

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.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN DAVID CURSON'S SERVICE TO SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AND THE NATION

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Congressman David Curson and to grieve his passing. A dedicated member of the United Auto Workers, he has forever fought for the right of working-class Americans and his work should be commended.

David always had a strong connection to the working people of the United States. Following his high school graduation, David started working at the Libby-Owens-Ford Glass Company. He then enrolled at the University of Toledo but had to drop out after being drafted into the United States Marine Corps in during the height of the Vietnam War.

After his return in 1970, David started working at the Ford Rawsonville Plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he worked as a Die Maker Journeyman. At his plant, David became increasingly involved with the UAW and was eventually elected as the UAW Plant Chairman for the factory. During his tenure with the union, he served as Director of Special Projects and Economic Analysis as well as executive assistant to three UAW presidents including Steve Yokich and Ron Gettelfinger.

Upon the resignation of Representative Thaddeus McCotter, David won the special election to replace the vacant seat from Michigan's 11th congressional district. Congressman Curson immediately stated his intentions of retiring after serving the remainder of the six-week term, demonstrating his dedication to the American people and not himself. During his time in Congress, he expressed his strong support for the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, which he believed would strengthen the middle class.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating and remembering the life of Congressman David Curson and all that he accomplished. His dedication to his country, community, family will not be forgotten. His passion for strengthening the conditions for working Americans, inspired by his own working-class upbringing, drove so much of his work and impacted so many. His impact should be celebrated and remembered.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES NAVY WORLD WAR II VETERAN JOSEPH D'EMIDIO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional constituent from my district, Joseph D'Emidio. Throughout his life, Joseph has embodied a selfless and fearless spirit, resulting in a life rich in stories and memories. I commend Joseph for his service to our country and thank him for his great sacrifices and honorable legacy. As he celebrates

his 100th birthday on September 28, 2024, I would like to recognize Joseph and wish happiness for him and his family.

Joseph was born in Bristol Borough to Italian immigrants Gabriel and Lena (Vattimo) D'Emidio on September 28, 1924. He attended schools in Bristol Borough but quit school at age 16 to work to help support the family. One of those jobs was at the historic Fleetwing factory in Bristol Borough. He stopped working to pursue training in linoleum installation. At age 19, before he could be drafted for World War II, Joseph enlisted in the United States Navy, following the footsteps of his older brother Benjamin. He attended boot camp then trained for Landing Ship Tanks (LSTs).

He was then sent to England on an LST. He was subsequently joined by his brother Arthur, who also served on the LSTs. He ultimately participated in the D-Day Operation in Normandy on an LST. He was also involved in backing up forces for the Battle of the Bulge. His brother Carl served in the United States Coast Guard. On discharge from the Navy at the end of the war, Joseph returned to Bristol Borough to marry and start a family.

He was an original owner in the Winder Village section of Bristol Township. While living in Winder Village, Joseph and his friends became the Founding Members of Third District Fire Company. He served as its first Captain. He trained in kitchen customizing, returning to Bristol Borough to open a business on Mill Street called Cameo Kitchens. He has been active in the Lions Club for over 57 years.

He raised three children in Bristol: Joseph, Dyan and David, with his wife Theresa. Joseph and Theresa shared a love of family and Square Dancing. He is currently still living in Bristol, now married to his second wife, Jeanne. Joseph is a communicant at St. Ann's Church. He enjoys woodworking at the Bristol Borough Senior Citizen Center. Joseph likes his visits to Parx Casino and is a voracious reader.

His blended family is so very proud that Joseph has reached this milestone in his life. Our nation owes Joseph a debt that can never be repaid. We wish Joseph countless blessings and I remain deeply appreciative to Joseph D'Emidio for his life of service and sacrifice for our community, district, and country. His commitment to his fellow neighbors, veterans, and service members alike is a testament to his character and spirit. I am more than honored to recognize him today and wish him nothing but the best for his 100th birthday and the future beyond.

HONORING SUSANA RESTREPO 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, Susana Restrepo is a Colombian migrant and a community leader dedicated to the well-being and development of her community. With over seven years of experience, she has collaborated with local organizations to advance initiatives focused on housing justice, immigrant rights, climate change, and access to healthcare.

Susana's community involvement in Central Florida began as a member and volunteer with Organize Florida. She later became a community organizer with Chispa Florida and currently serves in the same role with Florida Rising.

Recognized for her ability to unite people from diverse backgrounds, Susana has developed inclusive solutions to her community's challenges. She was acknowledged as a "Community Hero" for leading relief efforts that supported more than 2,000 victims of Hurricane Ian. Additionally, VAMOS4PR Action honored her for her dedication to Puerto Rican and Hispanic communities in Central Florida. In 2019, during the City of Kissimmee's Women's History Month event, Susana was recognized as one of the women in the Kissimmee community who has made an enormous impact, made a difference, and has made Kissimmee a great place to call home.

Currently, Susana owns a small health business, SusaludPro. She strongly advocates for local entrepreneurship and works to strengthen community networks that facilitate access to quality healthcare services. Her efforts reflect her hard work, dedication, and passion for positively impacting people's lives. As an inspiring leader, she also empowers other women in business and actively champions local economic development.

RECOGNIZING DONALD LYNN McDONALD 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 today to honor Donald Lynn McDonald of Groesbeck, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His dedication to veteran's causes in retirement reflects the ideals of our Country's core values.

Born in Mexia, Texas, Donald McDonald answered the call to serve by joining the United States Marine Corps in the 1970s. Over more than six years of Active Duty, he demonstrated exceptional commitment and skill. Serving as an Electric Systems Technician, he began his active service in 1971 in Beaufort, South Carolina. His exemplary performance earned him the M-14 Marksman Classification, the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and a Letter of Appreciation, highlighting his professionalism and dedication to duty.

Upon his honorable discharge, Staff Sergeant McDonald continued his legacy of service within Limestone County. He became an active member of the Limestone County History Committee, where he focused on locating individuals in cemeteries and assisting families in finding their lost relatives. His efforts have provided closure and solace to many families, underscoring his compassion and commitment to his community.

Currently, he serves as the Limestone County Veteran Service Officer. In this role, he has achieved accreditation and has been instrumental in assisting numerous veterans throughout the community. His tireless work ensures that veterans and their families receive the benefits and support they have rightfully earned. Donald's unwavering dedication