

worked as a lineman, and his mother who stayed home to care for Tony and his six siblings. After graduation he volunteered to serve his country in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to serve on a destroyer based at Norfolk, VA. After an honorable discharge, he pursued further education and acquired an associate degree in Fire Science and Technology. He married his wife, Noreen, in 1987 and moved to Ledyard where they raised four children. His time in the naval service and his training in fire science, led Tony to pursue a career as a firefighter at the Submarine Base fire department. Unsurprisingly, he took to the task, and he continued to work at the Submarine Base as a firefighter for over 20 years. Mr. Speaker, the mission of the subbase department is very specialized, given the highly complex and value of A large fleet of fast attack submarines homeported there. Tony handled that portfolio with highest degree of professionalism and proficiency it required. Not one to settle for just that task, Saccone took it upon himself to take a second job at the Gales Ferry Fire Company, where he also excelled and has since tirelessly served his community up to this day.

Chief Saccone's involvement in both fire departments extended beyond the details of his job description. He rapidly accelerated through the ranks and became the Fire Captain at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base and Chief of the Gales Ferry Fire Company. His leadership skills are exhibited in his character; as Captain and Chief of these departments, he prioritized mutual trust, respect, and communication between him and the crews. He led by example, expecting the same excellence of his team as of himself. His organizational skill proved to be an asset when Chief Saccone managed a \$250,000 budget for Gales Ferry and balanced it each year since beginning his position as Chief in 2008. It is through the leadership of Saccone that Gales Ferry and the Submarine Base Fire crews can provide high quality service to their communities.

As a natural leader, Chief Saccone recognized his potential to extend his service to his community and town from a political position. He was voted to the Ledyard Town Council, where he fearlessly advocated for the community as a whole and the Gales Ferry Fire Department. I had the honor to get to know Chief Saccone when he and I, from 2011 to 2021, worked together to advance the bipartisan Fire Police Fairness Act. Through his tireless advocacy alongside my office, Chief Saccone witnessed the signing of this bill by President Biden on November 18, 2021 at the White House in Washington, DC. From 2017 to 2018, Chief Saccone and I began that legislative journey to extend police officers' death benefits to fire police officers. This legislation will ensure all firefighters' families get federal survivor benefits after serious injury or fatality. His passion and knowledge of the challenges first responders face were essential to secure successful passage of this law—even in the midst of a highly polarized Congress. This was a resounding bipartisan victory that reflected Americans' endless support for first responders.

It was also a pleasure and honor for Chief Saccone to accompany me at President Biden's State of the Union Address in 2022. He is the true example of a selfless leader, someone who expects nothing more of others than the best, while expecting even more from

himself. He raises others, is a team player, and an individual of incalculable quality. Chief Saccone's involvement in his community and country reflects his commitment to American democratic values. For the sake of America, I hope that citizens see Chief Saccone's story and continue his legacy as unswaying champions of American democracy. Chief Saccone's newly found free-time will undoubtedly be dedicated towards his wife Noreen; four children, Anthony Jr., Julia, Lucas, and Emilie; and his children's respective families. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief Saccone's career.

#### HONORING THE CASS CITY JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

##### HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trysten Gruber, Jr., the Junior Cass City Citizen of the Year, whose exceptional academic record, dedication to community service, and outstanding leadership in athletics are complemented by his remarkable character and commitment to personal development.

Trysten's academic journey is marked by a consistent record of high honors, demonstrating his commitment to excellence. His engagement in community initiatives, such as organizing blood drives and participating in environmental cleanups, showcases his strong sense of civic responsibility and desire to contribute positively to our community.

In athletics, Trysten has proven himself as a natural leader, serving as the football team captain and earning accolades including the Golden Helmet Award and First Team All-State honors. His achievements in wrestling and track further underscore his athletic ability and dedication.

Beyond the realm of sports, Trysten's involvement with the Boy Scouts of America, peer mentoring, and the National Honor Society highlight his well-rounded talents and his unwavering commitment to personal growth and community service. His attainment of the Eagle Scout rank and active participation in the National Honor Society are a testament to his exemplary character and leadership skills.

Today, we celebrate not just Trysten Gruber, Jr.'s past accomplishments but also the potential he embodies for future success and positive impact. His journey serves as a powerful reminder of the values that strengthen and enrich our community and nation, and I am proud that he was selected as the Cass City Junior Citizen of the Year.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 105, and YEA on Roll Call No. 106.

#### HONORING SANDY SEARS

##### HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandra "Sandy" Sears, an outstanding leader in the Greater Miami community.

Ms. Sears received a master's degree in management in 1975 from Northwestern University, Magna Cum Laude. In 2007, she attended the Wharton School CEO Program for Health Care Leadership.

Ms. Sears is a retired senior executive in the Jackson Health System. She served for 39 years in senior level leadership, retiring as the Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Jackson North Medical Center. Ms. Sears developed the affiliation agreement between Jackson North and the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, which distinguishes Jackson North as an academic community hospital. Ms. Sears is now continuing her commitment to public service in the capacity of Special Advisor, U.S. Congressional House of Representatives.

Ms. Sears serves with various organizations, including the Miami Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and she serves as a member in the Miami-Biscayne Bay chapter of the Links Incorporated. She is also a member of the executive committee of the Vice Provost's Council at Florida International University which is a community relations board on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Ms. Sears is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Black Heritage Planning Pillars Award for her contributions to the upward mobility of the African-American community throughout the years. She has been named one of the "Outstanding Black Leaders in Dade County," recognized for outstanding community services and leadership by a number of agencies such as Dade County Black Affairs, King of Clubs Greater Miami, Miami-Dade County Health Department, recognized as Outstanding Woman of Distinction and Caring, recognized as One of South Florida's Most Accomplished in Health Care, recognized as an Outstanding Pioneer in Health Care, and in 2013, she was named one of South Florida's Top 50 Most Powerful Business Leaders by Legacy Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ms. Sears for all she has achieved. She exemplifies the high quality of volunteerism and civic leadership that we aspire to instill across the country.

#### HONORING J. MCCAULEY BROWN

##### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special Kentuckian, J. McCauley (Mac) Brown. Mac lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. Brown earned a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a Master of Business Administration from George Washington University. While he was in college, he worked

during the summers at Brown-Forman Corporation, which was founded by his great-grandfather George Garvin Brown. After graduation in 1977, he began his full-time career at Brown-Forman. He worked in sales and marketing. He served as a Brand Director and a Regional Director before becoming Vice President in 2002. After a long and distinguished career in one of Kentucky's signature industries, Mr. Brown retired in 2015.

Mac Brown accepted the role as Chairman on the Republican Party of Kentucky following his retirement in 2015. Under his leadership, the state party made historic advances. After a very successful eight years, Mr. Brown resigned his position as Chairman in 2023. He lives in Louisville with his wife Eileen. They have four children and six grandchildren.

Mac Brown has been a leader in the distillery industry and a leader in the political realm. He is a man who leads with dignity, character, and kindness. Mac Brown is widely respected, and I am honored to lift up his contributions to Kentucky before Congress.

HONORING LT. COL. EDWIN  
COTTRELL

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hendersonville, N.C. resident and 102-year-old Army veteran, Lt. Col. Edwin Cottrell, in recognition of his service and heroism as a fighter pilot in World War II.

Ed flew 65 missions in 1944 and 1945 as a P-47 pilot with the 493rd Fighter Squadron of the 48th Fighter Group of the 9th Army Air Force.

Many of Ed's missions were flown during the Battle of the Bulge, when U.S. troops on the ground were defending against a strong German counteroffensive. His missions included bombing German artillery and Tiger Tanks, as well as taking out bridges. His service saved countless of his comrades' lives.

The engine of Ed's P-47 was shot up by a German Me-109 fighter during a mission on Dec. 17, 1944. With oil splattered across his plane's windshield and only 10 out of 18 engine cylinders still functioning, Ed was guided to the nearest friendly airfield over the radio, only to have his engine freeze just before landing. He maneuvered a dead-stick landing, rolled to a stop, and kissed the ground when he got out of the P-47. To this day, he credits the reliability of the P-47's Pratt & Whitney engine for getting him back to base.

Ed's service did not end with WWII. He went on to serve in the Air Force reserves for 28 years. He worked as a director of athletics at a school for boys and later coached multiple sports at West Chester State College in Pennsylvania, where he went on to become the associate dean.

In his adopted town of Hendersonville, Ed is a local legend. Ever the adventurer, he chose to go skydiving for his 100th birthday.

Ed and his college sweetheart, Millie Cottrell, raised two loving daughters, Susan and Mary, and celebrated 76 years of marriage together before her passing in 2020.

I thank Lt. Col. Cottrell for his brave and tireless service to our great Nation.

HONORING DR. ROSLYN CLARK  
ARTIS

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the renaming of the administration building at Benedict College in honor of President Roslyn Clark Artis. Effective immediately, the building formerly known as the Benedict College Administration Building will be officially recognized as the Roslyn Clark Artis Administration Building.

This historic decision reflects the profound impact of President Artis' visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence in higher education. As the first woman President of Benedict College, President Artis has shattered barriers and inspired countless individuals with her dedication to equity, inclusion, and academic achievement.

President Artis' remarkable journey to this momentous occasion is a testament to her resilience, intellect, and passion for empowering underrepresented communities. Prior to her presidency at Benedict College, Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis served as the first woman President of Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens, Florida. Throughout her tenure, she had earned numerous accolades and honors, including being named "Female HBCU President of the Year" by HBCU Digest and receiving the American Council on Education (ACE) Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation.

Beyond her exceptional leadership at Benedict College, President Artis has been a tireless advocate for educational access and opportunity. Her impact extends far beyond the confines of the campus, as evidenced by her appointment to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) and her leadership roles in various educational organizations.

The renaming of the administration building is a fitting tribute to President Artis' extraordinary legacy and contributions to higher education. It symbolizes our collective appreciation for her transformative leadership and steadfast commitment to advancing the mission of Benedict College.

As we gather here today to celebrate this historic moment, let us also reaffirm our commitment to supporting President Artis and ensuring that her vision for Benedict College continues to thrive for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending heartfelt congratulations to President Roslyn Clark Artis on this well-deserved honor. May the Roslyn Clark Artis Administration Building stand as a testament to her enduring legacy and inspire future generations of leaders to strive for excellence in all their endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MARGARET HOTOPP

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margaret Hotopp of Evergreen, Colorado. Margaret was selected as one of

only 15 high school students nationwide to represent the United States through the State Department's Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Abroad Program.

Created in 1993 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the FLEX program sought to foster meaningful relationships between students from countries in Eastern Europe and Eurasia with Americans and citizens of other countries. The modern FLEX Abroad program sends high-achieving American students to Eastern Europe and Western Asia to develop leadership skills, learn new languages, and represent our country as citizen ambassadors.

This year, Margaret will travel to Poland, attending school, living with a host family, and collaborating with the Department of State to integrate into her host community and promote mutual understanding between Americans and the Polish people.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Margaret Hotopp for this impressive accomplishment and I wish her all the best for her year in Poland.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN YARBROUGH,  
COOK COUNTY CLERK

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Cook County Clerk, Karen Yarbrough, who passed away on April 7, leaving decades of community family and political service. Karen was an active member of the Westside Black Elected Officials of Chicago, Illinois, a group for which I serve as Secretary and reflect their views.

Clerk Yarbrough was born on December 19, 1957, into a prominent family and from an early age began serving others, following in the footsteps of her father, Rev. Don Williams, a businessman, minister, and politician, at one time the Mayor of Maywood, Illinois.

Clerk Yarbrough's dedication to public service and her passion for advocating on behalf of people led her to be elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 2001 where she represented her district with energy, integrity, insight, and tenacity—earning the respect and admiration of her constituents and colleagues alike.

Clerk Yarbrough had a long list of legislative accomplishments, including bans on the death penalty and indoor smoking and the first ever lottery ticket, the Quality of Life Ticket, named "Red Ribbon Cash" to support HIV/AIDS prevention and education.

Clerk Yarbrough's commitment to fairness, transparency, and efficiency in government inspired her to seek the office of Cook County Recorder of Deeds in 2012, where she became the first African American to hold this position and worked tirelessly to modernize operations, increase accessibility to public records, and ensure equitable access to homeownership for all residents of Cook County.

Clerk Yarbrough's exemplary leadership and dedication to public service were further recognized when she was elected as the Cook County Clerk in 2018, where she continued her legacy of advocating for transparency, accessibility, and accountability in government