

School District P–16 Council president. She is a Samberg Leadership Maximizer completer. In addition, she completed the Mississippi Community College Policy Fellows Program and the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy. Mrs. Taylor obtained her Quality Matters Online Teaching Certification as well. Additionally, she is a dedicated member of esteemed professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association (APA), the National Education Association (NEA), and the Mississippi Association of Educators (MAE).

Last and most important, Mrs. Taylor is Michael Taylor's wife and Scholar Taylor's mother. She has a bonus daughter named Mariah Taylor. She is an active member of Power House Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Robert Griffin, Jr., where she serves as the church treasurer. Mrs. Taylor is passionate about helping others. She aspires to inspire. Her motto is "You are the pilot of your life, so take control."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Chaquina Griffin Taylor for her contributions and service to her community.

SALUTING A CENTENNIAL HERO:
HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF A WWII VETERAN

HON. KEITH SELF

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Dr. Howard Riley of Greenville, Texas, who recently marked his 100th birthday on August 24, 2023.

Dr. Howard Riley is a true example of courage, sacrifice, and commitment. He served our Nation with honor as a Corporal in the Army Air Forces during World War II, from December 9, 1942, to February 18, 1946, where he worked diligently as a radio operator. His dedication to our Nation and its values extended far beyond his military service, as he continued to contribute to the betterment of our society in the post-war years.

Dr. Howard Riley serves as both an inspiring testament to the resilience of the human spirit and a living reminder of the sacrifices made by the Greatest Generation in the pursuit of freedom. For this, we extend our eternal gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for one vote during the vote series last night. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 383.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the first vote yesterday due to a scheduling conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 383.

HONORING DR. WILLIE J. REECE,
JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable unsung hero, Dr. Willie J. Reece, Jr.

Dr. Willie J. Reece, Jr. is a native of Grenada, MS and the youngest of six children. His parents Willie Reece, Sr. and the late Sharon Seals Reece are his biggest inspirations.

Dr. Reece enjoys singing and is actively involved as a member at Greater Faith MB Church under the leadership of Pastor Alvin D. Brown, Sr.

Dr. Reece graduated from Grenada High School in 2010 and received his Bachelor of Art degree in psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2014.

Later, he obtained two master's degrees from Belhaven University—Master of Art in Teaching (2016) and Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (2018).

In 2019, Dr. Reece completed an educational leadership degree, and he completed the doctor of education program in educational leadership in 2023.

Dr. Reece has completed eight years of experience in education in the roles of teacher, lead teacher, MTSS coordinator, curriculum specialist, and principal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Willie J. Reece, Jr. for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be a light that shines even in his dark times.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 385, I mistakenly voted NAY when I intended to vote YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be present for the Roll Call vote on H.R. 3152. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 383.

HONORING LARRY BENFORD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Pastor Larry Benford. He has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Pastor Larry Benford surrendered his heart to God at a very young age and he has been declaring the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ since then. A native of Leland, Pastor Benford graduated from Leland High School and Mississippi Valley State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in environmental health with a minor in Chemistry. He also has received training from The University of Illinois at Chicago as well as formal Biblical tutelage from Lifeway Christian and New Orleans Theological Seminary.

Pastor Benford is an anointed leader. With pastoral services expanding over two decades, through the help of the Holy Spirit, he has served as Deacon, Sunday School Director, Assistant Pastor, and Pastor at Greater Springfield, Victory Temple and Mount Carmel Churches, respectively.

As pastor of Living Word Fellowship Church since October 10, 1999, he has always taken the stance that the Word must be taught with passion and boldness—without compromise—in order that the lost will be saved, and the saved will be strengthened.

Growing together in the Word of God, Pastor Larry and First Lady Wanda Benford are consummate students of the Word and outspoken believers in its ability to change lives for the better. Pastor Larry and First Lady Wanda Benford's greatest desire is that others would develop an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord.

Pastor Larry and First Lady Wanda Benford have been married for 32 years. To this union, they have been blessed with 3 daughters, Keyna, Leslie and Ariel and 3 grandchildren, La'Kya, Kylar and Gervase.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Larry Benford for his passion and dedication to serving the Lord, his members, and his community.

RECOGNIZING JIM WEBER
RETIREMENT

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Weber who recently retired after a 47-year career at the Port of Everett. A native of Marysville, Washington, Jim began working at the Port's marina as a seasonal employee while attending Marysville-Pilchuck High School. Jim did whatever needed to be done—pushing a broom, checking moorings and taking meter readings. Four years later, he landed a full-time job with the maintenance team. Over the next 43 years, Jim worked his way up at the marina—from maintenance journeyman to maintenance foreman to operations director. His hard work and

dedication earned him great respect among his colleagues and everyone he encountered at the Port.

Jim's storied career paralleled the growth of the Port of Everett. When Jim first started working at the marina in the 1970s, the Port hosted fishermen, mill workers and log tug crews; its central marina was home to fewer than 1,000 slips. Over the next 50 years, Jim played a central role in the transformation of the Port from an industrial waterfront into the largest public marina on the West Coast, helping to design, build, maintain and upgrade many of the marina's facilities, as well as the Jetty Landing boat launch, Jetty Island docks and Boxcar Park. Today, the new and improved Port is the "jewel of Snohomish County," a place where people can work, shop, go out to eat and enjoy the outdoors, thanks to the hard work of people like Jim Weber. Jim was involved in and had time to enjoy many of the great events the Port offers throughout the year, including Wheels on the Waterfront, Sail-In Cinema, Holiday on the Bay, waterfront concerts, Opening Day of Boating and fishing derby events.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Weber's accomplishments are many, and his commitment to the Port of Everett is remarkable. As Jim told the Everett Herald in a recent article, he plans to dig his toes in the sand a bit and buy a few more classic cars in retirement. Congratulations to Jim on a well-earned retirement. We hope to see him showing off his newest classic car at Wheels on the Waterfront.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN
FIELDER

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Representative DEGETTE, to honor the life of an extraordinary Coloradan.

John Fielder was a prolific nature photographer who lived in Summit County since 2006. Over 50 books have been published showing his photography.

John also worked to protect Colorado's ranches, public lands, and wildlife. Over his 40 year career, John was recognized on several occasions for his work. He received the 1993 Sierra Club Ansel Adams Award, the 2011 the Aldo Leopold Foundation's first Achievement Award ever given to an individual, and an Honorary Degree in Sustainability Studies from Colorado Mountain College.

We thank John for his work elevating the natural beauty of Colorado and for fighting to protect our pristine lands.

HONORING KELVIN REED

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Kelvin Reed. Kelvin Reed has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Kelvin Reed was one of Warren Central's top boys' basketball players in the late 1980s. He led the Vikings in scoring as a sophomore, and steals and assists as a junior and senior, and was twice selected to The Vicksburg Post's All-County team. Reed averaged 15 points, 7 assists and 3 steals per game over three varsity seasons.

After high school, Reed moved on to Pensacola Junior College in Florida. He set the school's assists record and led the team to the 1993 NJCAA Division I national championship.

Reed was inducted into the 2022 Vicksburg Warren School District Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kelvin Reed for his passion and dedication to the Vicksburg Warren School District.

HONORING OFFICER URBANO
RODRIGUEZ, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Officer Urbano Rodriguez, Jr., a dedicated civil servant who is retiring from the Denton Police Department, having honorably served his community for over a decade.

Prior to joining the Police Department, Urban, as he is fondly known, worked for over two years at the Denton Animal Shelter. During that time he bonded with one particular disabled dog, personally constructing a make-shift walking device that was equipped with wheels to allow the dog to walk freely. This act of compassion and needs-based service is symbolic of the character and calling that quickly led him to leave the shelter to become a Police recruit for the City in 2014.

Upon completion of his training, Urban joined the front lines of the Denton Police Department as a part of the thin blue line protecting the public he had committed to serve. He knew from the outset that he belonged on the streets. Recognized as a "go-getter" with a strong work ethic, Urban quickly became a valued member of the Denton PD team. During his service he was involved in a number of notable traffic stops, including a large and unexpected confiscation of methamphetamine. Through the dedication and effort he and his shift partners brought to the streets, he helped disrupt a damaging delivery, protecting the community by preventing it from reaching its intended market.

Urban was confronted with the full weight of his commitment when, on October 29, 2019, as a five-year veteran of the Denton Police Department, he was unexpectedly attacked and struck by multiple bullets from an assailant's weapon during a routine traffic stop. It was at that moment that Urban's inner strength and character were defined. Unimaginably, he survived the trauma, beginning the long, difficult path to become the walking miracle he is today.

When many felt it unlikely that he would even leave the hospital, Urban's strength and resolve led him through a challenging rehabilitation process to not only leave the hospital bed, but push beyond the damage of his injuries to regain his strength and mobility to once

again walk freely. An outcome that seemed a fantasy to those who saw him during his initial recovery less than four years ago, is a testament to the enthusiasm and determined work ethic he was known for when he joined the department.

In his service commitment to the community he swore to protect, and through the courage he has shown through his recovery, Urban embodies the very essence of Texas values. Each day he is continuing to build the example for those who will follow in his footsteps.

On behalf of a grateful community, I want to thank Urban Rodriguez for his service and example. I truly wish him the very best in a well-deserved retirement and for the continued contribution I know he will make in his new role and as an inspiration for his children and all who hear of his story.

IN MEMORY OF JACK DELBERT
STEWART II

HON. COLIN Z. ALLRED

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, on September 2, 2023, Jack Delbert Stewart II, died peacefully at his home in Denton, Texas at the age of 88. He was born on July 6, 1935, in Ennis, Texas, to the late Jack Delbert and Dora Ellen (Johnson) Stewart. He graduated from Ennis High School in 1953 and Abilene Christian College in 1957. During his summer breaks, he and some friends worked for the U.S. Forest Service backing up the Hot Shot teams fighting wildfires out of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

In 1958, a roommate set Jack up on a blind date with Jean Pogue. They went to the King and I at the State Fair. After a two-year courtship, they were married on January 23, 1960.

Jack served for six years in the 49th Armored Division of the Texas National Guard, which was mobilized in April of 1961 during the Cuban Missile Crisis. They spent one year stationed at Fort Polk in Leesville, Louisiana.

Jack and Jean returned to Dallas where he worked for Industrial Indemnity Insurance until he was transferred to Beaumont. In 1970, they moved to San Antonio to work with SP Personnel Associates. He was a member of the MacArthur Park Church of Christ where he was active in church leadership, serving as both a Deacon and an Elder. He also served on the founding board of Christian Heritage Schools.

In 1992, they moved to Abilene for Jack to be the director of the Career Center at Abilene Christian University. There he helped students prepare for life after college, including helping to counsel them on career next steps as well as resume writing, interviewing skills, choosing the right majors, and setting up job fairs and job interviews. Of all the careers he had, this was his favorite because he loved working with the students and helping to put them on a path to success. He was an active member of Hillcrest Church of Christ and served as an Elder.

Jack always had a servant's heart, and he volunteered frequently at the food pantry in Abilene. A committed family man who always wanted everyone to be together, Jack and Jean fulfilled a dream of buying a cabin in Angel Fire, New Mexico where they shared