

We are proud of the work of Judge Millen in the 11th District. Strasburg Heritage Society Magazine recently published an article celebrating Judge Millen's legacy. Remarks from his funeral by Reverend E. Luther Cunningham expressed, "He brought a sincerity of dedication, an integrity of mind, and a grasp of principle which commanded the respect of all associated with him."

Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Judge Millen embodies the spirit of what we celebrate during Black History Month. Today, we remember and honor his legacy and continue to advocate for a more just world.

CONGRATULATING THE FORMATION OF AMERICA'S CREDIT UNIONS

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of credit unions in the financial services marketplace. In Pennsylvania alone, there are 315 active credit unions, representing over 4.9 million members.

America's two national-level credit union trade associations, the Credit Union National Association and the National Association of Federally Insured Credit Unions, recently merged into a new organization called "America's Credit Unions."

As a long-time credit union member and supporter, I appreciate the difference between credit unions and banks. Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives that are democratically controlled. Every member, regardless of how much they have in savings or loans at a credit union, has an equal voice and vote in the governance of their credit union. Credit unions also have no outside shareholders, allowing these institutions to act purely in the interest of members and provide outstanding member services.

For these reasons, credit unions consistently rank as the most popular form of depository institution in America. I congratulate the formation of America's Credit Unions, now the largest credit union trade association in the United States, and I expect great things to come from this new organization.

HONORING PHYLLIS HANCOCK AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Phyllis Hancock has been the president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) Orlando, Florida chapter, for over 20 years serving Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Lake Counties. A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin founded the A. Philip Randolph Institute in 1965 to continue the struggle for racial equality, political, and economic justice for all working Americans. APRI is the senior constituency group of the

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). APRI consists primarily of trade unionists. Phyllis has been a member of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) since 1975. Local CWA 3108 Orlando is where she found her passion for working in the Black community.

Along with the support of her members, she has engaged the community along with students at the Evans High School ROTC in the nonpartisan get-out-the-vote campaign, voter registration/education, sign waving, phone banks, restoration of civil rights, and canvassing within Black communities. APRI hosted voter education activities in local churches, union halls, and community centers in Congressman DARREN SOTO's district. Phyllis' joy comes from watching students enhance their community pride.

Phyllis has run unopposed throughout her tenure partly due to her God-given, harmonious leadership ability. She built the largest APRI chapter in Florida under the direction of the APRI national President Clayola Brown. Her sisters, Sharon, and Fonda were natural leaders. Phyllis' leadership ability was taught and sparked by her mother, Mae Belle Whitley Hancock, Pete Bohaczyk, her Campbell Middle School history teacher, and membership in the Church of Christ.

Phyllis is the middle daughter of three girls born to Jadie and Mae Belle Hancock, Jr. She is a second-generation union member. As a child, she watched her parents host civil rights meetings.

Jadie, a member of the Transport Workers Union, used his influence to help Black people obtain employment at the Kennedy Space Center.

On February 22, 2024, Phyllis Hancock was honored as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Black History Month.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DAVID R. CASTELLANO

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Castellano, who retired this month after 42 years of faithful and dedicated service as a civilian employee of the U.S. Army and in the Senior Executive Service.

After graduating from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Mr. Castellano chose to apply his knowledge and experience to the U.S. military's armaments enterprise, including at Picatinny Arsenal located in NJ-11. The contributions he has made to our national defense, and to our allies' defense, are enormous, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

In 2003, Mr. Castellano was appointed to the Senior Executive Service. He later became the first Executive Director of the Weapons and Software Engineering Center, where he was in charge of over 1,400 employees between Picatinny Arsenal and other installations in New York and Maryland. The Center provides software support for critical combat and weapons systems.

In 2016, Mr. Castellano tackled a new challenge in innovation and modernization efforts

as the Executive Director of the Munitions Engineering and Technology Center at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center. There, he led a top team of engineers and researchers in the development and implementation of over 1,200 munitions and armaments systems for the Army, the Marine Corps, and Special Forces combat teams. Thanks to his efforts, the Armaments Center has continued to develop and sustain combat systems that both our warfighters and our allies depend on and will continue to into the future.

In gratitude for his outstanding service, Mr. Castellano has been awarded the Presidential Rank Award, the Secretary of Defense Medal, and the NATO Certificate of Recognition. In addition, he also received several prestigious awards from the National Defense Industrial Association including: the Lt. Gen. Thomas R. Ferguson, Jr. Systems Engineering Excellence Award, the Firepower Development Award, and the John A. Ulrich Lifetime Achievement Award.

I want to thank Mr. Castellano for the critical engineering and systems work that he and his team have done over his career to support our national defense, and I wish him the best for a well-earned and restful retirement.

RECOGNIZING MR. FRANK BEBEREIA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Frank Bebereia on his 100th birthday and thank him for his service to our Nation. Mr. Bebereia was born in Laton, California on February 22nd, 1924 to Emily Gonzalez and Manuel Bebereia. He grew up in the Central Valley and attended Lemoore High School. Following his graduation, Mr. Laton spent time as a farmer in Hanford before being drafted to serve in World War II. After completing Army boot camp in 1945, he was deployed to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. During his service, Mr. Bebereia was a member of the 43rd Engineer Construction Battalion, 27th Division. He served in Okinawa, Japan as a Heavy Equipment Operator and quickly moved up the leadership ranks—even being promoted to Sergeant after only 7 months of deployment. Mr. Bebereia received in many awards and recognitions to honor his service during the war, including the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, and Army Good Conduct Medal. His fellow soldiers often spoke about their time serving with Mr. Bebereia, remembering him as a capable, strong, and fearless leader. Mr. Bebereia was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1946. Following his service in the war, Mr. Bebereia returned to the Central Valley where he's spent most of his life. Today, we honor Mr. Bebereia's service to our country, commitment to his family, and dedication to the Kings County community. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life of Mr. Frank Bebereia and wishing him a happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF JIM GOLDEN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a man who served his community, his state, and his Nation with pride, and whose loss leaves a void in the hearts and lives of so many.

James Scott Golden was a Petty Officer 3rd Class in the Navy, but if you asked he'd simply smile and tell you he was a "tin can sailor." Jim was referring to his time aboard the *Charles P. Cecil DD835*, a Gearing Class destroyer where he served toward the end of the Vietnam War. All jokes aside, Jim's service had a profound influence on his life, including the moment he sailed into Sardinia and he met a young Navy medic named Ina who was stationed there. The two would eventually marry, settle in Holly, Michigan, and build a life of service together.

In Michigan, Jim went to work for General Motors Skilled Trades, where he would stay until his retirement in 2006. Known around town for his affable demeanor and his generosity, Jim was involved with many local charities and organizations, including Forgotten Harvest, where he and Ina donated food from their own gardens, and the YesterYear Tractor Club, where he repaired and restored old tractors for parades and local festivities.

Because they took so much pride in their own service, Jim and Ina were very involved in the Holly Area Veterans Resource Center, including an annual project to collect and pack boxes of treats and toiletries for military personnel.

One day, Jim struck up a conversation with a local high school student preparing to enlist in the Air Force as a means to pay for college, and she seemed embarrassed about her financial situation and her plan. Jim decided then and there to find a way to uplift and shine a light on community members like her. Together with Ina, he launched the Hometown Heroes project to recognize those going into service with a yellow ribbon on the oak tree in front of Holly Elementary School. This prominent and highly visible location would serve as a constant reminder to all that a community should have both pride in and gratitude for its men and women who are on active duty in the military.

I had the chance to visit this tree with Jim and Ina on a very snowy Veterans Day in 2019—a poignant sight and a tangible symbol of the sacrifices families all across our Nation are making in the moment in defense of our collective freedom. It speaks both to the power of the project and the Golden's themselves that even after they relocated to northern Michigan, and after Jim's passing, their friends at the Holly Area Veterans Resource Center continue to maintain the Hometown Heroes project, tying a ribbon for each departing serviceman or woman, and removing it when that person returns home.

Jim passed away on January 10, 2024, but his kind spirit, his endearing humor, and his legacy of service live on. I send my deepest condolences to Ina, their children, grandchildren, and to all who knew and loved him. Jim Golden, the tin can sailor and ultimate

hometown hero now rests in perpetual peace at the Great Lakes National Cemetery. With profound gratitude for his dedication to our armed forces and his lifelong mission to uplift the service of others.

HONORING REVEREND MATTHEW
AARON QUAINOO AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in 2019, at the age of 23, Reverend Matthew Aaron Quainoo, Ph.D., became the youngest senior minister in the history of Solid Rock Community Church in Kissimmee, the largest Caribbean/African-American congregation in Central Florida. He also earned his doctorate in American history from Howard University in Washington, D.C., in August of 2022 while pastoring at Solid Rock.

Dr. Quainoo has put his training as a professional historian to good use by leading Solid Rock to serve as the first and only organization in the Ninth Congressional District of Florida to teach the AP African-American Studies course that was banned by the Florida Department of Education free of charge for high school students and members of the community during Black History Month this year.

Under Dr. Quainoo's leadership, Solid Rock Church led Central Florida in offering its first mobile vaccine event in one of the poorest zip codes in Florida at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last four years, Solid Rock has fed over 12,000 families experiencing food insecurity through a monthly food pantry. Under Dr. Quainoo's leadership, Solid Rock is the first and currently only church in the City of Kissimmee to offer a cold-night shelter to those experiencing homelessness in Central Florida. Dr. Quainoo is the educational establishmentarian and visionary for the Still We Rise Excellence Academy, a private Christian school housed at Solid Rock Church that is committed to spiritual formation in making disciples of Jesus Christ, academic excellence, and cultural, curricular, and civic courage. This elementary and middle school will teach the Black history that is banned in the state of Florida when it opens in August of 2024.

Dr. Quainoo sits on the Board of the prestigious Hope Partnership, the leading non-profit combating homelessness and poverty in Central Florida, as well as serving as the special advisor of the Black Empowerment Council of Osceola County, a non-profit committed to seeking justice and unity for oppressed persons of color and all disenfranchised people in Central Florida.

Dr. Quainoo is happily married to the beautiful Lady Rhessa Quainoo and has three marvelous sons, Matthew, Martin, and Micah.

On February 22, 2024, Reverend Matthew Aaron Quainoo was honored as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Black History Month.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD WINTER
MEETING OF THE OSCE PAR-
LIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 23rd Winter Meeting of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) which begins this week in Vienna, Austria.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is the largest regional security organization in the world and possesses the vital goal of promoting stability, peace, human rights, and democracy across North America and Eurasia. The OSCE traces its roots back to the 1970s and has since grown to include 57 member countries across three continents, many of which are former Soviet states looking to continue their transition into robust, healthy democracies.

The flagship political institution of this organization is the OSCE PA, which gathers as many as 323 legislators from across the OSCE region several times a year to discuss the most pressing issues facing the transatlantic community. Amidst global upheavals, the OSCE PA gives member states a place to use debate and dialogue to express the interests of the people, identify conflicts and commonalities, and pursue common-sense approaches to achieve global goals.

For the past four years, I have served as Chair of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Political Affairs and Security, known as the First Committee. This committee is focused on addressing critical security challenges across the OSCE region. The work of the OSCE PA as a whole and the work of this committee [in particular] have never been more imperative than they are today. In the wake of renewed great power conflict and rising international tensions—trends made most apparent in Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine—the United States and all freedom-loving countries must recommit to our shared democratic values and continue to push back against Putin and all those who seek to trample freedom around the world.

While I regret that I cannot be in Vienna for this year's Winter Meeting, I know the OSCE PA will continue its great work in my absence. I thank all in the Assembly, especially my friends President Pia Kauma, Secretary General Roberto Montella, and First Committee Rapporteur Laurynas Kasciunas, for all they do to keep this institution vibrant and strong. I look forward to joining my OSCE PA colleagues in Bucharest, Romania this summer for the Annual Session of the OSCE PA.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the OSCE, its Parliamentary Assembly, and its many participating states and parliamentarians, and to thank them for all they do to help foster peace and stability around the globe.