

Lakota Medical Evacuation unit. Derek was no ordinary soldier; he was a seasoned veteran of 21 years, marked by acts of bravery, an expert aviator, and above all, a devoted family man. With over 3,000 flying hours under his belt, Derek's mastery of Army aircraft was unmatched. His accolades, including the Air Medal for valor and the Combat Action Badge, spoke volumes of his courage and skill in the face of adversity. Outside of his military service, Derek pursued his love for flying by working as an Emergency Medical Services pilot. With expertise in navigating the skies, he played a crucial role in delivering swift medical assistance to those in need. Derek's commitment to service and skill in the air left a lasting impact on the lives he touched.

Beyond his military prowess, Derek was a man of faith, a loving husband to Brandi, and a doting father to Chandler, Breanna, and Greyson. His family extended beyond blood, embracing exchange students Sarah Mirshahidi and Pauline Schult as their own.

Hailing from Itawamba County, Derek cherished his roots in Fulton, Mississippi, and held a deep love for his state and country. His unwavering dedication to duty and his ultimate sacrifice make him a true American hero and a source of pride for Mississippians everywhere. In these trying times, let us hold dear the memory of our fallen comrade and stand in solidarity with his grieving family. May Derek's legacy of honor and service endure eternally in our hearts and minds.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
LIFE AND LOSS OF A GREAT
COMMUNITY LEADER EDGAR
LAWRENCE "DOOKY" CHASE III

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and New Orleans icon, Edgar Lawrence "Dooky" Chase III. He was born in New Orleans on May 10, 1949, to Edgar L. "Dooky" Chase Jr. and Leah "Leah" Lange Chase. Mr. Chase was known for his role as an educator and a leader in our community. After years of mentoring, guiding, and serving others, Dooky passed away on February 21, 2024.

Mr. Chase grew up in the Tremé neighborhood, alongside his three sisters, Emily, Stella, and Leah. As owners of the renowned establishment Dooky Chase's Restaurant, Dooky's family has stood as a symbol of tradition and responsibility in our community. It was his family that instilled in him deep-rooted values and faith, which pushed him to become a force for all good in our society.

Chase's dedication to social progress was evident from a young age, through his efforts to promote voter registration with the NAACP's Youth committee in the 1960s. In 1967, he graduated from Jesuit High School, where he formed part of the first integrated class. He continued his path as a pioneer for social justice at Loyola University New Orleans, where he served as the first African American Class President. He then pursued a master's in business administration at Columbia University, followed by a law degree at Loyola University New Orleans.

After serving as Captain in the Marine Corps and working at Price Waterhouse Coopers, Dooky served as a faculty member and administrator at Dillard University in New Orleans. His commitment to serving others was evident throughout his 20 years at this institution, which culminated in a role as the Dean of the Business School. After years of mentoring students through this role, he decided to retire. However, this retirement did not last long, as Dooky graciously accepted a request by Dillard University to return as Vice President of Facilities to manage the school's rebuilding following Hurricane Katrina.

In addition to his achievements in his education and career, he served on numerous boards, commissions and councils throughout his life, some of which include the Chase Family Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League, New Orleans Public Radio (WNOE), Touro Hospital, The New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute (NOCHI), Metropolitan Crime Commission, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana, Inc., The New Orleans Opera Association, City of New Orleans Municipal Employees Retirement System, New Orleans Botanical Gardens, the Bureau of Governmental Research, Loyola University Board of Trustees, City Park Improvement Association, Inc., New Orleans Public Belt Railroad, Board of Trustees of Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, New Orleans Museum of Art, Millennium Port Authority of Louisiana, State Board of Economic Development, and State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

An avid reader, Dooky was enthralled with historical research, and storytelling. He was also a deeply spiritual, devout Catholic; often reflecting on the role his faith played in his philosophical commitments, and perspective on all aspects of life, if you were one of the lucky ones, you were able to get a glimpse of the book he was working on—"Running on Raindrops", a trilogy of historical fiction. His other works in progress included event planning for the Chase Family Foundations' annual Juneteenth celebration and fundraising events, and project management of the restaurant's Historic Upper Room renovations of the Dooky Chase Restaurant, where many Civil Rights Leaders met to discuss many of the country's segregation issues.

Mr. Chase had much to be proud of, yet his greatest source of pride was that which he felt for his family. On December 23, 1973, Dooky married the love of his life, Alva Jean, and in 1975, they welcomed twins Travis and Trevor into their lives. Seven years later, in 1982, they welcomed their third son, Edgar "Dooky" IV. The three boys went on to have their own children, who gave their grandfather the nickname "Big Daddy."

Edgar was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar "Dooky" L. Chase, Jr. and Leah "Leah" Lange Chase, his sister Emily Chase Haydel, brothers-in-law Wayne Reese Sr. and Gary Darensbourg. He is survived by his loving wife, Alva Jean Darensbourg Chase. His sons Travis Chase and Trevor Chase, Edgar "Dooky" Chase IV. Grandchildren: Caitlin and Zoe Chase; Ava and Trevor Chase, Jr.; and Sidney Chase and Edgar "Vito" L. Chase V. Daughter-in-law, Gretchen Fauria Chase, as well as former daughters-in-law, Chastity Haydel Chase and Minaxi Desai Chase. His sisters Stella Chase Reese and Leah Chase

Kamata. Brother-in-law James V. Haydel, Jr., Brother and Sister-in-law Glenda and James "Jimmy" Llorens, and Sister-in-law Phyllis Darensbourg and a host of nieces and nephews from the Haydel, Reese, Kamata, Darensbourg and Llorens families.

Edgar "Dooky" Chase, III was an inspiring and compassionate man. He mentored thousands of young people in Louisiana's Second Congressional District and was at his mother's side running the World Famous Dooky Chase Restaurant. My prayers are with the Chase Family as they continue to carry on the Chase Family Legacy. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING 25-YEAR ARMY
VETERAN SHELLIE WILLIS

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 25-year Army veteran Shellie Willis, a Pierce County-based leader in the veterans' advocacy space who empowers veterans to put the skills and knowledge they gained serving our nation to work in the civilian workforce.

As Founder and CEO of the Redefining You Foundation, Shellie shepherds a team of skilled life coaches and workforce development professionals to help transitioning servicemembers and their spouses reenter civilian life. With special attention to supporting female veterans, Shellie's organization provides professional and personal development training, connects retired servicewomen to job resources, and builds bespoke programs to help reorient and redefine the lifestyles of those seeking direction after their military careers. Shellie's spirit of service extends to her role as Senior Director of Collective Impact at WorkForce Central matching jobseekers with employment opportunities throughout Pierce County.

With the South Sound's significant active duty and veteran population, Shellie's work plays a critical role in putting transitioning servicemembers on pathways to post-service success. I commend Shellie's service to our country and our community and am proud to have her as my Constituent of the Month.

CONGRATULATING SUSAN SUBER,
WINNER OF DISTRICT 1 YOUNG
MARINE OF THE YEAR

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding young woman from my district, Susan Suber, who was recently named the District 1 Young Marine of the Year for a second year in a row. Young Marines District 1 is a region that encompasses 9 Northeastern U.S. states. Susan is a member of the Spartan Young Marines located in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, is a resident of Pipersville, Pennsylvania, and is currently a junior at Central Bucks East High School. Suber will proudly represent Division 1

in competition with five other division winners for the title of National Young Marine of the Year, the highest honor bestowed by the Young Marines organization nationally.

The Young Marines is a national non-profit youth education and service program for boys and girls, age eight through high school graduation. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork, and self-discipline, so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Suber joined the Young Marines at age nine and she currently holds the rank of Young Marine Sergeant Major. Over her eight years in the program, Suber has attended all three leadership schools available from Young Marines, and went on to teach leadership at some of these schools as an alumna.

Outside of Young Marines, Suber is busy with many hours spent as a Toys for Tots Mentor and Youth Ambassador. In this position she helped to inspire and teach fellow Youth Ambassador's not only about the program but how they can get more involved in the campaign and grow as leaders. This past year she was named one of the Youth Ambassador Mentors of the year on behalf of the Toys for Tots organization. In addition to her Toys for Tots national leadership, she is also a leader in her high school's vocational education program, assisting the school with teaching plans and curriculum development.

After high school, Suber plans to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps in the field of aviation. I wish her the best of luck in her endeavors, and I know that she will serve her community and country well.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 29, 2024, AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution, with my colleague, Rep. RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. Our resolution supports the designation of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February. I am pleased that this resolution has been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and am thankful for their leadership on these critical issues over many years.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. More than half of those struggling with rare diseases—defined as affecting less than 200,000 people—are children. Sadly, many rare diseases and conditions are serious, life-threatening, and lack effective treatments. These are not just statistics: I am sure most of us know at least one family member or friend who has been affected by or struggled with the unique challenges of rare diseases.

Moreover, as we observe Black History Month, it's important to know that African Americans and other minorities are especially vulnerable to rare diseases, including Sickle Cell Anemia and Sarcoidosis. These diseases

and conditions—including Thalassemia and Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) amyloidosis—disproportionately affect African Americans. Despite these unique obstacles, African Americans have an inspiring tradition of both combatting rare diseases and improving medical science.

One great example is Dr. Charles Drew, an African American scientist who helped found the modern "blood bank," which helped dramatically expand blood transfusions. A faculty member at Howard University, Dr. Drew's pioneering work in blood transfusions took place against the backdrop of segregation and discrimination. During his time overseeing the Red Cross's blood plasma donation program, Dr. Drew was prohibited from donating his own blood because of the color of his skin. Despite these obstacles, Dr. Drew's work improved the practice of blood transfusions, which is now a lifeline for many individuals struggling today with rare diseases. The examples of Dr. Drew and countless other researchers, physicians, nurses, activists, and patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More work needs to be done to bring attention to the needs of those who struggle with rare diseases, and to celebrate their courage. That's why Rep. HUDSON and I are reintroducing this important resolution. Each year, many individuals with rare diseases and their loved ones celebrate Rare Disease Day to share their stories and educate communities of researchers, health professionals, governments, and community organizations about how rare diseases affect them.

More than 100 countries observe Rare Disease Day. Our resolution expresses support for the designation of the last day of this month as Rare Disease Day. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting Rare Disease Day's designation on the last day of February to better champion people with rare diseases. I urge the House to support this resolution.

DOCUMENTED HISTORY OF THE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AT ROSEWOOD, FLORIDA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, the state of Florida commissioned Professors Maxine D. Jones, Larry E. Rivers, David R. Colburn, William R. Rogers, and Tom Dye to write and submit to the Florida Board of Regents a documented report of what occurred at the site of Rosewood in Levy County Florida during the first week of January, 1923.

The findings of that report can be found at: <http://edocs.dlis.state.fl.us/fldocs/regents/rosewood.pdf>.

CELEBRATING EL PASO ELECTRIC

HON. TONY GONZALES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an important milestone in my district. Today, El Paso Electric is unveiling Newman Unit 6—a cutting edge, 228 megawatt natural gas combustion turbine generating power plant. This state-of-the-art facility will replace three older, less-efficient units with a robust energy supply equipped to meet the growing needs of the El Paso region.

Situated at the Newman Power Station in El Paso, TX, this project exemplifies El Paso Electric's dedication to enhancing energy reliability and minimizing wasteful practices. By utilizing modern natural gas technology, this project will optimize gas usage and reduce water consumption by an impressive 600 million gallons annually.

Additionally, alongside maintaining a robust natural gas power supply, this initiative makes significant investments in renewable energy. Such diversification is integral for fostering a resilient power grid fit for the demands of the 21st century.

Supporting a strong energy sector is a key priority of mine in this Chamber. I fundamentally believe that energy security is national security and that safeguarding jobs, such as those generated by this project, is paramount. Witnessing the fruition of this development fills me with pride.

I applaud El Paso Electric for their unwavering commitment to bolstering energy reliability and security in the El Paso region. Their tireless efforts ensure that our energy grid remains strong and can keep our lights on around the clock.

HONORING COLONEL ELVERT L. GARDNER

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I, along with the people of St. Louis, rise today to honor the exceptional career of Colonel Elvert L. Gardner. This March, Col. Gardner will retire with over 30 years of active duty military service.

Col. Gardner is a St. Louis native who graduated from Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School in 1988. He was commissioned in May 1993 through the Reserved Officer Training Corps at the distinguished Detachment 015, Tuskegee University, home of the Tuskegee Airmen. Upon receiving his commission as Second Lieutenant in 1993, Col. Gardner spent 26 years in the U.S. Air Force before transferring to the U.S. Space Force. In 2015, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel, further signifying his excellent leadership and resolve.

As the Director of Space Strategy, Policy, and Plans at U.S. Space Force headquarters and the Pentagon, Col. Gardner consistently dedicated himself to supporting national security objectives. Other examples of his commitment to supporting our Nation include his roles