

bookstores in the St. Petersburg area and notably the Shirley Proctor Puller Foundation, Junior League of St. Pete, and the Juvenile Welfare Board to ensure every child that comes to his Barber Shop has the opportunity to enhance their literary skills.

When Mr. Brown is not at the Barber Shop serving local children, he serves his neighbors as the 13th President of St. Pete Heights Neighborhood Association, a St. Petersburg Sunshine City Ambassador, and a Pinellas Barbering College Instructor.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the St. Petersburg community, I am proud to recognize Antonio Brown for his selfless community service and dedication to fostering a safe environment for children to grow and thrive. Mr. Brown's commitment to increasing childhood literacy is a priceless investment helping our future generations one haircut at a time.

HONORING THE REVEREND
GEORGE LEE MUSEUMS OF AFRICAN
AMERICAN HISTORY AND
HERITAGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, The Reverend George Lee Museums of African American History and Heritage.

The Reverend George Lee Museums of African American History and Heritage is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located at 17150 Highway 49 in Belzoni, Mississippi.

Who is Rev. George W. Lee? Rev. George W. Lee was a pivotal figure in the fight for civil rights for Black Americans. He is recognized as the first person to die in this struggle. His name holds a place of honor as the first among 40 names listed on the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama. Rev. Lee was a prominent Baptist pastor in Belzoni, Mississippi, where he led a congregation. He was deeply committed to the cause of civil rights and served as a local official for the NAACP. Rev. Lee tirelessly encouraged his congregation to register and exercise their right to vote, recognizing that meaningful change for Black citizens in Mississippi, a state marked by racial discrimination, could only be achieved through the ballot box.

The mission of The Reverend George Lee Museums of African American History and Heritage is to safeguard and celebrate history, culture, arts, and heritage within the African American community. Through various programs and initiatives, the museum aims to increase awareness and appreciation of African American and Mississippi's history, while fostering racial harmony and a deeper understanding of cultural diversity. Collaborating with existing projects and organizations, as well as establishing new initiatives, the museum endeavors to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of the Mississippi Delta. The museum's primary focus areas include Blues, Gospel, Civil Rights, and the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Reverend George Lee Museums of African American History and Heritage for their passion and dedication to serving their community and the state of Mississippi.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
ROBERT "BOB" RAMIREZ

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Robert "Bob" Ramirez, who passed away at the age of 78.

Robert, a lifelong Angelino and founding member of the El Rio Veterans Collaborative, leaves behind a legacy of dedicated service and community leadership.

A proud graduate of Cathedral High School, Bob's career path led him from the Southern Pacific Railroad to the U.S. Air Force in 1965. His deployment to Vietnam in 1966 as a security police specialist with a scout patrol fire team earned him the Air Force Commendation Medal for his meritorious service.

Following his military service, Bob's commitment to advocacy and representation was evident in his role as general chairman for IBEW, where he tirelessly served for over 30 years.

His pursuit of knowledge culminated in a degree from California State University, Los Angeles, and he shared his expertise as a professor at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. Bob's impact is felt not only through his professional and academic contributions but also through his role as a founding member of the El Rio Veterans Collaborative. He is survived by his wife, Caroline, and their two children.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone will join me in mourning the loss of Robert "Bob" Ramirez and celebrating his life of service.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH
ANNIVERSARY OF MxD

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of MxD, a Chicago-area manufacturing innovation institute.

Manufacturing times Digital, of MxD, was announced by President Barack Obama on February 25, 2014 as a partnership between private sector and federal government military focusing on digital manufacturing and design. MxD advances national security and economic prosperity by strengthening U.S. manufacturing competitiveness through technological innovation, workforce development, and cybersecurity preparedness. With nearly 240,000 manufacturers and 14 million manufacturing workers in the United States, MxD's work in digital technology adoption, cybersecurity readiness, and workforce development is essential to national economic competitiveness.

Over the past decade, MxD has launched a virtual training center to educate the next generation of manufacturing sector employees, worked closely with the Department of Defense to modernize manufacturing facilities, and supported local and federal pandemic-related needs throughout the COVID-19 crisis. MxD has received numerous awards and been recognized consistently for its leadership and innovation. These are just a few accomplish-

ments that the institute has achieved over the past decade, and I am excited to see what comes next. With nearly 300 members across industry, academia, and government, MxD is constantly advancing the field of manufacturing, and I am honored to have such an organization here in my district.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S
TRAILBLAZER DR. CYNTHIA
JOHNSON, IN HONOR OF BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to celebrate a true public servant, Dr. Cynthia Johnson. Her commitment to service in the community began at an early age while she accompanied her mother on weekly deliveries for Meals on Wheels and participated in other community service endeavors. Dr. Johnson developed a compassionate determination to make a positive impact on others' lives. Her family's unwavering support, appreciation for diversity, and the passion to serve others have shaped her servant leadership style.

Dr. Johnson is a native of St. Petersburg, where she grew up as the youngest of eight children. Her early experiences in the local public school system instilled in her a deep appreciation for education. She is a first-generation college student and received her bachelor's degree in education from Florida Memorial University and a doctorate in educational leadership & organization from Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Johnson also received her certification from Cornell University in diversity, equity, and inclusion and she later received the distinguished certification as a Master Economic Development Practitioner.

Dr. Johnson has more than 24 years of experience in economic development and over 27 years in leadership training and development. She has worked in Pinellas County government since 2000, where she currently serves as the Director of Pinellas County Economic Development. In her dual role as the Director of the Pinellas County Economic Development and a community change agent, she is committed to lighting the way for others.

Dr. Johnson has a wealth of knowledge in diversity, equity and inclusion. She is a fierce advocate for public policies and business practices that lift people, businesses and non-profits agencies. As a trusted advisor to businesses large and small, government agencies, policymakers, and community leaders throughout Florida, she has built her career around the diverse and inclusive space of economic development. As an economic development practitioner, trainer, mentor, and educator, she has supported hundreds of individuals with the creation, retention, and expansion of their businesses. She specializes in partner relations, federal and state grants management and compliance, business and strategic planning, entrepreneurial development, finance, and small business innovation.

She is also passionate about cultivating the next generation of leaders and dedicates her free time to mentorship and community involvement. Dr. Johnson is a member of the St.

Petersburg Chapter of the Links and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has served on numerous boards including the Grow Smarter Steering Committee at the St. Petersburg Area Chamber, Chair of the Enterprise Florida Urban Working Group, Chair of Small Business Vendor Relations for Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa, and member of the Moffitt Cancer Center African American Advisory Board. She also actively supports the National Negro College Fund and advocates for participation in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the United States. Dr. Johnson is married to "the best husband ever," Kevin, and for over 21 years their four children and blended family have urged her on in service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I am honored to recognize the outstanding accomplishments, leadership and service of Dr. Cynthia Johnson and her dedicated commitment to diversity and uplifting her neighbors in the Tampa Bay community.

HONORING THE EMMETT TILL HISTORIC INTREPID CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, The Emmett Till Historic Intrepid Center (E.T.H.I.C. Museum).

The Emmett Till Historic Intrepid Center, also known as the E.T.H.I.C. Museum, is situated in Glendora, Mississippi (Tallahatchie County). This historic town holds significance as the birthplace of Sonny Boy Williamson II, a legendary figure celebrated as the "King of the Harmonica." Since its inception in August 2005 under the visionary leadership of Mayor Johnny B. Thomas, the E.T.H.I.C. Museum has emerged as a beacon of remembrance and resilience, offering a sanctuary for reflection and education. As the first and sole museum dedicated to Emmett Till, the E.T.H.I.C. Museum holds a sacred responsibility to honor his memory and preserve his legacy. It stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of justice and reconciliation, bearing witness to the tumultuous chapters of history while striving to illuminate pathways towards healing and renewal.

Housed in a former cotton gin once owned by J.W. Milam, one of Emmett's abductors, the museum's mission is to provide an immersive, thought-provoking, and educational journey to preserve and celebrate the historical and cultural heritage of Glendora, Tallahatchie County, and Mississippi.

Through its diverse programs and initiatives, the museum seeks to raise awareness of African American and Mississippi's history, while promoting racial harmony and a deeper understanding of cultural diversity. By collaborating with existing projects and organizations and spearheading new initiatives, the museum endeavors to uphold and promote the rich cultural legacy of the Mississippi Delta.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Emmett Till Historic Intrepid Center, as a beacon of inspiration, driven by an unwavering dedication to enhancing our community and the esteemed state of Mississippi.

HONORING HIS EXCELLENCY
MARKO DJURIC, AMBASSADOR
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO
THE UNITED STATES

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding service of His Excellency Mr. Marko Djuric, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Serbia to the United States of America. Ambassador Djuric is an exceptional diplomat who has dedicated his career to expanding Serbia's relationships across the globe and shepherding his country's accession into the European Union.

Ambassador Djuric assumed his duties as Ambassador to the United States in January 2021. In his three years of diplomatic service in Washington D.C., Ambassador Djuric has made countless contributions to the 140-year-old United States-Serbia relationship.

In Congress, the Ambassador substantially expanded the Serbian Caucus, forging new relationships on Capitol Hill while strengthening bonds with American industry through a series of working visits.

I was proud to host him in my district last year to connect him with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and some of California's most innovative and influential companies. I am hopeful that the Ambassador's visit to my district will lead to permanent partnerships in the areas of fundamental physics, critical materials development, and other pressing issues of our time.

Under Ambassador Djuric's leadership, the United States became Serbia's number one trade partner in software and IT services, and the Serbian-American Business Council was established to promote US businesses inside of Serbia. He has also worked to promote the Open Balkan Initiative, which aims to bring more political and economic stability to the Western Balkans region.

I have had the pleasure of visiting Serbia twice, with the Ambassador serving as my host and guide. During those trips, I met with the Serbian President to discuss assistance to Ukraine and visited United States businesses with significant operations in Belgrade. We've also discussed, at length, the unique impact that wine production has on our regions.

I have the honor of calling Ambassador Djuric a true friend. The people of Serbia and of the United States owe Ambassador Djuric thanks for his steadfast service to his homeland and for his honesty and curiosity about our shared future.

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GREENWOOD AUTISM CENTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Truman State University in my district in Missouri. Since 2015, Truman State and its partners have been working to create the Greenwood

Interprofessional Autism Center. The Greenwood Center is now fully operational.

But before I talk more about the new Center, let me tell you about Truman State University. Truman State was founded in 1867 in Kirksville, Missouri and is Missouri's only statewide public liberal arts and sciences university. Truman is consistently ranked among the nation's best colleges. For 26 consecutive years, U.S. News and World Report has recognized Truman as the No. 1 public university in the Midwest Regional category. They also gave Truman a No. 1 ranking for "Best Undergraduate Teaching," and Truman has rated No. 1 on the list of "Best Value Schools" in the region.

Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disorder in the United States. The Center will provide in-depth, interdisciplinary assessment and intervention for those with autism or suspected autism, as well as other neuro-developmental disorders in Northeast Missouri where these services do not exist. The Center will provide applied behavior analysis (ABA) services internally and work with a variety of external partners to meet the needs of the people the Center will serve. All partners will work within the Center's model and guidelines to ensure consistency, quality, and collaboration.

The Center also provides high-quality training for students at Truman State University. Licensed professionals will supervise Truman students enrolled in health-related academic programs (Applied Behavior Analysis, communication disorders, counseling, education, exercise science, health science, nursing, and psychology).

I congratulate Truman State and its partners for creating this Center that will bring invaluable and much needed resources to the families and children of Northeast Missouri.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S
TRAILBLAZER DR. KANIKA
TOMALIN, IN HONOR OF BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the remarkable contributions and achievements of a life-long servant leader, Dr. Kanika Tomalin. Dr. Tomalin has devoted her life to improving access and opportunity for the underserved—who are not undeserved of opportunity.

For more than a decade, Dr. Tomalin served in key leadership positions at Bayfront Health which fueled her passion for a healthier St. Petersburg. She is the first Black woman to serve as a healthcare executive at Bayfront Health and while there, she led the creation of the joint venture partnership that resulted in the formation of the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg.

In 2014, she was appointed St. Petersburg deputy mayor by Mayor Rick Kriseman and is the first Black woman to serve in that role. Dr. Tomalin helped launch numerous initiatives that have made St. Petersburg more vital, inclusive and healthier, including founding the Innovation District and Healthy St. Pete, which both helped reduce the Black poverty rate to