

and leadership within the Tribe and its enterprises.

Throughout her tenure, Ms. Roberts has served on various Boards and Committees, serving eighteen years on the Health & Wellness Committee and Yocha Dehe Wintun Academy Board, thirteen years on the Cache Creek Casino Resort Board of Directors, nine years on the Community Fund Board of Directors, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee, Property Farm & Ranch Committee, and Youth Adult Assistance Program Committee, eight years on the Events Committee, and six years on the Fire Commission and Cultural Resources Committee.

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has for generations lived on lands which include Yolo, Solana, Lake, Colusa, and Napa counties. As longtime stewards of the land, Yocha Dehe has become a growing agricultural presence in the Capay Valley of Yolo County. The Tribe is an important member of our community and provides essential services—such as critical fire and emergency services—to the entire Capay Valley community. I am grateful for the critical work Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has done on behalf of its community and citizens. As a respected Tribal Citizen of Yocha Dehe, Harriet Roberts has been a beacon of strength and wisdom, her contributions spanning generations and leaving an indelible mark on her community. Her work on behalf of the Tribe is inspiring and humbling. Ms. Roberts traces her lineage back to the Lorenzo family, which has been rooted in the Capay Valley since time immemorial. She is admired and loved by her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews for her wisdom, guidance, and service to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Roberts for her dedicated service and philanthropic actions in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Waynesburg University.

Originally formed in 1849 when the Cumberland Presbyterian Church united Greene Academy and Madison College, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania officially chartered Waynesburg College on March 25, 1850. The college gained early acclaim in 1857 when it became one of the first coeducational colleges in the United States and earned widespread praise for grounding its curriculum in faith and service. Following a decade of growth, the college gained university status in 2007 and officially became Waynesburg University.

Each year, the university's students, faculty, and staff engage in more than 50,000 hours of volunteer service to better the surrounding community. The university also remains committed to providing a quality and practical education. As a testament to its academic strength, nearly 99 percent of the class of 2022 reported employment or enrollment in a graduate program within one year of graduation.

Waynesburg University's reputation for excellence extends far beyond Pennsylvania. The institution's additions counseling program ranked fourth nationally in 2021 and 2022, while its online Master of Business Administration ranked 21st nationally for the 2023–2024 academic year. Additionally, Waynesburg University's business and nursing programs were placed on the Colleges of Distinction roster during the 2023–2024 academic year.

Mr. Speaker, Waynesburg University is an integral part of our region's heritage and history. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate the university's leadership and community on their 175th anniversary and thank them for their service to southwestern Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month. As a country, it is important that we acknowledge and celebrate the diversity and unique abilities of all individuals, regardless of developmental disabilities. By doing so, we promote a deeper understanding of developmental disabilities and the need to create a more inclusive and welcoming society for everyone.

In my district, several non-profit organizations are dedicated to providing positive opportunities and support for families impacted by disabilities. They work collaboratively with other stakeholders to foster a culture of inclusion, advocacy, community and learning.

We can certainly agree that all individuals deserve the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life, pursue their dreams, and contribute to the betterment of our society. I recognize and appreciate the good work of all non-profit organizations throughout Florida's 12th Congressional District that are working to advance this important goal through public-private partnerships. Together, we affirm the value and potential of every individual, regardless of developmental disability status, not only in the month of March, but throughout the year.

CELEBRATING JENNYFER CRAWFORD-WILLIAMS: A DECADE OF EMPOWERING MICHIGAN'S SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jennyfer Crawford-Williams, an inspiring entrepreneur and advocate for Michigan's small businesses, on the 10th anniversary of All Things Detroit. In 2014, with just \$1,500, she ventured into entrepreneurship, becoming a renowned name, supported by accolades like Crain's Detroit Business' 40 Under 40 and the Detroit Young Professionals Vanguard Award.

As founder of Ask Jennyfer and the successful All Things Detroit showcase, which

draws 12,000 attendees and earned its own holiday, Jennyfer has created a vibrant community for small business owners. Beyond events, she established All Things Marketplace, an online and brick-and-mortar hub, fostering opportunities for growth.

Her commitment to showcasing Detroit's small businesses is evident in initiatives like Conversations, Ask Jennyfer: The Podcast, and All Things Ticketing. Jennyfer actively curates small business markets for local non-profits within the City of Detroit and serves on advisory boards.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Jennyfer Crawford-Williams for her impactful contributions to Michigan's small business community. Her dedication is a beacon of inspiration and deserves our commendation.

TRIBUTE TO THE BURBANK TEMPORARY AID CENTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Burbank Temporary Aid Center (BTAC) in Burbank, California, upon its fiftieth anniversary.

The Burbank Temporary Aid Center was founded in 1974 when the Burbank Ministerial Association saw the need for a centralized source of services to provide assistance to those in the Burbank community who were less fortunate. Under the leadership of the late Reverend Larry Stamper, the association worked with various community members to create a center to address these needs. Originally located in one of the founders' garage and having operated out of several different buildings in Burbank, in the 1990s, BTAC relocated to a storefront property on Burbank Boulevard. After a building effort which spanned 18 months, in 2006, BTAC unveiled its remodeled and expanded facility which included several features, such as a modernized food pantry, to better provide for its clients.

Over the years the center has adapted in response to the changing needs of the community. With its original mission to provide food and clothing to housed residents of Burbank, services have expanded to include unhoused residents, and short-term assistance is now a long-term necessity for some people in the community. Among those receiving help are retired adults, people impacted by labor strikes, individuals and families, and refugees.

The center's main service is as a food pantry. For those with access to a kitchen, BTAC offers a robust monthly grocery program, with the option to personalize each order based on the household. To support the unhoused community, sack lunches are offered to ensure their nutritional needs are fulfilled. At the facility, personal hygiene items are distributed, and there are shower facilities and laundry machines available for use at no cost.

The Burbank Temporary Aid Center is funded by donations from foundations, religious institutions, private individuals, and service organizations. BTAC receives donations of hygiene items and food from various businesses, service clubs and local churches, in addition to daily and weekly donations from major grocery stores.

It is my great privilege to represent BTAC in my Congressional District. My commendations to longtime Executive Director Barbara Howell, BTAC staff, the Board of Directors and all the volunteers for their dedicated and outstanding service to the Burbank community.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Burbank Temporary Aid Center upon its fiftieth anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
MEMORY OF AUDREY BURGETTE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to commemorate the life of Mrs. Audrey Burgette. Mrs. Audrey lived a life of selflessness, service, and desire to better her community. There are individuals whose impact transcends time, leaving an indelible mark on those fortunate enough to have known them. Audrey June (Stewart) Burgette, the first Black female graduate of William Jewell College, was one of these special people.

Audrey Burgette was born in Liberty, Missouri on July 18, 1930. The circumstances of her childhood were a reflection of the times—Liberty was a racially segregated community still in the grips of Jim Crow laws. Her early educational years were also plagued by second-class treatment due to her race. This was before the Brown v. Board of Education ruling, so her schooling occurred under less than ideal conditions. She grew up in a supportive African American community and a loving family, which bolstered her to remain steadfast in her put suit of academic excellence and personal growth. As a testament to this, she graduated as Valedictorian of her class at Garrison School in Liberty.

Throughout her life, Audrey stood as a beacon of resilience and determination for overcoming numerous challenges. In her early 20s, she married John West Stapleton and welcomed two children, Carrie Eileen Stapleton and John West Stapleton, Jr., Esq. At the young age of 25, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and was partially paralyzed by the disease. She battled back and regained her ability to walk, only to face the pain of divorce. Fortunately, she found love once again with Herbert Lee Burgette, a Korean War veteran from Kansas City. Together with Herbert, Audrey welcomed two more children into her loving embrace, the late Dr. Phillip Leroy Burgette, M.D., and Brigitte Burgette Bradley, Esq. Love was always present in her blended family's lives. Even though she and John were divorced, her second husband, Herbert, would sometimes connect with John Sr., a disabled war veteran, and offer to drive him to milestone events in Carrie and John Jr.'s lives, such as graduations and sporting events.

While raising four children under the age of 10, Audrey was unrelenting in her quest for education. She achieved her dream of attending and graduating from William Jewell College with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education in 1966. She later earned a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1972.

Audrey's dedication to education extended beyond her own academic pursuits. She was a revered elementary school teacher and counselor in the Kansas City MO School District for over 26 years. She touched the lives of countless children, instilling in them a passion for learning and a belief in their own potential. This commitment expanded beyond her professional life. Audrey became a foster parent to several young people during this time, giving them the same love and support she showed for her own students and children.

Audrey's commitment to excellence in education has also shaped the lives of her four children in profound ways, guiding them towards fulfilling their dreams and aspirations. They were inspired by her example to achieve great success in various fields, from law to medicine to public relations. Her legacy lives on through her three grandchildren, Carrie Nicole Randle, Langston Colin Taylor Burgette and Brandon Byron Hays; and one great-granddaughter, Nya Simone Payne. Carrie Nicole holds a master's degree and is pursuing a doctorate.

In the community, Audrey was an active member of the Kansas City Chapter of the National Association of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., for which she was an officeholder and served on several committees. She was also a charter member of the Kansas City Chapter of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, which was established in 1979 by the Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc. Later in life, she added entrepreneur to her list of endeavors—she owned and operated a successful small business, the Stuart House of Maids.

Her relationship with Christ was a central force in her life with one ultimate goal: to give Jesus the glory. She was a member of Liberty's St. Luke A.M.E. Church, and later found her spiritual home at the Unity Church of New Life in Kansas City. She also wanted her children to put Jesus first . . . every Christmas Eve, her family would celebrate by holding a birthday party for Jesus with a cake with one candle, singing Happy Birthday to him, making sure they knew the real meaning of Christmas.

In 1986, the Urban League of Greater Kansas City's Black Family Recognition Committee honored the Burgette-Stapleton Family as a Model Black Family, recognizing them for their "sterling qualities or support, love, sharing, stability, nurturing, and the ability to overcome adversity."

Tragically, Audrey's life was cut short by cancer at the age of 62. Her passing left a void in the hearts of all who knew her, but her spirit of love, laughter, and dedication to education continues to inspire all who were touched by her presence. Her unwavering support for her family and community endures—a shining example of the transformative power of a life lived with purpose, perseverance, and passion.

As we remember Audrey June Burgette, we honor her trailblazing spirit, her commitment to education, and her profound impact on all of those whose lives she touched. As Audrey herself said in a letter to her daughter in 1983, "Remember to love all people, places, things, and mainly yourself. With love you need nothing else, but without it you have nothing else." Mr. Speaker, let us rise today and honor Audrey's life and legacy. May her memory continue to inspire future generations to em-

brace challenges with courage to pursue their dreams with determination, and to always strive for excellence in all endeavors. Audrey June Brigitte, a pioneer in education and a mother extraordinaire, will forever hold a special place in our hearts and in local history.

CELEBRATING JANIE BARRERA

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to call the attention of the House in celebration of a true Texas visionary, Ms. Janie Barrera, for decades of work to provide small business owners and working families with the means to achieve their dreams.

A native of Corpus Christi and a sixth-generation Texan, Ms. Barrera's entrepreneurial spirit began in her youth. At the age of 12, after her mother denied her request to purchase a new bicycle, Janie went door-to-door selling raffle tickets for her old bicycle and used the proceeds to purchase a new one. Later, as a waitress in her parents' restaurant, Ms. Barrera witnessed both the hard work and the great financial risks of running a small business.

After high school, Ms. Barrera became a nun and joined a local covenant. She ran the Telecommunications Center for the Diocese of Corpus Christi for 15 years. When a bishop told Ms. Barrera that she couldn't get a promotion because of her lack of business experience, she pursued a Master of Business Administration from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. She left the covenant shortly after graduation.

Ms. Barrera's parents ended up with nothing saved for retirement after running their restaurant for 20 years. This motivated her to use her personal experience and academic training to support both small businesses and working families. In 1994, Ms. Barrera founded Accion Texas (later renamed LiftFund) with the commitment to provide small businesses with sorely needed financial support through microloans and ongoing guidance as they navigated complex financial systems.

Today, LiftFund has over 100 employees and has disbursed close to \$500 million to small business owners in underserved communities, particularly people of color and low- and moderate-income individuals. Ms. Barrera stepped down as CEO of LiftFund in 2023 after three decades.

Ms. Barrera has been an integral part of the creation and sustainability of countless small businesses. Her work has received high recognition in Texas and beyond, including the "Small Business Administration Financial Services Advocate of the Year," and the "Minority Enterprise Development Consortium's Corporate Advocate of the Year." She received the 2022 Ned Gramlich Lifetime Achievement Award for Responsible Finance, which is the Community Development Financial Institution industry's highest individual honor. Ms. Barrera has also served on boards of directors at various levels, including the Federal Reserve Board's National Consumer Advisory Council. An invaluable leader in her field, President Barack Obama appointed Ms. Barrera to the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability.