

TRIBUTE TO MAHMOUD OTHMAN
ATTA

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Mahmoud Othman Atta a highly-respected leader in the Muslim and interfaith community, veteran, husband, father and grandfather. Mr. Mahmoud Othman Atta was born on June 22, 1936, and he died on November 10, 2016, at the age of 80.

Mr. Atta was born in the Palestinian territories in El-Bireh, Palestine and moved to Milwaukee at age 16 with his dual-citizen father. He graduated from West Division High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attended two years of technical college and was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving as a medic. After his military service Mr. Atta returned to the Palestinian territories, where he married his wife, Intisar and had two children. He later returned to Milwaukee with his family in the mid-1960s.

He is regarded as the Milwaukee area's first de-facto imam, leading prayers and religious services in homes, though he never held the title full time. Local Muslims hailed from various homelands, speaking different languages and Mr. Atta bridged those divides through communal worship. He organized classes to teach Arabic, the language of the Qur'an so that everyone would be able to pray and read the Holy Book together.

Mahmoud Othman Atta was one of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee's seven founding members. Mr. Atta guided Milwaukee's Muslim community and the Islamic Society of Milwaukee in the 1970's, when an estimated 200 Muslims lived in the city. He helped lead fundraising for the purchase of its main center on the city's south side and served on the society's first board of trustees, a position he held for about a decade.

Mahmoud Othman Atta was a natural leader. He saw the value in reaching across racial and religious lines, joining interfaith organizations and Muslim-Christian dialogue groups. He was respected for his character and his knowledge. Mr. Atta would open his home to a stranger, realizing how it felt like to be alone without family, so he always had a soft spot in his heart for students or individuals who were coming from overseas.

Mr. Atta worked as an engine technician at Briggs & Stratton for about 25 years, retiring in 1990 after suffering his first stroke. Mr. Atta had been in declining health in recent years and suffered a stroke while he and his wife spent several months in the Palestinian areas. He returned to the Palestinian territories every year or two, where his large family is well-known. About 1,000 people there have attended visitations spread over three days, after his death.

Mahmoud Othman Atta is survived by his wife Intisar; 2 sons Othman and Ihsan; 2 daughters Janan and Bayan; and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Milwaukee has experienced a profound loss with the passing of Mahmoud Othman Atta. He had an attachment to Milwaukee, and he loved the Midwestern lifestyle. Today, I thank him and his family for their immeasurable achievements. I mourn his loss and I salute his legacy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. GLEN
TATE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the life of Dr. Glen Tate. He passed away this year after a long life spent advocating for the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas.

Born in February 1948 in Corpus Christi, Texas, Dr. Tate's childhood was spent on a small farm near Victoria, and quickly moved to Devine. Here, his love for all animals, but especially horses and cattle, was born.

Dr. Tate took this love and turned it into a career. In 1973, after graduating from Texas A&M, Tate received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and opened two practices, with one in Alberta, Canada, and the other in Lytle, Texas.

Beyond his business successes, Dr. Tate was also renowned for his heifers. His Brangus heifers were frequently the highest selling in many special replacement female sales.

An avid rodeo fan, Dr. Tate traveled across this continent to watch the sport and spend time with his treasured friends in team roping.

Dr. Tate was especially dedicated to the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas, where he served on the ICA Board of Directors and chaired the committee on animal health and safety.

He was also an active member of the South Central Texas ICA chapter and served on their board. In 2019, he was awarded the South Central Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association Trailblazer Award at the annual ICA convention.

Dr. Tate is survived by his wife of 55 years Diana and 3 children, Justin, Jennifer and Gaylyn. Glen especially loved family time with his 6 grandchildren—Lane, Bradley, Tyler, Taryn, Dalton and Josie, as well as 3 great grandchildren—Cohen, Stevie Lynn and Lottie Jane.

HONORING ALISA MCAVOY

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Alisa McAvoy, School Board Trustee for the Redwood City School District, upon her retirement after 17 years of dedication and advocacy for public education.

Alisa was born in Oxnard, California in 1963. She moved to Northern California where she attended Stanford University to pursue her Bachelor and Master's degrees in Civil/Environmental Engineering with an energy planning emphasis and graduated in 1987.

Alisa's commitment to protecting the environment has been illustrated by her time working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Dedicated to pollution prevention and agriculture sustainability, she worked as an engineer and manager overseeing hazardous waste management projects across several states.

Alisa's journey into educational advocacy began in 2007, when she was elected to the Redwood City School District Board of Trustees. During her years on the Board, Alisa served as Board President and Vice President three times. Additionally, she has participated on numerous District committees including Policy, Wellness, Call to Action, School Choice Programmatic, Local Control Accountability, Superintendent's Advisory, Feasibility Study, and Community Outreach. The length and depth of knowledge and experience acquired through active participation in Board committees deepened her commitment and tireless advocacy for education.

As a school board trustee, Alisa has engaged extensively with community members, parents, staff, teachers, and elected officials to foster collaboration to ensure a high caliber and meaningful public education for all students. Her leadership includes chairing initiatives and successfully advancing multiple Redwood City School District ballot measures, securing over \$500 million to support facility upgrades, capital projects, ongoing operations, and educational programs.

Alisa has devoted numerous volunteer hours at school events across San Mateo County, and in the schools, helping with math, art, field trips, special events, science and more. Alisa has always advocated for education, especially for adequate and consistent funding with community partners, parents, elected officials, state and federal officials and non-profits and community groups.

With a passion for service, Alisa, has served on various boards including Little Hands, Carlmont Parents Nursery School, Clifford School Parent Teacher Organization, Redwood City Education Foundation, North Star Site Council, Family Connections, and the Family Connections Authors Night, Emerald Lake Country Club, Redwood City Woman's Club, League of Women Voters, San Mateo County iZone Leadership Team and Policy, and San Mateo County Community Choice Energy Advisory Committee.

Because of exemplary service in public education, Alisa has been recognized for her achievements, receiving Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award in 2011 from Family Connections, the Golden Oak Service Award from the California State Parent Teacher Association, and the 17th District Parent Teacher Association in 2020. For her decades of service to the San Mateo County education community as a Redwood City School District Trustee, Alisa was recognized with the 2024 J. Russell Kent Award.

When Alisa is not advocating for public education, she enjoys bicycling, hiking, enjoying nature, cooking, attending musicals and concerts, and spending quality time with family and friends. She resides in Redwood City with her husband, Neil McAvoy, and has two daughters Marissa and Clara.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary service to public education that Alisa McAvoy has demonstrated over the past 17 years. All the families that she has impacted through her advocacy are better off because of her determination to improve student education outcomes.

HONORING SUPERVISOR DON
BLASER

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the dedicated career and public service of Yuba County Supervisor Don Blaser.

Don was born and raised in the Yuba-Sutter region. He proudly attended Sutter Union High School where he would meet his future wife and childhood sweetheart, Lavina. Don and Lavina were married in 1968. Upon graduating, Don would attend college at the University of California, Davis earning a degree in Agricultural Business.

Don would use his degree to help on his family's farming business in Sutter County for many years. Don would then go on to work with the Yuba City Steel Products Company, where he would work for the next 30 years.

Don and his family would visit Hawaii and become inspired by a local coffee shop known as "Badass Coffee from Hawaii". Don's son Adam and wife would later open their own coffee shop in Roseville known as "Bad Ass Coffee". Soon after Don and his wife would purchase The Brick Coffee House Café in Marysville. This venture would initially need a major overhaul and clean-up; while starting as only a local coffee shop, it would expand to become a thriving place to visit with great food and desserts and be known for their great catering service. The café would stay as a family business for the next 20 years.

Don was elected to the Yuba County Board of Supervisors in 2021, where he represented District Two. During Don's tenure on the Board, he would additionally serve on many other governmental organizations, working to represent the rural interests of Yuba County. Don has served on the Area on Aging Area 4, California State Association of Counties (CSAC), North Central Counties Consortium (NCCC), and many others. Don also served as Chairman of the Yuba County Board of Supervisors in the year of 2024.

Don and Lavina have been married for 56 years and have two children, Adam and Kricia, and four grandchildren.

We thank Supervisor Don Blaser for his term of service on the Yuba County Board of Supervisors and commitment to the citizens of Yuba County. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING 50 YEARS OF WESLEY
HOUSING

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Wesley Housing as they mark 50 years of service to our community. I am incredibly appreciative of the vision, dedication, and tireless work that the team at Wesley Housing does to address the critical need for affordable housing in Northern Virginia.

Wesley Housing was established by Virginia Peters in 1974 in response to a community-led poverty study that revealed the lack of viable

housing solutions for many families. Since its inception it has cemented itself as an independent nonprofit committed to changing lives through access to safe and affordable rental housing units.

From its groundbreaking in 1979 with the first property in Fairfax County, Wesley Housing has grown into one of the mid-Atlantic region's largest and most respected providers of affordable housing. To date, the organization has developed or acquired 2,915 units across 40 properties, positively impacting the lives of over 25,000 individuals and families. But Wesley Housing's influence extends far beyond the walls of its buildings. Through collaborative partnerships and a holistic approach to resident support, the organization empowers families to build better lives, break the cycle of poverty, and overcome deep-seated racial inequities.

Wesley Housing's commitment to excellence and its transformative work in the region have earned the organization numerous accolades over the years. In 2022, the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) named Wesley Housing "Nonprofit Developer of the Year" for the third time, recognizing the organization's ongoing contributions to affordable housing. Other prestigious honors include the SatisFacts' Resident Superior Award, which Wesley Housing has won seven consecutive years due to exceptional ratings from residents, and recognition from Affordable Housing Finance, which ranked Wesley Housing among the "Top 50 Affordable Housing Developers" in 2021.

I am honored to celebrate Wesley Housing's important milestone and want to express my deepest gratitude to the entire team, its partners, and the countless individuals who have benefited from its life-changing work. Wesley Housing's continued success is a testament to the power of community-driven solutions and its unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those who need it most.

HONORING THE PHILADELPHIA
TRIBUNE'S 140TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor The Philadelphia Tribune, the Nation's oldest continuously published newspaper serving the African American community, as it proudly celebrates its 140th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1884 by Christopher James Perry Sr., The Philadelphia Tribune has been a steadfast voice, uplifting and amplifying the stories, struggles, and triumphs of African Americans in Philadelphia and beyond. From its humble beginnings as The Weekly Tribune, a one-page publication, the newspaper has grown into an esteemed institution, documenting pivotal moments in our Nation's history and reflecting the rich tapestry of African American life and culture.

Under the visionary leadership of figures such as Eugene Washington Rhodes, who championed civil rights and community empowerment, and Robert W. Bogle, its current President and CEO, the Tribune has expanded its reach and impact. Through its publications, special editions, and community

events, The Philadelphia Tribune has celebrated Black history, fostered civic engagement, and highlighted the achievements of African Americans in the Greater Philadelphia region.

Over its 140 years, the Tribune has garnered numerous accolades for its excellence in journalism and public service, including the A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award for Outstanding Journalism and the "Russward Award" for Best Newspaper in America. These honors underscore the Tribune's commitment to truth, equity, and advocacy.

The legacy of The Philadelphia Tribune is not just about chronicling the past; it is about empowering the present and shaping the future. As it continues to serve as a vital platform for African American voices, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Philadelphia Tribune on this historic milestone and in celebrating its enduring contributions to our society.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF WINIFRED WHITE

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Winifred White.

Winifred was born on December 10, 1924, to Thomas and Frances Marsh at Mercy Hospital in Bakersfield, California. Born the middle child between her two sisters, Wilma and Georgia, Winifred attended Emerson Junior High School followed by Kern County Union High School, which is known today as Bakersfield High School. Even back in those early years, Winifred recalls the societal and technological milestones she felt in her life and the community around her, like when her family discarded their ice box to buy their first refrigerator after her father quit the Union Ice Company. With her sisters, Winifred brought life to the emerging Bakersfield community, attending performances, ice skating, and enjoying ice cream sodas at Dewar's Candy Shop.

Following her graduation from high school, Winifred attended summer school at a junior college in the Pasadena area, where she found a lifelong passion for bookkeeping. She soon met her first husband, Jim Bolin, with whom they had a daughter, Marcia. Winifred later met Vince Bittleston, an Air Force officer stationed at Minter Field, and the couple would soon be engaged. They would bring a son into the world in 1946—Lawrence Thomas Bittleston—and a second son in 1947—Allan Lee Bittleston. Vince flew planes in World War II and the couple would share a love of aviation and travel for their entire lives. In 1947, the couple launched a crop-dusting business where Winifred managed the bookkeeping, bills, and inventory, and Vince handled sales and flew the planes. Two years later, with the crop-dusting business growing, the couple built a three-bedroom house together and owned their first washer and dryer. To spend more time as a family, Winifred and Vince later moved to a home in Buttonwillow and bought their three children a horse.

Finding herself in a new town, Winifred became involved nearly in every local community