

Staff Sergeant (U.S. Army, Retired) Myers enlisted in the Army on October 31, 1978, after graduating from Lower Dauphin High School. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and went on to Fort Rucker, Alabama, to become qualified as a helicopter mechanic. SSG Myers specialized in the UH-1/Iroquois ("Huey") aircraft, which remains his favorite, as it was the critical aircraft for Troop and logistics transport, and direct combat gun support capability. Sergeant Myers' performance and duty as a mechanic of these premier and complex aircraft was critical to the Army mission.

After his service in the active component Army, Sergeant Myers also honorably serviced in the Pennsylvania National Guard, where he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6) upon retirement. On May 1, 1991, he transitioned to the civilian/private sector, wherein he became Director of Maintenance for the Graham Capital Corporation flight department, in which he still serves after 32 years.

Mr. Speaker, I'm privileged to commend Staff Sergeant (U.S. Army, Retired) Ronald E. Myers for his tireless and selfless service to our Country. On behalf of the 10th Congressional District, I wish him Godspeed on his future adventures.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
DANIEL INMAN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Daniel Rudolph Inman, a seventh generation Grayson County native, who passed away on August 8, 2023.

Mr. Inman was born on July 17, 1989, in Sherman, Texas, to Timothy Rudolph Inman and Cheryl Dianne Patrick Inman. Mr. Inman graduated from Sherman High School in 2008, where he was a star varsity football player and officer in Future Farmers of America. Livestock and animals were his passion, and his hand-raised heifer won first place at the Houston Livestock Show. He attended East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, on a full ride football scholarship. Mr. Inman's love for football dates back to his childhood, in which he accompanied his great uncle, Sam Johnson, to football games at Notre Dame. One of his fondest memories was seeing the Notre Dame locker room and touching the "Play Like a Champion Today" sign before walking onto the field.

Mr. Inman later worked for Emerald Custom Pools in Saginaw, Texas, where he quickly rose through the ranks to become a manager. Thanks to his hard work and effort, Emerald Custom Pools was listed as 1 of the Top 50 Builders nationwide. Those who knew Daniel will tell you that he was a kind soul that was loved by everyone, especially his nieces and nephew. Mr. Inman was a devoted man of faith and was always willing to lend a hand to assist those in need. His empathy also extended to local animals and drove him to volunteer at the Friends of Lancaster animal shelter in Fort Worth. Without question, Mr. Inman's friends and family truly cherished each moment with him.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recog-

nize Mr. Inman's vibrant and uplifting life. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING THE THREAT TO
ISRAELI DEMOCRACY

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

I have returned from the torn Land of Israel where I grew up, following a visit throughout July of a shaking, even shocking experience. Israel is undergoing a trauma whose lasting impact is impossible to predict. However, the current internal crisis threatening Israeli democracy, the Middle East's sole one, is due to the most extreme coalition government in Israel's history attempting to alter its Western liberal orientation by disabling the Supreme Court's standing as an independent Judiciary. Consequently, the unprecedented mass demonstrations for months in opposition to the proposed radical agenda which I watched in disbelief and participated in, have reflected a powerful popular response determined to preserve Israel as both the Jewish and democratic state envisioned by its founders. Already adversely affected are the Israeli economy, military, public health, the woman's status, education, Pride community and society at large, while Israel's enemies, Iran and its proxies, become further emboldened. The special relationship between Israel and the United States is at risk as well as the essential bond between Israel and American Jewry.

With heartfelt, even prophetic pathos and deep grasp of the multi-layered Israeli scene since its inception and prior, veteran Israeli author Ari Shavit offers us a concise manifesto for urgent action with the goal of "Saving Israel," his recent book's alarming title (Saving Israel. Rishon LeZion: Miskal—Yedioth Ahronoth Books and Chemed Books. 2023). He begins with a statement of both profound gratitude and grave concern, "the State of Israel is a miracle. No other nation did what we have: To build anew a national home following two thousand years. No progressive democracy succeeded to flourish as we have, following a Shoah and living under a volcano. Despite all the troubles, problems, weaknesses, difficulties and blemishes—The Zionist dream has been realized. The people of Israel live, and the state of Israel lives. Our sons and daughters have in our ancestral land what our grandfathers and grandmothers did not: Sovereignty, freedom, prosperity, pride and progress. Being a technological, economic, military and political super-power, Israel of the 21st century is a strong country capable of shaping its own fate and march toward a brilliant future. But the deep 2023 crisis threatens the Israeli miracle and erasing our astonishing successes, leaving us homeless."

Shavit does not mince words. On the one hand, heaps praise upon Israel's successes though Israel is not a global, as the author claims, but a regional superpower. In light of trying beginnings and facing monumental challenges that were likely to doom the fragile creation: Attacks from a collection of superior military establishments while absorbing penniless immigrants from west and east

three times larger in size, into a war zone with meager resources. On the other hand, he bemoans the Jewish people's destructive tendencies that brought down Jewish sovereignty and led into long exile and ultimately a consuming Holocaust. "And the Jewish people has multi-talents though sorrowfully it lacks the talent to be a people. It tends toward extremism, internal strife and self-destruction . . . Israel needs to be both powerful and ethical, both national and liberal, both Jewish and democratic. Only a combination of resoluteness and openness will guarantee that not weakness nor zeal-ousness will bring us again to the pit's cusp."

The author is convinced that the goal is within reach though the hour is late and the Israelis with all their complexities and tribal tendencies ought not further delay. He thus concludes, "The good and silent great Israeli majority will not remain still. The democratic Jews will not let a wondrous national and human enterprise to go down. For all of us have a stake in this special place. And we all know that there wouldn't be a Fourth Commonwealth. The Third Commonwealth is the Jewish people's last opportunity. With determination, love and faith we'll defend Israel and rebuild the house."

Rabbi Israel Zoberman is founder of Temple of Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL
ELAINE "MIKE" GRIFFIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and achievements of Michael Elaine "Mike" Griffin, a lifelong resident of Ripley, Mississippi. Mike passed away on Monday, September 4, 2023, at age 62.

Mike was born July 13, 1961, in Ripley, Mississippi, to the late Sylvesta Elaine and Martha Criswell Griffin. He was a 1979 graduate of Ripley High School and continued his education at Northeast Mississippi Community College, where he worked on a technical degree as an electrician.

Upon deciding to pursue a military career instead, Mike enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1980 and proudly served his country as a Rifleman and Remote Sensor Specialist until 1986. His spirit for adventure and service to his community led to his training and responsibilities as a State Trooper in 1987. On June 2, 1990, Mike married his beloved wife, the former Edna Huddleston of Falkner, Mississippi. On June 30, 2021, after 34 years of proudly and faithfully serving the State of Mississippi, Mike retired and was assigned as a government affairs liaison. Throughout his journey, he always strived to improve himself and contribute positively to his colleagues. His exceptional friendliness and kindness left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A member of the Church of Christ, Mike served as an Elder and Deacon for many years and was also an active member of the Lion's Club. He was an Ole Miss and Dallas Cowboy football fan, enjoyed dining out with family and friends, tending to his yard, and adored his wife and daughter. Mike was a man of immense character and kindness, a

pillar of his church and community, and beloved by all who knew him. His last selfless act was a testament to the caring soul he embodied following a life of dedication and service to his family, friends, community, state, and country.

Mike is survived by multiple loved ones, and memories of him will continue to be shared by Edna, his wife of 33 years; his daughter, Olivia Griffin of Oxford, Mississippi; one brother, Ricky Griffin; two half-sisters, Diane Cost (David) and Nina Lowry (Paul); his father-in-law, Wade Huddleston; sisters-in-law, Linda Bond (Kurt), Laura Green (Scott), and Myra Simmons (Stacy); and a host of nieces, nephews, many friends.

RECOGNIZING CARSON DEVAUL,
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Carson DeVaul. Carson 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.

Carson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Carson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Carson holds the rank of Warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say and is an Ordeal Member in the Order of the Arrow. Carson has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Carson, with the help of many fellow Scouts, organized the construction of 2 foot-bridges across a small ditch for the disc golf course at Bennett Park in the City of Liberty, Missouri.

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

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF REVEREND GEORGE FISHER,
JR.

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend George Fisher, Jr. of Paris, Texas, for being recognized as a Homegrown Hero by the St. Paul Baptist Church. Reverend Fisher joins a select group of exceptional leaders who have dedicated a lifetime of service to the people of Lamar County.

Reverend Fisher attended Paris Junior College and later received an Associate of Science in Biblical Studies from the Southern Bible Institute & College in Dallas, Texas. After graduation, Reverend Fisher worked for the Kimberly Clark Corporation before being elected to serve on the Paris City Council and

as the Mayor of Paris. During this time, Reverend Fisher served both as the President of the Texas Conference of Black Mayors and as a member of the steering committee for the Boys and Girls Club. In this role, he spearheaded efforts to improve youth outreach and community service initiatives by the city of Paris.

In 2003, Reverend Fisher was elected to the Paris Independent School District board. As the School Board President, he worked diligently to improve parental involvement in the educational process. His longtime investments in Paris ISD schools have helped ensure the future success of thousands of students. Moreover, Reverend Fisher is a steadfast man of faith, and he currently serves as the Senior Pastor of New Mount Olive Baptist Church in Grant, Oklahoma. His tireless efforts to inspire and empower the youth of his community have not gone unnoticed. Reverend Fisher has served as a beacon of support and enriched the lives of so many. I'm pleased to give recognition for his outstanding service to students, parents, and worshippers. In his personal time, he is fond of traveling, volunteering, spending time with his family, and visiting new restaurants.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capital to recognize Reverend Fisher's unparalleled commitment to benefit the people of North Texas. May God Bless him.

RECOGNIZING GENE THERAPY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the transformative innovation coming out of Ohio—innovation that saves and improves lives. For families in my district, this scientific ingenuity matters. I'm proud of the evolution of biomedical science and its application to drug development.

To ensure this innovation will benefit our citizens, I encourage my colleagues to support a triad of legislative policies that will expedite market entry, identify patients, and remove barriers to patient access. In an era of government price controls, which are undermining previous congressional efforts to promote innovation, such policies are particularly essential to ensuring continued biopharmaceutical industry investment in new technologies to treat rare diseases. We can work to collectively pass legislative items to increase access to treat rare diseases, as well as enact policies that will improve newborn screening, better facilitate genetic testing, and enhance the level of care disease expertise and experience on Food and Drug Administration review teams to allow for more consistent application of benefit-risk, real world evidence, and patient experience data.

I'd like to flag that gene therapy is the next evolution in treatment for rare diseases like hemophilia, sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, phenylketonuria, hereditary angioedema, OTC deficiency, severe combined immunodeficiency disease, Pompe disease, and muscular dystrophy. It has the potential to be the first type of therapeutic intervention for hundreds of rare pediatric disorders that lack or

had lacked any treatment option, including AADC deficiency, epidermolysis bullosa, metachromach leukodystrophy, and adrenoleukodystrophy.

The biopharmaceutical industry has invested billions of dollars in gene therapy clinical trials for such conditions at institutions throughout Ohio, including Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Cleveland Clinic, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Akron Children's Hospital, and Dayton Children's Hospital.

Gene therapy is the focus of the nearly \$100 million in grants that the National Institutes of Health has awarded in recent years to researchers throughout Ohio. For example, Dr. Krystof Bankiewicz from Ohio State has received nearly \$15 million for researching a gene therapy to treat AADC deficiency, which is a fatal neurodevelopmental disorder with only 135 identified patients in the world. Due to an enzyme deficiency, "children lack muscle control, and are usually unable to speak, feed themselves or even hold up their head," according to Dr. Bankiewicz. By transferring a functional copy of the AADC gene to allow for endogenous AADC enzyme production, clinical trial data have demonstrated that this gene therapy prevents oculogyric crises, allows the child to develop control, sit up, and walk, and generally improves quality of life.

Our institutions and clinicians in Ohio are truly the leaders among peers in biopharmaceutical innovation for rare disorders. The development and commercialization of safe, effective, and durable gene therapy for these rare disorders is precisely what Congress intended when it enacted the 21st Century Cures Act (including the Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy program), the Orphan Drug Act, the Breakthrough Therapy program, and the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher program.

The American people deserve a return on the biopharmaceutical industry investment in bringing gene therapies to patients, as well as the NIH support of basic research and early-stage clinical studies. If patients have an incomplete diagnosis or if diagnosed patients are subject to step therapy or other coverage restrictions or denials, gene therapy will not benefit those who need it.

HONORING METLIFE FOUNDATION
FOR \$1 BILLION IN ALL-TIME
GIVING

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor MetLife Foundation on its landmark achievement of \$1 billion in all-time giving.

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 as the charitable arm of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MetLife), a leading financial services company founded and headquartered in New York for over 155 years. The Foundation is focused on driving economic mobility around the globe and has partnerships with nonprofit organizations globally.

Since its founding, MetLife Foundation has made significant contributions to communities in New York State. MetLife recognizes it has