

a member of the Nacogdoches Rotary Club for the past 15 years. During the winter storm of 2021, Jason assisted the Veterans County Service officer of Nacogdoches in helping disabled veterans who had been without water and electricity for several days. Most recently, Jason established the Nacogdoches Hero Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports the families of veterans and first responders of Nacogdoches County, who have been killed or injured in the line of duty, by providing direct financial assistance with funds for school, training, or other unmet needs.

A dedicated husband and father of 2, Jason has been a sponsor and coach in the Nacogdoches Boys Youth Baseball Association for the past 6 years.

It is my honor to award Jason L. Bradford of Nacogdoches, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WICHITA
STATE EMERITUS PROFESSOR
MELVIN KAHN

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Wichita State Emeritus Professor Melvin Kahn, who sadly passed away this month at the age of 92.

For over 5 decades, Professor Kahn served as one of Wichita State's most highly acclaimed political science professors. Along with authoring 2 books on complex case studies in political science, Professor Kahn received many accolades and honors throughout his academic career. He received the Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018, the WSU Mortar Board Teaching Recognition Award in 2012, the WSU Academy of Excellence Teaching Award in 2007, Carnegie Foundation Kansas Professor of the Year in 1989, and the Regents' Award for Excellence in Teaching, WSU, in 1982. Further, Professor Kahn and his wife Joan also founded the Joan & Melvin Kahn Native American Indian Scholarship, which is given to a Native American student who exhibits a successful high school performance, college potential, leadership qualities, and financial need.

Beyond the awards and recognition he received, Professor Kahn's legacy is also the hundreds of students he inspired to pursue careers in public service. Through the Robert J. Dole Internship Program, Professor Kahn assisted students in finding meaningful internships and enhancing their education by serving their community at the federal, state, and local levels. I am proud to have had the privilege of employing several of these bright young Kansans in my office.

Professor Kahn firmly believed that, in the words of Aristotle, "the mind is a fire to be lit and not a vessel to be filled," and the true measure of a teacher is challenging students' minds and encouraging them to go out and see the world on their own. He will be missed by all who knew him, and his memory will go on in those he inspired.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "COACH"
DOUGLAS WILLIAM SHANKS

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Douglas William Shanks. "Coach" Shanks passed away on September 4, 2023. He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Doug was born in Soso, Mississippi, to Fred and Frances Shanks of Taylorsville. He grew up in Gulfport and Jackson, graduating from Provine High School. He attended Mississippi State University and later graduated from Liberty University.

Beginning in his twenties, Doug was involved in politics in Jackson, becoming the first Republican Commissioner for the city of Jackson in 1973. He was instrumental in the rise of the Mississippi Republican Party in the 1970s and helped to lead Republican causes throughout Jackson.

As City Commissioner he oversaw the fire department, police department, and sanitation. Doug also was an important figure for the continuation of racial reconciliation in Jackson and across Mississippi through his work as Commissioner by bringing on many African Americans to work in different City departments.

Shanks was also instrumental in bringing the Mets to Jackson and helped to establish Smith-Wills Stadium. Even greater than Doug's love of politics was his love and passion for baseball. Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame baseball coach Hill Denson said of Shanks, "Doug loved baseball and he lived it. Mississippi baseball is a whole lot better because of Doug Shanks." Doug coached baseball at every level, coaching high school, Babe Ruth, Connie Mack and American Legion ball. As the head coach of Hartfield Academy, Doug won 3 MAIS baseball championships. Doug was also the first white head baseball coach in the Southwestern Athletic Conference. Doug coached Mississippi Valley State University for 15 years and won 5 SWAC championships.

Doug will be missed by his family, friends and players whose lives he touched during his time with us. The state of Mississippi and the lives of many athletes, family members, and loved ones whom Doug impacted are forever changed. I am honored to recognize the life and legacy of Doug Shanks. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing Doug Shanks' tremendous contributions to his community, state, and Nation.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT MARK ANTHONY LEE,
USAF, RETIRED, WITH A CON-
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present retired USAF Senior Master Sergeant Mark Anthony Lee, of Pflugerville, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. It is

a privilege to salute an exemplary soldier and citizen.

Born at Harlingen Air Force Base, Texas, retired USAF Senior Master Sergeant Lee literally grew up in the Air Force. Enlisting in 1979, nineteen-year-old Mark Lee began his own journey, serving in multiple roles and special assignments in Electronic Security Command, including Air Force Cryptologic Support Center, Space Systems, U2 Black Cat Reconnaissance, Space Shuttle, Minuteman missile, and other electronic warfare programs. His numerous awards included NCO of the Year. Transferred to 36th Fighter Air Base, Germany, as Wing Materials Management Officer, supporting four squadrons of F-15 Eagle Fighter Aircraft and 10,000 base personnel, Mark led all Europe with aircraft highest mission readiness, and was selected to represent USAF Europe in developing and implementing new Air Force Supply Management directives and training.

Transferred to Lackland Air Force Base as Materials Management Officer, Mark's expertise saved millions of dollars and thousands of labor hours. His final transfer was to Randolph Air Force Base as Chief, Regional Aircraft Logistics, functionally managing over thirteen Logistics Groups, and coordinating with Engine Repair facilities to ensure requisition, repair, and delivery to production—resulting in 100 percent mission readiness. Mark deployed with Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, and Northern Watch. He earned the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal-3, Air Force Commendation Medal-4, Air Force Achievement Medal, Armed Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal-2, and Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Retiring in 1998, Mark is a mainstay of community support—especially for young people and those in need. He helped local FFA students with funding, transportation, and animal maintenance. For eight years he has worked establishing a meals account for children at a local elementary school. Mark regularly collects and distributes food to low-income families and organizes annual Food Pantry drives. Mark raises and donates funds for children with cancer and people in need and helps maintain the local cemetery. Recognized by the Pflugerville Police Department for Outstanding Service to the Community, he is the 2nd Vice Commander of Kerlin-Lyerly American Legion Post 154, and a recipient of its Certification of Appreciation (2016-2022) and 2023 Legionnaire of the Year.

I am honored to award retired USAF Senior Master Sergeant Mark Anthony Lee with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING CONSERVATION
BEYOND BORDERS

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Conservation Beyond Borders and support their mission to combat illegal poaching. Their work helps to also combat other illicit activities including the trafficking of humans, arms, and narcotics across the globe.

I am proud that this important organization is led by an outstanding Minnesotan, Dr. Nicole Benjamin-Fink. I'm especially grateful for

the approach Conservation Beyond Borders and Dr. Benjamin-Fink take to incorporate rural communities that live alongside wildlife into their work.

I commend Conservation Beyond Borders for their tireless work and advocacy to ensure wildlife across the world have the opportunity to flourish. I look forward to continuing to work with Conservation Beyond Borders and Dr. Nicole Benjamin-Fink.

RECOGNIZING AGEISM AWARENESS DAY

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saturday, October 7th, as Ageism Awareness Day. Ageism Awareness Day provides us all with an opportunity to recognize the existence and impact of ageism in our country.

We are fortunate to live in a time in which medicine and technology can allow individuals to live long and full lives. As society begins to grow older, however, too many individuals experience ageism, or stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination based on age.

Ageism is the most widespread and socially accepted form of prejudice. It can be found throughout society, from our workplaces to our health systems to stereotypes broadcast in the media. Not only is ageism harmful in and of itself, but it also exacerbates many of the other "isms", including racism, sexism, and ableism, which compound and worsen mental and physical health outcomes for affected individuals.

I am proud to represent Southern Nevada, a place that has long been a welcoming home to nearly 375,000 seniors. They enrich our community tremendously, and their value should not be diminished by undue prejudice and discrimination. Organizations such as Nevada Senior Services provide essential services to individuals across Southern Nevada as they age and ensure that aging is not viewed with fear or hostility. Nevada Senior Services not only operates the Adult Day Care Centers of Las Vegas and Henderson, but also Caregiver Support Programs, Respite and Personal Care, RAMP Home Modifications, Hospital 2 Home Assistance, and the Care Partner Institute.

I applaud and support the goals and ideals of Ageism Awareness Day which sheds light on the plight of many individuals and brings the Nation together to promote acceptance and appreciation of the gifts of aging persons. I thank all the family members, professionals, and volunteers who assist aging individuals every day and help fight the stigma of ageism.

RECOGNIZING SOCS (SEAL), DAVID A. KNESEK, USN, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present retired SOCS (SEAL) David A.

Knesek, USN, of Cameron, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Born in Texas, retired SEAL Senior Chief Knesek wanted only to serve his country as the "best of the best." Enlisting in the Navy's Delayed Entry Program, David earned a Criminal Justice degree from Blinn College in 1994. Passing SEAL boot camp later that year, he graduated in August 1995 from Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training at Coronado, CA with Class 200, one of only 8 of 140 candidates not failing a training segment. Assigned to SEAL Team Eight, David earned his trident and deployed to the Mediterranean in 1996, attached to the USS *Austin*. He remained at SEAL Team Eight for five years, deploying as an Ordnance Department Head to Germany in the NATO Bosnian Campaign, and with a 2000 STRIKE platoon to the Persian Gulf attached to the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*.

His eight SEAL deployments included instructor, protection, defense, and combat assault missions. With SEAL Team Two, he deployed twice to Baghdad, Iraq and twice to Ramadi, Iraq (including integrating 63 special operations personnel into a combat team completing 54 combat operations). In 2010 he took an instructor billet with Naval Special Warfare Group 2—but following 9/11, was asked to volunteer to take his SEAL Team Two Golf platoon to Afghanistan as Leading Chief Petty Officer. David remained with SEAL Team Two until retiring in 2014. His military honors include: 2 Bronze Star Medals with Valor, a Bronze Star Medal, Joint Services Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Services Commendation Medal, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Combat Action Ribbons, and a Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal.

In 2015 David joined FTW Ranch in Barksdale, Texas, a preeminent marksman-ship school training U.S. military and law enforcement groups, and hunters. A lead instructor, David uses his training to develop tactical skills in law enforcement personnel, and better and safer hunters. He has served as a 4-H Shooting Sports Coach. He shares personal safety and situational awareness knowledge with his local volunteer fire department and other organizations. David spends many hours sharing outdoors and hunting knowledge with young people and making Veterans Day presentations in local schools.

It is my honor to award retired SEAL Senior Chief David A. Knesek, "the best of the best," with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS' LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, many people are familiar with the passage of scripture found in First Corinthians Chapter 13, verse 4, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." However, fewer may remember verse 5 which states that love "always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." When the apostle Paul was inspired to write these words

so many years ago, I believe he had persevering and loving couples like Cleovis and Arwilda Whiteside in mind. Since 2019, the Whitesides have been recognized as Arkansas' "Longest Married Couple." This Sunday, September 24, 2023, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, they are being recognized for their 84th year of marriage.

On what I am sure was a hot and humid Monday, July 24, 1939, 17-year-old Cleovis and 13-year-old Arwilda made a lifetime commitment to God and each other that has endured the test of time. The next year, Mrs. Whiteside delivered the first of their 12 children. In an interview last year, Mr. Whiteside, who was 100 at the time, stated, "We've been together all this long time and I still love my wife. She still loves me, and we still get along just as good." Mrs. Whiteside added, "I ran to him since I was nine years old and I've run first to God, then him ever since." We find within these 2 statements the foundation of a strong, Christ-centered marriage that inspires me and countless people, in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, and the entire state of Arkansas.

At the end of the 13th chapter of Corinthians, Paul tells us that when all is complete, 3 things remain: "faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." I offer my most sincere congratulations to Mr. Cleovis and Mrs. Arwilda Whiteside on their 84 years of marriage. I thank them for exemplifying the greatest gift of persevering love.

HONORING AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S DAY

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of the Women Inspiring Women Leaders chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

ABWA's Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter held its first meeting on May 22, 2019. Since then, the organization has provided opportunities for local business leaders to network, empower one another, and focus on growing Virginia's economy.

Entrepreneurship is a defining characteristic of the American spirit. That's why I am proud to join them and their sister chapters in celebrating American Business Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fredericksburg Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter for their commitment to service, innovation, and empowering women in the business community. It is an honor to celebrate American Business Women's Day alongside them.

RECOGNIZING ELLEN M. BROOKS WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present Ellen M. Brooks of Crockett, Texas,