

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 Rhesa 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 PARLIAMENTARY 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF ROBIE HARRIS

## HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 23, 2024*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the fondest of memories and the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to remember author, educator, and my dear friend, Robie Harris, who we lost earlier this year. Robie was an extraordinary woman—a fierce defender of free speech, a dedicated teacher, an inspiring author, as well as a loyal friend and devoted wife and mother. Hers is a remarkable legacy as an advocate for children that will continue to inspire many.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Robie discovered her love for the written word very early in life. As she told it, at just six years old she “published” her first work, Robie’s Stories, an assignment from her kindergarten teacher. It was comprised of pictures and journal memories that each child produced every day that were then compiled into a book at the end of the year. As Robie grew up, so did her love of reading, writing, and learning—so much so that she would go on to dedicate her professional life to them.

Robie went on to become the editor of both her high school newspaper as well as her college yearbook. After earning her undergraduate degree at Wheaton College, Robie moved to New York City where she initially found work at the United Nations. However, she knew that this was not her passion, so she pursued a teaching degree at Bank Street College of Education. Following the completion of her degree from Bank Street, she became an elementary school teacher at the Bank Street School for Children, where she taught writing and later directed after-school programs in the school’s new Head Start program.

It was through her work with children, as well as the experience of watching her own children and nieces and nephews grow up, that Robie found a voice as a children’s book author. She was inspired by the many questions and curiosities she heard from them and made it her mission to write and produce books that would help them navigate the many changes they would experience as they moved from one stage of development to the next. Robie’s first book, a collaborative effort with fellow author and friend, Elizabeth Levy was *Before You Were Three: How You Began to Walk, Talk, Explore, and Have Feelings*, and her first solo books included the picture books *Don’t Forget to Come Back* and *I Hate Kisses*.

Over the course of her writing career, Robie maintained her commitment to writing nonfiction, age-appropriate books, writing more than thirty titles that covered a multitude of topics including engineering, architecture, nutrition, math, death, and genetics. But it was her groundbreaking work, *It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, and Sexual Health*, a guided preadolescent children on puberty, their changing bodies, sexuality, and sexual health, that was not only her most successful, but also drove Robie’s fierce advocacy for free speech. While praised by medical professionals, child development specialists, and educators for its accuracy, reliability

and for offering children clear guidance on the topic, as well as having been translated into 27 languages and sold one million copies, and having been updated numerous times, including a 25th anniversary edition; this title has ranked among the most frequently challenged and banned books in the country according to the American Library Association.

Robie was an active member of PEN America, an organization that works to protect free expression in the United States and worldwide and champion the freedom to write because they understand the transformational power of words. Robie was a founding member of PEN America’s Children’s and Young Adults Books Committee and she was known for her calm, tactful, yet staunch and unwavering advocacy for the freedom of expression. In an essay for PEN, Robie once wrote, “I write books for children because in some small way I hope that they will find the words I write useful, reassuring, interesting, and at times humorous and also in some small way help them to stay emotionally and/or physically healthy by giving honest, accurate, up-to-date, and age-appropriate information.” Robie was fearless in her defense of her work and that of other writers. She once said in an interview, “This to me is the bottom line on freedom of expression. As a reader, you have the right to speak out for or against whatever you read. As a writer, I have the right to write whatever I want to write—and I am just not going to stop.”

Robie’s passion for working with children, particularly in early childhood development, was a shared mission. Her husband, Bill Harris, is the founder of KidsPac, a group that helped to focus legislators at every level of government on the importance of early childhood education. For more than two decades KidsPac was a leader and respected voice in the advocacy for policies concerning childcare, prenatal health, and early education. Robie and Bill’s activism was integrated into every facet of their lives, so it is no surprise that both of their sons, David and Ben, both followed in their footsteps. David, taking a page from his father’s work, has focused his professional life on research and advocacy for policies that address child poverty. Ben, whose interests more mirrored Robie’s, is now Clinical Professor at the Psychological Center at The City College of New York (CCNY), which provides low-to-moderate-cost services to the CCNY and West Harlem communities. In this role, and throughout his career, he has worked with a socioeconomically and culturally diverse range of children and adolescents as well as adults.

I found a kindred spirit in Robie. She never stopped, and she never took no for an answer. I will forever be grateful for the friendship, humor, and generosity she bestowed on me over the years. Illustrator and dear friend, Michael Emberly probably described her best when he said of Robie, “She was smart and sensitive, kind, and generous beyond reckoning. She was a complicated human being in the best sense, and she had one of the best attributes you can say about a human being—she was memorable.” I extend my heartfelt condolences to her husband, Bill, and her sons, David and Ben. Though we all feel that she was taken from us too soon, Robie Harris touched countless lives and she will be deeply missed by all those who knew her.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TONY  
VIGNAROLI

## HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 23, 2024*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tremendous life of Gunner Anthony Vignaroli who passed away on February 6, 2024. Tony made service to his country and the state of Iowa his life’s calling.

Following his graduation from Saydel High School, Tony embarked on a life of dedicated service. He served our country valiantly in the Vietnam War and then worked at Valley View Village as a Maintenance Supervisor.

Many knew him for his work as a volunteer for the Department of Public Safety at the Iowa State Fair, where he helped with security efforts. I was honored to work directly with Tony to enhance Iowa State Fair safety for more than a million visitors by acquiring a security tower for the midway.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tony Vignaroli and the terrific impact he had on his community. I join his family and those closest to him in mourning his loss. May his memory never be forgotten.

HONORING BRIANA DANIEL 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, during a run in Orlando in 2013, Briana Daniel encountered the stark reality of homelessness. Motivated to help but inexperienced in addressing this issue, she chose to immerse herself by living among the Downtown Orlando homeless community for over a month.

Through firsthand experience and conversations with them, she discovered their profound need for dignity through cleanliness. This insight led her to establish Street Team Movement Inc., an organization dedicated to offering hygiene services to the homeless community.

“It’s hard to have dignity or feel like you have value when you have nowhere to wash and no way to clean your clothes or yourself,” said Daniel.

Street Team Movement Inc. provides laundry services to the unhoused and hygiene items distributed through their hygiene vending machines. The machines are accessible for free to the homeless through their proprietary “Hope Cards,” which are special access cards allowing the population a limited number of transactions per week.

“We believe in compassionate assistance, not just handouts. The ‘Hope Card’ allows us to help without enabling dependency. We provide individuals the means to access items, and services while preventing any misuse,” said Daniel.

In 2021, Street Team Movement launched a special program specifically for homeless women called Project Lioness. The program aims to bridge the hygiene gap for unhoused