

JASON SMEDLEY

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Jason Smedley, a native of Little Rock and decorated Marine Corps veteran, who will serve as the commandant of the brand-new Arkansas Military and First Responders Academy.

His distinguished military service includes multiple deployments, working within the Pentagon, and a Purple Heart when serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Back home in Little Rock, Colonel Smedley has continued his service in the Marine Corps Reserves. He has also strived to serve within his community, including time as a volunteer firefighter.

Colonel Smedley has proven his dedication time and time again to the United States Marine Corps, his home state of Arkansas, and the youth of our communities.

I thank him for his distinguished service, and I am confident that he will be an inspiring leader for the lucky students of the Arkansas Military and First Responders Academy.

Semper Fi Colonel.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF LT.
COL. GEORGE CARRUTHERS**

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel George Carruthers. October 22, 2023, marks Lt. Col. Carruthers' 100th birthday and the awarding of the prestigious French Legion of Honor medal—the highest level of recognition awarded by the French Government for his service to the country during WWII.

Lt. Col. Carruthers began his military career by joining the Army Air Corps at nineteen years old, where he proceeded to be a 2nd Lieutenant Bombardier during WWII. During the war, his B-17 was shot down, and he spent 22 months in the German POW camp Stalag Luft 3, home of the Great Escape, the largest escape by allied Air Force personnel of the war.

After the war, he went on to have a thirty-plus year career in the United States Air Force, being awarded numerous medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, several Air Medals, and the Purple Heart in recognition of his outstanding and selfless service.

We are able to live free today because of the courage of men like Lt. Col. Carruthers, who put their lives on hold and answered their country's call when it needed them most. Love of family, country, and a life dedicated to service sum up the character of Lt. Col. Carruthers, a member of the Greatest Generation. These stories will inspire future generations of Americans to pursue a life dedicated to causes greater than themselves. I hope this testament to Lt. Col. Carruthers' life serves as an acknowledgment of the immeasurable debt

of gratitude owed to him by the American people. On behalf of Texas' 21st Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life of Lt. Col. Carruthers and his dedicated service to our country. Today, a grateful Nation thanks him.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to recognize October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and to pay tribute to my constituents with Spina Bifida and their loved ones. Additionally, I recognize October 25th, as World Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Day.

There are currently an estimated 166,000 individuals in the United States living with Spina Bifida. According to the CDC, each year approximately 1,400 babies born in the United States have spina bifida. Those diagnosed with Spina Bifida can expect to spend most of their lives in a wheelchair, or walking with braces, and face the prospect of dozens of surgeries they turn 18.

I have been honored to attend numerous events in the Capital Region, including the Spina Bifida Walk and Roll and the Spina Bifida Dare to Dream Gala, both of which are held by the Spina Bifida Association (SBA) of Northeastern New York, that have raised funds for research, brought awareness to the public, and told the stories of those in our community with this disease. I am heartened to attend events like these, which do so much to honor those with spina bifida, as well as their friends, families, and caretakers.

I am so impressed with the breakthroughs in research that have helped to give those living with this disease a more fulfilling life. Thanks to the work of organizations like SBA, new medical treatments and technologies have been developed that allow most people with Spina Bifida to live a normal life span, ensuring they can have a full career, get married, and start a family—no different than those without this disease.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that organizations like the Spina Bifida Association continue to receive the funding and support they have earned. I also will continue to support federal research funding for better understanding the condition, the cause, and treatments. I hope that together we can continue to raise awareness.

JULIA BULLOCK

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor Julia Bullock, a longtime Searcy resident and the National Guard's 2023 Armed Forces Military Spouse of the Year.

Julia serves as the Soldier and Family Readiness Group coordinator for Headquarters Company, 2-153 IN, and as one of the coordinators for the overall Battalion.

In her role, Julia tirelessly works to help soldiers and their families access resources within the community that can help them through major issues, especially home and food insecurity.

She also serves as an advocate for the Guard, frequently speaking to Arkansas elected officials to advocate for long-lasting solutions to these challenges for our military families.

Julia and her husband, Michael, an Arkansas Army National Guardsman, reside in Searcy with their children. I extend my sincere gratitude to her and her family for their tremendous service.

HONORING SCHOOLSFIRST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ON INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union for International Credit Union Day. SchoolsFirst is a long-time community staple in my district, and I am delighted to celebrate their growth.

In 1934, a group of 126 Orange County school employees pooled together \$1,200 to found SchoolsFirst, formerly known as the Orange County Teachers Credit Union. The first branch was opened in Santa Ana. SchoolsFirst has since expanded to become the state's largest Credit Union and the 5th largest in the Nation.

SchoolsFirst serves over 350,000 school employees who live or work in Orange County and their family members. They have 22 branches in Orange County alone and 70 across California. As a member-owned credit union, SchoolsFirst has been steadfastly committed to returning excess earnings to its members. Nationwide, they have over \$25 billion in assets and over 1 million members.

I am grateful for SchoolsFirst's charitable contributions to the community. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, please join me in celebrating SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and their contributions to our Orange County community.

CONNOR HARVEY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, this month, I had the opportunity to attend Connor Harvey's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Connor has been scouting for ten years, beginning as a cub scout, and then crossing over as a boy scout in 2017, quickly rising through the ranks. He has earned over thirty merit badges and has held several leadership positions in the troop including Historian, Patrol Leader, and Quartermaster. For Connor's

Eagle Scout project, he made enhancements to Veterans Memorial Park in Egg Harbor Township. The project involved the installation of additional pavers to expand the standing room for ceremonies conducted at the park. He is a junior at Atlantic County Institute of Technology specializing in the Computer-Aided Design and Drafting program and is a member of the school's rowing team. Connor should be proud of his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts, and it was a pleasure to attend his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. God Bless Connor, and God Bless our United States of America.

SYDNEY MASSEY

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor Sydney Massey, a recent graduate of eStem High Public Charter School, and a 2023 Presidential Scholar.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars program recognizes our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors.

Sydney is one of only 161 students receiving the award this year, making it one of the highest honors for recent graduates.

This award serves as a well-deserved recognition of Sydney's many years of academic excellence. Her dedication and commitment should serve as an example for our nation's youth.

In addition to receiving this award, she has also been recognized for scoring a perfect 36 on the ACT.

I congratulate Sydney on being named a Presidential Scholar and her many academic achievements, and I wish her the best in what is sure to be a bright future.

RECOGNIZING REV. FREDDIE BANKS' SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Reverend Freddie Banks, the Pastor of New Testament Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement. For the last 40 years, the leadership he has displayed for his congregation and his greater community is worthy of commendation.

Reverend Banks was born in 1937 in Merigold, Mississippi. His family would later move to Ypsilanti, Michigan where he graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1957. Shortly thereafter in 1959, Reverend Banks married his wonderful wife, Evelyn. Their legacy now includes 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Reverend Banks began his journey with the St. John Missionary Church of Ypsilanti in 1965. There he served as Sunday School superintendent, President of the Usher Board, and Chairman of the Deacon Board. He would preach his first sermon in September 1977

and was ordained as Assistant Pastor in 1978. Reverend Banks attended classes at the Detroit Bible College, later the William Tyndale Bible College, where he graduated in 1984.

Reverend Banks went on to serve at St. Mary Baptist Church in 1983 as their Assistant Pastor. Later, he was called to preach at Fellowship of Believers, which was later named New Testament Missionary Baptist Church. His service to the community includes execution of marriage ceremonies, providing marriage counseling, and providing funeral services.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing and celebrating the lifetime of work that Reverend Freddie Banks has been kind enough to share with us. He has spent his entire life in the service of others, and though he may be stepping down from the pulpit, we will be sure to feel his influence for years to come.

DANIEL COHEN

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, this past August, it was my honor to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony for Daniel Cohen. The trail to Eagle Scout is marked by milestones and achievements, each one a testament to Daniel's unwavering determination. From those early days as a Cub Scout to rising through the ranks, to earning merit badges and honing skills, he has demonstrated a thirst for knowledge and a willingness to embrace challenges. Daniel makes giving back to his community a priority and that is evident through his Eagle Scout Project. In an effort to help retire flags in a respectful way, Daniel built a flag retirement box for his local VFW. I know Daniel has a bright future ahead of him and I wish him all the best. God Bless Daniel Cohen and God Bless the United States of America.

AMELIA LISOWE

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor rising 7th grade student Amelia Lisowe, a resident of Benton and congratulate her for being crowned the winner of the Royal International Miss Preteen.

In addition to her crown, she also won several well-deserved awards, prizes, and cash scholarships.

Since 2018, Amelia has overseen her own nonprofit organization, Lisowe's Lights, and has raised enough money to donate 20,000 nightlights to foster children in the United States and around the world.

She is a talented school athlete, participating in both the school dance and volleyball teams.

Amelia also dances with Dance Dynamics Company and serves as an iCan Dance buddy for special needs dancers.

She should serve as a role model for our Nation's youth.

I congratulate her on her crown, her tireless volunteer work, and her many accomplishments.

CELEBRATING ASAAD KELADA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN TELEVISION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Asaad Kelada, a director and producer of many of America's favorite sitcoms over the last 40+ years. His contribution to American cinema is worthy of commendation.

Born in Egypt, Asaad began his studies at the American University in Cairo. In 1961, he earned a student visa and he came to the United States where he studied directing at the Yale School of Drama. After years of teaching drama and directing stage plays, Asaad got his first big break in 1976 when, after spending five years working on the set of the sitcom Rhonda, he was given an opportunity to direct an episode.

Since then, Asaad has been entertaining generations of American families with shows like WKRP in Cincinnati, The Facts of Life, Family Ties, Who's the Boss, Everybody Loves Raymond, Dharma and Greg, Two and a Half Men, and The Office. Immigrants have always enriched and strengthened the fabric of our nation, and Asaad has said "I never tried to minimize who I am. For me, being an Egyptian was one of the strongest aspects of what I had."

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Asaad Kelada for his almost five decades of incredible work. As a young man, he quickly dazzled us with his humor and has been making families laugh together for decades, all while never forgetting his family and where he came from. He is exemplary of everything we highlight when we speak about the American Dream, and I am sure he will continue to make us laugh for years to come. I thank Asaad for his contributions.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.