

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

as Space Force Service Chair, National Security Studies Department Chair, and Assistant Professor at the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. In each of these positions, Col. Gardner has distinguished himself as an individual who leads with full intention to serve the community at large.

Col. Gardner has demonstrated exceptional leadership, courage, perseverance, and hope throughout his career. His retirement is a well-earned milestone over the course of his professional life. We thank Col. Gardner for his remarkable service to our country, and I know his beloved niece, our dear sister and friend, Cora Faith Walker, would be incredibly proud of her uncle and his outstanding career. On behalf of Missouri's First District, I send my heartfelt congratulations to Col. Gardner on his retirement after 30 years of service in the U.S. military.

CELEBRATING GENERAL EDWARD  
GREER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the distinguished life and extraordinary military career of General Edward Greer, a remarkable individual whose legacy has left an indelible mark on our nation, as he approaches his 100th birthday.

Born in the coal-mining town of Gary, West Virginia, General Greer's journey began at West Virginia State College in 1942, where he enrolled during an era of racial segregation. However, his education was interrupted by World War II, leading him to serve in the 777th Field Artillery Battalion, an all-Black unit. By the war's end, he had risen to the esteemed rank of Master Sergeant. Returning to civilian life, General Greer resumed his studies at West Virginia State College, where he met and married Jewell Means. Their union, forged on May 31, 1948, endured for more than 72 years.

Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Regular Army in 1940, General Greer sought stability in the military, serving with distinction for 33 years. His early assignments in Japan coincided with the outbreak of the Korean War, where he earned the Silver Star for valor. Promoted through the ranks, General Greer's military career traversed Germany, Oklahoma, Kansas, and the Pentagon, witnessing the Army's integration and earning promotions to Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel. His family grew to include three children: Michael, Kenneth, and Gail.

In 1970, Colonel Greer served in Vietnam before becoming a trailblazer in military history. Selected for promotion to Brigadier General in 1972, he joined an esteemed group of Black officers, contributing to the integration of the Army's general officer ranks. Retiring in 1976 after 33 years of dedicated service, General Greer made El Paso his home. With his beloved wife Jewell, he became an active member of the community, engaging in real estate sales and contributing to various civic boards.

The Greers' post-Army life was a testament to their commitment to service and community.

It is with profound gratitude and respect that we honor General Edward Greer's legacy, a legacy that exemplifies the highest ideals of duty, honor, and love for our great nation, and wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP  
CARLTON PEARSON

**HON. RO KHANNA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the selfless life of Bishop Carlton Pearson who passed away last November at the age of 70. Bishop Carlton Pearson was an evangelist, ministry leader, author, and award-winning singer. He was raised in San Diego, California with five siblings. He is survived by them, his wife, and his two children.

An expert in many crafts, his congregation often praised his diverse passions and the limitless communities impacted by his work. He preached what he called a gospel of inclusion. He saw all human life as an integral part of a broader community. He was welcomed in Synagogues, Islamic groups, Atheist and Agnostic organizations, and a variety of other spiritual communities. He felt a mandate to strive for peace through an emphasis on inclusion in spirituality and interfaith fellowship.

I commend him again today and emphasize his teaching that we don't have to go along to get along. That we can mind many of the same things without necessarily having the same mind about everything. We honor the life of Bishop Carlton Pearson, the legacy he left won't be soon forgotten. I include in the RECORD this Rolling Stone Magazine memoir about how he has inspired generations to come.

HOW BISHOP CARLTON PEARSON INSPIRED A  
GENERATION OF SINGERS AND GOSPEL ARTISTS  
(By Meagan Jordan)

Bishop Carlton Pearson, a renowned preacher, singer and composer, known for his *Live At Azusa* albums, died on November 19 after a battle with cancer in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

His theology, known as the "gospel of inclusion," preached against homophobia and embraced the LGBTQ community, but cost him his congregation and approval within the evangelical community. However, his message of inclusion and his denial of hell has become a model, and his impact in gospel music continues to inspire new generations of artists.

"He has an album of hymns that people would sing in the Black church for communion like 'I Know it Was The Blood,' or his version of 'Precious Memories,' gospel artist and former *Destiny's Child* member Michelle Williams tells *Rolling Stone*, referring to Pearson's *Live At Azusa 2: Precious Memories* album from 1997. "He amplified those songs and made them mainstream for church."

Pearson was born and raised in San Diego, California, where his father and grandfather were preacher men in a storefront "heaven or hell" Pentecostal church. After graduating high school, he attended Oral Roberts University, an evangelical Christian University, where Oral Roberts, a white preacher who had the leading religious television broadcast in the Seventies, was the school's founder. Roberts mentored Pearson as he navigated the ministerial realm.

Pearson left the school before graduating in 1977, starting his own church, Higher Dimensions. With over 6,000 members, it would make him one of the first Black mega church pastors, bringing Black churches into a mainstream space in the Nineties and 2000s.

"In the Seventies, here in the West, the church was on a decline," says Larry Reid, a pastor, media personality and friend to Pearson. "You had evangelistic campaigns all over the U.S., but it was fading away and Black people were not leading it. We were the musicians and the singers. But Carlton Pearson created a stage called *Azusa* and brought Black Christians in and the white stations would play clips from his platform."

Pearson's *Azusa* Conferences, which were inspired by the 1906 revival that took place on *Azusa Street* in Los Angeles, were a hybrid of preaching and music. It gave preachers, like Joyce Meyers, Michael Pitts, Bishop T.D. Jakes, and gospel heavyweights, such as Donnie McClurkin, the Clark Sisters, and the late Lashun Pace, agency and a platform to showcase their talents and introduce them to a wider audience of people. The conference, which was held at Pearson's old university, Oral Roberts, would host thousands of guests. For those who could not attend, they were taped and sold via VHS, which gave way to many successful careers in television ministry and gospel music.

"I had always known his music for many years before I became an artist," says Ricky Dillard, a renowned gospel artist and composer, known for his choirs and directorial abilities. "He had a choir with him and that was influential to me. He was out here doing it at an A-1 level, so everyone was a fan. If you're a gospel music lover, there's no way that you could not have heard the music of Bishop Carlton Pearson."

Pearson's album *The Best of Azusa . . . Yet Holdin' On* is a staple in the Black community. On the 14-track album, featuring songs from his *Azusa* conference days, he has an oratory track called "Mother Sherman Story," in which he recounts a question an elderly mother from his home church would ask him, even as dementia began to set in: "You yet holding on?"—The album's title.

"That meant many things," explains Williams. "It meant keep holding on to your faith and also meant keep holding on to your morals and your standards."

In the late Nineties, Pearson—who not only studied his bible but also studied its roots, foundations, and original language of Hebrew—came to a realization that would shake the foundation of his faith and his social standing within the church.

"When my little girl was an infant, I was watching the evening news and the Hutus and the Tutsis were returning to Rwanda from Uganda,?" Pearson recalled on an episode of *This American Life* from December 2005. "I'm watching these little kids with swollen bellies, their skin is stretched. . . Their hair is kind of red from malnutrition and they have flies on the corner of their eyes and mouths."

Pearson thought of his baby, who is now 27 year-old Majeste Pearson—a pop and gospel singer—and his big screen television and the plate of food he was in the middle of eating. Knowing the culture of the people on the screen and assuming they were not all Christian, he said, "God, I don't know how you can call yourself a loving, sovereign God and allow these people to suffer this way and just suck them right into hell." Pearson heard a voice saying "Can't you see they're already there? That's hell. You keep creating that for yourselves, I'm taking them into my presence." Pearson had a realization: "We do that to ourselves and to each other," he recalled in the podcast episode.

The next Sunday, he shared his revelation to his congregation, urging them to stop