

Maple Hill High School before enlisting with the United States Marine Corps in August 1969. Sergeant Dingman served bravely in the Vietnam War as a Special Radio Operator from 1969 to 1973. Upon his honorable discharge, he earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Returning to civilian life, Sergeant Dingman began a 40-year career with General Electric Plastics in Selkirk, New York. He and his wife Linda Jewett Dingman were married on October 8, 1983. The couple raised their 3 children—Beth, Jason, and Melanie—together in Rensselaer County. Family always came first for Sergeant Dingman as a father, a grandfather, and eventually a great-grandfather.

Sergeant Dingman was a lifelong and avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping in the wilderness, and shared his expertise with his community as a fish and game instructor. His ideal getaway was the Adirondack Gateway RV Resort. A member of the National Rifle Association, Sergeant Dingman also taught rifle classes and bow-hunting courses.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the life of Sergeant John E. Dingman; a soldier, a mentor, and a family man.

HONORING THE PROMOTORES Y
PROMOTORAS OF LATINO
HEALTH ACCESS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Latino Health Access, an organization that works tirelessly to uplift communities, promote health equity, and create sustainable change.

Latino Health Access (LHA) has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to these ideals through its mission, which partners with communities to aid through education, services, consciousness-raising, and civic participation.

Latino Health Access's mission is multifaceted, encompassing the delivery of culturally appropriate health-related services and programming to address pressing health concerns, as well as engaging individuals in low-income, low-opportunity areas to transform their environments and effect positive, concrete changes in their homes and communities.

Since its establishment in 1993, Latino Health Access has been a trailblazer in the field of public health by pioneering the Promotor de Salud/Community Health Worker (CHW) model in the United States, recognizing the potential of individuals from within communities to advocate for better health and living conditions.

The Promotores y Promotoras, who are integral to the Latino Health Access approach, are community members themselves, living within the very neighborhoods they serve, and are dedicated to promoting, connecting, and linking their communities with vital health services while also advocating at local, county, and state levels for policies that enhance overall living conditions.

Today, equity lies at the heart of the Promotor Model, which contributes to building

healthier and more resilient communities by providing systems navigation services, surmounting barriers to access, and amplifying community leadership and participation, while simultaneously advocating for policy, systems, and environmental changes that address the social determinants of health.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the profound impact of Latino Health Access and its Promoter Model.

HONORING GAYE THERESA
LEBARON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mister Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Congressman JARED HUFFMAN to honor Gaye Theresa LeBaron in celebration of her outstanding career as a journalist, teacher, author and historian.

Born in the town of Scotia, California, in 1935, Mrs. LeBaron moved to Boyes Hots Springs in Sonoma County when she was 14 years old. She attended Santa Rosa Junior College before transferring to the University of California, Berkeley to pursue a bachelor's degree in English and History.

Her illustrious career as an historian and human-interest columnist at the Press Democrat in Santa Rosa, California, began in 1955 when she became an intern. During her 65 years with the Press Democrat as a reporter and later columnist, she wrote 8,500 columns, married her late husband John LeBaron and had her 2 children, Suzanne and Tony. Mrs. LeBaron has since gifted her research notes, correspondence, memoirs, unpublished documents, newspaper clippings and photographs to Sonoma State University. Students and the public enjoy access to the Gaye LeBaron Collection.

Mrs. LeBaron has a deep love of Sonoma County history. She told our county's story as a lecturer at the Santa Rosa Junior College for 35 years as well as at Sonoma State University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. She has written 3 books on the history of Santa Rosa: Santa Rosa: A Nineteenth Century Town, Santa Rosa: A Twentieth Century Town, and The Wonder Seekers of Fountaingrove. Mrs. LeBaron also served on the Sonoma County Museum Leadership Council, further dedicating herself to the history of Sonoma County. Now her permanent exhibit at the museum, Sonoma County Stories, will ensure future generations can experience her life's work.

Widely renowned in our community, Mrs. LeBaron received the Representative Mike Thompson Sonoma County Woman of the Year Award in 2016, an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Sonoma State University and a President's Medallion from the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Mrs. LeBaron has dedicated her life to the people of Sonoma County through her writing, teaching and service.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
THOMAS ROY BIRKENSTOCK

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 and service of Mr. Thomas "Tom" Roy Birkenstock of Burlington, Iowa, who passed away on August 15, 2023.

Mr. Birkenstock was born on July 16, 1944, in Burlington, Iowa to Roy George and Marjorie Maude Holsteen Birkenstock. A lifelong farmer, he graduated from Iowa State University in 1966 with a degree in Animal Science. Mr. Birkenstock also served 6 years in the National Guard. He married Sue Ellen Maupin on February 26, 1966, and together, they have 3 children and many more grandchildren.

Those who knew Mr. Birkenstock will tell you that he was always generous and kind. He never knew a stranger, and happily engaged every individual he met. Mr. Birkenstock always put family first and committed much of his time to his grandchildren. In his free time, Mr. Birkenstock was passionate about golfing, woodworking, hunting, fishing, and sports; he was a loud and proud supporter of the Iowa Hawkeyes, Green Bay Packers, and the St. Louis Cardinals. A devoted man of faith, Mr. Birkenstock was a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus fraternal organization and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Dodgeville, where he served on the church council and taught Sunday School. His generosity and contributions towards his local community were unmatched and will be remembered for many years to come.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Mr. Birkenstock's life and service to our Nation. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary landing of the first boat carrying Haitian refugees to South Florida.

On December 12, 1972, the first report of Haitian refugees, often called "Haitian Boat People," fleeing to the United States, was documented. Between 1972 and 1981, over 55,000 refugees arrived in Florida and have continued to thrive thanks to community champions who supported the Haitian migrant population.

Today, the South Florida Haitian refugee population has accomplished many firsts, becoming mayors, councilmembers, and state representatives. Miami's historic Lemon City became the first neighborhood officially called Little Haiti. Central streets were named after Haitian cultural icons such as Felix Morisseau-Leroy and heroes of Haiti's independence. A statue of Toussaint Louverture stands guard on Plas Kamoken in Little Haiti. Toussaint Elementary was home to the first Haitian American principal, and Morningside Elementary

became the first international language magnet in the country to offer Haitian Creole. The Little Haiti Cultural Center has become the mecca for the global Haitian Diaspora, a destination for arts, culture, and entertainment. And the Manno Sannon Stadium is home to the championship-winning Little Haiti Supreme Football Team.

December 12, 2022, marked the 50th anniversary of the first documented arrival of Haitian refugees fleeing Haiti by sea. This anniversary marks the beginning of an incredible journey that has transformed South Florida's social, cultural, and political landscape. History-making events have since followed, impacting federal jurisprudence, local advocacy efforts for immigrant justice, and the treatment of asylum seekers in healthcare, education, employment, and housing.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the legacy of the Haitian boat people.

RECOGNIZING VICTORIA SWANSON JAMES' LIFE AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF YPSILANTI

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Victoria Swanson James, a resident of Ypsilanti, Michigan whose life her community is celebrating on her passing. Her lifelong dedication to her family, church, and community is worthy of remembrance and commendation.

An Ypsilanti native, Victoria earned her Bachelor's in Education from our great Eastern Michigan University. After earning a Master's in Education as well as a Certificate of School Administration, Victoria served as an educator in the Willow Run and Ann Arbor Public Schools for over a decade. In 1978, she answered the call to the ministry. She was later ordained in 1981 at the Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church, also in Ypsilanti. Under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. S.L. Roberson, Victoria served as his First Assistant for over 20 years.

Outgrowing her role as an assistant, Victoria founded the Ekklesia Fellowship Ministries in Ypsilanti in 2000 and assumed the role of Pastor. In 2004, she founded the "Women of The Word, Too" an organization that provides mentoring and an outlet for women clergy throughout Washtenaw County and the surrounding area. Active in a range of organizations, Pastor James's service areas were quite extensive: member of the Love Ypsi Pastors

Network, Washtenaw County Sheriff Council of Clergy, Hope Clinic Board of Directors, Pastoral Advisory Council for the Hope Clinic, former President of the Ypsilanti Gateway Economic Development Board, and former 1st Vice-President of the Ypsilanti Willow Run branch of the NAACP. Victoria's son, DeVaughn, who has been preaching in her stead, had this to say: "She loved her city. Mom believed in the village mindset. There's a proverb in our community that says 'it takes a village to raise a child.' Mom was confident in the strength and richness of the Ypsilanti village. That's why she committed her life to uplifting this village."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life service of Pastor Victoria Swanson James. Despite being the mother of 8 and Nana of 15, Victoria always had love to spare for her congregation and her community. We remember her fondly, and her presence will continue to be felt in the Ypsilanti community for years to come.

JERUSALEM'S GOLDEN SILENCE

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:

RABBI ZOBERMAN'S POEM—JERUSALEM'S GOLDEN SILENCE

These days there is a golden silence
Overcoming the shouts of the prophets
Of old and new, "peace, peace"
And there is no peace
But the silence of sealed echoes
Of hope in holy crevices where
Shalom's doves find shelter at the
Wall where wailing has not abated,
The silence of the cloud of glory
Encircling God's city like an embracing
Wedding canopy.
The voice of the groom
And the voice of the bride
Whose rejoicing is Jerusalem's signature,
Are ever preserved under the heavy silence
Of immovable rocks hiding millennial
Prayers refusing to concede victory to
A spirit bespeaking not the contrition
Of sacrifice brought here from near
And afar to placate the One
Who only pardons those seeking
The promising power of peace.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah, and Honorary Senior Rabbi Scholar at Eastern

Shore Chapel Episcopal, both in Virginia Beach. He is a member of the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF MARK GROZIO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize Legislator Mark Grozio and his remarkable career in public service. As a lifelong resident, graduate of LaSalle High School, and graduate of Niagara County Community College, Mark has always been equipped with a deep-seated familiarity and knowledge of his community.

His career as a county legislator was preceded by over 3 decades as a wireman and IBEW member. He graduated from apprenticeship school, and naturally, his predilection for leadership roles made him a good fit for serving as assistant business manager for over 10 years at IBEW Local 237. Mark served on the contract negotiation committee, executive board, and labor management committee. Needless to say, Legislator Grozio has long understood the value of labor unions and apprenticeship training. This experience served him well in the legislature while dealing with issues of economic development, infrastructure, and facilities. Through the years, Mark sought additional ways to enhance his community. He served on the Niagara Falls planning board, the Niagara Falls electrical board, and volunteers for the festival of lights and Veterans Memorial at Hyde Park in Niagara Falls. He has worked with United Way, coached Little League baseball, and assisted with several ice hockey organizations. Every hour that Mark devotes to one of these causes shows his true character—one that is service-oriented and generous.

Some of the hallmarks of a great career in public service are competence and a keen awareness of the issues facing your constituency. Legislator Mark Grozio exemplified these 2 characteristics for 10 years in the county legislature, and all the residents of Niagara County owe him a debt of gratitude. After countless hearings, meetings, and events, it is time that we wish Mark a very happy retirement. He will surely enjoy more time with his wife of 40 years, Lynda, and his entire family. In the meantime, his community will continue to reap the benefits of his career of hard work.