

Minister Ware has accomplished many things in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the enduring love and support of his loving wife of over fifteen years, Aisha N. Ware, as well as his sons, Kingston Josiah and Kingsley Uriah.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in recognizing and commending Minister Belvin D. Ware, on his continued service as the newly appointed Pastor of Macon, Georgia's Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

RECOGNIZING JOHN GRAHAM, JR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the late John Graham, Jr. as the committed family man he was and will continue to be in memory.

While at Poquoson High School, he won notable achievements such as: becoming Virginia's Boys State Representative, being elected President of his Senior class, and was a brilliant athlete. John was such a brilliant athlete he not only received the role of Captain his junior and senior years of high school, he also was recognized as "Little All American" during his football career in college. His drive to play and contribute to his teams got him inducted into the RMC Hall of Fame in 2015.

While working for NASA he was a fundamental contributor to groundbreaking missions. John was critical in developing and building the budding space program, even working alongside the original astronauts. He also held crucial roles in the development of the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space programs.

Unfortunately, right before John was eligible to retire from NASA, he was confronted with a decision that would change his life forever. His father was fighting through a tough battle with pancreatic cancer and asked John to take over the family business in his stead.

Showing true sacrifice and dedication to his family, John decided to leave his career at NASA in order to preserve his family's seafood business: Graham & Rollins. Keeping the spirit of a true family business, John brought his children and wife Sandra Graham to work alongside him, further cementing how his family was always a top priority. As President of Graham & Rollins, John expanded the company threefold, leaving a family legacy to his children and grandchildren.

During his successful career within the family business, John also took the time to mentor his sons and grandsons in wrestling. Due to his mentorship, his sons were able to blossom in the sport and each hold notable records. With a renewed sense of love for the sport, John had a vision to expand the fan base of wrestling. That's why he helped create the Peninsula Wrestling Association as well as founding the Virginia Duals. He even went on to serve as the team leader for the Olympic wrestling team in 1988 and 1996. Due to his contributions to the sport, John was awarded the Order of Merit for the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and was inducted into both the Virginia Wrestling and Lower Peninsula Halls of Fame.

John will always be known for his devotion to his family, his love for sports, and his unwavering commitment to give back to his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing John Graham, Jr. and to thank his wonderful family for giving me the pleasure of acknowledging him and recognizing the kindness he shared with the world around him.

CONGRATULATING ARTESIA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Bulldogs Football Team from Artesia High School in New Mexico. In November 2023, the Bulldogs won their 32nd State Football Championship in Class 5A. That is unmatched by any other high school in the state of New Mexico. In fact, the Artesia Football Program has won more State Football Championships than any high school in the nation since 1950.

To win a state championship takes teamwork, persistence, and determination. It's a reflection of the commitment of the school leaders, coaches, parents, and everyone in the community. It's a reflection of the Bulldogs' players' ability to succeed in their future endeavors.

Let us enshrine the names of every member of the Artesia High School football team forever:

Matt Saiz, Grant Johnson, Porter Hardman, Gael Ruiz, Axel Hartley, Juan Diego Duran, Derrick Warren, Izac Cazares, Brody McDonald, Jaden Waldrup, Phillip Finley-Rascon, David Hammond, Josiah Rodriguez, Jaeden Hutson, Jesse Lerach, Diego Lopez, Frankie Galindo, Jarren Wadkins, Jesse Armendariz, Cael Houghtaling, Angelo Silvas, Andrew Rodriguez, Jaykob Ortega, Edel Villa, Jett Whitmire, Haden Harcrow, Joseph Martinez, Jeremiah Chavez, Miguel Soto, Nye Estrada, Kaden Zuniga, David Ybarra, Cody Johnson, Gabino Barrera, Jake Vandevender, Zach Wells, Hagan Crockett, Tootie McNeil, Xavvyer Jagger, Ayden Huffman, Jesus Estrada, Omar Salais, Rafael Orozco, Steven Williams, Diego Wesson, Dylan Fisher, Ricardo Huerta, Saul Peralta, Francisco Caley, Kaden Grantham, Myka Aguirre, Juan Leon, Ivan Chacon, Adrian Ramirez, Edgar Canillo, Kellen Worley, Enrique Armendariz, Garret Fisher, Stephen Butts, Daeven Hutson, Manuel Calderon, Jackson Parker, Devyn Velasquez, Troy Tomsic, Carson Troost, Caleb Martin, Marco Soto, Daniel Aguilar, Joel Crosby, Caleb Murray, Crecencio Cuellar, Jonathan Gonzalez, Fernando Lira, Kaden Beauregard, Ethan Conn, Bryce Parra, Jacob Parrish, Jack Byars, Gavin Brown, Ulrich Medez, Santiago Esquibel, Jacob Calderon, Xavier Ramirez, Braylon Kinnibrough, Kaiden Fredrickson, Andres Estrada, Yeudiel Salamanca, and Ricky Maesta.

Let us also remember the incredible work of the managers Max Klingshirm, Ryan Hickey, Jesus Ruiz, Matt Gage, and Kaiden Fredrickson as well as the coaches Jeremy Maupin, Jourdan Rodriguez, Jackson Bickel, Tony Jaramillo, Max Rodriguez, Derek Mon-

toya, Andy Lopez, and Cory Saxon. You're all great examples of the persevering spirit of New Mexico.

Go Bulldogs.

CELEBRATING WHIO-TV'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 75th anniversary of WHIO-TV, a leader in local news in my hometown of Dayton, Ohio.

WHIO was the first television station to begin broadcasting in Dayton, and has remained a CBS affiliate since that first broadcast. For nearly their entire history, WHIO has aired on Channel 7 in the Miami Valley and residents have routinely tuned in to the 'coverage they can count on.'

For three quarters of a century, WHIO has provided their audience with vital weather updates, local and national news coverage, and in-depth reports from their investigative unit, the I-Team. Our community also relies on Channel 7 for their sports coverage, faithfully airing both Bengals and Browns CBS games on Sundays.

The WHIO news team plays a vital role in keeping the Miami Valley informed and up to date on affairs that affect our everyday life. The Storm Center 7 weather team prepares viewers for their day, but also provides lifesaving information when severe weather strikes. The news team holds business and government accountable to the citizens they serve, as well as informing viewers of local and national news stories.

Local journalism is a critical part of our community and is instrumental to our democratic experiment. WHIO embraces that responsibility and has established itself as a trusted news source for the Dayton area. I join the Miami Valley in saying thank you for a steadfast 75 years, looking forward to tuning in for many more.

RECOGNIZING MARK HAFNER

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keller City Manager, Mark Hafner, who is retiring after more than four decades of public service. At just 18 years old, Mr. Hafner started his career as a police officer. In 2001, he moved his family to Texas to lead the Keller Police Department as the Chief of Police. Under his watch, Keller's first Crime Control and Prevention District sales tax was passed, allocating a portion of the tax dollars toward ensuring public safety. Keller Police Department also earned its state and national accreditations and forged cutting-edge partnerships in 911 dispatch, animal services, detention, municipal court services, and policing with the cities of Colleyville, Roanoke, Southlake, and Westlake. He also oversaw two major police station expansions and renovation projects.

After 14 years as the Chief of Police, including three as Keller's Director of Public Safety, Mr. Hafner was promoted to the organization's top spot in June 2015 as the City Manager. In this position, he's overseen historic investments in public infrastructure, parks, and recreation amenities, helped attract vibrant commercial development, and worked to ensure Keller's long-term financial security. The new Keller Senior Activities Center and renovations to Fire Stations 2 and 3 were also completed under his tenure.

I Thank Mr. Hafner for all he has done to protect and serve the people of North Texas. His career has been marked by a commitment to excellence, service and innovation. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement, he will be missed.

HONORING THE LATE BILL BRAND

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Bill Brand, Mayor of Redondo Beach. Mayor Brand passed away on Friday, February 9th at home alongside friends and family. He valiantly fought stage-four lung cancer over the past four and a half years, while remaining in office. He survived his specific cancer longer than any other diagnosed in the United States.

Bill Brand was born in Dallas, Texas, and moved to the South Bay region of Los Angeles County in 1966. He vividly remembered his first sight of the Seaside Lagoon and called it

"finding heaven." Bill dedicated his life to serving people. He saw the need to champion access to open space for South Bay residents and created a non-profit organization in 2004, the South Bay Parkland Conservancy, which is dedicated to the restoration, preservation, and public use of coastal land resources in the South Bay. This organization continues to grow and serve our coastal communities as a steward of our environment, carrying on Bill's legacy.

Bill Brand expanded on his work in public service, first as a Member of the Redondo Beach City Council, and finally as Mayor, a position he served until his last day. He was a fierce advocate for many environmental and coastal priorities, and it was a great honor to work with him to champion these issues.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Deirdre. He served his community fervidly despite the difficulty of his condition. His tremendous will was a demonstration of his love and dedication for his community. He was a remarkable public servant, and it was a privilege to know him and call him a friend. May his memory live on in his many contributions to the community.

HONORING DON BLOOMER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Mr. Don Bloomer, who is retiring after nearly 50 years of service at Citizens National Bank in Somerset, Kentucky. Over the last five dec-

ades, Don has been a trusted leader in the Lake Cumberland area, dedicating countless hours of volunteer service to other community entities, and helping local families and businesses reach or exceed their financial goals.

Raised on a small farm in Pulaski County, Don knew the value of hard work and loyalty from an early age. His life's dream was to be a successful citizen in his hometown community and a strong family man, both of which he has accomplished through diligent work and compassion.

Don first arrived at Citizens National Bank as a Management Trainee in 1976, under the guidance of former bank president Clay Davis. From there he climbed the banking ladder as auditor, comptroller, and cashier, until he was promoted to President and CEO in 2007, where he has guided the bank and the local community through unexpected changes in technology and financial shifts ever since. Clay encouraged Don to learn every aspect of the industry through advanced educational opportunities, strengthening the future of the institution he serves and the local community.

May his life's story be an inspiration to our aspiring youth who hope to one day follow in Don's footsteps, working hard from the family farm to become the local bank president in their hometown. We can all make a difference in our communities, like Don Bloomer, with a tireless work ethic and sheer resolve to make this region a better place to live.

My wife Cynthia and I deeply appreciate the loyal friendship of Don and Rhonda Bloomer, and we wish them the most joyful years of retirement in the years ahead.