

the course of his career, General Higer has piloted 40 different types of aircraft and accrued over 3,000 military flight hours.

General Higer is concluding his admirable career at Edwards Air Force Base as commander of the 412th Test Wing, but this was not his first time in what is first time in California's "Aerospace Valley". He first came here as a student-pilot in 2003, attending the world-famous U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School and setting himself apart from the rest of his class with his skill and tenacity. While he went on to fulfill different roles around the country, General Higer couldn't stay away from Edwards AFB for long. He returned in 2017 and served as Commandant for the same test pilot school he graduated from as a young soldier, and later ascended to the position of Commander for the 412th Test Wing. Under his leadership, Edwards Air Force Base has remained the center of the flight testing universe, overseeing the testing of such programs as the F-16, T-38, T-7 A, F-22, F-35, C-12, C-17, KC-135, KC-46, B-1, B-2, B-52, B-21. Because of the work of General Higer and the brave men and women under his command, our nation is better prepared and equipped for the future and positioned to exceed our enemies in next-generation air dominance.

Once again, I want to recognize and sincerely thank Brigadier General Higer for his lifetime of service to our great Nation. I know myself, our community, and all those at the 412th Test Wing will be wishing him nothing but happiness and prosperity in his retirement.

#### HONORING THE STAFFORD NAACP FOR 67 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stafford County NAACP in honor of 67 years of service to the community.

Founded in 1956, the Stafford County NAACP has worked tirelessly "to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination," working to build a better future for everyone in Stafford County.

As the first and longest-serving president of the Stafford County NAACP, Frank White, Sr. laid the groundwork for this branch's long-term commitment to service. His legacy continues through his son, Frank White, Jr.—an active member.

Under the current leadership of President Yolanda Roussell, the Stafford County NAACP continues to be a beacon in the community through its activism, partnerships with local churches, support for Black-owned businesses, voter registration drives, and community forums on African American history, public education, and mental health.

The Stafford County NAACP brings the entire community together for large celebrations—including the Stafford County NAACP Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and the Stafford County NAACP Juneteenth Commemoration and Celebration. These events would not have been possible without the hard work of its members.

The Stafford County NAACP has demonstrated a fervent commitment to our communities and an extraordinary devotion to the strength and prosperity of our Commonwealth. As the U.S. Representative for Virginia's Seventh District, I am honored to recognize this organization for its tremendous record of service to Stafford County—and I thank the Stafford County NAACP for building a stronger Virginia.

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JUDITH ROBERTSON

#### HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career of Lieutenant Commander Judith Robertson. Lieutenant Commander Robertson, a resident of Easley for nearly three decades, was the first female Physician Assistant in the United States Navy and a trailblazer in her field.

In 1974, Lieutenant Commander Judith Robertson entered the United States Navy and later graduated from the Sheppard Air Force Base's Physician Assistant Program with a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska. Ultimately, earned the title of the first female Physician Assistant, paving the way for countless women to follow in her footsteps. During her time in the U.S. Navy, she used her knowledge and training to provide OB/GYN services to Vietnam refugees at Talega Camp Pendleton, California. Her dedication and commitment to serving her country is evident in her 30-plus years of active service, during which she exemplified the highest standards of professionalism and excellence. For her service, she was awarded three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two National Defense Service medals, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Since she retired from active duty in 1998, Lieutenant Commander Robertson's passion for helping others has not waned. Since settling down in Easley, South Carolina, she has continued to contribute to her community as a volunteer at Easley Baptist Hospital, selflessly giving her time and expertise to assist those in need. Her humility and willingness to serve are attributes that make her an invaluable member of her community.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Commander Judith Robertson's tireless dedication and unwavering commitment to service, in both the United States Navy and Easley Baptist Hospital, have left a lasting impact on my constituency. It is a privilege to celebrate the service of Lieutenant Commander Robertson and the barriers she has broken through her service in the United States Navy. This has made her an inspiration and role model for countless young women and service members. I am honored to represent the third district of South Carolina and to celebrate the exceptional individuals who make a difference in our community and country.

#### RECOGNIZING CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the impact of Calvary Baptist Church of Buffalo. Calvary Baptist will celebrate its 85th anniversary on September 15, 2023, which will mark several decades of critical service to our community and its residents.

Calvary began on Clinton Street with Rev. Polite in 1938, and through the years, has become a staple of the Western New York region. This church is compassionate and dedicated to the mission of helping others, and they do this through local and global leadership that focuses on fostering strong intergenerational disciples. The efforts in Christian education have made significant impacts on the lives of many, and the nurturing of all followers (of every generation) is a testament to the love and unity within this church family. Every day, our community ought to recognize and appreciate the leadership and members of Calvary for their selfless work and devotion. Their contributions to the betterment of our community have not gone unnoticed, and their impact extends far beyond the walls of the congregation.

Reverend Corey Bernard Gibson of Buffalo, New York, was named as the seventh and current pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church. Pastor Gibson has continued to carry out community service, catering to both spiritual and social needs. This includes the continuation of the Community Outreach Day and the establishment of a scholarship for the local community high school, along with various other events throughout the year that focus on benefiting the children of Buffalo. It is critically important to recognize such efforts, and I ask that you join me in thanking the leaders and membership of Calvary Baptist, alike, for their successful endeavors over the last 85 years.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 85TH BIRTHDAY OF JOHN TOWNSEND

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish John Townsend a happy 85th birthday.

John is a native of Talladega County, Alabama. He resides in Fayetteville with his wife, Lola M. Townsend. They have been married for 56 years. He has one son, John Townsend, Jr., who is married to Brenda Townsend and one daughter, Victoria Cook, who is married to Alfred Cook, Sr.

Mr. Townsend is blessed with six grandchildren: Jalane, Daria, Alfred, Jr., Johntavis, Cameron, and Alexandria. He has 8 great-grandchildren with the youngest 2 of them twin boys.

Mr. Townsend worked for Avondale Mills for more than 29 years before he retired. He also worked for Parker Fertilizer for many years.

In his free time, Mr. Townsend enjoys gardening and spending time with his family. To

celebrate this milestone, Mr. Townsend is celebrating his 85th birthday at Top of the River restaurant with his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing John Townsend a very happy 85th birthday.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. SUE AUGUSTINE

##### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Rep. MIKE THOMPSON, to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mrs. Sue Augustine, longtime Solano County resident. Passing away at 82, Mrs. Augustine leaves behind an indelible legacy of love, leadership, and service to her community and family.

Born in 1940, in Detroit, Michigan, Mrs. Augustine demonstrated a hardworking and tenacious spirit from a young age. After graduating from St. Mary's High School in Mount Clemens, Michigan, she worked as a receptionist and switchboard operator for the City of Mt. Clemens, where she met and married Mr. Len Augustine.

Mr. Augustine's service in the Air Force brought their family all over the world, ultimately leading them to establish a permanent home in Vacaville. Mrs. Augustine was a critical member of the Solano County community, working as a library assistant at both Vacaville libraries and volunteering for numerous charities. From crocheting for Hearts and Hands to supporting St. Mary's Church to serving at the Church Food Locker, Mrs. Augustine embodied the spirit of generosity and selflessness in every aspect of her life.

Mrs. Augustine will be remembered not only for her years of service to Solano County, but also for her genuine kindness and compassion. Her willingness to lend an ear and a helping hand to anyone in need earned her the widespread respect and gratitude of her community. Mrs. Augustine impacted the lives of countless members of her community and her steadfast leadership, constant smile, and patient mentorship undeniably enhanced the lives of her fellow Solano County residents.

Mrs. Augustine's enduring spirit will live on in her loving husband, son, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Augustine's loved ones. We know that they, along with the people of Solano County, join us in celebrating her life and legacy.

#### RECOGNIZING RONNIE LEE JETT

##### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ronald "Ronnie" Jett, who has

recently passed away, and to honor his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Ronnie served as a life member on the Northumberland Rescue Squad and is a recipient of the Michael B. Player Award for excellence in EMS. His service to his community continued with the Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as an active member for nearly four decades. He has also been recognized as a life member for this service.

In January 1996, Ronnie was sworn into office for the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors for District 5. While on the Board he acted as Vice Chair for six years, Chairman for eighteen years, Emergency Services Director for eighteen years, and liaison for the Board to the Northern Neck Regional Jail since July 2000. His work on the Board includes enhancements to the County 911 System, obtaining funding for the Fire Department, construction of school complexes, athletic fields, and first responder facilities. His loyalty and care for the citizens and staff was clearly visible through his work to better his County.

Ronnie was a family man who survived by his wife, Linda S. Jett, daughters, Carrie Jo Jett and Kelly Morgan Jett, stepdaughters Kristi and Carlina; eight grandchildren, Kyndal, Karter, Haleigh, Michael, Keith, Macey, Dallas, and Michael Jr.; sister, Patsy Basye, and numerous caring nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, Doris and Wilson Jett, and his brothers, Mitchell and Michael Jett. He could often be found spending time with his dog, Mia, or on his boat with family when he was away from his businesses, Smith Point Seafood and Cockrells Creek Deli.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the service, accomplishments, and values of Ronnie Lee Jett. May God bless Ronnie, and may He look over Ronnie's family as we remember his splendid life.

#### RECOGNIZING MICHAEL TOMTISHEN 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 recognize an extraordinary constituent whose dedication, service, and unwavering commitment to our community exemplify core American values.

Michael Tomtishen, who many throughout the City of New Baltimore regard as a 'home-town hero,' is a veteran of the Vietnam War, a two-time Purple Heart recipient, and a life-long resident in his community.

Mr. Tomtishen served in the United States Army for three years, of which two were spent in Vietnam. He assisted in the training of troops at Fort Benning in Georgia and was severely injured in combat as a result of a land-

mine. An active member of the Lempke-Blackwell VFW Post 7573 and AMVETS Post 52, Michael Tomtishen has assisted and participated in many local events and parades, once saving an onlooker's life by performing CPR.

For 30 years, Mr. Tomtishen has also honored fallen heroes by assisting in the placement of American flags—a task he was never asked to do. Michael Tomtishen is a hero to many—his selfless commitment to those around him is an example for us all to follow.

With National Purple Heart Day still fresh in our hearts and minds, I am beyond proud to honor Michael for his many years of unselfish leadership, generosity, and respect for his community. We are all indebted to him for the example he sets.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT HOME RULE 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 District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia the authority to appoint the members of the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment (Board), except when the Board is performing functions regarding an application by a foreign mission with respect to a chancery. The Board issues special exceptions, or variances, to the regulations issued by the D.C. Zoning Commission (Commission). This bill would not alter the authority of the Board.

Under current law, in general, the Board consists of a representative each from the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), which is a federal agency, and the Commission, each of whom may be a federal official, and three mayoral appointees, subject to D.C. Council approval. The Board has no authority over federal property.

Under current law, when the Board is performing functions regarding an application by a foreign mission with respect to the location, expansion or replacement of a chancery, the Board consists of the Executive Director of NCPC, the Director of the National Park Service (or, if the President so designates, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services) and the three mayoral appointees. This bill would not change this composition.

D.C., like every other jurisdiction in the United States, should be free to set its own local land-use policies. This bill is an important step to increase home rule for D.C. I urge my colleagues to support it.