

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

great fulfillment in inspiring his students to excel academically beyond the Mississippi Delta. Recognizing his passion for teaching, several individuals encouraged him to explore administrative roles.

Building on his master's degree, John decided to pursue a specialist degree in Educational Leadership and Administration. While serving as the Assistant Principal of Madison S. Palmer High School, he continued to teach English II. Although demanding, John's determination propelled him to succeed in his position. During his tenure, numerous students pursued higher education outside of Mississippi, fulfilling their college dreams.

Presently, John serves as the principal of Quitman County Middle School as he diligently works towards his doctorate degree in Educational Leadership & Administration from Walden University. Guided by the scripture, "Do everything with Love" (1 Corinthians 16:14), he brings this spirit to his interactions with the faculty, staff, and students at Quitman County School District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. John Jossell for his dedication in serving his school and community.

HONORING THE RETURN OF SHEN YUN TO THE DAVID H. KOCH THEATER AT LINCOLN CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the return of the Shen Yun Performing Arts Company to the David H. Koch theater at Lincoln Center in New York City in April 2024.

Shen Yun Performing Arts was established in New York in 2006 and has become a worldwide phenomenon as they travel to 180 cities every year to perform. Millions of people travel to see this unique performance time and time again and with the development of new dances each year, the performers, choreographers, and conductors continually develop an amazing show for all to enjoy.

The ancient Chinese traditions that are rooted in virtue, faith, and moral values are brought to life in the performances that feature dancing and singing with performers wearing intricate costumes. Artistic freedom is essential to a society and Shen Yun expresses that ideal in the face of continued opposition from the Chinese government.

I had the privilege of meeting many members of the Shen Yun community located in my district and watched the performance in Washington, D.C. It was a huge honor to see such talent.

I want to thank the members of Shen Yun for their great success thus far and wish them all the best performing at Lincoln Center.

HONORING ELLISON CAPERS "E.C." GRAYSON, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the life of Mr. Ellison Capers "E.C." Grayson, Jr. and offer my sympathy to his family. E.C. Grayson, born in 1928 in Saint Paul, Minnesota, was known for his vibrant personality, dedication to family and friends, and lifelong commitment to civil service. From his early achievements as an Eagle Scout, student leader, and athlete, to his distinguished career in the U.S. Navy, serving during the Korean war and as Assistant Secretary of the Navy under President Reagan, and later as a successful CEO and leader, E.C. left a lasting impact on all who knew him, celebrated in a Memorial Mass on March 1, 2024, in Tiburon, California. We deeply appreciate his exemplary service and personal courage, which epitomized the highest traditions of Navy service. I include in the RECORD the following obituary for E.C. Grayson, Jr.:

Ellison Capers "E.C." Grayson, passed away peacefully and faithfully on January 13, 2024, in La Quinta, Calif.

E.C. was born in Saint Paul, Minn., on September 7, 1928, son of Ellison Capers Grayson, Sr. and Inez Santos Grayson; and brother of Richard A. Grayson, Esq. E.C. will always be remembered for his big smile, boundless energy, eternal optimism, devotion to duty, honor, country, and his deep love of family and friends. E.C. loved the magic of relationships, knew everyone, and delighted in connecting them.

E.C. was raised in St. Paul, Minn., and was a student leader and athlete. He was an Eagle Scout, President of Central High School, a lifeguard, and a varsity football player. At the University of Minnesota, E.C. was President of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and the Inter-Fraternity Council. He loved his summers on the Isle of Palms, S.C., where his family had a long history. E.C. was an athlete his entire life, still swimming at 95. He loved tennis, downhill skiing, running, rowing on the Bay and playing water polo on the Olympic Club team. As a member of the Saint Francis and Corinthian Yacht Clubs, he loved racing around the Bay on "The Darby" to the delight of his granddaughters and their friends.

After graduation, E.C. joined the U.S. Navy as an officer during the Korean war. From his ship, he witnessed a nuclear detonation test off the Bikini Atoll. His active duty took him across the Pacific and ultimately, to San Francisco, where he met the love of his life, Jean Amy Mason. She was a flight attendant for United Airlines and for President Dwight Eisenhower during his presidential campaign. E.C. and Jean were engaged in Honolulu and married on Treasure Island Naval Base on December 26, 1953. They spent their honeymoon driving through Europe for three months and returned home to San Francisco aboard the QE II.

Thereafter, E.C. had a successful career as an insurance industry CEO. He was very active in civic affairs, including as President of St. Mary's Hospital and The Navy League, a Regent at Saint Ignatius College Prep, Commanding Officer of a Naval Intelligence Reserve unit and an advisor to Mayors George Moscone and Dianne Feinstein and Governor Pete Wilson.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed E.C. as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He received numerous awards, including the Navy's Distinguished Civilian Service medal. After serving in the Pentagon, E.C. returned to San Francisco and joined Spencer Stuart, becoming one of the country's top "headhunters" of Fortune 500 CEO's, CFO's, and board members. In later years, E.C. joined the Grayson Group as senior advisor and loving mentor to its founder, Laurie Grayson.

E.C. especially loved The Bohemian Club and Grove. He was a true Bohemian in spirit and deed. He also greatly enjoyed The Alfalfa Club, The Knights of Malta, The Metropolitan Club of Washington, D.C., and serving on The Guardsmen board. He was a member of The Springs Country Club in Rancho Mirage and a devout parishioner of St. Hilary Church in Tiburon.

E.C. is survived by his wife of seventy years, Jean Mason Grayson; his children, Darby Grayson Sutherland (Bruce) and William Ellison "Bill" Grayson (Laurie); his four granddaughters, Katherine (Washington, D.C.), Elizabeth and Caroline Grayson (Manhattan), and Lauren Gordon (Austin, Texas). He is also survived by Shadow, his beloved standard poodle. E.C.'s zest for life, service to his country, devotion to his family and love of his friends will continue to live on in all of us.

The Memorial Mass was on Friday, March 1, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., at St. Hilary Church in Tiburon, Calif.

COMMEMORATING THE WORK OF THE NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of the Navy Federal Credit Union and its strong support for the military community throughout California and the United States. With a statewide membership totaling almost 1.5 million, with 18,000 residing in my district, I applaud the work they do everyday to ensure that our beloved servicemembers have access to convenient financial services.

Spread throughout its 50 branches in California, the Navy Federal Credit Union has worked tirelessly for the past 90 years to ensure that their mission of being the preferred financial institution to members of the military and their families stands true. As a member-owned and not-for-profit credit union, their worldwide membership consists of 13.3 million members. Additionally, they have 356 branches worldwide, ensuring that all servicemembers can take advantage of their services and products in the pursuit of financial wellbeing.

Furthermore, their awards and recognition speak to the impact of their mission for both their employees and members. With branches spread across the United States and the world, they've proven that they provide a well-rounded workplace for their employees. Most notably, they have been awarded the FORTUNE 100 Best Companies to Work For and have been named a Top Workplace by the