

duty to never leave a fallen comrade behind. His actions that day not only saved lives but also exemplified the highest ideals of honor and brotherhood.

Corporal Lopez's distinguished service is reflected in the numerous awards and honors he has received, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

In his civilian life, Luis has remained a pillar of his community. He is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps League, and the American Legion in Waco. Through these organizations and his personal efforts, he consistently strives to support and assist his fellow veterans. His unwavering commitment to service extends beyond official capacities, making him an invaluable member of the community who continues to enrich the lives of others.

Even in retirement, Corporal Lopez has dedicated himself to serving others, just as he did during his military career. His ongoing contributions to his fellow veterans and his community stand as a testament to his character and the values he embodies.

It is with profound honor and respect that I award Luis Jesus Lopez with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a remarkable milestone in northeastern Pennsylvania—Misericordia University's centennial anniversary. For 100 years, Misericordia has been a beacon of hope, education, and service in our community and beyond.

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy on September 15, 1924, the Sisters fulfilled Mother Superior Teresa Walsh's dream of establishing Luzerne County's first four-year institution of higher learning, College Misericordia, on nearly 100 acres of land in Dallas, Pennsylvania.

The name "Misericordia" translates to "heart of mercy," which remains at the core of the university's mission to cultivate a transformational educational experience that promotes intellectual curiosity and critical thinking in a supportive and inclusive community to inspire students to engage in a life of service and global citizenship.

The history of Misericordia is deeply intertwined with the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy, whose origins trace back to the compassionate vision of their founder, Catherine McAuley.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1778, Sr. Catherine dedicated her life to serving the poor, sick, and uneducated. Sr. Catherine's words, "The proof of love is deed," resonate powerfully within the halls of Misericordia University. Her vision for a compassionate, community-oriented approach to education and social service laid the groundwork for the Sisters of Mercy, who continue to inspire Misericordia's mission today.

The Sisters of Mercy arrived in the Wyoming Valley in 1875, earning the affectionate title "The Walking Sisters" as they tirelessly served the local community. Their work in education flourished, establishing schools for children and adults alike in response to the pressing needs of Northeastern Pennsylvania's coal mining region.

In September of 1924, Misericordia began with just 37 students, who were welcomed into a community committed to the school's motto: "Mulier Fortis," meaning "valiant women," symbolizing the spirit of scholarship and spirituality that has guided generations. Over the years, the university has grown significantly, attaining university status in 2007 and becoming co-educational in 1979.

Today, Misericordia offers over 50 academic programs, fostering leadership, compassion, and a lifelong commitment to service. The university continues to evolve and adapt, with innovative programs that reflect the needs of our changing world, including an array of undergraduate and graduate degrees in health sciences, business, education, and the liberal arts. The university also emphasizes experiential learning, encouraging students to engage with the community through service projects, internships, and research opportunities.

As we celebrate this centennial anniversary, we honor the enduring impact of Misericordia University and the vision that propelled its inception. The university has transformed countless lives, providing a nurturing environment that embraces diversity and fosters academic excellence. Its commitment to a student-centered approach continues to form and inspire the next generation of leaders.

As the member of the U.S. House representing Northeastern Pennsylvania, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Misericordia University, its faculty, staff, and students, on the remarkable milestone of celebrating 100 years. I look forward to witnessing the continued impact of Misericordia University for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LEON WALLACE

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my constituent, Leon Wallace, who will be commemorated with a street naming in his honor on October 5, 2024, at the intersection of Post Avenue and Simonson Place in Staten Island, New York. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas Leon Wallace was a native Staten Islander who grew up in West Brighton and Mariners Harbor, attended P.S. 18 and graduated from McKee High School in 1956.

Whereas Leon Wallace enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served as a jet mechanic while stationed in Guam until his honorable discharge in 1961. He later returned to service with the New York State Army National Guard's 5-117th Cavalry Unit in 1976 while simultaneously pursuing an education at Staten Island Community College, now the College of Staten Island. During his 39 years of combined military service, he contributed as a map-reading instructor and retired in 2001 as a Sergeant.

Whereas Leon Wallace put his life on the line for our country at a time when our nation did not afford him equal rights as an African American. Not only was Leon a dedicated patriot and member of our military but he was a steward of outstanding service to our community.

Whereas after Leon's time in the Air Force, he dedicated his time to helping individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. He was also a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), The United States Island Veterans Organization (USIVO), and the 369th Veterans Association, as well as St. Philips Baptist Church, and completed the New York State chaplains' course to minister to other veterans in need.

Leon is still greatly missed and our community remains deeply appreciative of his service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE KEWEENAW RESEARCH CENTER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Keweenaw Research Center at Michigan Technological University for earning the Defense Counterintelligence Agency's Industry Award for Excellence.

Every year, DCSA annually recognizes entities which exhibit the most impressive counterintelligence capabilities and cooperation with U.S. Government efforts to deter, detect, and disrupt the theft of sensitive or classified information and technology by foreign entities.

This is just the latest achievement in what has been a tradition of excellence at Michigan Tech, which has \$110 million in research expenditures and has experienced a double-digit increase in research awards over last year's totals. Such an award is quite the achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication of both the faculty and students of this exemplary institution.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Keweenaw Research Center at Michigan Technological University for earning the Defense Counterintelligence Agency's industry award for Excellence. I have no doubt they will continue to serve Northern Michigan and our Nation well, as they are always on the cutting edge of innovation.

HONORING VICTOR MONTALVO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HIS PANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Victor Montalvo is a renowned American B-boy, also known as "B-boy Victor."

He is recognized as one of the best breakers in the world and has won numerous championships, including two Red Bull BC One titles and bronze at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Montalvo was the first American to qualify for the Olympic Games in the sport of breaking, competing in the 2024 Paris Olympics. He

is known for his impressive freestyle skills, creativity, and athleticism.

Raised in Kissimmee, Florida, Victor's roots in breaking are rooted in hip-hop culture, and he has proudly represented the Latino community on his historic journey.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH JESSE ROBERT WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present Joseph Jesse Robert, of Mart, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His lifelong dedication to honoring the values of service and sacrifice exemplifies what it truly means to be a patriot.

Raised in west, Texas, Joseph signed his delayed enlistment forms in December 1977, before graduating high school in the spring of 1978. He attended IT training at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois and graduated from the Aerospace Ground Support Technician School before reporting to Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. In 1979, he underwent advanced training on the MVP 116A Generator and became the only service member to receive a letter of certification as an engineer from Consolidated Diesel Company of Connecticut.

In October 1979, Joseph was deployed to South Korea, where his service qua lifted him for the South Korean Defense Medal. He was also awarded Airman of the Quarter for his branch in 1980 and became the inaugural Tactical Air Command 552nd AWACS Airman Maintenance Professional of the Year. Joseph's tour ended in August 1982. He began working to repair ground support equipment in 1986 but was laid off in July 1991 after suffering an injury that ended his service career.

Joseph's civilian service began soon after. After working through his recovery, he became a volunteer first responder for the Prairie Hill Volunteer Fire Department and Mart Emergency Medical Service, where he earned his EMT Basic certification. In 2009, he faced another medical setback when he suffered a stroke, again affecting his ability to serve in active capacities. However, his desire to serve his community remained strong. In 2012, he became an MVPN volunteer with the Veterans One Stop in Waco, and from 2014 to 2017, he administered the Mexia Peer Support Center. He has held several leadership positions at the local VFW Post 4964 in Mexia, including Adjutant, Senior Vice, Quartermaster, and Commander, and he currently serves as the Service Officer for American Legion Post 288. Joseph also works with Veterans Partners of Texas, where he helps clothe, feed, and assist veterans daily.

Joseph's military and civilian service career has been long and impactful, earning him numerous awards, including the Army Service Ribbon, Marksman Qualification Badge (M-16), Maintenance Professional of the Year, Male MVPN Volunteer of the Year, Veteran Volunteer of the Year, and a certificate of appreciation as a Veteran of Foreign Wars. Joseph served his country in the Air Force and returned home to serve his community, continually seeking to offer his services in any capacity he can.

I am pleased to award Joseph Jesse Robert with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

HONORING MIKE BELL

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mike Bell on his retirement from the forestry industry.

Mr. Bell dedicated 23 years to Rayonier and is retiring as Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications.

During his career, Mike made a remarkable impact on the forestry industry and its surrounding communities. He is certainly leaving the industry better than he found it.

Mike built a reputation of fighting for the interests of the timberland owners and foresters. He also recognized the vital roles of guest workers play in the success of this industry, and utilized the H-2B program to ensure a strong workforce.

Mr Bell not only supported the forestry industry, but he was also successful in navigating the complex relationship between the forestry industry and our climate.

In addition to his advocacy work, Mr. Bell was a driving instrument in economic and infrastructure improvements that boosted foresters and local communities. Notably, he spearheaded the building of a broad coalition to secure an I-95 interchange in Richmond Hill, Georgia, to improve hurricane evacuation routes and traffic flow, while creating significant commercial opportunities in the process.

Mr. Bell embodied the values of a true leader throughout his career. I extend my most sincere gratitude and congratulations to Mike for his dedicated, impactful career that will continue to inspire future forestry professionals.

CELEBRATING LISA AND RANDY BROWN'S RETIREMENT

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor two individuals whose dedication, generosity, and unwavering commitment to our community have made an indelible mark on the fabric of Aurora. Lisa and Randy Brown, the beloved owners of the iconic Banana Split ice cream shop, are now embarking on a well-deserved retirement after 40 years of service.

Since 1983, Banana Split has not just been a business; it has been a gathering place for families, friends, and neighbors. It is a place where the joy of a simple scoop of ice cream brings smiles and laughter, and where memories are forged over countless summer afternoons.

Lisa and Randy have crafted not only delectable treats but have also built a legacy of kindness and community spirit that resonates throughout Aurora. From sponsoring local events and sports teams to providing support

for schools and charitable organizations, the Browns have always prioritized giving back.

As Lisa and Randy prepare to step into this new chapter of their lives, they look forward to spending quality time with their two children and three grandchildren. While they may be stepping back from the daily operations of Banana Split, their commitment to community service will continue, as Randy plans to remain actively engaged with the Lions Club and serve as a board member of the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District.

It is also essential to recognize how they have paved the way for future generations of small business owners. After a thoughtful vetting process, they are passing the torch to Daniel Cuevas, an Aurora native and graduate of Aurora University. Daniel is equally committed to maintaining Banana Split's cherished reputation as a small business that continues to prioritize community investment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Lisa and Randy Brown's contributions to the Aurora community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them a joyful retirement filled with adventure and family, knowing that they have built a legacy that will live on in the heart of Aurora for generations to come.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE WEST LAMPETER COMMUNITY FAIR

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the West Lampeter Community Fair for its 100th anniversary.

Starting in 1924 as an exhibition for students, the West Lampeter Community Fair is rooted in tradition. The fair promotes Lampeter's heritage and agricultural community, and while much has changed in the past 100 years, the West Lampeter Community Fair does not shy away from its history.

The fair provides a great community environment and the opportunity for local children to compete in a range of competitions. Displays from local vendors and small businesses are at the heart of the bustling fair. Providing everything from homemade baked goods to vintage tractors, the West Lampeter Community fair has something for everyone. For me, that means always grabbing a vanilla milkshake and enjoying the horse show.

Organizing this annual event is no easy task. It is thanks to the tireless efforts of the fair board of directors and volunteers that allows this storied community event to continue and be successful year after year. The West Lampeter Community Fair also supports local business and continues to build a stronger community one fair at a time.

It is with great pride that I congratulate the West Lampeter Community Fair on its 100th anniversary. I wish them many more years of success in showcasing their community's heritage.