

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND NOBLE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OF LT. COLONEL DONALD BRYANT RUSSELL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 25, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and noble military and community service of Lt. Colonel Donald Bryant Russell who passed away at the age of 102. Known as a quiet and unassuming individual, Lt. Col. Russell served his country for 31 years on 4 different continents in the United States Army and the United States Air Force. Later in his life he served his community of Colorado Springs, Colorado through his VFW Post and mentorship activities with Alcoholics Anonymous.

In 1942, Lt. Col. Russell left early from Purdue University where he was studying mechanical engineering, to join the Army Air Corps after the attack of Japanese forces on Pearl Harbor. He detailed in his application to the Army that he had a lifelong ambition to fly aircraft which had been influenced by his father's experience as a pilot before him. This desire led him to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps where he became a pilot spotting submarines in the Pacific Theater during WWII. Later, he became a member of the United States Air Force where he proudly served in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and numerous countries.

During Lt. Col. Russell's service in the Korean War, he displayed gallantry and intrepidity. On July 16, 1950, while participating in an aerial armed reconnaissance flight near Chochiwan, Korea, the flight sighted an enemy armored tank column. On the first aerial pass at this column, Lt. Col. Russell encountered intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire and his aircraft was badly damaged: losing his left-wing tip and the tip tank, plus significant damage to his left aileron and flaps. Disregarding his own personal safety, Lt. Col. Russell continued to hold his position in the formation and pressed his attack to the minimum altitude and range. Though his aircraft was very difficult to handle, Lt. Col. Russell scored a direct hit with a rocket on 1 tank, blowing the turret completely off and destroying several supporting vehicles. Upon returning to his home base, his plane was required to make a no-flap landing after dark and was found to be damaged beyond repair. In recognition of his remarkable valor, Lt. Col. Russell received the Silver Star. He also received numerous other awards for his military service, including a Bronze Star Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Meritorious Service Award.

During his military career, Lt. Col. Russell received his master's degree in logistics at the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. Subsequently, he served four additional tours.

After his final duty in Ethiopia, he and his wife, Marguerite settled in Colorado Springs, Colorado where he became an active member of the community. He was known as a "quiet helper" and never looked to seek recognition or attention and was described as "very, very humble". In 1985, after his son checked into a rehab clinic for alcohol abuse, Lt. Col. Russell joined Alcoholics Anonymous where he

served as a mentor to members until his final months on earth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring the life and service of Lt. Colonel Donald Bryant Russell, who faithfully served his country, community, family, and Colorado's 5th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING NORVILL HOWELL

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 25, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Norvill Howell for his service to the music students of Curry County in eastern New Mexico.

Mr. Norvill Howell was born in Independence, Kansas. He graduated from Eastern New Mexico University where he majored in music and went to work for the Muleshoe Texas School System. Thereafter he was hired as the Clovis High School Band Director. His 25 year tenure as the CHS Band Director spanned 1956 to 1981 where he taught generations of Wildcats. He later became the Clovis Schools Music Program Director and served in that capacity for 15 years.

During his tenure as Clovis High School Band Director, Mr. Howell instilled an aspiration to perform at an exceptional level in his band students. Known for being "tough but fair," many of his students went on to become accomplished musicians and band directors themselves. All of them attribute much of their success to the standards Mr. Howell set.

After his retirement, Mr. Howell continued his musical influence and formed the Clovis Community Band. Many former students and community members participated in it. In addition to the community band, he was also a member of a local jazz group that performed for various events throughout Eastern New Mexico and West Texas.

Under Mr. Howell's direction the CHS band received invitations to perform at the Rose Bowl Parade, the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, and won countless marching band competitions throughout New Mexico and Texas. His influence on Clovis' School Music Programs continues today as the CHS Band is known as "the band that sets the standard for excellence" at band competitions.

As a tribute to Mr. Howell and his legacy with the Clovis Schools Music Programs, the CHS Band performs in front of his home at the beginning of the school year.

Excellence, discipline, outstanding performances, and representing your school with honor are all synonymous when you mention Mr. Norvill Howell's name. He described himself as, "Just a good ole trumpet player." To his community and band students, he is so much more.

WISHING A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO EVELYN BRANDT THOMAS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 25, 2023

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Evelyn Brandt Thomas of Springfield, on her 100th Birthday.

In 1953, Evelyn, along with her younger brother Glen Brandt, founded Brandt Fertilizer, a venture that later evolved into BRANDT Consolidated, Inc. However, Evelyn's contributions to Central Illinois extend far beyond her business success. Her philanthropic efforts have touched numerous institutions of higher learning, such as the University of Illinois Springfield and Lincoln Land Community College. Evelyn's generosity has also benefited nonprofits, including the Education Center for the Visually Impaired.

Evelyn's dedication to ensuring access to education for women in the Springfield area serves as an inspiration to our community. She has particularly focused on empowering women in the fields of business and agriculture. Her commitment to fostering young talent in these fields has helped to strengthen the next generation's passion for agriculture, business, and service to Central Illinois.

Evelyn is the embodiment of selflessness and community service. Her tireless work over seven decades has not only transformed the lives of those she has worked with but also transformed the lives of countless residents of downstate Illinois.

I know I join countless others offering the very best birthday wishes to Evelyn on this special day and I thank her for her contributions to Central Illinois.

HONORING HOMETOWN HERO
PAISLEY ELLIOTT

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 25, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, 9-year-old philanthropist and Grapevine resident, Paisley Elliott. At just 6 years old, Paisley founded Paisley's Pals, a global non-profit that partners with organizations around the world to offer support and education to refugees. Her work has helped build a school at the Moria refugee camp in Greece, which is one of the most overwhelmed refugee camps in Europe, and she is now working to build a school in Uganda. Paisley spent the summer of 2019 organizing lemonade stands, handing out flyers in her community, distributing "CHANGE" jars to local businesses to collect loose change, and setting up a crowdfunding website to raise money for the school. She also hosted a "Helping Heroes" event at the Islamic Foundation of Lewisville and Flower Mound where children came together to decorate superhero capes for the children stuck in the Moria Refugee Camp in Greece. Paisley was the youngest person in the world to be nominated for the Nansen Award, given annually to one person who champions the cause

of refugees. I'd like to thank Paisley for all the work she does to educate and inspire not only her peers, but North Texans of all ages, and for bringing the community together to help empower the next generation.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
DUANE RYAN

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 25, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Duane Ryan—a veteran, a family man, a broadcaster, a visionary, an educator, and a legend in Eastern New Mexico. Today, we also remember the lives he touched with his broadcasting from his students to listeners and all of his accomplishments.

Duane Ryan was the eldest child of Donald and Evelyn Ryan. He was born in Hermosa Beach, California and raised nearby in Hawthorne. He attended El Camino Junior College and was elected student body president. He later transferred to Brigham Young University earning both a BA and Master's Degree in Speech and Dramatic Arts. Duane served in the Air Force for 2 years.

After marrying his wife, Martha Ann Christensen, in 1959, Duane taught at Snow College in the Theatre Department. Duane and his family later moved to Portales, New Mexico where he began as an assistant professor in theater and speech. He combined his technical savvy and his love of the arts to create KENW-FM. In 1967, KENW-TV began broadcasting via the cable company in Portales. Broadcast hours were Monday through Friday from early afternoon until 9 pm. Mostly airing local programming and children's programs, the station quickly became a local favorite.

In the 1970s, under the directorship of Duane Ryan, KENW began its quest to become a Public Broadcasting Station for Eastern New Mexico. With the help of federal and state sources, KENW-PBS-TV signed on the air in September of 1974.

Because of his vision, Duane Ryan knew that the age of digital television would be part of the future. Under his leadership, KENW began the transformation from analog to digital broadcasting. In 2006 KENW-TV moved from its metal building into a 'state-of-the-art' digital broadcast center located on the campus of Eastern New Mexico University. With digital transmitters placed in various communities throughout Eastern New Mexico, KENW expanded their coverage area to include all thirty-three counties in New Mexico, as well as coverage in West Texas, and Southern Colorado.

Duane Ryan also served at Eastern New Mexico University as the Director of Broadcasting for 55 years. He cultivated a welcoming environment for staff and students, many of whom have gone on to successful careers. Indeed, employers often seek out Eastern New Mexico University graduates with a Degree in Broadcasting because of the program's excellent standards.

Duane Ryan was elected to the New Mexico Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame in 2015. He had just retired from his distin-

guished career and left us much too soon thereafter.

We thank Duane's wife Martha, and his children Tamara, Michael, Marla, John, and David for sharing him with us. We'll miss him dearly.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY AND
MINISTRY OF THE COLORADO
SPRINGS EMMANUEL MIS-
SIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 25, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the legacy and ministry of the Colorado Springs Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church. 2023 marks Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church's 60th year of ministry in the Pikes Peak Region. This congregation has shown itself to be true to its name, which is translated as "God Is With Us." Founded on September 1, 1963, by the late Rev. Dr. Thomas Marigna, Emmanuel has been a model of excellent worship, corporate prayer, and passionate outreach since its inception—representing God's presence in the Pikes Peak region.

Emmanuel developed under the leadership of former senior pastors Rev. Dr. Moses E. Ford and Rev. Benjamin Reynolds and is now thriving under the oversight of senior pastor, Bishop Cleveland Thompson. Guided by the vision of "Restoration," Emmanuel is building upon the pillars of spiritual development, temple restoration, and community involvement as the basis of its mission. In collaboration with other churches, missions, and non-profits, Emmanuel provides food and household goods to the Colorado Springs community. Their heart for the hurting and their representation of "God with us" is on display by supplying food, clothing, and short-term shelter to the homeless, as well as rent assistance, utilities, and gas assistance through its benevolence to anyone in need.

Emmanuel has distinguished itself as contributing to the spread of the Gospel, both Nationally and internationally. It has done worldwide ministry through a sister church in Nairobi, Kenya, as well as through affiliation and support of other evangelical ministries that share the Gospel and provide vital necessities to people around the globe—representing God's presence to the whole world.

Emmanuel provides scholarships and stipends yearly to college-bound students and has a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Tour biannually that is second to none. This National HBCU Tour allows high school students to be exposed to educational possibilities firsthand and provides the foundation for these students to flourish in their continued learning. Truly, Emmanuel helps a coming generation to be confident in God's presence.

The positive influence that Emmanuel has had in the Colorado Springs community is undeniable. After 60 blessed years of impactful ministry, I look forward to what God has in store for Emmanuel's ordained future. As the first predominately African American church to minister in the Colorado Springs community from 2 locations, Emmanuel will continue to set the pace for God-directed service, Spirit-

anointed leadership, and Kingdom-focused Biblical instruction.

I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring and thanking this body of believers, for proving in title, word, and deed that "Emmanuel—Our God is With Us."

HONORING PASTOR GERALD AND
FIRST LADY MAMIE KISNER OF
TABERNACLE CHURCH

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 25, 2023

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Gerald Kisner and First Lady Mamie Kisner for 29 exceptional years of presiding leadership over Tabernacle Church of Palm Beach, Florida. I had the privilege of attending many church services and working closely with the Kisners during my 8 years as Mayor of West Palm Beach and to this day continue to honor our friendship.

The Tabernacle Church, formerly the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church (TMBC), was originally founded in 1893 in an area called the "Styx" in Palm Beach where it served families of African American construction crews who were building the grand hotels and homes in Palm Beach. One year later, the TMBC relocated to downtown West Palm Beach and established the first school for African American children in Palm Beach County.

A new TMBC was built at its current location on Eighth Street in 1925. With its distinctive towers and lighted domes, the TMBC is recognized as 1 of Florida's most important Romanesque Revival design churches. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

Pastor Gerald Kisner and First Lady Mamie Kisner became the leaders of Tabernacle Church in 1994. They have provided both spiritual and tangible leadership from the pulpit, on area civic boards, and with community projects. Of special note are the U. B. Kinsey Educational and Community Center that provides a comprehensive source of programs and services to the underserved and The Rosemary Village Construction Project that provides 53 free of charge single family homes, and a park in the Northwest neighborhood of West Palm Beach.

Pastor Gerald and First Lady Mamie Kisner's commitment to the Tabernacle Church and their service to our community is truly remarkable. I congratulate them and wish them continued success.

HONORING HOMETOWN HERO
HOLLIS OWENS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 25, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero of the week, Hollis Owens. Hollis is the founder and Executive Director of To Be Like Me, a nonprofit organization that offers North Texas school field trips hosted by individuals with