

condition for children and adults is the Spina Bifida Program at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the CDC through the National Spina Bifida Patient Registry and the Spina Bifida Collaborative Care Network.

People with Spina Bifida deserve no less than the rest of us as we age. We must ensure that adults with Spina Bifida can receive high-quality medical care and that researchers have the funds necessary to continue the development of treatments for spina bifida.

HONORING THE CONSECRATION OF DR. PAUL L. BINION II TO THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor and excitement on behalf of the Westside Church of God Consecration Planning Teams' announcement of Dr. Paul L. Binion II. Today, we will witness the Episcopal Consecration of Dr. Paul L. Binion to the esteemed office of Bishop.

Elevating an individual to the position of Bishop is a recognition of their exceptional leadership, unwavering service, and unblemished integrity. Dr. Paul L. Binion, fondly known as Pastor Binion, has dedicated over four decades of his life to serving both his local community and the state of California. He is not only a spiritual leader but a mentor, confidant, and guiding light to countless individuals.

Pastor Binion's remarkable journey began in Fairfield, Alabama, where he was born to Paul Lawrence Binion, Sr. and Sara Ellafair House Binion. As the eldest of five siblings, he embarked on a path that would lead him to Los Angeles, California, and eventually to Fresno, where he assumed the role of Senior Pastor at the Westside Church of God in 1977. His educational achievements include a Bachelor's Degree in History from California State University, Los Angeles, and a Master's Degree of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. His profound commitment to faith and education was acknowledged when the Southern California School of Ministry conferred upon him the honorary title of "Doctor of Divinity."

Pastor Binion's impact extends far beyond the walls of his church. He has been an active leader in various organizations and initiatives, demonstrating his dedication to the betterment of the community. Some of his notable roles include serving as a Presbyter of Berean Fellowship of Churches, participating in the African American Clergy Task Force, contributing to the Southwest Fresno Development Corporation, and advising the President of Fresno Pacific University on Clergy and Church Development. He has also been an advocate for social justice through his involvement with Central California Evangelicals for Social Action in addition to his contributions to the City of Fresno Mayoral Advisory Board and the Police Advisory Council. Pastor Binion's deep commitment to mental health and well-being is exemplified through the establishment of the Westside Community Counseling Center, which has served as a vital resource for the community.

His dedication to education and career development has shone through the Education and Career Initiative, a program designed to empower students in the pursuit of their educational and professional aspirations. Throughout his journey, Pastor Binion has been a source of guidance and wisdom, not only for his congregation but also for fellow pastors and community leaders. He has shared his knowledge and faith as a conference speaker, preacher, and teacher of the Bible, leaving a lasting impact on both local and national levels. In addition to his remarkable professional achievements, Pastor Binion is a devoted husband to Valerie Jean Metoyer Binion, and a loving father and grandfather. He and Valerie have been married since 1978 and have three daughters, Tiffany, Crisandra, and Kimberley, along with several grandchildren.

As we come together to witness the Episcopal Consecration of Dr. Paul L. Binion, we recognize not only a spiritual leader but a dedicated servant of the community. His journey is a testament to the enduring impact that one individual can have when guided by faith, compassion, and a commitment to the betterment of others.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in commemorating this significant moment in the life of Dr. Paul L. Binion, a man whose contributions have touched the hearts and souls of many.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF VICTOR MONACELLI

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to wish a happy 100th birthday to Mr. Victor Monacelli of Ridgecrest, California, a veteran of the Second World War and a soon-to-be great-great-grandfather.

Born in Humphrey, Washington, to Tom Monacelli and Myrtle Winsor Monacelli on November 16, 1924, Victor was raised with his brothers Cecil, Leroy, and Thomas Monacelli. At age seventeen, Victor was one of the many brave young men who, along with his brother, Thomas, volunteered for service in World War II just after his graduation from Ellensburg High School. With his enlistment in the U.S. Navy on October 27, 1942, Victor would soon find himself stationed in the South Pacific's New Hebrides Islands where he supported the Guadalcanal Campaign for 19 months. During his time stationed in what he recalls as a "tropical paradise," enemy aircraft launched waves of attacks against Victor's position. Auguring well for his posterity, he was never once injured in these airstrikes. After roughly two years serving our country through some of its greatest naval operations, Victor would finally return to the United States. On his birthday in 1944, he managed to cross the International Date Line while being transported stateside to San Francisco, granting Victor and his friends one additional day to celebrate his twentieth birthday.

Following a brief posting in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1947, Victor was transferred to the Naval facility in Lakehurst, New Jersey, where he attended flight school and completed his first parachute jump on August 2, 1947.

Through this training, he became certified as a Parachute Rigger, safely packing and repacking parachutes for airborne personnel. It was near the facility there in Lakehurst, New Jersey that Victor met his first wife Jeanne. In 1949, he was transferred to Naval Auxiliary Air Station Charlestown in South Carolina, where for six months, he was stationed on the nation's longest-serving aircraft carrier in American history—the U.S.S. *Midway*.

Returning to the Pacific once again with the U.S. Navy, Victor served in Hawaii from 1950 to 1958, serving in the Korean War through the training and instruction of airborne personnel in the use of aviation survival equipment. Witnesses described him as instrumental in establishing the survival school at Naval Air Station Barber's Point where he continued to safely pack and inspect parachutes and survival equipment as well as airborne personnel. His final assignment in the U.S. Navy saw him move to New Iberia, Louisiana, where he met his second wife Mary, and retired from active duty by joining the Fleet Reserve in 1961. Victor retired from the Navy on November 1, 1971, achieving the rank of E7 Petty Officer after nearly 30 years of service to the United States.

Victor moved to La Verne, California in 1974, where he owned a gas station and later worked as a travel agent. He soon fell in love with California's beauty, next moving to Bakersfield, Lake Isabella, and finally to Ridgecrest. These days, Victor enjoys spending quiet time at home with his wife Juliette and spending time with his two sons, David and Victor Jay, daughter Lorri, six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and soon his first great-great-grandchild. In 2022, Victor was one of two living World War II veterans in Ridgecrest who were both honored and presented with certificates of appreciation for their service to the country.

Mr. Speaker, from our nation's Capitol, and on behalf of a most grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating 100 years of Victor Monacelli's incredible life. His patriotism and pursuit of the American dream should inspire future generations and this dedication to defending our warrior is another symbol of this legacy.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: JOSEPH A. FLUEHR III

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Joseph A. Fluehr III, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades, but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in

doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Joe has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

For over five decades, Joe has been a cornerstone of our community. As a respected funeral director and a relentless advocate for local veterans, he has been a beacon of light, a guardian of dignity, and a true pillar of support for those who have served our Nation. Joe's commitment to our community began when he and his wife, Christine, opened the Joseph A. Fluehr III Funeral Home in Richboro in 1976. From the outset, their funeral home was more than a place of professional care; it became a sanctuary where families found genuine compassion and solace during their most challenging times.

Joe's impact on our community extends far beyond his professional life, and his leadership has had a transformative impact on several community institutions and organizations. For over a decade, Joe served on the Board of Trustees for St. Mary Medical Center, leading as Chairman for nine of those years. Under his stewardship, St. Mary's grew into a regional hub of care, expanding its footprint, staffing, and services to become a Level II Trauma Center. In addition, Joe serves our community as a member of the Northampton Township Volunteer Fire Department, Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad Advisory Board, the Council Rock Kiwanis Invitational, Northampton Township Historical Society, and Northampton Township Business and Professional Association, where he received the recognition of "Businessman of the Year"—a truly fitting honor for someone who has done so much for our community.

Yet, perhaps Joe's most profound impact has been his unwavering advocacy for our community's veterans. From his pivotal role in establishing the Washington Crossing National Cemetery to his quiet acts of generosity personally providing urns, nameplates, and even services for our unclaimed veterans, Joe's profound contributions have ensured that the service and sacrifices of our hero veterans are honored, celebrated, and remembered for generations to come.

Joe's life is a shining example of what it means to serve others with humility and grace, consistently putting others before himself. Through kindness, compassion, and unwavering commitment to serving others, Joe has shown us all what it means to live a life of purpose, to give without expecting anything in return, and to leave the world better than we found it. Today, we honor Joseph A. Fluehr, III not just for his remarkable deeds but for who he is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Joseph A. Fluehr, III for his extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May his example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

HONORING WILLIAM ROBERTSON WAINWRIGHT'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor and celebrate Mr. William Robertson Wainwright of Salisbury, Maryland as he approaches his 100th birthday on November 21st.

Born in 1924, Mr. Wainwright honorably served in the United States Army during World War II from 1943 until 1946.

It is a distinct privilege to recognize Mr. Wainwright on his upcoming 100th birthday and celebrate this wonderful milestone. On behalf of Maryland's First Congressional District, I wish Mr. Wainwright a very happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING OHIO NATIONAL GUARD COMPANY B, 3RD BATTALION, 238TH AVIATION REGIMENT BEING NAMED OHIO'S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Ohio National Guard Company B, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment from Green as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Hurricane Helene caused serious flooding and damage across Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia, which left roads underwater, basements flooded, wires down, people trapped in their cars in flooded areas, and people stranded in their homes.

Ohio National Guard Company B, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment answered the call to assist. These brave men and women navigated through flooded North Carolina streets to assist people stranded in their homes and cars.

Ohio's 13th Congressional District is made up of champions who work hard and don't hesitate to lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need. The unwavering and selfless work of these service members in the wake of Hurricane Helene is a shining example of why our district is known as the "Birthplace of Champions."

I thank the members of the Ohio National Guard Company B, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment for their collaboration, bravery, and service in the aftermath of this hurricane, and for dedicating their lives each and every day to protect our community and country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA ANN "PATTY" SIMONIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Patricia Ann "Patty"

Simonian, who passed away at age 80 on March 11, 2023. Patty was mother, friend, and member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Patty was a godmother to me. She was known for the many contributions she made in the community throughout her life.

Patty was born on May 4, 1942, to John and Mary Costa in Merced, California. She went to Central Union High School and met the love of her life, Pete Simonian. Ten years later, they married on August 26, 1961. They started a farm of vegetables. Their children Talbert, Nanette, and Peter J. would help on the farm planting prunes that they grew organically until 2011 when Patty decided to sell the farm to family members.

During her life, Patty was very involved in the community and with her family. She was a FFA Mom, CUHS Band Mom, president of the POMS for 2 years, 4H leader in different capacities, Fresno County President for 7 years, and more. She was an active member for her church, St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Patty and Pete decided to renew their vows on their 40th Anniversary at the church.

Patty enjoyed being with her husband, and they both participated in the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California. Patty would participate in different groups for her children. She joined the Blue Star Moms because of her son, Peter's service in the United States Navy, and would support her daughter Nanette with the Central Valley CWA.

Her love for family was evident. Patty enjoyed being around her grandchildren and never denied babysitting them. The time she spent with family and friends was something to cherish every chance she had.

During her time at Paintbrush Assisted Living and Memory Care, her joy radiated as the greeter, and she spent her time in the community garden. Patty was precise on the crops she planted and would make sure to inform the residents it was time to pick them.

Patty was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary Costa, and her husband, Pete Simonian.

Patty is survived by her son Talbert, her daughter Nanette, her son Peter J. and wife Toni, grandchildren: Matthew, Kylie, Jerad, Cassidy, and Caydin. She is survived by her brother Kenneth Costa and brother-in-law Scott, sister Johnell Costa Wilt, and brother-in-law Dennis. Patty is also survived by neighboring cousins Bette O'Sullivan and Jim Costa, along with her nieces, nephews, and many cousins.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Patricia Ann "Patty" Simonian. May she be remembered as the pure joy of her life for all who knew her.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: JOSEPH D'EMIDIO

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Joseph