

Dr. Lokesh eventually received the title of Acharya, the highest honor in the Jain faith. He founded an organization called Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, which supports Acharya's various initiatives related to interfaith cooperation, environmental, and physical and spiritual wellness. Acharya has also written dozens of books to spread his message of peace.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji has dedicated himself to the promotion of peace and tolerance among different faith groups. He has helped defuse communal violence on multiple occasions and recently opened the World Peace Center in Gurugram, India. With the support of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji leads interfaith dialogues with the goal of finding common ground among the participants.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji's work has positively impacted individuals throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji for his many accomplishments.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
MILITARY SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT
JOHN H. WHITE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lieutenant John H. White of Sullivan County for his heroic military service in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

Lieutenant White first received his Naval commission as an Ensign in 1966 following his completion of Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He then attended the Communications School at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and continued his education for Officer Electronics Communications at the Great Lakes Training Center in Waukegan, Illinois.

In March of 1967, Lieutenant White received his first deployment aboard the U.S.S. *Pocono* (AGC-16), serving in the Communications Department as an assistant communications officer. The U.S.S. *Pocono* was the command ship for all amphibious forces in the Atlantic Ocean. From September 1968 to September 1969, Lieutenant White served ashore in Chu Lai and Danang, Vietnam with the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS), overseeing the arrival of shipping supplies in support of the war effort.

Following his deployment to Vietnam, he joined the Kingsport Naval Reserve Unit, where he served an additional seven years and received the "Navy Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device," presented by Vice Admiral L.P. Ramage. Lieutenant White recalls his experiences aboard a naval destroyer in the Mediterranean Sea and conducting a Summary Court Martial in Philadelphia as memorable occasions while on active duty in the Reserves. Lt. White resigned in 1976, after having served his country proudly for more than a decade.

Please join me in recognizing Lieutenant White and his valiant military service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING SARAH GARD

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sarah (Meyer) Gard as she is inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Hall of Fame.

A graduate of Lena High School, Sarah started four years for the Lena Varsity Girls Basketball Team. During her career at Lena High School, she surpassed the 2,000-point milestone and ended her career with a total of 2,176 points. The team made appearances at the Wisconsin Girls State Tournament twice and Sarah was named First Team All-State. Sarah's career at Lena High School is one that will be remembered for generations.

After Sarah's very successful high school career, she continued her education and athletics at UW-Green Bay, where she joined the Women's Basketball Team. During her seasons at UW-Green Bay, Sarah excelled and was named to the Mid-Continent Conference Second Team in 1995. The UW-Green Bay record books reflect Sarah's hard work and commitment as she remains in the top 10 for Field Goals Attempted, Scoring Average, and Three-Point Field Goals Made. It is quite evident through these many records that Sarah's talent and dedication to the game never wavered.

Since graduating from UW-Green Bay, Sarah has remained in Northeast Wisconsin and has been teaching in the Peshtigo School District for 18 years, where she is currently a second-grade teacher. I extend my sincere congratulations to Sarah as she receives this outstanding honor and for her years of dedication and commitment to our community.

I once again congratulate Sarah Gard for being inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Hall of Fame and wish her, her husband Peter Gard and sons, Simon and Sam, nothing but the best for years to come.

HONORING TEPHRA INSTITUTE OF
CONTEMPORARY ART'S ALLOY
PROJECT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) on the occasion of its Alloy Project, a fundraising initiative that offers both art and art experiences for audiences of all ages. The event brings together artists, collectors, art enthusiasts, and professional leaders from not only the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area, but from many unique parts of the country.

This non-profit endeavor was founded in Reston, Virginia as the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) in 1974 to showcase the phenomenal talent of Northern Virginia. Tephra ICA works with artists, galleries, institutions, thought leaders, and collectors around the globe to promote creativity and the generation of ideas and growth that the arts can facilitate. They are committed to promoting in-

novative contemporary art and innovative thinking to accompany it. By building intimate connections between artists and audiences, including insights into the creative processes by which this art comes to be, Tephra ICA is able to extend their impact beyond the museum itself and instill these values into the Northern Virginia community at large.

The event will include many unique aspects for a diverse audience that includes works for purchase, an opportunity to listen to artist dialogues, live music, and more, promising attendees a jubilant and interactive night of fun.

Tephra's "Choosing to Portage" is an exemplary collection that emphasizes diversity. The raw authenticity of this project is palpable as it delves into topics such as the absurdities of white masculinity, the erasure of indigenous cultures, police killings of Black men, the visibility of Iraqi culture in the U.S., the ravages of war, and the loneliness of grieving. This dedication to creation around such vital and urgent topics that simultaneously are difficult for many demonstrates the necessity of contemporary art.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art on its Alloy Project and in recognizing the visionaries and leaders who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

RECOGNIZING IAN "SHIGE" AINOA

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a standout member of our South Sound community, Mr. Ian "Shige" Ainoa. An Air Force veteran, a steward of our South Sound waters as a scientific diver, and a Little League coach, Shige brings Aloha, goodwill, and good spirits to everyone he encounters.

Shige currently works for the Environmental Protection Agency as an IT specialist and a scientific diver, working to support the preservation of our Sound's ecosystem through his skilled fieldwork. A leader in advancing equity and fighting for justice, Shige also served as the manager of the Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Program for the EPA's Northwest region.

Outside of his day job, Shige goes above and beyond as an active board member of the University Place Veterans Plaza and volunteers his time to engrave and install new commemorative tiles. He has also coached Little League softball for the last three years.

I thank Shige for his commitment and service to our Nation, our waters, and our South Sound community.

RECOGNIZING RESPONSIBLE
GAMING EDUCATION MONTH

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize September as Responsible Gaming Education

Month. Twenty-five years ago, the American Gaming Association established Responsible Gaming Education Week to promote responsible gaming nationwide and to educate employees and customers on the subject. This effort was expanded to Responsible Gaming Education Month in 2022.

I am proud to represent Las Vegas which sets the gold standard when it comes to gaming and gaming regulation. Casino gaming is legal in 44 states and sports betting is legal and operational in 35 states, providing jobs to 1.8 million individuals around the country. Last year, consumers spent a record \$60 billion at commercial casinos. This translated to \$13.5 billion in direct gaming taxes to state and local governments, exclusive of the billions of dollars in income and sales tax that casinos contribute to communities. All this revenue supports a range of needed public services like hospitals, schools, transportation, and public safety.

Responsible gaming is a central tenant of the gaming industry which goes to great lengths to make sure employees are trained in best practices for recognizing and dealing with problem gaming and patrons are aware of options for help if they need it. Last year, states earmarked \$104 million for problem gaming research and the promotion of responsible gaming resources. Many operators go above and beyond the minimum, partnering with organizations to educate consumers and employees and adhering to voluntary responsible gaming and marketing codes. This includes deploying responsible gaming tools like limits on deposits, wagers, and play time.

This year, Responsible Gaming Education Month has four themes: Empowering Customers to Play Responsibly; Legal, Regulated Gaming Protects Players; Building a Responsible Gaming Culture Within; and Advancing Responsible Gaming Research.

I commend operators around the country for their work on these important issues and for ensuring that the customer is always put first. I thank the many employees of the gaming industry in my district and around the country for their efforts to educate patrons about responsible gaming.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DR. JOSEPH CARTER CORBIN

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Professor Joseph Carter Corbin and his contributions to education in the state of Arkansas. Mr. Corbin was an educator, journalist, mathematician, and scholar. He became one of the most educated men of his day, earning an Artium Baccalaureus degree and two master's degrees from Ohio University.

In 1872, Professor Corbin made the Natural State home for him and his family. He was then elected as the Superintendent of Public Instruction and President of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees. Mr. Corbin recognized the need for teachers and laid the foundation for a teacher's college of the "poorer class." Branch Normal College of the Arkansas Industrial University is what we now

know as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Professor Corbin became the first African American superintendent of public education in Arkansas, and he had a profound impact on the school. He worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of Arkansas's black educators. His dedication to serving the people of Pine Bluff is most admirable, and his legacy shall not be forgotten.

I want to thank Professor Corbin for making such a deep and lasting impact on his community, the 4th District of Arkansas, and our country. I hope his record of service will be an inspiration to all who follow in his footsteps. I am proud to recognize September 27, 2023, as Professor Joseph Carter Corbin Day in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

HONORING FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the vital work of the Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) on the 30th anniversary of its founding. Founded in 1993 to be "a voice for the river," this nonprofit organization has grown to more than 2,500 members and countless volunteers. These dedicated guardians and the nearly two dozen staff are committed to protecting the health of America's greatest river as well as its creatures and the communities that live along its banks and rely upon its waters.

Founded in 1993 by Peter Gove, attorney George Dunn, former Mississippi National River & Recreation Area superintendent John Anfinson, and river boat dispatcher Hokan Miller, FMR started with a mission to engage the public to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities region. Whitney Clark joined the organization as Executive Director in 1997, quickly growing the organization and expanding its mission from community stewardship projects to include legislative advocacy concerning the entire length of the Mississippi river beyond Minnesota.

The Mississippi River is one of our nation's most important natural resources, cherished each year by millions of residents and visitors alike. As one of the world's longest rivers, the Mississippi is a defining geographic feature of North America with a watershed that drains all or parts of 31 states and provides drinking water for 20 million Americans. The river's ecosystem is a natural resource of global significance, with nearly half of North America's ducks, geese and swans relying on the Mississippi River for food, direction, and resting places during seasonal migrations.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of its staff, board and the hundreds of members and volunteers that support it, FMR is one of Minnesota's leading nonprofit citizen organizations for land conservation, watershed protection and river stewardship. As the ecological vitality of the Upper Mississippi River continues to be under threat, FMR faces the important task of protecting the river's ability to support native plant and animal species. FMR provides expertise and technical assistance critical to the protection of the Mississippi River and they

engage public and private landowners, local governments and concerned citizens as stewards of the river for current and future generations.

Now, FMR continues to lead efforts critical to the long-term wellbeing of the entire Mississippi River as a vital partner in supporting the Mississippi River Resilience and Restoration Initiative, which will create a comprehensive federal strategy to coordinate efforts on conservation and environmental restoration along the entire river corridor. FMR's years of advocacy have helped to make the Twin Cities a model for watershed planning and decision-making. Today, FMR's advocacy extends well beyond Minnesota to the entirety of the river, from the northernmost headwaters in Lake Itasca to the Mississippi Delta.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the many members, volunteers, and staff of Friends of the Mississippi River as they commemorate their 30th anniversary. May Friends of the Mississippi River continue its mission to restore and protect this river for future generations of Minnesotans and indeed all Americans.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT DONALD W. JACKSON OF GREENEVILLE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Master Sergeant Donald W. Jackson of Greeneville for his courageous military service during the Vietnam War. Master Sergeant Jackson risked his life to defend this Nation. From 1965 to 1996, Master Sergeant Jackson served in the United States Army, Navy, and National Guard.

Master Sergeant Jackson first began his career as an aircraft mechanic, stationed in Ft. Rucker, Alabama in 1965. The following year, Master Sergeant Jackson received his first tour of duty in the Mekong Delta. Assigned to the 1st Platoon of the 121st Assault Helicopter Company, also known as the Blue Tigers, he assisted the South Vietnamese 9th Infantry division and auxiliary American forces during combat.

In the battlefield, Master Sergeant Jackson's helicopter company made emergency helicopter medical evacuations from ongoing combat operations, and also transported supplies and personnel to remote outposts—often too dangerous to reach by road. Additionally, Master Sergeant Jackson's helicopter company frequently accompanied General Nguen Van Minh, commander of all South Vietnamese forces in the Mekong Delta, and his staff.

Despite suffering an injury in 1967, Jackson extended his tour for another 6 months and served during the Tet Offensive, one of the deadliest battles of the Vietnam War. Master Sergeant Jackson returned from Vietnam in 1968, achieving the rank of a Specialist 5. Committed to protect and defend our Nation, he continued his dedicated career of military service for more than 25 years as a service-member in the U.S. National Guard, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Army Reserves.