

Congratulations once more to the Ohio-13 Champion of the Week, Amanda Archer.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR TONY JUNIOUS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 2024*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a trailblazing public servant and pillar in the Summerton, South Carolina, community. Mayor Tony Junious tragically passed away on January 27, 2024. He was loved by everybody who knew him and will be sorely missed.

Born and raised in Summerton, Tony embodied the spirit of the town. Attending Clarendon County schools, he had an insatiable desire to learn and graduated from Scott's Branch High School as class President in 1995. Though Tony became a successful entrepreneur, it was his passion for education that led him to public service. The community elected him to serve on various Clarendon County School District Boards of Trustees. During his tenure, Tony increased high school graduation rates, began career readiness programs, volunteered at school events, mentored young leaders, and organized scholarship dinners for Scott's Branch High School Seniors. He was especially committed to younger students and ensuring they had a strong foundation to prepare them for the future.

After spending two decades advocating on behalf of Summerton's children, Tony ran for Mayor of Summerton with a bold vision of moving the town forward bolstering economic development, improving the water system, and bringing more healthcare options to the area. On April 5, 2022, Tony was elected the first Black Mayor of Summerton. In his first year, Mayor Junious achieved significant milestones; securing a \$25,000 Hometown Grant, securing \$12 million in infrastructure grants, initiating a Hood zone study, participating in the Broadband Internet Access Survey, establishing a Community Clean-Up Group, and passing an ordinance on firearms safety.

While Mayor Junious had big visions for Summerton, he had an even bigger heart. He had a gift for making every person in the town feel they belonged and that their voice was heard. With an infectious smile and a heart of gold, he emanated a sense of pride for Summerton that rippled through the entire community. Even during difficult times, his warm presence and astute leadership reassured everyone that no challenge was too big to overcome. Whenever Mayor Junious set his mind to something, rest assured he would achieve it.

A man of deep faith, Tony attended various churches throughout his life and was ordained an Elder and Minister. He recently received his Doctorate under the leadership of Apostle Elizabeth Gipson at the Open House of Prayer Healing and Deliverance Ministries, where he served as Chair of the Pastor aide committee.

Left to cherish Tony's memory is his loving wife, LaShenda Miller Junious, his mother, stepmother, grandmother, four sons, three daughters, stepdaughter, adopted daughter, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the life of Mayor Tony Junious. In his honor, the people of Summerton have committed to moving forward with the vision Mayor Junious put in motion, a testament to the enduring impact of his legacy that will resonate for many years to come.

HARVEY AND MADALYN ROVINSKY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past December, I had the honor of celebrating Harvey and Madalyn Rovinsky and their retirement after almost 60 years in the jewelry business. Through their hard work and dedication over the years, Harvey and Madalyn have cemented their names in the luxury jewelry industry. Harvey joined the jewelry business at a young age, working with his father as a watchmaker. In 1966, he joined Bernie Robbins Jewelers, working for his future parents-in-law. He learned vital business lessons from Bernie, emphasizing credibility and customer relationships. In 1992, Harvey and Madalyn transformed the company, creating an exquisite jewelry destination that now has three locations spread over Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Under their leadership, Bernie Robbins has become a highly decorated business, receiving countless recognitions and awards. In 2022, they received the National Jeweler Retailer Hall of Fame Award and Bernie Robbins Jewelers was recognized as a New Jersey Top Workplace for employee engagement. Because of their hard work, Bernie Robbins has become synonymous with expertise and exceptional customer experiences in a welcoming atmosphere. I hope Harvey and Madalyn enjoy their retirement, and I know their legacy will continue to shine brightly for years to come. God Bless Harvey and Madalyn and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANEELAH AFZALI

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 2024*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Aneelah Afzali, who is stepping down after over seven years of service as the Executive Director of the American Muslim Empowerment Network of the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS-AMEN).

Aneelah founded MAPS-AMEN in December 2016 to combat rising islamophobia and empower the Pacific Northwest Muslim American community. I was proud to bring Aneelah as my guest to the 2017 State of the Union Address during my first year in Congress. Her story as a Muslim American woman of color is truly the American story. Aneelah's presence demonstrated to President Trump that he could not silence the patriotism and resolve of people in this country based on their race, reli-

gion or country of origin. Her continued organizing over the next seven years impacted the lives of thousands and exemplified her commitment to the realization of a just world.

Throughout her career, Aneelah's work with faith and non-faith communities has built bridges across religious, racial, cultural and political divides. Aneelah currently serves on a number of governing and advisory boards. Through this service, she emphasizes intersectionality and equity within the contexts of a wide array of issues such as gun violence prevention, racial justice, immigration reform and educational equity. She also continues to work with the Washington State Refugee Coordinator to welcome and resettle of Afghan refugees. She is a true community activist, interfaith leader, and civil rights advocate.

Aneelah's particular combination of brilliance, commitment to organizing and community, tenacity and strategic ability has been a true gift to our region and our people. She has inspired and celebrated the leadership of countless others, and of regular community members taking action and recognizing the power of their voices. Her integrity and values underlie everything, and she has never wavered from those no matter how challenging the situation. I have been continually inspired by Aneelah's work to combat hate and create a more equitable society.

As she continues her work to empower communities in new ways, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Aneelah's many accomplishments and contributions to our country. On behalf of Washington's 7th Congressional District, I thank Aneelah for her partnership, service to the people of the Pacific Northwest and dedication to the fight for justice.

RECOGNIZING AARIT KOUL OF JACKSON MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 2024*

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Aarit Koul (Air-it Cool) from Jackson Memorial Middle School in Massillon as the Ohio-13 Champion of the Week. Aarit is the winner of the 2023 Congressional App Challenge for Ohio's 13th Congressional District. As part of the 2023 Congressional App Challenge, Aarit designed an app called "CareCivic," which is designed to encourage young people to become civically engaged.

CareCivic includes information about our government and important events in United States history, as well as games like ping pong and trivia so you can learn while playing. Aarit's app is an impressive combination of technical skill and passion for civics rolled into one. Aarit's app helps teach younger generations just how precious our democracy is and why it's important they make their voices heard to create change on the issues they care about.

Congratulations once more to the Ohio-13 Champion of the Week, Aarit Koul.

RYAN SIMPKINS

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past January, I had the honor of celebrating Ryan Simpkins and his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America. During his time in the Scouts, Ryan has learned valuable lessons in leadership, friendship, and service and will carry these lessons with him for the rest of his life. For Ryan's Eagle Scout project, he assembled "Little Libraries", which are a free book exchange where people can take a book or share a book. His noble goal was to encourage literacy in his home area of Hopewell South Jersey and Bridgeton South Jersey. The Scouting experience has left an indelible mark on Ryan, and he will continue his scouting experience as an adult leader in scouting later in life. Congratulations to Ryan on achieving this milestone, and I wish him all the best. God Bless Ryan and God Bless the United States of America.

**HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH****HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 2024*

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and its 2024 theme—African Americans and the Arts. This year's theme reflects on the important work of African American artists throughout the country who preserve history, enrich communities, and create empowerment through the visual and performing arts including literature, film, music, fashion, culinary, architecture, and more.

History has shown that the artistic contributions of African Americans have been minimized, excluded, and even denied. African American artistic movements such as the Black Renaissance, the Black Art Movement, and the introduction of the Hip-Hop music genre, to name a few, have been crucial in bringing about change, equality, and social justice to the African American community in the United States and all over the world.

Throughout the years, Northwest Indiana has been home to many successful and noteworthy art-based organizations and programs that are truly inspiring. I would like to take a moment to recognize a few of them, past and present, including Vee-Jay Records, West Side Theater Guild, Gary International Black Film Festival, Gary Theatre Ensemble, Marshall J. Gardener Center for the Arts, Glen Theatre, the Gary Public Murals and Statues Program, the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District, and the Gary Public Art Competition, among others. For their unwavering dedication to preserving and honoring African Americans and the arts, each organization, program, and its members are worthy of the very highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating

Black History Month and honoring the countless African Americans who have played such a critical role in enriching our culture through the arts. Let us commend each of them for their profound passion, creativity, and perseverance as they have enhanced the quality of life for all Americans.

**HONORING CALEIGH GUMBINER'S SERVICE AS DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES****HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 2024*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Caleigh Gumbiner for five years and more than two full sessions of Congress as a member of my district office staff.

Caleigh has been with my office from the very beginning. They started our casework operation in 2019 with virtually no resources and have elevated to the role of Director of Constituent Services. For years, Caleigh has worked tirelessly to serve the constituents of Minnesota's Second District.

They've overseen the building up and training of a constituent services team that has returned more than \$4.5 million to constituents and closed over 4,200 cases. Caleigh's been vital to training other congressional offices having worked with the CAO Coach program. They led our district office team through the pandemic and all the various programs Congress passed to serve our constituents and have worked day and night during global conflicts to ensure constituents' safety.

I'll always be grateful for Caleigh's service to my team and our constituents in their various roles over the years and wish them the best in their new role with Second Harvest Heartland—I'm confident they'll continue to serve Minnesotans with exceptional service.

**MAYOR ALDO PALOMBO****HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, we come together with heavy hearts to honor the life and legacy of former Mayor Aldo Palombo, a passionate and caring man who dedicated his life to service. Mayor Palombo served as the 15th Mayor of North Wildwood from 1994 to 2005 and in his capacity as mayor, completely turned the city around. What was once a run-down city was transformed into a desirable family destination under his leadership. Mayor Palombo was a beacon of optimism and boundless energy during these trying times. His leadership breathed new life into the city of North Wildwood at the time it needed it most. He was a tireless ambassador for North Wildwood, always eager to promote the community and his efforts and commitment left an indelible mark on the city. As we bid farewell to Mayor Aldo Palombo, I extend my deepest condolences to the entire Palombo Family. His memory will live on for generations to come in the city that he cared for so deeply and helped

shape. We are forever grateful for his dedication, optimism, and enduring impact on North Wildwood. May he rest in peace.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. BEULAH JACKSON****HON. PATRICK RYAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 2024*

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of an impactful community leader, Mrs. Beulah Jackson.

As a life-long New York resident, Mrs. Jackson spent her life leading her community of Beacon where she resided for 75 years. She worked alongside politicians and organizations to promote an inclusive and equitable community for those around her.

Her advocacy roles have included being a civic leader of the African American community and a long-time member of the NAACP. She was inspired by the Civil Rights movement recognized leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Jesse Jackson. With such significant role models, Mrs. Jackson worked alongside contemporaries such as Mayor Clara Lou Gould, Peter Seeger, and Rev. Barbara Baker to promote critical relationships between community members and their leaders throughout Dutchess County and the larger New York State.

Mrs. Jackson's legacy has truly made a mark on her local and larger communities. Her incredible dedication to various programs created for uplifting communities, specifically in Poughkeepsie and Beacon, has always been inspiring to those around her and for years to come.

As the first African-American bookkeeper in Poughkeepsie and the first African-American Director of the Anti-Poverty Program in Beacon, Mrs. Jackson was a trailblazer who should be honored for her service. Even her work with scholarship programs at the local schools or in youth clubs, she has touched the lives of the young and the old, truly contributing to the social fabric for the county.

I am truly honored to say that the district I represent had such a strong leader to show all of us the importance of service and community engagement. Her leadership will remain admirable as I hope we all can learn from the accomplishments of this amazing woman.

**IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL JOSEPH REED****HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness and in joy to celebrate the life of a good man and a friend of long-standing, Mr. Michael Joseph Reed. Sadly, Michael transitioned from labor to reward on January 15, 2024, at the age of 69. A private service will be held on Friday, February 2, 2024, among family, friends, and loved ones. While his passing leaves in its wake many heavy hearts, upon prayerful reflection, the pain we share must melt into joy. For Michael