

The miracle of the bright Chanukia (menorah)
Embedded deep within us.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. Kazakhstan's only born rabbi, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors and spent his early childhood in transit and DP Camps in Austria and Germany. He grew up in Haifa, Israel.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE MILDRED C. CRUMP

HON. LaMONICA McIVER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the Honorable Mildred C. Crump, a visionary leader and trailblazer from my beloved city of Newark, New Jersey. Mildred was a woman of many "firsts" and her wisdom, guidance, and unwavering belief in justice helped shape my life and career—and transformed the lives of so many others. As the first African American woman elected to the Newark City Council and as the council's first woman president, Mildred broke barriers and demonstrated a steadfast commitment to equity, justice, and community empowerment.

Her dedication to improving the lives of others—whether through her pioneering work as New Jersey's first African American Braille teacher or her tireless advocacy for housing, education, and civil rights—has left an everlasting mark on our city, state, and Nation. Council President Crump was more than a role model. She was a relentless advocate and champion for people, and a brilliant community strategist. She blazed a path for so many and was always a source of unwavering support for those of us who had the honor of learning from her. Mildred's leadership, compassion, and vision will be profoundly missed.

All Newarkers mourn the loss of this exceptional woman. I send my deepest condolences to her children, Larry and Sheri, and all her loved ones. I know Mildred's legacy and impact will live on. It lives on in me and many others.

I thank Mildred C. Crump, on behalf of all the little Black and brown girls she has inspired and provided a light to shine. We love you forever.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF CINDY AUBREY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Cindy Aubrey from Pikes Peak United Way after ten years of dedicated service to Colorado's Fifth Congressional District. The CEO role at PPUW has been the culmination of a lifetime of service to her hometown. Cindy is known for her strong work ethic, visionary leadership, and her loving service of others. These qualities manifest in numerous capacities: as a daughter, a sister, a friend, a mentor, or a colleague. Cindy's

career and impact demonstrate the rare combination of utilizing her community-minded as well as an individual-focused approach. Cindy has exemplified putting her neighbors above herself and uplifting those around her in every way that she could.

A proud Colorado native, born and raised in Colorado Springs, Cindy graduated from Mitchell High School. Cindy then graduated from Colorado State University where she was and remains a proud CSU Ram. After college, Cindy started her media career at Fox 21 before moving to KOAA, where she led the Creative Services Department and later the News Department. In these roles Cindy helped inform and shape our community, while gaining the respect of the entire community for her outstanding work.

After developing a heart for the Pikes Peak region in her media career, Cindy continued the mission of community service by taking on the role of Chief Communications Officer with the City of Colorado Springs. It was here that she served during some of the greatest challenges in our region's history—the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires. Working tirelessly with first responders and other city officials, Cindy provided residents with vital, accurate, timely information, and did so with empathy and humility.

In some ways as a culmination of her life's mission of community service up to this point, Cindy took on a new endeavor with Pikes Peak United Way, first as the Senior Vice President of Marketing, and eventually, President and Chief Executive Officer. Under Cindy's guidance Pikes Peak United Way created new initiatives and partnerships that expanded the organization's already extensive impact. This included celebrating 100 years of Pikes Peak United Way serving the Pikes Peak region and partnering with many other organizations to launch the Family Success Center, offering a broad range of services to empower those in need in our community.

In addition to her leadership in the Pikes Peak region, Cindy has been recognized for and awarded the Colorado Springs Business Journal Woman of Influence award, the Public Relations Society of America Vista Award, the Colorado Coaches for Charity MVP award, and the Business Leader of the Year from the Southern Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce. It is evident that Cindy's impact is broad and deep in our community.

Cindy and her husband Peter are parents to Liam and his wife Tori and now Grammy to their beautiful granddaughter, Azaela Joy. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating her upon her retirement and celebrating the life and dedicated service of a true champion for the Pikes Peak region, Cindy Aubrey.

HONORING VIVICA A. FOX

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Vivica A. Fox, a Hoosier trailblazer whose six decades in the arts has helped shape American culture.

Celebrated for her memorable roles in "Independence Day" and "Set It Off," Vivica

solidified her career as a prominent figure in Hollywood from a young age. Her journey to success began with the "Days of Our Lives" soap opera and later the NBC-TV series "The Young and the Restless." Her continued dedication to her craft as a lead actor has filled a much-needed gap in the entertainment industry for representation of Native American and Black communities. Vivica has inspired and uplifted her heritage throughout her career. This week, she is in Indianapolis for the Red Carpet Screening & Talkback for the film *The Lost Holiday*, a new project she proudly joined to explore and the challenging dynamics of grief, family and overcoming obstacles. She shines in this new endeavor, where she continues to inspire the next generation of artists and audiences.

Known as, "the diva who's done it all," Vivica has recently prioritized philanthropic and literary initiatives. Her partnership with The Fractal Group has nurtured the aspirations of the next generation of actors and provided crucial funding to the arts. In her motivational memoir, "Every Day I'm Hustling," Vivica expands on her message of positivity and drive in hopes of inspiring people to never give up—a message that will continue to resonate with new generations of young artists and leaders.

Vivica's professional trajectory has forged a legacy of leadership, compassion, and inspiration. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Vivica A. Fox.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MRS. BONNA "B" TERSCH

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our dear late neighbor Mrs. Bonna Jo Tersch, and her lifetime of devotion to the Fifth District of Illinois' Ravenswood community. Bonna, or "B", was a native of small-town Missouri who found her passion living along the Chicago River with her husband and sons, planting gardens for all to enjoy, and promoting peace and beauty in our world.

B co-founded the Greater Rockwell Organization in 1979 and served as its first Secretary—a role she carried for 44 years. B started and managed Greater Rockwell Organization's popular annual neighborhood-wide yard sales, worked with fellow volunteers to report criminal activity, and rose at dawn to paint over graffiti. This nonprofit civic group was recently voted Best Block Club by the Chicago Reader.

B also partnered with the Chicago Transit Authority to modernize, decorate, and clean the Rockwell El station, the cornerstone of a small business hub that she helped make more vibrant than ever. She secured grants, including awards to establish over a dozen "corner gardens" that add distinctive natural charm around the neighborhood, and to create the Montrose Metra Community Gardens.

Although B preferred to humbly volunteer behind the scenes, her decades of public service were recognized by groups like the Ravenswood Community Council and Greening of Ravenswood.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of our colleagues in the House of Representatives in

recognizing Mrs. Bonna Jo Tersch for her years of service to the City of Chicago, and her legacy of "leaving things better than you found them."

CELEBRATING THE NEW TESTAMENT TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the history of, and the amazing work carried out by the New Testament Temple Church of God (NTT). A Church that has always put community and congregation first, even in its name. In 1976, Jamaican Immigrant, Reverend Albert Edwards and his family founded the church in affiliation with the Church of God. To honor Jamaican naming preferences New Testament was added into the name, and the church added temple to honor the former Synagogue whose space the church bought. The church was officially named the New Testament Temple Church of God in 2013 to reflect the church's rich history. In 1983, the church purchased the location on Seymour Ave. where it resides today.

NTT has always carried the Lord's work across the community. Originally, Edwards attended a church with his family outside of the Bronx, but soon found the travel distance to be too long. So, Reverend Edwards opened his home to provide a space to for a small fellowship to worship. As the congregation grew, so too did the services provided. Since becoming Senior Pastor in 1994, Bishop Paul Peart helped the church establish a non-profit called the Good Neighbors Community Outreach Agency (est. 2002). The organization provides so many social services within the church and to the broader community. Services have included GED courses, computer access, preschool, after school, housing assistance, food assistance, clothing provision, and a host of other critical community services.

NTT played a key role in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the community will be forever thankful for that. The church was deemed an essential organization and provided food pantry services to families. During the pandemic NTT went from assisting 200 families per week to over 2,000 families per week. Without their services many individuals would have been without food, NTT also partnered with United Way of NYC to provide other essential supplies to the community during the pandemic.

Currently NTT is responding to increased migration by hosting up to 120 asylum seekers per week. Giving them access to kitchen and dining facilities, as well as clothing and other necessities. Importantly NTT provides asylum seekers with local community connections.

I thank the New Testament Temple Church of God and reiterate their motto. G—R—O—W—T—H—S Through Joyful Service. G—Glorifying God, R—Religious Life, O—Outreach Evangelism, W—World Missions, T—Training of Disciples, H—Hospitality, S—Supportive Ministries. I look forward to hearing about NTT's continued community leadership.

HONORING CLINT HICKMAN

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Maricopa County Supervisor for District 4, Clint Hickman.

Clint, a 4th-generation Arizonan, has served on the Board of Supervisors since March 21, 2013. He also is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Hickman's Family Farms, the largest egg producer in the southwest United States. Supervisor Hickman's experience running a business and his deep roots in the West Valley have guided his actions on the Board of Supervisors, leading the Counties' approach to fiscal responsibility and effective governance. He has been a valuable resource to his constituents and small businesses, and helped lead the county through the challenging COVID-19 pandemic.

I sincerely appreciate Clint's service to the 8th Congressional District, Maricopa County, and Arizona.

CONGRATULATING CONGRESSWOMAN CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend and colleague, Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, on her retirement from the House of Representatives after a 20-year career representing the folks of Washington's 5th congressional district.

I've had the pleasure of working closely with CATHY on the Energy and Commerce Committee for a long time and together we've been able to accomplish some amazing things for the American people. I've admired her determination and strength to get our priorities across the finish line and she has never stopped working tirelessly on behalf of the people she was elected to serve. What I most admire about CATHY is her dedication to her family and the Down Syndrome community. Over the years I've had the privilege of becoming friends with her son Cole, who has inspired me and is one of the reasons I'm so passionate about supporting CATHY's work on behalf of the Down Syndrome community. She has been a tireless champion for the community and left a lasting legacy with her accomplishments on behalf of the people who are differently-abled, so they can live their lives to their full potential with no barriers or bias or obstacles standing in their way.

While her colleagues will miss her dearly, we wish CATHY and her family all the best as she begins this next chapter of her life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating my friend Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS on her retirement from

the House of Representatives after 20 years of service to the people of Washington's 5th congressional district.

CELEBRATING THE HOMECOMING OF MR. TIGRAN GAMBARYAN

HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tigran Gambaryan and celebrate his return home to the United States of the America, and to his friends and family.

Mr. Gambaryan is an American citizen, a resident of Georgia, and a dedicated former public servant. While on a business trip to Nigeria in February, he was arrested and charged with false accusations of tax evasion and money laundering. Tigran was detained in the notorious Kuje Prison for months, repeatedly denied access to medical care as his health deteriorated, denied basic due process rights, and otherwise treated inhumanely. Despite these severe hardships, Mr. Gambaryan displayed remarkable resilience and an unwavering determination to return home.

Finally, on October 23, 2024, Nigeria dropped all fraudulent charges against Mr. Gambaryan, and he was able to return safely to the United States. I want to thank the hard work and dedication of the Department of State officials for the role they played to bring Mr. Gambaryan home. I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee for their unwavering support and advocacy in urging the Nigerian government to secure his release. Most importantly, I want to commend Mr. Gambaryan for his courage and for never losing hope during this tumultuous situation.

It is an honor to represent brave individuals like Tigran Gambaryan in Congress, and I celebrate his return home to his wife Yuki and their two young children. God bless their family.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COPS/METRO ALLIANCE

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to call the attention of the House in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Communities Organized for Public Service/Metro Alliance. Since 1974, the COPS/Metro Alliance has invested billions of dollars into San Antonio families and have fought to make the City a place where everyone's voices are heard.

Led by a West-Side native organizer named Ernesto Cortés Jr., church leaders across the City began to organize and work with one another to secure more opportunities for working class residents. They used their newfound voices to fight for housing for seniors, environmental protections, and safer streets. Members of COPS/Metro Alliance even began running for office, and successfully secured funding for libraries, parks, and public services.