

knowledge of California's environmental resources will undoubtedly continue to enhance the lives of California residents.

While his presence on the Board of the East Bay Municipal Utility District will surely be missed, Mr. Coleman's decades of service reflect the very best of our community's leaders and will continue to improve the lives of citizens for many years to come. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for Mr. Coleman's dedication and commitment to public service. I wish him the best in his future role with the Calaveras County Water District.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. ADA M.  
JACKSON LEE

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a devoted wife, loving mother, doting grandmother, community servant, and Civil Rights icon, Mrs. Ada M. Jackson Lee. Family, friends, and community leaders commemorated the sixth anniversary of her passing and celebrated what would have been her 100th birthday on April 6, 2024, at Ada Lee Park in Warner Robins, Georgia.

The journey of the remarkable life of Ada Lee began on March 6, 1924, when she was born to the union of the late Mr. Lewis D. Jackson and the late Mrs. Annie B. Jackson in Wellston, Georgia.

A lifelong and persistent learner, Mrs. Lee graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and the Culinary Arts Program at The Fort Valley State University. She went on to work as an Urban Renewal specialist where she later retired.

She was married to the late Sylvester Lee and to this union three children were born. Daron Lewis Lee, Vircy Anne Ferguson and Dorothea Rita Scott. Mrs. Lee was a woman after God's own heart who served her community with distinction and pride. "It has been said that service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Mrs. Lee paid her rent, and she paid it well. She was nothing short of a trailblazer with several historic firsts for the Warner Robins community—first Director of the Warner Robins Day Care Center, she formed the first Girl Scout Troop for African American girls and the first Director of the Head Start Program in Warner Robins.

When Mrs. Lee saw a need in the community, she made sure that it was addressed. When she saw a need for a safe space for children to play, she approached the mayor and made it happen. Now that same park is named in her honor. She was a strong advocate for her community and for women. She truly believed in the words of Shirley Chisholm, "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." Because of her lifetime of service, she was recognized with many awards to include The Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis for Outstanding Volunteer Services, The NAACP Trailblazer Award, Ms. Senior Warner Robins as well as one of the fifty Influential Women in Middle Georgia.

She gave her time, talent, and treasure to many organizations to include Board Member of the Family Support Alliance for the Mentally

Ill, Warner Robins Housing Authority, Houston County Democratic Advisory, Warner Robins Day Care Center, NAACP, SCLC and served as a member of the Christian Women United Association and the Georgia Council on Human Relations. She was also an honorary member of the Order of Eastern Star, Cinderella Chapter No. 406.

But more important than all of these accolades and memberships, Mrs. Lee was a woman of faith. A dedicated member of the Warner Robins Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Mrs. Lee was a member of stewardess board, missionary board, Lay Council, We Care-Golden Age, Social Concerns Hospitality Circle and served as Founder of the Pastor's Aide Board. The scripture tells us in Proverbs 3:6 that "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." The Lord truly directed the paths of Mrs. Ada Jackson Lee. The Middle Georgia Community, The State of Georgia, our country, and the world are better because Mrs. Lee passed this way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, and my wife Vivian, and the 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Ada Jackson Lee. May her life continue to be an inspiration to her family, friends, and all those that she touched during her remarkable life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHARON  
RATLIFF-GROSS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of an outstanding civil servant, Sharon Ratliff-Gross, who passed on April 2, 2024. She dedicated 37 years of her life to federal service and specialized in workforce planning, recruitment, and diversity at the U.S. Department of Labor. Before Mrs. Ratliff-Gross retired in 2010, she received several Secretary's Exceptional Achievement awards to recognize her work at the Department of Labor.

But family was the greatest joy for Mrs. Ratliff-Gross. Family members referred to her as "Ma 2," and it became the cherished name by which she was known. When her grandson was born, the nickname was shortened to "TuTu." Mrs. Ratliff-Gross loved to travel on cruises, play cards, attend church plays, and watch her favorite shows on television. One of her greatest joys was time spent with her husband. Mrs. Ratliff-Gross loved to join her husband on trips to the barbershop, grocery store, casino, and anywhere else in the neighborhood. She loved to bake and was known for her delicious sweet potato pie, pretzel salad, and brownies. In her spare time, she created her special "money cakes" and gifted them to friends and family for birthdays and retirements.

In addition, she was renowned for her efforts to support cancer survivors and others who struggled with the disease. Mrs. Ratliff-Gross dedication to life helped her conquer Breast cancer twice. She served as a beacon of hope for local women who needed comfort and encouragement to deal with their difficult cancer diagnosis. Even today, she is an inspiring figure who showed hundreds of local

women there is life and recovery after a Breast cancer diagnosis.

Mrs. Ratliff-Gross left an indelible mark on everyone who was fortunate enough to meet and know her as a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, mentor, or friend. She made a difference in countless lives with her infectious smile, laughter, and caring spirit. She cherished her family and friends with all her heart and embraced life with love and vitality. Her legacy of love and resilience will live on in the cherished memories of all those she touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Mrs. Ratliff-Gross' life of public service and extend the deepest condolences to her beloved family and friends during this difficult time.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD  
FOR DR. JAMES HURLEY

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. James Hurley of Stephenville, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Since 2019, Dr. Hurley has served as the 16th President of Tarleton State University and dedicated himself to serving and uplifting North Texas students.

As a first-generation college graduate, Dr. Hurley understood the financial challenges that students face when it comes to obtaining an education. As such, he partnered with many schools and colleges in Texas to provide qualified students with guaranteed scholarships to Tarleton. Under Dr. Hurley's leadership, Tarleton has transformed into one of the nation's fastest-growing universities that is renowned for excellent academic, enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. It has also been ranked as a high research institution and is among the top 4 percent of universities in the United States to have received this designation.

Moreover, Dr. Hurley launched the President's Excellence in Research Scholars program to provide direct funding for student research initiatives and promote creativity, innovation, and breakthroughs in research. He serves on several governing boards to address costs in higher education, expand economic development, and shape public policy to benefit students. In 2022, the North Texas Commission granted Dr. Hurley the prestigious Education Leadership Award for his work and impact on our community. I am proud of Dr. Hurley's continued efforts to make a difference in students' lives and lead them to success.

It is an honor to bestow Dr. Hurley with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN HAMIL

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions

of one of my constituents, Dr. John Hamil, who has partnered with CARES Senior Health Clinic to treat its dermatology patients for more than ten years. The doctor and his team treat all skin conditions, including skin cancers. Their work has often been lifesaving.

Dr. Hamil and his colleagues who volunteer to serve this vulnerable population are making a profound impact on the lives of the patients they serve. Each of these volunteers have servant hearts, and their dedication to our community is impressive. It is said that a society can be judged by how well it treats its most vulnerable citizens. These medical professionals go above and beyond to ensure none of the patients seeking help at CARES Senior Center fall through the cracks.

It is clear that Dr. John Hamil and his fellow volunteers have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

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HONORING SOUTHERN  
OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, Southern Opportunity Foundation.

The Southern Opportunity Foundation is a non-profit dedicated to positive change in the South. The Southern Opportunity Foundation organization offers a range of impactful programs designed to address social and economic disparities in the Southern region. From education and workforce development to healthcare access and community empowerment, we strive to make a lasting difference.

The Southern Opportunity Foundation healthcare programs are designed to break down barriers to access, providing essential services and support to underserved communities across the Southern region. From preventive care and health education to facilitating access to medical resources, we are dedicated to promoting a culture to wellness and resilience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Southern Opportunity Foundation for their dedication and tenacity to serving their community and desire to be an example for all.

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HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, MS.  
CAROL COUCH

**HON. KAT CAMMACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, I wish Ms. Carol Couch a very happy 100th birthday.

Carol has always been known for her confident and strong personality. Carol joined the U.S. Army in April 1942 and was assigned to 1612th SCU Sta Comp WAC Det in Washington, D.C. While there, Carol worked to decode enemy messages which was then a top-secret job. After World War II, Carol and her husband Edgar Cox were honorably dis-

charged, and they packed all their belongings, including three young children, into a truck to move to Florida.

After opening a collections bureau, her plans changed and Carol drew up plans to build a million-dollar building providing office space to professionals, including doctors and dentists. Her husband thought her plans too ambitious and attempted to stop her, but Carol went to the courthouse and had herself declared separate from her husband so she could continue without his permission.

A woman of many interests, Carol became partner in a road construction company, oversaw the construction of her home, worked with doctorate students to form their thesis papers at the University of Florida, and maintained a multitude of hobbies. She even worked for 15 years at the University of Florida as a typist with an incredible speed of 120 correct words per minute.

In her later years, Carol worked for the Census Bureau and volunteered at Grace United Methodist Church, Friends of the Library, and several other organizations. Carol gradually bowed out of these responsibilities and gave up driving in her early 90s. Of all she accomplished, however, being a veteran was her favorite accomplishment, and she always drove with an American flag in the back windshield.

For the last several decades, Carol has made her home in North Central Florida, and has been a treasured member of several veterans' groups. I am honored to wish her a happy 100th birthday on May 22, 2024, and to thank her for her dutiful service to our Nation. I Congratulate her on this milestone. I am elated to celebrate with her.

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HONORING THE EDINA HIGH  
SCHOOL BOYS' HOCKEY TEAM

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Edina High School Boys' Hockey Team, who won the Class AA state championship in the Minnesota State High School Hockey Tournament.

This year's win marks Edina's 14th state championship overall, and second championship in five years. The team, led by head coach Curt Giles, finished the regular season with an impressive record of 20 wins, 4 losses, and 1 tie. In the postseason, the team earned another five wins in order to secure their spot in the championship game against Chanhassen High School. The championship game was incredibly competitive, and especially meaningful for Edina—who fell just short of the title in 2023. Chanhassen took the lead with a goal at the end of the second period and held it until Edina defenseman Robbie Hoch scored a goal to tie the game in the third period. A few minutes later, Edina senior Bobby Cowan scored the winning goal on a power play. Cowan's goal clinched the championship for the team, who won the game 2–1, in front of more than 20,000 spectators. The win would not have been possible without the phenomenal efforts of goalie Joey Betram, who had more than 30 saves.

I am so impressed with the hard work that these students put in on the road to the state

championship game, and I am especially proud to see them take home the title for their school. While some members of the team will continue playing for Edina next year, I know that others are graduating and stepping into life after high school. Whether those graduates choose to continue playing hockey or not, I have no doubt that the lessons they learned on this team will be immensely helpful in their lives ahead.

I'd also like to recognize all of the parents, teachers, school support staff, and team staff who worked to help this team succeed in every game that they played on their way to the championship. This level of success does not come without support, and we are lucky to have a community that is so invested in helping young people achieve in their endeavors outside of school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Edina High School Boys' Hockey Team on their state championship title and recognizing all of the hard work that it took to get there.

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RECOGNIZING GERALD MULLIGAN

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, Gerald Mulligan. "Gerry" as he is lovingly referred to, is a prominent figure in Citrus County, known for his dedication to community development and service. As the former Publisher of the Citrus County Chronicle, Gerry has used his platform to advocate for various causes over the years, notably the establishment of a YMCA in the area. His commitment to this project spans back to the 1990s, and he played a pivotal role in its development. His tireless efforts as a volunteer, advocate, and community leader are highlighted by his co-chairing the capital campaign committee to build a YMCA in Citrus County, which successfully raised over \$8 million in four years, allowing the YMCA to be built without incurring any debt. Being so engaged and associated with so many in the community, Gerry Mulligan played a role as a connector in nearly every relationship the YMCA established during the capital campaign. His leadership roles, including serving as the first Advisory Council Chair of the Citrus Memorial Health Foundation YMCA (where he continues to serve as a Council member today) and serving on the YMCA of the Suncoast's Board of Directors, highlight his commitment to the YMCA and the community. You can often find Gerry at any of the special events at the Y, as he continues to be an active YMCA member and volunteer. Gerry's involvement in the community extends beyond his role at the YMCA. He actively engages in numerous volunteer efforts and civic organizations, including the Rotary Club of Crystal River and a founder of the United Way in Citrus County. Gerry's civic contributions have been widely recognized, as evidenced by his induction into the Florida Newspaper Hall of Fame and his recognition as Citizen of the Year for Citrus County in 2021. Gerry Mulligan's leadership, support, and advocacy create a lasting legacy in Citrus County. In addition to the work he continues to do with the