

CELEBRATING 240 YEARS OF  
FAYETTE COUNTY

**HON. GUY RESCENTIALER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2023*

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Fayette County, Pennsylvania, on its 240th anniversary and its place as an integral part of our community.

Fayette County was founded on September 26, 1783, and named after Marquis de Lafayette, a Revolutionary War hero who served alongside President George Washington. The county was carved out of southern Westmoreland County on land with an already rich and storied heritage. Fayette County represented a new frontier for Pennsylvania and America in its early days. Its people persevered through the hardships of early frontier life to build a better life for themselves and their families. The county would also become a crucial point along the newly created National Road.

The story of Fayette County and its people is an important and unique part of our region's history. The county served as an early steamboat manufacturing hub. The area quickly became one of the earliest industrial areas in America. After building the Pittsburgh Railroad, the local industry shifted from steamboat manufacturing and glass production to coal mining.

Today, Fayette County is a regional agriculture hub, with over 23 percent of the county devoted to farmland. Additionally, attractions such as Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater House, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, and Ohiopyle State Park make Fayette County one of the best places to visit and live in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Fayette County, is distinctively American and important to Pennsylvania. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate its citizens on this remarkable milestone and look forward to building on this storied history over the next 240 years.

HONORING THE WORK OF  
COLONEL MICHAEL A. HONEYCUTT

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2023*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Michael A. Honeycutt, who is retiring as Colonel after serving decades of military service. A decorated Officer, he worked as an Active Guard and Reserve servicemember, climbing to the Mississippi National Guard, culminating as the Director of Joint Plans, Training, and Exercises.

Colonel Honeycutt graduated from all professional military education courses, including the National War College. He is decorated with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and many other awards. He served in many tactical, operational, and strategic assignments, including an overseas combat tour to Iraq in 2004 to 2005, where I served alongside him.

He has worked at and served in all geographic areas of Mississippi on 17 different as-

signments. He was the Commander of the 154th Regional Training Institute at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Colonel Honeycutt has spent countless days, weeks, months, and years traveling throughout the state, country, and world, supporting and driving missions.

Colonel Honeycutt is one of the most influential leaders in the Army, maintaining the highest standards during the most demanding and complex times in history. He is a true American hero and a proud Mississippian. We are immensely grateful for his dedication to our country and the great state of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL CARL E.  
SHELTON, JR.

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2023*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Carl E. Shelton, Jr., United States Marine Corps, Retired, at the conclusion of 43 years of dedicated service to the United States, both in uniform and as a civilian. Carl is a native of Newark, New Jersey and earned a Bachelor of Art Degree in Political Science from Rutgers University. Prior to joining the Marine Corps, he served this House as staff member to Congressman Nicholas Mavroules (D-Mass). Carl was then commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in June 1980.

Beginning his career as an Infantry Officer serving in North Carolina, Norfolk, Virginia and California. He served at sea aboard the USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67) and on the USS *Denver* (LPD-9) during which time he deployed for Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He then attended the National War College, Washington, D.C. and earned a master's degree in National Security Strategy. In 2006 he was reassigned to the Inspector General's office in September 2006 where he served as Director, Assistance and Investigations Division for 3 years and became Acting Deputy in September of 2009.

When Carl retired from the Marine Corps in 2010 his commitment to the Marine Corps, and the Nation, continued. He immediately began serving as the Deputy Inspector General, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. In that capacity Carl served as the principal advisor to the Inspector General of the Marine Corps (IGMC) on all matters related to inspections, analysis, assessments, investigations, and other oversight matters of importance to the United States Marine Corps with particular emphasis on institutional readiness.

Among his noteworthy accomplishments, Carl is the only senior official within the Department of the Navy (DON) who is a certified inspector general through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) and the Association of Inspectors General. As a result of his extraordinary Inspector General qualifications and tested leadership abilities, Carl was elevated to "Acting Inspector General of the Marine Corps" on a number of occasions to include extended periods from 2014 to 2016 and 2020 through 2022. Of note, the Service Inspectors General for the Army, Navy and Air Force are 3-star flag officers.

During the uncertainty of the Pandemic, Carl flawlessly executed the full range of respon-

sibilities to include senior official investigations and an aggressive inspections process throughout the Pandemic (2000 through 2022). What's more remarkable is that Mr. Shelton executed these substantial duties without an assigned Deputy.

Our Nation is better because of great Americans like Carl Shelton. Those who volunteer to wear the uniform and continue to serve after they take it off. It is my great pleasure to offer my own congratulations for Carl on the happy occasion of his retirement after 43 years of service to the United States.

HONORING ANTHONY EDGEComb

**HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2023*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Mr. Anthony Edgecomb for his outstanding service as a part of the U.S. Army.

Throughout his 10 years of service in the U.S. Army, Mr. Anthony Edgecomb upheld the important values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. His career included a Classified National Security mission that spanned over 4 years and earned him the Meritorious Service Medal.

The Meritorious Service Medal is awarded to servicemembers for "distinguished service and performance above that normally expected, over a sustained period." Typically awarded to senior officers and senior enlisted servicemembers, Mr. Anthony Edgecomb achieved this milestone as an Army Staff Sergeant in 2013.

I am honored to extend my congratulations to Mr. Anthony Edgecomb. His hard work and sacrifice do not go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking Mr. Anthony Edgecomb for his service to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF  
PATRICIA LAVELL

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize one of our community's great activists, Patricia LaVell, as she is honored at the Amherst Democratic Committee's member recognition dinner. A former Buffalo public school teacher, Pat's passion for the Democratic Party led to better candidates and governance for thousands of her neighbors.

Since 2000, Pat has been a quintessential piece to the Amherst Democratic Committee's operation. She served as secretary to then-Chairman Dennis Ward and has run the Committee's fundraisers and dinners at Classic V Banquet hall. Pat understood that her opinion and voice carried weight, so was elated to learn of her appointment to the Nominating Committee that interviews candidates running for local office. With so many crucial decisions coming from Town of Amherst officials in the last 2 decades, it is undeniable that Pat's influence over candidates has led to more prosperous results for the citizens of Amherst. She

also volunteered for morning lawn sign efforts at fire stations, churches, and lawns on each Election Day. Even to this day, those passing Pat's front lawn are made aware of all the candidates that she believes are best for the community.

Every community has its well-known leaders but has even more leaders that rarely make headlines. Patricia LaVell is the epitome of quiet leadership—the type of person that works tirelessly behind the scenes to put the community ahead of their own interests. It is my honor to recognize her, and I know that everyone wishes her the best in her future endeavors with the Committee.

---

CELEBRATING MICHAEL ANTHONY  
MERCADANTE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JAY OBERNOLTE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2023*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the 100th birthday of my constituent, Mr. Michael Anthony Mercadante of Helendale, California. Mike was born on September 20, 1923, to Joseph Mercadante and Maria Santa Padre, who immigrated from Italy to pursue the American Dream.

Mike grew up in Providence, Rhode Island. At a young age, he began working a variety of difficult jobs, including at a steel mill and as a delivery boy using a horse and carriage. At age 18, Mike answered the highest of callings—serving his country during a time of war. He and his friends joined the Army during WWII, serving in the Artillery tank division in the South Pacific repairing tanks and overseeing communication between troops. Following the war, Mike continued to serve in the Army in the Active Reserves, attaining the rank of Master Sergeant and training troops for the Korean and Vietnam Wars for 23 years.

In addition to his long military career, Mike taught high school for over 25 years. After graduating from Bryant University, he taught machine and auto shop and Redondo Union High School in Redondo Beach, California and eventually coached baseball at St. Hedwig's School in Los Alamitos. As a coach, teacher, and mentor, Mike was known for his passion for baseball and for helping kids achieve success.

After moving to Helendale, Mike served as the commander and chief of Citizens on Patrol for nearly 25 years. His service, work ethic, and passion for our community serves as an inspiration for all of us.

Mike's passion for his students, his community, and his country is equaled by his love for his family. He married Leonardi Cathrine (Kay) in Lawton, Oklahoma in 1946 and together they proudly raised 7 children—Connie, Cathy, Michael, Mary, Stephen, Robert, and Linda. They are blessed with 30 grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Michael Mercadante's 100th birthday. His contributions have had a profound impact on our High Desert Community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ROCIO  
OCAMPO

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2023*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Rocio Ocampo, a community mother, whose contributions had an enormous positive impact on the families of southwest Detroit, as we honor her memory.

I first met Rocio when I served in Michigan's State Legislature at a parent advocacy meeting at Phoenix Elementary. I was instantly impressed with her tenacity and drive to pursue a better quality of life and future for all the children. She was involved with numerous community organizations, serving on the board of Urban Neighborhood Initiatives and City of Detroit's Property Assessment Board of Review, as well as the Parent Teacher Association at the school her children attended. Rocio's active involvement in the community was marked by her dedication, not only to making it a safer and healthier place to live, but to making it a more beautiful place to thrive.

Above all, Rocio loved her children and grandchildren deeply. Her love extended out to the children of the neighborhood where she lived. She could always be counted on for a kind word, warmth, and generosity of spirit.

Rocio Ocampo's vibrant presence will be sorely missed. Please join me in recognition of her contributions and services to our community in Detroit as we honor her memory.

---

RECOGNIZING THE OPERATION OF  
THE INTEGRATED WASTE  
TREATMENT UNIT

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2023*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, alongside my esteemed colleagues Senators MIKE CRAPO and JIM RISCH, to recognize the committed staff at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site's Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU). In the face of many challenges, the employees who supported IWTU demonstrated professionalism, expertise, dedication to the mission, and exemplified the spirit of American innovation.

IWTU engineers, scientists, crafts specialists, plant operators, and administration professionals always believed they could overcome the challenges of this first-of-a-kind radioactive liquid waste treatment facility. Following its construction from 2007 to 2011, the IWTU underwent testing of its steam-reforming process, which was chosen to solidify 900,000 gallons of liquid sodium-bearing waste from an underground tank farm. This waste was generated during the INL's spent nuclear fuel reprocessing mission during the height of the Cold War.

From the first demonstration run at the IWTU in 2012, mechanical problems were apparent as metal filters became plugged, resulting in a quick shutdown of the facility. During subsequent runs, further mechanical problems surfaced as well as chemistry challenges with-

in the IWTU's primary reaction vessel. The Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors didn't give up. Together, they devised a plan to systematically identify and resolve all problems. They employed some of the brightest scientists at the INL and across the country, worked with academia in several states, and utilized the resources of corporate and small businesses. In all, engineers, scientists, and fabricators made hundreds of modifications to the IWTU, and with each subsequent demonstration run, the facility became more reliable and predictable.

On April 11, 2023, 16 years after construction began, IWTU operators were given permission to start radiological operations. At first, 10 percent radioactive liquid waste was blended with 90 percent simulant. This ratio was increased to 50:50 and later to 100 percent sodium-bearing waste. For those on the project who sacrificed countless weekends, holidays, and quality time with family, this moment was the culmination of years of committed work for a greater cause.

I want to thank all the Idaho Environmental Coalition employees who have supported this project. Their contributions are protecting the Snake River Plain Aquifer, which is the primary source of drinking water and agricultural water for more than 300,000 Idahoans. Furthermore, their actions in treating legacy Cold War waste and closing these sites pave the way for future nuclear research work in Idaho.

I would like to join my distinguished colleagues Senators CRAPO and RISCH, in congratulating the IWTU team on this extremely important achievement. They represent the most talented and committed individuals in the DOE Complex. Perhaps more importantly, they represent the greatest of our country and the ingenuity that makes the United States stand out in the world.

---

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF  
CARL THOMAS

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize a stalwart figure in the Buffalo community, Carl Thomas. After roughly 4 decades of leading by example at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Kevin's Guest House, it is only proper to acknowledge and give gratitude for a lifelong dedication to those in need of help.

A graduate of Lafayette High School, he has always put the needs of his hometown neighbors ahead of his own. At the very beginning of his professional career, Carl recognized an unfortunate and common challenge for so many cancer patients—having a stable place to stay during treatment. As a volunteer at Kevin's Guest House, a local hospitality guest house, he undoubtedly recognized that a community effort can make the bleak reality of cancer a little easier on a patient and their loved ones. Of course, Carl was familiar with cancer treatment and hospital care due to his father's employment at Roswell. As he began his own career at Roswell Park (later earning the role of Chief of Public Safety), Carl devoted his time and energy toward the needs and safety of the entire Roswell campus. He