

three years and received a "Best of the Bay 2021" nomination for Best Walking Tour. Madame Fortune was born into slavery and, after gaining her freedom, became a Tampa businesswoman who owned more than 30 acres of land in the late 1880s but sold it as part of an agreement that a bridge be built over the river which would connect East and West Tampa. The historic bridge was built in 1892 and named after Taylor.

Ms. Royster is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but life has taken her many places, and she considers Chicago, Illinois home, where she raised her only child Ike Murray, Jr. (ret. USAF), and where four of her seven siblings live. Ms. Royster has a passion for her two strengths, caring for others or writing about them. After high school she taught and cared for 2-year-olds at a pre-school in Raleigh, North Carolina before entering the hospitality industry. While in college she was hired as a Feature Writer for Muhammad Speaks Newspaper in Chicago (later Bilalian News and The American Muslim Journal).

While observing her story subjects she caught the hospitality bug again and left journalism for several years.

When she lived in Atlanta, Ms. Royster worked as a community grassroots organizer and was nicknamed the "The Quiet Riot." It was at this time she was encouraged by her mother, Ms. Doris L. Muhammad Royster to write children's books. Ms. Royster wrote her first children's book manuscript while spending time with her young nephew. He was a window to her destiny. She wrote her second children's book manuscript "GO! In The Snow" and self-published in 2019. Her third children's book manuscript, "Al Li Gator and J. Louis Bat", which takes place at the Bat House in Tampa near the Historic Fortune Taylor Bridge will be released this spring and we will see other book projects in the future.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I am honored to recognize Ms. Gloria Jean Royster for her outstanding contributions to keep our local Black history alive and using it to create positive change in the future as well as her selfless acts of community service in uplifting her neighbors.

RECOGNIZING SETH UTTERBACK

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I rise today to recognize a remarkable student currently attending classes at Cass Job Corps, located in Franklin County, within the bounds of Arkansas' esteemed Fourth Congressional District. Seth Utterback embodies the spirit of dedication, leadership, and excellence that we strive to cultivate in our youth.

Throughout his time at Cass Job Corps, Seth has experienced tremendous growth and success, particularly within the culinary program where he has truly distinguished himself. Serving as both a dorm president and lead chef in the culinary arts trade, Seth exemplifies servant leadership, tirelessly ensuring that his fellow students feel welcome and supported on campus. His commitment to the success of others is truly commendable.

Seth's passion for culinary arts is evident in his unwavering dedication to honing his skills. His natural talent, coupled with his strong communication and teamwork abilities, sets him apart as a standout student and a valued team player. Whether he is mastering new techniques or assisting his classmates, Seth consistently goes above and beyond, embodying the values of reliability, respect, and positivity.

In addition to his exemplary academic and leadership achievements, Seth has been selected to represent Cass Job Corps at the Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., a testament to his exceptional leadership qualities. Furthermore, his participation in the Work Experience Program through WIOA has provided him with invaluable real-world skills and experiences under the guidance of Mr. Mike Brown, further preparing him for success in his future endeavors.

Looking ahead, Seth's ambitions extend beyond the borders of Arkansas as he plans to attend Treasure Island Job Corps in California, with the long-term goal of becoming a chef on a cruise line. His determination, outstanding work ethic, and unwavering commitment to his dreams serve as an inspiration to us all.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Seth Utterback on his achievements and in wishing him continued success as he embarks on the next chapter of his journey. Seth is truly a testament to the limitless potential of our Nation's youth, and I have no doubt that he will continue to make us proud in all his future endeavors.

HONORING CHIEF PATRICK PARKER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, Chief Patrick Parker grew up in Petoskey, Michigan as the oldest of 11 children and carried with him from a young age a sense of duty and responsibility. In high school, Chief Parker played football for the Petoskey Northmen, was a Proud Eagle Scout of Troop 7, and graduated in 1979. Chief Parker then attended North Central Michigan College where he earned an Associate's Degree and later received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Lake Superior State College.

Chief Parker started his fire service career in 1983 as a volunteer and morphed into a part-paid/on-call firefighter and EMT. He filled many roles such as Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, and Battalion Chief; and in 2004, he was promoted to the rank of full-time Deputy Chief. On January 1, 2006, Parker became the Chief of the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department, encouraging his members to foster an atmosphere where everyone is empowered to give their best and live up to the credo: *Omnis Cedo Domus—Everyone Goes Home*.

Additionally, Chief Parker is involved professionally in the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs Board, Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs Association Board, Grand Traverse County Local Emergency Planning Committee, Local Planning Team and 911 Advisory Board. Chief Parker is the founding member of MI-Mutual

Aid Box Alarm System Division 3701, which at the time of its founding included all of Region-7. He is the chairperson of the MABAS-Michigan Special Operations Work Group, the State's Urban Search and Rescue Team, overseeing Michigan Task Force-1. Chief Parker was Michigan's representative to the Great Lakes Division (GLD) of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and he currently is the immediate past president of the GLD.

Always looking for new ways to help his community, Chief Parker is involved with many local boards and committees, serving as the President of the American Red Cross—Northern Michigan, Camps and Services member of the Rotary Club of Traverse City, board member of the Rotary Camps & Services with the Knights of Columbus No. 9979, and board member of the Michigan Crossroads Council—Boy Scouts of America. He is the founding member and President of the Grand Traverse Region First Responder Alliance, a 501(c)(3) organization founded to find solutions to the unmet needs of the region's first responders.

Chief Parker is also a dedicated husband, enjoying 39 years of marriage to his wife Michelle and their 3 golden retrievers. In his spare time, he is known for being an avid hiker, hunter, and Great Lakes boater, and he enjoys camping and snowmobiling in the wintertime.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Chief Patrick Parker on an exemplary career and legacy of giving back to his community. I thank him for his humble service and wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY HOLZENDORF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is in the spirit of bereavement that I rise to recognize the remarkable life of former Florida State Senator Betty Holzendorf. As a dedicated public servant, community leader, and advocate for social justice, her impact on the city of Jacksonville and the great State of Florida and its people will be felt for generations to come.

Senator Holzendorf passed away on February 29, 2024 at the age of 84.

As a lifelong resident of Jacksonville, Senator Holzendorf dedicated her life to the betterment of her community. She received her bachelor's degree from Edward Waters University and her master's in educational administration from the University of North Florida, the latter of which has a road named after her on campus.

As a former public school teacher and administrator at her alma mater, Edward Waters University, she was committed to quality education and began her career in public service in 1975 as an affirmative action officer under Jacksonville Mayor Hans Tanzler. Following several years of service in this role, she joined the staff of Jacksonville Mayor Jake Godbold as City Council liaison, where she developed the political skills that would catapult her into the Florida House of Representatives in 1988.

Throughout her esteemed career, Senator Holzendorf championed causes that uplifted the most vulnerable members of her community. Whether it was fighting for affordable housing, advocating for quality education, or promoting access to healthcare, she never wavered in her dedication to improving the lives of her constituents, especially children.

Senator Holzendorf's passion for justice and equality was matched only by her unwavering determination to create positive change. After four years in the Florida House, she served with distinction in the Florida State Senate from 1992 to 2002, where her leadership earned her the respect and admiration of colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Beyond her legislative accomplishments, Senator Holzendorf was a pillar of her community, known for her kindness, compassion, and incredible cooking. Her impact extended far beyond the boundaries of Tallahassee and Jacksonville, truly touching the lives of countless individuals throughout Florida.

My heart is with Senator Holzendorf's family during this time of mourning. May they find solace in knowing that her legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all who had the privilege of knowing her, and may her memory be for a blessing.

HONORING THE EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. MYCHAL THREETS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the critical contributions of Mr. Mychal Threets to the Solano County community. As the Supervising Librarian at the Fairfield Civic Center Library and a social media content creator, Mr. Threets impacted the lives of countless youth in the Solano community and beyond.

As a homeschooled student in Solano County, Mr. Threets grew up taking advantage of the wide array of resources and services offered at his local library and received his first library card at just five years old. After earning his master's degree in library information science, Mr. Threets began working at the Fairfield Civic Center Library in 2013 and helped expand the library programs and resources that were fundamental to his education.

With the growing mental health crisis and declining literacy rates, Mr. Threets took to social media to discuss the vital emotional health resources and educational services that libraries provide. He wanted to ensure people knew that libraries are not just places with books but offer something for everyone. Through his social media posts, Mr. Threets shared stories about the vital role libraries play in people's lives and the "library joy" he sees in action every day. Mr. Threets used his viral social media presence to spread kindness and inspire American youth to fall in love with reading and libraries, just as he did.

For his advocacy and outspoken love of libraries, Mr. Threets was one of 10 librarians across the country to win the I Love My Librarian Award for Public Service. While Mr. Threets will be stepping away from his role in

the Solano County Library, I know he will continue striving to improve the Solano community and increase literacy rates for young children. I look forward to seeing his work to expand access to educational resources and make our communities more inclusive.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S TRAILBLAZER WALLACE Z. BOWERS, 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 distinguished individual of the Tampa Bay community, Mr. Wallace Z. Bowers. Supported by his wife, Lois Bowers, and son, Warren Lyle Bowers, his lifelong dedication to community service, advocacy, and leadership embodies the spirit of stewardship we all must strive towards.

Mr. Bowers grew up in Bascom, FL, the 11th of 13 children. In describing his upbringing, Mr. Bowers considered himself a "country boy," and often recalls the lessons of hard work and "making a difference" which his parents instilled in him and his siblings. This foundation inspired a call to service in the U.S. Army and later, his decades of community service within the Tampa Bay community. After returning from military service, Mr. Bowers moved to Tampa, Florida, eventually settling in a little community called Progress Village. He went on to study at the University of Tampa, Tampa Bible College and Florida Theological Seminary & Bible College.

Mr. Bowers was an early member of the Progress Village Civic Council, a Tampa-based community organization which played a pivotal role in offsetting the displacement of African Americans during the Civil Rights era. He also co-founded and served as President from 1986 until 1996 of the Progress Village Foundation which provides scholarships to local students. Mr. Bowers also played a pivotal role in rezoning negotiations with the Hillsborough County Commission, resulting in significant benefits for the community, including the revitalization of the Progress Village Park, and various other improvements.

Mr. Bowers' commitment to public service is also exemplified by his gubernatorial appointment to the Florida Housing Authority from 1983 to 1989, where he served as Chair during the later years of his tenure. Additionally, his dedication to transportation and community development is reflected in his roles as a county appointee to the Hillsborough County Regional Transit Authority (HART) and as a past member of the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board and Tampa Streetcar Board.

Throughout his life Mr. Bowers has invested in the communities and people of Tampa. And often recalling his parents' teachings of hard work and making a difference, Mr. Bowers was always aware of his higher calling as a spiritual leader. He was the Vice Moderator of the Mount Pilgrim Association for six years and is currently a member of the Progressive M & E Baptist State Convention of Florida and

National Baptist Convention of America International, Inc. As a licensed and ordained minister, he led and pastored the Saint Mary Missionary Baptist Church from 1996 to 2018 being given the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus.

In 1970, Mr. Bowers founded his own real estate business and has been practicing for over five decades. His entrepreneurial spirit also led him to own and operate Bowers Barber Shop. Mr. Bowers served as the Property Manager for the Progress Village Shopping Center and Progressive M & E Baptist State Convention Headquarters, always working hard and always making a difference.

Mr. Bowers has stated that for any community to progress and move forward we all must take an interest in improving the welfare of our fellow citizens. Not only has he led by that example for decades, but he has helped establish a foundation in the community that would ensure future generations, regardless of where they were from or the challenges they face so that they have the appropriate educational, economic, and social opportunities needed to achieve success.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Wallace Z. Bowers, whose work is engraved in the streets of our Tampa community. His legacy of service, leadership, and hard work serve as an inspiration to future generations.

HONORING JOHN S. JOSSELL

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 John Jossell.

John Jossell was born in Jackson, Mississippi, on December 2, 1985, to Michael and Evelyn Jossell. He is the second oldest of five siblings and spent his early years in Clarksdale, Mississippi. After attending Clarksdale Municipal School District, he later moved to Marks, Mississippi.

During his upbringing in Quitman County, John discovered a passion for teaching as he practiced with his siblings. This passion led him to graduate from Madison S. Palmer High School with a strong desire to pursue a teaching career.

Choosing Rust College as his alma mater, John focused his studies on English, the subject he was most passionate about teaching. As a student at Rust, he actively participated in the Baptist Student Union Gospel Choir and became a member of the esteemed Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. After graduating in 2009, John's mother encouraged him to begin his teaching career in his hometown at Quitman County School District.

Starting as a first-year teacher at Quitman County Middle School, John taught Reading. He thoroughly enjoyed the learning environment, the students, and the educational culture. Motivated to enhance his teaching skills, he pursued a master's degree in Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment from Walden University. This program equipped him with effective tools and assessment techniques to better educate his students. Transitioning to Madison S. Palmer High School, John faced the challenge of preparing students for the English II state test. Despite the difficulties, he found