. Since its founding, the SBA has stood as a pillar of support for America's entrepreneurs. Today, we recognize the SBA's invaluable contributions to empowering entrepreneurs; fostering economic opportunity and innovation; and building a vibrant and resilient economy for all Americans.

Over the past seven decades, the SBA has implemented groundbreaking programs and innovative lending initiatives that have helped entrepreneurs transform the economic landscape of our nation. By recognizing these achievements, we honor the SBA's commitment to fostering economic opportunity and supporting the indomitable spirit of our small business owners.

America is a Nation of progress, and small businesses are vital to spurring the competition and the innovations that drive our economy. The SBA plays a vital role in fostering entrepreneurship.

The SBA has been instrumental in providing access to capital for entrepreneurs who faced obstacles in securing traditional financing. SBA launched the 8(a) Business Development Program which provides support, mentorship, and access to government contracts for socially and economically disadvantaged small business owners. This program opened the doors of opportunity for minority-owned businesses, creating a more inclusive economic landscape.

Recognizing the extraordinary contributions that American women make to our economy, the SBA established the Office of Women's Business Ownership, empowering women entrepreneurs and women-owned small businesses to thrive.

In times of crisis, the SBA plays a crucial role in disaster recovery, providing low-interest disaster loans to businesses and homeowners impacted by natural disasters.

During the unprecedented challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic, the SBA played a pivotal role in keeping our economy afloat with its administration of critical relief programs. The Paycheck Protection Program, COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant helped small businesses keep the lights on, safeguarded millions of jobs, preserved livelihoods, and ensured the survival of American enterprise.

Please join me in honoring the Small Business Administration's legacy by continuing to support and uplift our Nation's small businesses.

HONORING SPC CHARLIE SIMPSON,  
JR.**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and heroism of U.S. Army Specialist Charlie Simpson, Jr. Mr. Simpson was drafted into the United States Army in 1968 and went to Basic Training in Fort Ord, California. After Basic Training, he successfully completed Advanced Infantry Training and later, Jump Training School. He then received orders to join our brave soldiers in Vietnam.

Mr. Simpson was injured on November 1, 1969, while serving the United States of America, and he was hospitalized in Japan for 30 days. He returned home to the U.S. in December 1969, and recuperated at the Fitzsimons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado, for 1 year. As a result of his combat service-connected injuries, Mr. Simpson lost both of his legs. He received an honorable discharge in 1970, and he was recognized for his tremendous service with the awarding of a Purple Heart and other prestigious medals. With such serious injuries, some would have given up, but that's not Charlie Simpson's way. After his discharge from the Army, Mr. Simpson returned home to Malvern, Arkansas, where he met his wife, Brenda, and where they made a tremendously full life together. The Simpsons have 5 children: Aaronda McNair and her husband, Tony, Veronica Rose and her husband, Cletis, Charlie Simpson, III and his wife, Nikya, Leticia Franklin and her husband, Kevin, and their dearly beloved, deceased son, Aaron Simpson. They have also been blessed with 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren to carry-on the legacy of their brave grandfather and great-grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, we often mention the sacrifices our men and women in uniform and their families make for our country, and rightly so. But today, along with our thanks, let us also celebrate the good work and contributions these soldiers, airmen, and marines have made in their communities. I would like to thank Specialist Simpson for his tremendous sacrifice for our nation and wish him well as he continues working for the people of Malvern, Arkansas. All Arkansans are eternally grateful for his service.

HONORING THE LIFELONG COMMUNITY  
SERVICE OF FLO BELLAMY**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a truly remarkable individual, Ms. Flo Bellamy, whose dedication, passion, and selfless service to the citizens of Johnson County, Tennessee, have left an indelible mark on our community.

I have personally witnessed Flo's unwavering commitment to the youth of our community. One of Flo's most outstanding attributes is the genuine love she extends to each child, and it is on display every day at the Commu-

nity Center. This is a woman who, for three years, worked without a salary, driven by a vision to establish an afterschool and summer program for our youth. Her sacrifices, from collecting essentials for the disadvantaged to ensuring that many children receive their only meal outside of the school system, showcase her unprecedented dedication.

In addition to her work with the youth, Flo has been a beacon of hope for cancer patients, assisting them in navigating their journey, from finding care to arranging transportation to medical appointments. Her connection to this cause is personal and sincere. Having witnessed the devastating effects of cancer in her own family, Flo took the reins of the American Cancer Society's county-wide walk for cancer. Even as the names and structures of these efforts evolved, Flo's leadership remained constant, her shift from fundraising for research to directly benefiting local cancer patients made a significant difference in the lives of many.

Furthermore, Flo's teachings have sowed the seeds of understanding, tolerance, and unity. She taught respect for all, regardless of race, religion, or disability. Due to her influence, I firmly believe that the younger generation in our community now embraces differences more openly and warmly than ever before.

However, the testament to Flo's legacy isn't just in the programs she led or the funds she raised. It's in the heartfelt stories of grown adults, once children under her wing, who approach her in public to express their gratitude and love. It's in the newfound perspectives and attitudes she fostered in a community that has historically faced its own set of challenges.

As I stand here, my heart swells with gratitude for Flo Bellamy. Her decades-long service, from leading the Johnson County—Mountain City Community Center to being an unwavering advocate for the most vulnerable, has left a mark that will echo across generations. We all owe her an immense debt of gratitude.

I invite my colleagues and the citizens of Johnson County to join me in saluting our precious Flo. Her work and her spirit embody the very best of our community. We love and cherish her, and I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize her monumental contributions.

## TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to extend my deepest appreciation and profound gratitude to the extraordinary legislative fellows who have graced my office with their unwavering dedication and unyielding commitment.

Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our Nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men

and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states and the Nation in the areas of business, education, law, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and the benefits from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves.

That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by so many great public figures that came before me. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said: "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure there are several other great young men and women who served as legislative fellows this Spring and Summer in my office. Each day, they exemplified the highest standards of excellence, bringing forth fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and an unrelenting drive to effect positive change within our cherished community. Their tireless efforts to address the diverse needs and pressing concerns of our constituents resonate deeply with the values we hold dear.

In the pursuit of serving the constituents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, their contributions have been nothing short of remarkable.

That is why today I rise to pay tribute to 14 extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are:

Panashé Siachitema, Texas Tech University; Ramanpreet Kaur, Indiana University; Amy Arceo, Texas A&M University; Ainsley Gill, Vanderbilt University; Joel Crawford, Harvard University; Kevin Darmadi, George Washington University; Lindsey O'Neal, Payne International Development Fellowship, Niyonsaba Magnifique, Payne International Development Fellowship; Vanessa Rogers-Wright, Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program; Wilson Pemboh, Texas Tech University; Alexandra Wilhelm, Pepperdine University; Parker Milligan, Oglethorpe University; J Hardy, Howard University; Carrington Blair, Jackson State University.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence and idealism that these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleague's help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of people like them the future of our country is bright, and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF OF POLICE  
MICHAEL MERTENS FOR 33  
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLES  
OF NEW BALTIMORE

### HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of retired Chief Michael Mertens. Chief Mertens has dedicated 33 years of his life to the People of New Baltimore, leaving an indelible mark on the department and the lives of those he served. He began his journey in law enforcement in 1987, graduating with distinction from the Macomb Police Academy. Throughout his career, he exhibited exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication to public safety.

As a certified Firearms Instructor, Chief Mertens ensured his fellow officers were well-trained and prepared for the challenges they faced. He courageously confronted the rising threat of drug-related crimes, leading successful investigations and making substantial steps against crime, including leading the largest LSD seizure in Michigan at that time.

Selected for the Macomb County's multi-jurisdictional Special Weapons and Tactics Team, Chief Mertens demonstrated considerable bravery and commitment to the protection of his community. His promotion to Sergeant in 2004 further showcased his leadership abilities and dedication to his colleagues.

Accepted into the esteemed FBI National Academy Associates in 2008, Chief Mertens solidified his outstanding qualifications and commitment to excellence. As Chief of the New Baltimore Police Department from 2019, he implemented crucial initiatives, securing resources and enhancing public safety measures.

Beyond doubt, Chief Michael Mertens' exceptional career in law enforcement has left a lasting impact on the City of New Baltimore. Today, we express our deepest gratitude and admiration for his unwavering commitment to public safety and his remarkable service to our community.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE BAYARD RUSTIN STAMP ACT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Bayard Rustin Stamp Act. This bill would direct the United States Postmaster General to issue a forever stamp to commemorate the life and work of Bayard Rustin. I introduce this bill with Congressman RITCHIE TORRES. We introduce this bill now to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which occurred on August 28, 1963, and the anniversary of Rustin's death, which occurred on August 24, 1987.

Born March 17, 1912, Bayard Rustin became one of the most important leaders in the 20th century civil rights movement. At a young age, Rustin learned the values of nonviolence and peacekeeping from his grandparents'

Quaker faith, and he would continue to build these values into his life as a civil rights movement leader.

Rustin attended City College of New York, where he joined a progressive club that aimed to remedy racial issues during turbulent times. His time with the club was short-lived, but it inspired him to join the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an organization that became a champion for labor rights, equity and world peace.

Rustin's time with the Fellowship of Reconciliation led him to become a leader in the 1947 "Journey to Reconciliation," where white and Black people across the South rode buses together to challenge segregation laws, a precursor to the Freedom Rides.

Rustin was an advisor in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s inner circle as King advocated pacifism and nonviolence for achieving equal treatment for African Americans. Rustin applied his brilliant strategic mind to execute aggressive, peaceful action in the civil rights movement and throughout his life as an activist.

His most important role was as the chief organizer of the historic March on Washington, the largest demonstration ever organized at the time, in which a quarter of a million people turned out to demand civil rights for African Americans.

In the years after the civil rights movement, Rustin, a gay man, inspired others to advocate for and to achieve rights for LGBTQ people. He remained a strategist and public speaker for workers' rights movements, including co-founding the A. Philip Randolph Institute, an organization for Black trade union members. Rustin remained committed to promoting social good, and advocating for the disenfranchised, until his death.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

### CELEBRATING BRIGADIER GENERAL MATTHEW HIGER'S CAREER OF SERVICE

### HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a lifelong patriot and soldier who has proudly served our great Nation in uniform for more than 30 years. After a storied career marked by professional exceptionalism and taking on new challenges without hesitation, Brigadier General Matthew Higer will be enjoying his well-earned retirement. While the team at Edwards Air Force Base will surely miss his leadership, General Higer will undoubtedly be enjoying the opportunity to spend more time with loved ones.

Prior to his command of the 412th Test Wing, General Higer began his career attending some of our nation's finest military learning institutions, earning his commission from the Air Force Officer Reserve Training Corps at the University of Southern California and going on to attend the United States Army War College and the United States Naval Postgraduate School. Between his stints at these schools, General Higer served as a test pilot, evaluator pilot, and instructor pilot. No matter which role he was serving in at the time, Higer consistently distinguished himself from his fellow airmen through his hard work ethic and commitment to the pursuit of excellence. Over