

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 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 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

disabilities, called LEADers. Prior to founding To Be Like Me, Hollis graduated from UT Southwestern Medical School and spent 20 years as a physical therapist primarily working with children. Her work allowed her to learn more about the barriers facing people with disabilities which ultimately lead her to founding the nonprofit. During To Be Like Me's field trips, LEADers provide disability awareness education to students and teachers. Students rotate through five interactive experiences where LEADers discuss what it's like to have a disability in different environments and the tools they use daily to help them adapt. These experiences also teach students about mental health and medical devices and assistive technologies used by people living with disabilities. About 50 LEADers work for To Be Like Me, providing them with meaningful employment and advocacy opportunities. I thank Hollis for providing a program that fosters more compassion and empathy for North Texans living with disabilities.

PAUL BENAVIDEZ EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 25, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul Benavidez. Paul is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Paul has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Paul has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Paul has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Paul benefited his local community and the City of Liberty by painting parking lot lines in a newly paved parking lot. He also painted lines on a basketball court at Place Liberte Park, a neighborhood park that the city maintains.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Paul Benavidez for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CAROLYN MULLIS
CRAYTON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 25, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding citizen of Macon, Georgia—a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother; a dedicated volunteer; and distinguished servant leader in her community, Mrs. Carolyn Mullis Crayton. Mrs. Crayton was honored with the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Central Georgia Council of the Boy Scouts of America

on August 24, 2023. The Awards Ceremony and Dinner was held at the Anderson Conference Center in Macon, Georgia.

Originally from North Carolina, Mrs. Crayton moved to Macon in the early 1970s where she quickly got involved in the community. An ardent advocate for city beautification, she founded the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission, which in 1974, partnered as an affiliate with Keep America Beautiful. Today, Mrs. Crayton serves on the Board of Directors of Keep America Beautiful, an organization she has been involved with for more than half a century. Similarly, the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission remains a strong force in the local community.

Upon her first visit to Macon in 1970, Mrs. Crayton and her husband, Lee Crayton, fell in love with the city and saw its potential as a bastion of culture and beauty. Perhaps most notably, Mrs. Crayton was struck by the beauty of the Yoshino cherry trees that lined some of the local streets. Over the next decade, thousands of these beautiful trees were planted all over Macon, thanks to the generosity of Mr. William Fickling, Sr., an influential Macon resident and “Father of Cherry Blossoms.”

In 1982, Mrs. Crayton capitalized on this pink horticultural phenomenon by organizing a weekend celebration to give thanks to Mr. Fickling on his birthday for his contributions to the city's beautification. This event would go on to be celebrated every year as the International Cherry Blossom Festival, a week-long festival with the noble theme of “love, beauty, and international friendship.” Additionally, as the Yoshino cherry tree is native to Japan, Mrs. Crayton formed close ties with Japanese leaders and every year honors their representatives at the festival, demonstrating the strong bond and values shared by both nations. Thanks to Mrs. Crayton, the International Cherry Blossom Festival is now a cherished institution throughout Middle Georgia, and I couldn't be more pleased with its success in bringing the community together.

Mrs. Crayton has had a positive impact on any project she has had the opportunity to work on. Over the years she has served on countless boards and community service activities to include: the International Festivals and Events Association; the Museum of Aviation Board of Directors, serving as the first female board chair; the Macon Rescue Mission; Middle Georgia State University Foundation Board of Trustees; the Vineville Garden Club; the Wesleyan Wood Garden Club; and serving under the past four governors as an at-large Board Member for the State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Truly, the state of Georgia is a better place thanks to Mrs. Crayton's hard work and dedication to her community.

It has often been said that “Service is the rent that we pay for the space we occupy here on this earth.” Mrs. Carolyn Crayton has paid her rent, continues to pay that rent, and has received numerous awards and recognitions for which she can be proud. She received the Lady Bird Johnson Award for her hard work and dedication to keeping her community's environment pristine and welcoming; the “Woman of Distinction” Award by the Middle Georgia Girl Scout Council; Georgia Festival Director of the Year and the Emerson Award from National Arbor Day Foundation. She has also received international awards for work and expertise, including the Queen Mother's

Award (United Kingdom); the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold, and Silver Rays from the Japanese Foreign Ministry; and the Japanese American Appreciation Award.

Perhaps even more notable than the long list of accolades and awards Mrs. Crayton has earned over the years, is the fact that she inspired new generations of leadership and had several awards named after herself. These include the Carolyn Crayton Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission Award; the Carolyn Crayton Cherry Blossom Festival Award; Keep Georgia Beautiful's Carolyn Crayton “Woman of the Year” and the Keep America Beautiful's Carolyn Crayton Award. Additionally, in 2020 the city of Macon named the park which serves as the grounds for the International Cherry Blossom Festival after Mrs. Crayton for her decades of service and ambassadorship for the city. Situated across the Ocmulgee River from the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park, Carolyn Crayton Park is one of Macon's most visited attractions thanks to the work Mrs. Crayton has done with the annual Cherry Blossom festival.

Mrs. Crayton has accomplished so much in her life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and her late husband, Lee. Mr. and Mrs. Crayton raised two children—Douglas Crayton and Annette Crayton Mengert. They are the proud grandparents of four and have four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join my wife Vivian, and me, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in honoring and commending Mrs. Carolyn Mullis Crayton for her outstanding decades of service to the city of Macon, the people of Georgia, and humankind. May God continue to bless her and her family in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO, THE COPPELL FIRE DEPARTMENT

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, the Coppell Fire Department. Due to a power failure at the Village Parkway Pump Station earlier this year, the City of Coppell announced a Boil Water Notice and requested that residents and businesses only use water in emergency situations. The Coppell Fire Department's Emergency Management and Public Works team leapt into action and helped restore power to the water pump, all during a brutal Texas heatwave. The department offered multi-faceted assistance, from staffing the Emergency Operations Center, providing heat rehab support at the distribution point, transporting water from local vendors to the public library, on top of the normal daily operational items. I'd like to thank the Coppell Fire Department for their quick response and service to the residents of Texas-24 by helping make Coppell's water safe to drink again.