

Officer Brown has said that he has no plans of ending his career. He is an incredible example of service, duty, and honor that our Nation cherishes. I want to say thank you to Officer Brown for his faithfulness to our Country and community and wish him a Happy 96th Birthday this November.

RECOGNIZING GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's distinguished career as a global humanitarian and spiritual leader. For over 40 years, Gurudev has helped guide individuals in Illinois and throughout the world in their search for inner peace with his programs rooted in meditation and yoga. Through his charity work and educational efforts, Gurudev has spread his belief that if individuals find inner peace, it can lead to real world reductions in violence and conflict.

In 1981, Gurudev founded the Art of Living Foundation, a non-profit focused on the promotion of meditation and humanitarianism. To date, Gurudev and the Art of Living Foundation have engaged in humanitarian efforts in numerous conflict zones and currently operates in over 100 countries. He also founded the International Association for Human Values, which offers programs to reduce stress. Together, these organizations have thousands of volunteers who continue the important work of supporting individuals and communities in need.

Gurudev's knowledge and experience with conflict resolution have allowed him to play vital roles in peace negotiations globally. In particular, Gurudev has promoted multiple interfaith dialogues to establish mutual respect and understanding, including between religious groups that may have been in conflict previously. This unique approach to conflict resolution, which focuses on communication and universal values, has proven its merit repeatedly.

Furthermore, Gurudev has had a long-term focus on youth empowerment. He started over 1,000 schools that provide a free education within disadvantaged communities, benefiting over 82,000 students and equipping them with the skills and confidence necessary to succeed in life. Additionally, Gurudev has shown his commitment to a cleaner and healthier environment by leading an effort that restored approximately 70 rivers and thousands of bodies of water in India, as well as planting some 80 million trees throughout the world.

With his message of peace and commitment to education and humanitarianism, Gurudev has lived a life dedicated to the betterment of others. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my immense gratitude to Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for his invaluable contributions.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS SERVICE OF SERGEANT CHARLES TERRIAL WILLIAMS

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant Charles Terrial Williams from Bristol in Sullivan County, TN for his valiant military service in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. Sergeant Williams proudly served our country both abroad and domestically from 1969 to 1973.

As a Crew Chief on C-130Es, a military transport aircraft designed to operate from unpaved airstrips, Sergeant Williams was assigned to Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Vietnam, as well as Ching Chan Kang Air Base in Taiwan and Langley Air Base in Virginia. As Crew Chief, he was responsible for assisting supply delivery, relocating Vietnamese civilians out of danger, and retrieving the wounded and deceased.

Among his many acts of heroism, Sergeant Williams prevented a hand grenade from detonating during a relocation operation, and also volunteered his service during a helicopter evacuation under live fire. After 4 years of valiant service, Sergeant Williams was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force.

Please join me in thanking Sergeant Charles Terrial Williams for his bravery and heroic military service to our great Nation.

APPRECIATING THE DRUZE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have spoken with Sheikh al-Aql Hikmat Alhajiri, one of the three senior most Druze religious leaders in Syria, to discuss his impactful work at the forefront of the mass mobilization of Druze against the Assad regime.

The Druze is a religious sect that grew out of Islam a thousand years ago, with a population of 1.5 million, living mostly in Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan. Due to the courageous leadership of Sheikh Alhajiri, thousands of Druze residing in the southeast province of Swaida, adjacent to Jordan and Israel, have rallied together demanding the downfall of the current regime. Unfortunately, last week marked a tragic turn of events, following weeks of extensive protests, as the regime fired at Druze demonstrators, further adding to the grim toll of over half a million Syrians who have been killed by the criminal Assad regime.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, I am proud to have led H.R. 3202, the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act, which places responsibility on the Bashar al-Assad regime, supported by war criminal Putin and the terrorist Mullahs in Tehran, for its crimes against the Syrian people and highlights the significant consequences of governments considering normalization with the Assad regime. This bill successfully passed the committee, reinforcing

the bipartisan commitment to punish offenders, while enhancing protection for humanitarian organizations serving the Syrian people.

I am grateful for the great leadership and strength of Sheikh Alhajiri and the Druze, and look forward to continuing to work together in the fight for a free and democratic Syria.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA-LED NASA OSIRIS-REX FIRST-EVER ASTEROID SAMPLE RETURN MISSION

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of University of Arizona-led NASA mission of spacecraft *OSIRIS-REx* and the first ever return of an asteroid sample to Earth. Launched seven years ago, in 2016, the Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (*OSIRIS-REx*) successfully arrived at the asteroid Bennu in 2018. Because Bennu is older than Earth, studying a sample of Bennu will provide understanding of what might have been delivered to early Earth during Precambrian time. The asteroid is 500 meters across, roughly the height of the Empire State Building. *OSIRIS-REx* used complex imagery to successfully map and determine the best place to obtain a sample. On October 20, 2020, *OSIRIS-REx* landed and collected a sample of Bennu, four times more sample than originally expected.

On May 10, 2021, *OSIRIS-REx* began its return voyage to Earth. This past Sunday, September 24, *OSIRIS-REx* released a capsule containing the Bennu sample before continuing on to rendezvous with the asteroid Apophis. Apophis will come very close to Earth's orbit in 2029.

The sample return capsule made a spectacular descent as it hit the Earth's atmosphere, traveling 27,000 miles per hour and reaching five thousand degrees Fahrenheit. The capsule safely reached the drop zone, traveling a mere 11 miles per hour. Crews determined the integrity of the capsule; it is now in a clean room preparing for analysis.

The sample will be analyzed by students at the University of Arizona to determine Bennu's physical and chemical properties, windows into the most fundamental questions of our universe—namely how planets formed and how life began. Examining Bennu will also aid scientists in planning for possible impact mitigation missions. Asteroids like Bennu contain natural resources such as water, organics, and precious metals.

I am extremely proud that Tucson is once again a key player in a critical NASA mission, just as it has been with many others throughout our Nation's history. *OSIRIS-REx* is an \$800 million University of Arizona-led NASA mission that demonstrates the importance of vital scientific investments.

The *OSIRIS-REx* mission is funded by NASA and its science is led by the University of Arizona (UA). I would like to once again congratulate Dr. Dante Lauretta of the UA Lunar and Planetary Laboratory for his leadership as principal investigator and, along with his team, for bringing this exciting mission to the sample analysis phase. I greatly look forward to celebrating even more milestones with

his team as analysis reveals untold mysteries of our universe and as the now *OSIRIS-REx* continues towards the asteroid Apophis. This mission is the latest in a long list of achievements by scientists at the University of Arizona in my home district. In fact, UA scientists have collaborated in every single American mission to the Moon and Mars since 1964, including serving as the lead on the Phoenix Mars Mission.

The University of Arizona is involving undergraduate and graduate students and continuing to cultivate the next generation of STEM leaders—many of whom will be from my home state of Arizona. I wish the *OSIRIS-REx* team the best of luck in the analysis stage of their historic mission and congratulate them in their profound success in the first ever return of an asteroid sample to Earth.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF DR. CLARENCE JONES

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Clarence Jones' work on the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington.

Sixty years ago, those words were spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King but written by Dr. Clarence Jones, who lived in the Bronx, and in Riverdale, in the fateful year of 1963. The members of the Bronx family have gathered here today to celebrate not only a great American, but one of the greatest. We're here to celebrate a man who labored and loitered behind the scenes and behind the dream for the greatest cause in American history. The cause of equal rights, equal justice, and equal protection under the law.

As a lawyer, Clarence Jones not only practiced law, he transformed it. As a civil rights leader, Clarence Jones not only had a dream, he realized it and by the grace of God, he has lived to see it.

We are in a room full of people of every color and every creed. Black and white, Latino and Asian, Jews, Christians, and Muslims. We are collectively the realization of Dr. Jones' dream. Our unity is the culmination of his life's work. The legacy of Dr. King and Dr. Jones achieved nothing less than the liberation of the people and the reconstruction of a Nation. America has lived through two reconstructions and its history. Whereas the first reconstruction largely failed in the hands of Jim Crow. The second reconstruction, I believe, has largely succeeded on the strength of the civil rights movement. In spite of all the challenges confronting America, despite the racism that persists even in our own time, there can be no denying how far we have come as a country. How much we have overcome as a people and how high Dr. Jones and Dr. King have lifted us all.

And if anyone has any doubts about the moral magnitude of what has been achieved in these past 60 years, look no further than our own city. For the first time in history, the Speaker of the New York City Council, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, and the future Speaker of the United States House of Representatives are all African American.

For the first time in history, the mayors of America's four largest cities, including New York, are all African American. There are 1000s of elected officials, like myself, of all races and religions who stand firmly on the shoulders of moral giants like Dr. King and Dr. Jones. We owe these giants a debt that we can never repay, but it is a debt that we must never forget. Dr. Clarence Jones was a counsel and close confidant of Dr. Martin Luther King. When Dr. King was jailed in Birmingham, Alabama for protesting segregation, it was Clarence Jones who visited Dr. King in jail twice a day. And it was Clarence Jones who smuggled out Dr. King's famous Letter from a Birmingham Jail. As a Riverdale resident, Dr. Jones played a pivotal role in co-organizing America's greatest March and in co-writing America's greatest speech. Not only did he reside in Riverdale in 1963, he arranged for Dr. King to move into his Riverdale home in the lead up to the March on Washington and the I Have a Dream speech. The Riverdale home of Dr. Jones came to be known as Dr. King's quote, "Command Post North." Dr. Martin Luther King and Dr. Clarence Jones were both American revolutionaries in 1963. The most powerful revolutions in history are not only those that change the nature of an economy or the nature of technology. The revolutions that ultimately matter most are those that changed the hearts and minds of a people.

Dr. King and Dr. Jones inspired a revolution where it mattered most in the very soul of America. That revolution of the American soul remains with us 60 years later. Clarence Jones remains with us 60 years later. And as one of the few living members of Dr. King's innermost circle, Clarence Jones has been described as the last of the lions. At age 92, Dr. Jones shows no signs of retiring from his lifelong struggle for social justice. He presently serves as the chair of a non-for-profit, known as Spill the Honey, which is dedicated to building bridges between the black community and the Jewish community. Dr. Jones is the product of the civil rights movement that inspired powerful moments of black Jewish solidarity. The image of Dr. Martin Luther King, and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, marching for voting rights all the way from Selma to Montgomery. These two men of faith in the words of Rabbi Heschel "were praying with their feet." There were Jewish Americans and African Americans who not only fought together, but also died together for the cause of civil rights. Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, James Cheney, all were murdered in the Mississippi Burning. The least we can do is honor their memory with unity in our own time. The moral lesson of history is that we are all in this together. What matters more than the particulars of our race and religion. What matters more than the details of our color and creed is something universal, our common humanity. Upholding that common humanity has been the life work of Clarence Jones.

Dr. King famously said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". Bearing those words in mind, a decade ago, I went to Yad Vashem the Holocaust memorial in Israel. I came across an unforgettable quote that has remained with me ever since. Quote, "First the Nazis came from the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came to the trade unions, and I did not

speak out because I was not a trade unionist. And then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. And then they came from me, and there was no one left to speak for me." Let us never forget that we are all in this together. That we are all bound together by shared humanity. That we are all equal creations in the image of God. There is no one in America who knows the self-evident truth more deeply in his mind, feels it more deeply in the soul, and who has lived it more faithfully in his life for nearly a century than Clarence Jones. So on behalf of the people of the Bronx, I have the district pleasure of honoring Dr. Jones' roots in Riverdale, his role in America's greatest March, America's greatest speech, and America's greatest moral revolution and reconstruction.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" ROOT
ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a local hero on his 100th birthday. William "Bill" Root of East Lansing, Michigan, began serving his country in World War II and has never stopped, taking on various high level governmental and advisory positions over the course of his long and fruitful career, and devoting his life to working for global peace.

Born on September 20, 1923 in Boston, Massachusetts, it's not likely that a young Bill Root aspired to one day be named the "Grandfather of Export Controls," but he did know he wanted to use his life to make his Nation a stronger, better place. After graduating from Colorado College, Bill was spurred into action after the attack on Pearl Harbor and joined the United States Navy. There, he served as a radar maintenance officer in the Pacific Theater, and upon his honorable discharge from the Navy, Bill was in the first graduating class from what is now the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University where he received his Master's Degree along with a certificate from the Russian Institute. Around the same time, he married the love of his life, Constance Young. Over the course of their incredible 72 year marriage, the Roots would go on to raise four children, and those "roots" have spread with seven surviving grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Bill's first civilian job was with the Bureau of the Budget, where he worked from 1948 to 1950, before joining the State Department later that year. There he stayed for 33 years, serving as an economics officer in various United States embassies including Germany, Denmark, and Vietnam. Root learned years later that he was the only State Department employee stationed in Vietnam who filed a message protesting the U.S. invasion of Cambodia using the dissent channel that was formally established to communicate outside the normal chain of command. In 1976, he became director of the Office of East-West Trade at the State Department. He resigned from that position in 1983 in protest over inter-departmental deliberations about export control policy.