

first dentists in west Pasco County, Dr. Kinnunen was instrumental in establishing the dental program at PHSC and still supports the program today. During the Foundation's recent comprehensive campaign, Dr. Kinnunen collaborated with PHSC staff, local dentists, and community stakeholders to implement a campaign focused on raising funds for PHSC's dental program. Today, he continues to support students enrolled in the dental hygiene program through scholarship assistance. In 1989, Dr. Kinnunen, along with the West Pasco Dental Association, initiated the establishment of the Jeffrey and Kathleen Kinnunen Scholarship at the PHSC Foundation in memory of his son Jeffrey and late wife Kathleen who was a dental hygienist. Since its establishment, the endowment has provided over \$30,000 in scholarship awards to PHSC students. Without scholarship support such as this, many students would not have the opportunity to attend PHSC and achieve their dreams. Dr. Kinnunen and his wife, Cherry, continue to support the Foundation through their gift of time, talent, and treasure. You can often find the Kinnunen's at a performing arts show at PHSC's West Campus and other Foundation events.

It is clear that Dr. Niles Kinnunen has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMBATING IMPLICIT BIAS IN EDUCATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Combating Implicit Bias in Education Act. This bill would create a \$30 million grant program for schools to train teachers, principals and other personnel on implicit bias with respect to actual or perceived race, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. This bill aims to reduce the effect of implicit bias on school discipline, academic achievement, and academic attainment.

In 2019, a report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found that students of color with disabilities received far more severe and frequent punishment than their white counterparts. In 2017, the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality released a report finding that people disproportionately think of Black girls as more adult-like and less innocent compared to their white counterparts. This bias has been linked to harsher treatment of Black girls in schools.

Under this bill, the Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences would evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the training.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING HERMELINDA SAPIEN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Hermelinda Sapien.

Hermelinda dedicated 55 years to the Center for Employment Training, and for the past 25 years she has displayed her unwavering leadership as President and Executive Director.

The Center for Employment Training (CET) is an economic and community development corporation. Their job training and placement programs teach marketable skills to people of all educational levels and backgrounds, supporting them through the process of job placement. With 12 locations, including San Jose's, CET's impact is monumental.

Hermelinda's work with CET began as an Administrative Assistant, and her commitment served her well as she moved up to Human Resources Director, Chief Administrative Officer, Deputy Director, and ultimately, President and CEO.

CET's ability to work with our community and support the dignity of self-sufficiency is largely due to Hermelinda's hard work. She dedicated her career to ensuring CET's financial stability and guaranteeing that the needs of students at CET were being met.

Thousands of people have received the training and support they needed to find meaningful employment that supports them and their families. Hermelinda's work and that of all the CET staff has changed lives and our community for the better. Hermelinda's leadership has made a profound difference.

Hermelinda will be retiring in June of this year, and it is with great pride and respect that I recognize her accomplishments.

I share with CET's Board of Directors in their heartfelt farewell to Hermelinda Sapien, and we will always remember her impact on the Center for Employment Training's success.

RECOGNIZING JACKSON DAVIS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, Jackson Davis, who is currently in his first year of college. As part of his Eagle Scout Project, Jackson raised enough funds to buy a bus and all the supplies needed to convert the bus into a food pantry on wheels. He then donated the mobile food pantry to Messengers of Hope for use throughout the community. For his tremendous efforts, Jackson was recognized as the Eagle Scout Project of the Year for 2023. Jackson further inspired his family, extended family, friends, and fellow scouts to volunteer at Messengers of Hope to serve groceries and participate in other service projects. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Mr. Jackson Davis has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

CONGRATULATING DIANE FITZPATRICK ON BEING NAMED BOYS & GIRLS EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Diane Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Manchester, for being named Executive of the Year by the Nation's over 1000 clubs. This award is determined by the Professional Association of Boys & Girls Clubs and by Diane's peers throughout the country. As the Executive of the Year, Diane has been recognized for her significant impact on the Manchester community and the youth development profession at a local, regional, and national level.

As CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Manchester, Diane works with staff, the board of trustees, and community members to serve children and families across the city. With over 30 years of experience in higher education, marketing, and business development, Diane has pursued a bold and innovative vision for the Boys & Girls Club since she joined the organization in 2014. In this role, Diane oversees strategic planning, fundraising, community relations, and partnership development.

She is widely regarded by staff as an indispensable leader and among the broader New Hampshire community as critical to the advancement of children's issues. I commend Diane for winning this prestigious award and will continue to support her work to help youth reach their full potential.

I look forward to seeing what Diane will accomplish for the Manchester community in the years to come, and I am confident she will continue to uplift kids and families in our district. On behalf of all the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I applaud Diane for her commendable leadership, and wish her success in future endeavors.

HONORING APOSTLE DR. LEE F. RICE

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 2024

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with the people of St. Louis, to pay tribute to the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Apostle Dr. Lee F. Rice, a dedicated servant of God whose impact extends far beyond the walls of Victory Christian Outreach Church. Dr. Rice's commitment to spreading the Gospel and serving his community leaves an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Dr. Rice was more than a pastor; he was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He is survived by his loving family, including his adult children: Rhoda Rice, Sadius Rice, Pastor Daphne Rice-Bruce (spouse-Alex

Bruce), Minister Romney Rice-Dunn (spouse-Minister Fred Dunn), and Minister Bryttani Rice. His legacy also lives on through his many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and countless other cherished family members and friends.

The educational background of Dr. Rice and his beloved wife, the late Apostle Dr. Doris V. Rice, speaks volumes about their commitment to ministry and service. Both graduated from Rhema Bible Training College in Tulsa, Oklahoma and received Family Counseling Degrees from National Lewis College. Their dedication to theological education culminated in the attainment of Biblical Studies Doctorate Degrees from Pillsbury Bible College.

For over 40 years, they served as shepherds of the house of Victory Christian Outreach Church, nurturing a membership that at one time exceeded 500 members. Their leadership extended to the broader community, where they organized years of outreach events serving families, children, and youth with food, clothing, childcare, family counseling, and utility assistance. In times of crises, their church provided a safe refuge for families in need.

As Senior Pastors, Church Administrators, and Community Leaders, Dr. Lee F. Rice and Dr. Doris V. Rice dedicated themselves to partnering with local churches to share the Gospel and provide a safe place for worship. Their church became a cornerstone of the community, hosting annual events such as Oktoberfest, Be A Blessing, and the Easter Egg Hunt. Their contributions were recognized by the University City School District, which lauded Victory Christian Outreach Church as an outstanding community contributor.

Pastor Lee and Pastor Doris have also had a profound impact on my life. They were my personal pastors for many years as well as my employers, and their daughter Daphne, who now serves as the current pastor, has been my very close friend since we were teens. Their other daughters, Romney and Bryttani, are like sisters. I am proud to have had the privilege of working at their preschool for a decade, and where I grew to love the important and lifesaving role that childcare providers have in our community.

In honoring the life of Apostle Dr. Lee Rice, we celebrate a man of faith, integrity, and compassion. His legacy of service and devotion to God will continue to inspire generations to come. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him and may his spirit of love and generosity continue to shine brightly in our community.

RECOGNIZING JACK ASBURY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, Jack Asbury, who is lovingly known as the "Batman of Spring Hill". Mr. Asbury is a father who knows what it is like to have kids in the hospital. He decided to dedicate his time outside of being an EMT by turning into Batman and visiting kids in hospitals and cancer centers. He also works with bullied kids

and even adults going through hard times. This man has seen the most horrific things in life, yet still makes time to bring light into people's darkest moments. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Mr. Jack Asbury has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

RECOGNIZING CHANHASSEN FIRE CHIEF ANDREW HEGER

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 2024

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Heger, who was recently sworn in as the Chief of the Chanhassen Fire Department.

Andrew began his career as a firefighter in 2001 in his hometown of Victoria, and after 15 years of service to the department became the city's first full-time fire chief. But after more than two decades of service with the Victoria Fire Department, Chief Heger was ready for a new challenge.

When he got the offer to serve as the Chief of the Chanhassen Fire Department, Andrew jumped at the opportunity. Chief Heger was officially sworn in as Chief earlier this month and will be leading a crew of 26 paid-on-call and 10 full-time firefighters.

Being a firefighter isn't just a job, it's a calling. It's about being there for people when they need help the most, whether it's a fire, a medical emergency, or just lending a helping hand.

For over two decades, Chief Heger has served communities in Carver County with dedication and bravery. Chanhassen is fortunate to have such a qualified and experienced leader at the helm of its fire department. I have every confidence that Chief Heger will continue to build upon the department's strong foundation and work to ensure the safety of the Chanhassen community for years to come.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SENECA COUNTY'S BICENTENNIAL

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 2024

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bicentennial of Seneca County, Ohio. The values of the pioneers and settlers who overcame the challenges faced during the early years of the county's history have persisted throughout the past 200 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of county residents have made Seneca County an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

Native American tribes inhabited Seneca County before Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas. Initially, these tribes were the mound builders, but they were followed later by the Seneca and Wyandot tribes. European

settlers arrived in the region after General William Henry Harrison established Fort Ball in 1813. In 1824, the Ohio Legislature enacted legislation creating Seneca County and named it after the original tribes that inhabited the area.

In the 1830s, agriculture spurred commercial activity throughout the county. With the construction of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad, the county began to build its economy and population. Currently, the county encompasses roughly 553 square miles and has a population of over 55,000. The county is an asset to the great State of Ohio through its many contributions in the fields of manufacturing and agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, by remembering the 200th Anniversary of Seneca County, community members recognize the outstanding achievements, maintain the pioneer attitude, and strive to better their county through the principles on which it was founded. I thank and congratulate Seneca County on this significant milestone.

CELEBRATING HELEN BANDYKE, DEARBORN'S ROSIE THE RIVETER

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Helen Bandyke, Dearborn resident and one of Michigan's Rosie the Riveters, as she celebrates her 103rd birthday.

During World War II countless women like Ms. Bandyke from across the Nation and right here in Southeast Michigan took over jobs that had been previously performed by men and held our country down during extremely trying times. Ms. Bandyke proudly worked at Chrysler's DeSoto Plant in Dearborn in 1942 while her husband served overseas. She was among those strong women who blazed the trail for women in the workforce. I am so proud of Ms. Bandyke and her incredible contribution to our Nation's labor movement and our history.

Please join me and the people of Dearborn and Michigan's 12th District Strong as we honor Ms. Helen Bandyke and wish her the happiest of birthdays.

HONORING MIRIAM URRRA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to pay tribute to Miriam Urra, an exemplary leader whose dedication and tireless efforts have profoundly impacted Allapattah for decades. Born in Las Villas, Cuba, Miriam's journey to Miami in 1961 marked the beginning of a life dedicated to service and strengthening her community.

After graduating from Miami Senior High, Miriam pursued higher education at Miami Dade Community College and Florida Memorial College, setting the stage for a career defined by compassion and commitment. Miriam's professional journey began in the optical field before she and her husband, Orlando Urra, established their own business.