

Each year, GSH manages the needs of over 1,000 families and individuals, helping them overcome obstacles and build a better future. With a small but dedicated team—just 9 full-time staff, 3 part-time staff, and over 40 volunteers—Good Shepherd Housing has managed to accomplish extraordinary things. The work they do, however, is made possible not only by their staff but by the unwavering commitment of their board members, volunteers, and the community that supports them.

As we celebrate Good Shepherd Housing's remarkable 50-year legacy, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has played a part in this incredible work—past and present board members, staff, volunteers, and all the partners who have worked hand-in-hand with GSH to strengthen our community. I would also like to recognize the outstanding leadership of Executive Director Genée Hayes and Deputy Executive Director Candice Bennett. Their dedication and vision have been integral to the organization's growth and success, earning well deserved recognition from the Washington Post, Leadership Fairfax, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Their collective impact serves as a reminder that when we invest in affordable housing and support services, we unlock the potential for families to thrive, not just survive.

Good Shepherd Housing is a true example of how innovative approaches and community partnerships can make a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most. The organization's case management team works individually with residents to set personal goals, pursue education, and improve financial literacy, helping to break the cycle of poverty and create lasting change.

As we look to the future, I have no doubt that Good Shepherd Housing will continue to be a leader in providing affordable housing solutions and support services in our community. Their work is a testament to the power of compassion, collaboration, and commitment to social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Good Shepherd Housing on their 50th anniversary and in expressing our thanks for their tireless dedication to Fairfax County, Virginia.

HONORING MAYOR KATHI HEMKEN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Kathi Hemken as she concludes 16 years of service leading the City of New Hope. Throughout her time as Mayor, residents have come to know her as a devoted advocate for their well-being, a thoughtful steward of the public good, and a relentless driver of housing and economic development.

Mayor Hemken began her career with the city on the New Hope Planning Commission in 1997. After two years as Chair, she won her first term as Mayor in 2008. She wasted no time in getting to work on behalf of her constituents and fostering a culture of appreciation, respect, and excellence among the staff at City Hall.

Over the past 14 years, New Hope has undergone a remarkable resurgence of new

housing and business. The city's property tax base has grown by over a billion dollars, a surge of 73 percent—an impressive amount of growth that would not have been possible without Mayor Hemken's leadership. They've added nearly 500 new apartment units, 127 single family homes, and through the Scattered Site Housing Program, 30 new or rehabilitated single-family homes. These developments include workforce housing, assisted living, deeply affordable housing, and luxury housing—a diversity that serves all residents of New Hope. The City Center underwent a transformative multi-phase redevelopment, introducing an aquatic park, a performance center, a new City Hall, an upgraded police station, and essential businesses like a Hy-Vee grocery store, resulting in over \$15 million in local improvements and the creation of 400 jobs.

Always accessible, Mayor Hemken builds strong relationships with constituents and city staff, promotes open dialogue on complex issues, and fosters an environment of growth and appreciation within the community. A strong supporter of small businesses, she was even featured on "The Colbert Show." When a small business highlighted on the show required assistance, she connected with the owner and provided essential resources to help them navigate the challenges that arose from their sudden fame and increased demand.

Beyond economic development, Mayor Hemken demonstrates her passion for promoting literacy by collecting and distributing books for local children and engaging with students through reading programs. She has served on countless boards and committees, including the Regional Council of Mayors, the Northwest YMCA, League of Women Voters, and more. Each winter, she personally bakes hundreds of cookies and packages them up with a personal note of appreciation to each and every city employee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our profound gratitude to New Hope Mayor Kathi Hemken for her hard work and dedication. She has led the City Council, City staff, board and commission members, and most importantly, the New Hope community through unprecedented challenges and reshaped the city. There is no question that New Hope will benefit from her thoughtful stewardship for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING MANNSDALE UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL DISTINCTION

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mannsdale Upper Elementary School for its National Blue Ribbon School distinction. Since 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools for academic achievements and efforts to close the educational gap within communities. The program aims to showcase schools that demonstrate the importance of ensuring all students can achieve high academic standards. This award is among the highest national honors given to

schools across the United States. This year, only 256 schools received recognition, and Mannsdale Upper Elementary is among the top schools, not only in Mississippi but also nationwide. I am proud to see Mannsdale Upper Elementary honored with this prestigious award.

I want to thank Dr. Nicole Cockrell, Principal of Mannsdale Upper Elementary, Assistant Principal Mrs. Holly Jones, and Madison County School District Superintendent Ted Poore for their dedicated work in fostering such a high-achieving learning environment.

I extend my gratitude to the teachers and leaders in Madison County and across Mississippi for their unwavering and selfless dedication to helping students learn, grow, and strive for continuous improvement.

RECOGNIZING THE LEONARD & SARAH BELL FARM IN UNIONVILLE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Leonard and Sarah Bell Farm in Unionville, Michigan, which has been named the Farm of the Year by the Michigan Centennial Farm Association for 2024. This prestigious recognition honors farms that exemplify exceptional qualities in five key areas: longevity, stewardship, historic preservation, community involvement, and organizational membership and promotional activity.

The Bell family's 76-acre farm, now owned and operated by David and Phyllis Bell, is an enduring testament to Michigan's agricultural heritage. The farm's origins trace back to 1919, when Leonard and Sarah Bell established the farm as part of their contribution to the agricultural development of Tuscola County. Leonard, a descendant of some of the county's earliest families, cultivated a variety of crops, including wheat, corn, navy beans, oats, and hay, supporting both his livestock and the local economy.

In the decades since its founding, the farm has remained in the Bell family for six generations, with David and Phyllis continuing the proud legacy of sustainable farming. Under their stewardship, the farm grows a diverse range of crops—sugar beets, corn, navy beans, soybeans, and wheat—carefully rotated each year to maintain soil health and productivity.

The Bell farm has also earned several prestigious environmental and historical designations, including a federal Certificate of Farm War Service during World War II, a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat, a Monarch Waystation, and a Certified Butterfly Garden. These efforts not only preserve Michigan's natural beauty but also demonstrate the Bell family's deep commitment to environmental stewardship and biodiversity.

Beyond their agricultural achievements, the Bell family has been active in their local community, participating in farm organizations and sharing their story to promote the importance of preserving Michigan's farming history. Their farm is a living example of the values that the Michigan Centennial Farm Association seeks to honor each year.

It is also worth noting that the next generation of Bells, including great-grandchildren, continue to take part in the farm's daily operations. Whether helping with the animals, or assisting with planting and harvesting, their involvement in the farm ensures that this important piece of Michigan history will continue to thrive for many years to come.

On behalf of my colleagues, I extend heartfelt congratulations to David and Phyllis Bell and their family for being named the Farm of the Year by the Michigan Centennial Farm Association. Their dedication to preserving Michigan's agricultural heritage and fostering a sense of community through farming serves as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING EAST GREENWICH
TOWNSHIP MAYOR DALE ARCHER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Mayor Dale Archer of East Greenwich Township, who has dedicated many years of

service to our community, including 11 years as mayor. Under his leadership, East Greenwich has flourished with strong fiscal management and innovative solutions for local governance. He improved the township's finances by implementing a five-year plan with policies that allowed him to manage the community effectively, resulting in the second-lowest tax rate in Gloucester County. Because of his guidance, East Greenwich received the Innovative Government Award from the League of Municipalities for its shared fire department service with Paulsboro. The remarkable progress East Greenwich has made since Mayor Archer took office led to the town being recognized as the Best Small Town in New Jersey by South Jersey Magazine. In addition to his commitment to his community, Mayor Archer served the world's finest fighting force, the United States Marine Corps, and has been a longtime member of both the Veteran of Foreign Wars and the Marine Corps League. I thank Mayor Dale Archer, for his dedicated service to East Greenwich and our country, and I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish in the future. God bless Mayor Dale Archer, and God bless the United States of America.

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.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.