

CONGRATULATING THE MACON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON WINNING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. JOHN W. ROSE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024*

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Macon County High School football team for securing their first state championship.

The Tigers advance to the playoffs often. They've done so 20 times in the last 55 years. But this year they captured the big Class 4A BlueCross Bowl Title after defeating Melrose 45 to 15.

Twin brothers, Zach and Gabe Borders are credited as standouts. Gabe ran for 117 yards and completed his team's only pass for a touchdown. His brother, Zach, earned MVP after his 250-yard performance, which included four rushing scores in the second half. The Tigers were fortunate to have both brothers on the field, especially considering Zach has undergone surgery and pins after multiple breaks to his collarbone.

I would now like to recognize everyone who carried the team to victory. Players included: Anthony Johnson, Cooper Carlisle, Isaac McClard, Baylon Hesson, Zach Borders, Kelby Wheeler, Bradyn Hasse, Gabe Borders, Kelen Hire, Kilian Jetton, Ty Young, Michael Bentley, Andrew Comer, Corey Underwood, Bradley Crawford, Mathew Wheeley, Hunter Jones, Taylen Swaffer, Luke Gammon, Braylon Flowers, Brennan Flowers, Jayden Cook, Michael Pelico, Braxton Boles, Tanner Gilmore, Tre McClain, Dakota Ridgeway, Hadyn Hasse, Trey Gann, Roberto Perez, Logan Tirjan, Mathew Brawner, Koen Kindle, Lamoney Mosley, Cooper East, Kade McKinney, Eli Gammon, Kellan Craft, Corbin Stephens, Dakota Hackert, Nicholas Goodrich, Owen Pitts, Dawson Whittemore, Brody Frye, Ethan Parker, Levi Edgmon, Jaxon Frye, Bo Warner, Hunter Griggs, Cooper Dunn, Emmerson Hubbard, Gavin Johnson, Ethan West, Bryson Wauford, Javier Rodriguez, Courtland Shrum, Zvi Rotstein, Colton Clark, James Clark, Aedan Hopson, Brock Buckalew, Wyatt Walrond, Ruben Valdez, Dayton Demmink-Harwood, Christian Sanchez, Dylan Stone, Jeremiah Vaughn Gilpin, Tyler Mossbarger, Gael Amaral Sanchez, Dillon Crutchfield, and Camren Miller.

I'd also like to recognize Head Coach Kyle Shoulders and assistant coaches: Isaac Belton, Lionel Borders, Sean Corbitt, Chris Escamilla, Ethan Jenkins, Ty Lowhorn, Brandon Nix, Jack Painter, Brandon Robertson, Drew Scott, Eli Stephenson, Chase Whittemore, and Spencer Young.

I congratulate all the players, the coaches, and their families. And congratulations to all who prayed over the health of the senior class.

HONORING MRS. CLEOPATRIA PRYOR

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor an extraordinary woman, Mrs. Cleopatria Pryor, in celebration of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Pryor, known as Opatria to her friends, has been an unwavering advocate for justice, equality, and civil rights, dedicating herself to ensuring a brighter future for generations of African Americans in her community. As we commemorate a century of life, we recognize her invaluable contributions to the civil rights movement and her lifelong commitment to service.

Born on December 29, 1924, in Lafayette County, Mississippi, Mrs. Pryor grew up witnessing firsthand the harsh realities of systemic racism, which sparked her determination to fight for change. As a young mother of 11, she acted to secure bus service for Black children in Marshall County, strengthening equal access to education. Her advocacy didn't stop there. In 1966, she played a pivotal role in integrating Holly High School, where her children became two of the first Black students to attend.

Mrs. Pryor also led efforts to increase voter registration in Marshall County, traveling door-to-door to ensure African Americans could exercise their right to vote. Her work was instrumental in the elections of Osborne Bell and Lawrence Autry who served as the first African American sheriff and school superintendent in the county.

Mrs. Pryor was a lifelong homemaker known for her gardening and cooking just as well as for instilling in her children the values of justice and service she held dear. Her legacy of courage, resilience, and advocacy continues to inspire generations, especially through her encouragement for others to engage in their communities and exercise their rights.

Today, we celebrate Mrs. Opatria Pryor not only for the profound impact she has made in her community but also for the countless lives she has touched with her compassion, leadership, and dedication to justice. She is a true pioneer, and her contributions will continue to inspire generations to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Mrs. Opatria Pryor as she celebrates her 100th birthday. We are grateful for her tireless commitment to making the world a better place for all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRY C. GARRETT, JR

**HON. MICHAEL CLOUD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024*

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Henry C. Garrett, Jr., a devoted Chief of Police, Mayor, husband, and father who passed away on December 8, 2024, at the age of 84.

Mayor Garrett dedicated over 30 years to the Corpus Christi Police Department, rising

from patrolman in 1963 to Chief of Police in 1989, earning the title "*The People's Chief.*" After retiring in 1996, he continued serving his community as a three-term City Council Member and later as Mayor for two terms, from 2005 to 2009.

Above all, Mayor Garrett was a loving husband, father, and leader whose life exemplified service and a deep commitment to his community. His contributions have left a lasting impact on Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, so many of America's public servants today—especially our police officers—have a tremendous responsibility of serving our constituents and to do so with grace and integrity. All who knew Henry Garrett would tell you: he exemplified what it meant to be a public servant. His was a life well lived.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Mayor Garrett's family and all who were blessed to know him. May God bless and comfort them during this time.

JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE LAND TRANSFER ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DARRELL ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 17, 2024*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, S. 3857, the *Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act* is a technical correction to my bill, H.R. 6443, which passed out of the House by voice in April of 2024.

The bill is a traditional fee-to-trust agreement that will allow tribal members to move back onto their ancestral lands—so they can raise their families, carry forward their culture, and add to their history.

This is the right thing to do, the smart thing to do, and it empowers not government, but individuals to take new charge and best care of their lives.

I ask for passage of this bill, and I thank Chairman WESTERMAN, Ranker GRIJALVA, and Senator PADILLA for their support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 502, on H.R. 7213.

CONGRATULATING THE BLAIR OAKS FALCONS, THE MISSOURI CLASS 3 FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the Blair Oaks Falcons football team's remarkable achievement of clinching the Class 3 championship. They ended their

season with a 13–1 record and a come-from-behind 38–28 victory against Seneca High School. This championship is the culmination of all the work they put in and the great talent on this team.

This championship marks the sixth in program history and the fourth won within the last seven years. Coach Todd LePage and these student-athletes continue a tradition of winning at the highest level. This championship exemplifies what you can accomplish with unwavering determination, consistency, and teamwork.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the Blair Oaks football team, coaches, and fans. Winning a championship is a collective effort that requires all hands-on deck. Their community recognizes and highly values their dedication and passion for football.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on February 13, 2024, I was unable to cast my vote on:

H. Res. 863—Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 43.

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#### HONORING TROY A. MILLER'S SERVICE TO THE U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION AND THE NATION

### HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual whose dedication and sacrifice have helped to secure our Nation. I would like to recognize Troy A. Miller, a remarkable individual whose 31 years of service to this country have culminated in his final role leading U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner. In this position, he directed CBP's 65,000 employees in executing its three core missions of counterterrorism, border security, and trade enforcement, while facilitating \$4 trillion in trade and facilitating travel of over 410 million people through ports of entry.

As he prepares to retire, I rise to recognize a career defined by integrity, selflessness, and an unwavering commitment to public service. Every time he was asked to fill a critical leadership role, he quickly answered the call and served with distinction.

I also want to extend my appreciation to his family who have supported him throughout his incredible career. I offer my sincere thanks to his wife, Jennifer, and his daughter, Alexandria.

Troy led CBP, the Nation's largest law enforcement agency, through a myriad of challenges, to include the COVID–19 pandemic, surges of migration along the Nation's borders, and hurricane relief efforts.

Among his many notable achievements, Troy confronted the scourge of fentanyl by

evolving CBP to not only match but surpass the sophistication and persistence of the criminal organizations responsible for trafficking this lethal drug across our borders and into our communities. His efforts brought together coordinated intelligence and special enforcement operations to find and intercept fentanyl wherever it attempted to infiltrate our borders—whether in cargo, among travelers, or through small packages. Furthermore, he extended these efforts beyond our borders, taking the fight to local cartel leaders and dismantling the foreign supply chains responsible for aiding the proliferation of this criminal activity.

Troy also made his mark as a true champion of the dedicated CBP workforce. He was not only a fierce advocate for the agency's technology, infrastructure, and resource needs, but also a driving force in fostering a culture that prioritized the health and well-being of its people—CBP's greatest asset. Troy recognized the critical importance of mission readiness and understood the intense pressures associated with a career at CBP. He spearheaded the development and expansion of CBP's workforce care program, making significant investments in the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of its personnel. He focused on removing stigmas, delivering services directly to employees across the Nation, and providing specialized support to help CBP's workforce navigate the tough operational situations they face every day.

Through his distinguished career at CBP, Troy made significant advancements to the national and economic security of the United States.

Between December 2021 and November 2022, Troy served as CBP's Deputy Commissioner, the agency's senior career official, responsible for overseeing the daily operations of CBP's expansive mission.

Prior to his role as Deputy Commissioner, Troy served as the Director, Field Operations for CBP's New York Field Office where he was responsible for CBP's national security, anti-terrorism, immigration, agriculture, and trade enforcement operations at two of the country's busiest international airports—John F. Kennedy International Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport—the East Coast's largest container seaport in New York/Newark, and CBP's Pharmaceutical, Health and Chemicals Center of Excellence and Expertise.

Troy also served as the first Executive Director of the CBP National Targeting Center, where he expanded CBP's targeting, research, and analysis capabilities, and strengthened interagency and international coordination to screen, vet, and mitigate high-risk cargo and travelers. He established Counter Network and Counterterrorism Divisions within the National Targeting Center, transforming CBP's approach to identifying threat actors and dismantling the transnational criminal and terrorist networks that support them. Under his leadership, and pursuant to National Security Presidential Memorandum–9, the National Vetting Center was established as an interagency solution for vetting support and strategically located at the National Targeting Center. To this day, Troy's national security targeting expertise is recognized worldwide.

From 2013 to 2015, Troy served as the Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of Intelligence and Investigative Liaison, where he ini-

tiated an organizational restructuring in direct support of field components and border enforcement entities that partner with them and promoted initiatives to transcend physical borders. In addition, he has held numerous leadership positions including Assistant Port Director, Seattle; Director of Targeting and Analysis, Office of Intelligence and Operations Coordination; and Director of the National Targeting Center–Passenger.

Troy began his federal career with the U.S. Customs Service in 1993 as a Customs Inspector. He received the Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2016 and was awarded the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2021.

Troy's 31 years of devoted service to our great Nation is a shining example of a life to which we should all aspire and is deserving of our gratitude. His meaningful contributions to CBP have strengthened the organization and his legacy will be the foundation for future leaders. Troy will be missed, but we wish him well as he enters this new chapter of life alongside Jennifer and Alexandria.

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#### HONORING MR. ALFRED WILLIAMS

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Mr. Alfred Williams, a pioneer in the world of professional bass fishing and an inspirational figure in the ongoing struggle for racial equality in America.

Although federal laws and court rulings of the 1950's and 1960's mandated racial desegregation, the reality on the ground in many parts of the South, particularly in Jackson, Mississippi, remained starkly different. Persistent and often insurmountable barriers continued to divide communities. It was within this challenging environment that Mr. Alfred Williams grew up, demonstrating resilience, quiet determination, and extraordinary skill that would ultimately break barriers and inspire generations.

After bravely serving our country in the Vietnam War, Mr. Williams returned home and turned his attention to bass fishing. Entering a predominately white arena, he became a trailblazer, competing in bass tournaments where he was often the only Black angler in the field. Despite the obstacles he faced, he consistently demonstrated his talent and tenacity, earning victories and accolades that spoke louder than any words.

In 1983, Mr. Williams made history as the first Black angler to qualify for the Bassmaster Classic, the pinnacle of professional bass fishing. Competing against 42 of the world's best anglers on the Ohio River in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he finished in an impressive 10th place, surpassing legendary names like Hank Parker, Rick Clunn, Denny Brauer, and Roland Martin. This groundbreaking achievement opened doors for future Black anglers, paving the way for figures such as Ish Monroe, Mark Daniels Jr., and others to follow.

Mr. Williams was not only a pioneer in breaking racial barriers but also a visionary innovator in the sport itself. He is credited with popularizing the use of hollow-body frogs in