

while also overseeing critical functions, such as elections, vital records, and property tax administration.

Clerk Yarbrough's lifelong commitment to public service, her unwavering dedication to improving the lives of others, and her remarkable leadership have left an indelible mark on our community, inspiring countless individuals to pursue their dreams and work toward a more just and equitable society.

We, the Westside Black Elected Officials, express our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of Clerk Karen Yarbrough during this difficult time, and extend our heartfelt gratitude for sharing her with us.

Further, we honor the memory of Clerk Karen Yarbrough by reaffirming our commitment to carrying forward her legacy of service, compassion, and advocacy and by working tirelessly to build a more just, equitable, and inclusive society in which all people can thrive and be included as equal members.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF NOBIE  
MAE HILL

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize longtime Inkster and 12th District resident Nobie Mae Hill as we mourn her passing at the age of one hundred eleven.

Born and raised in Alabama, Ms. Hill was no stranger to a life of hard work, having spent years working on a plantation. After marrying and starting a family, Ms. Hill and her family moved to Michigan, settling in Inkster in the 1940s. She lived a full and vibrant life and became an integral part of the community. A trailblazer, Ms. Hill owned and operated two beauty salons in Inkster. She was also an active member of Inkster's Springhill Baptist Church.

Nobie Mae Hill was a beloved member of the community. Her kindness and warmth will be missed by all who knew her. Please join me in honoring her memory.

HONORING NANCY S. DAWKINS

**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 Nancy S. Dawkins, an outstanding educator and community leader, on the momentous occasion of her 100th birthday.

Nancy S. Dawkins was born on October 11, 1923, in Dania, Florida. She received degrees from Bethune Cookman College, Florida A & M University, and the University of Northern Colorado. She worked in the Dade County Public School System for over 30 years. She was married for over 52 years to the late former Miami City Commissioner, Miller Dawkins.

As a dean in South Florida's political arena, her activism and influence ranges from Federal, Local and State Judges; Members of the United States Congress on both sides of the

aisle; Members of both Houses of the Florida Legislature; Dade County and the City of Miami Commissioners and Managers along with numerous employees in all these institutions. Mrs. Dawkins worked tirelessly and supported many elected officials during their successful campaigns, such as Governor Bob Graham, U.S. Congressman Claude Pepper, U.S. Congresswoman Carrie Meek, U.S. Congresswoman FEDERICA WILSON, Florida Representative Joe Lang Kershaw, County Commissioner Barbara Carey, Florida Representative and School Board Member Dorothy Mindingall, Florida and Miami City Commission Miller Dawkins, Miami Mayor and Commissioner Xavier Suarez, and Florida Representative Gwen Cherry.

This Miami activist was a founder of the Theodore Gibson Oratorical Contest. This contest is named after the late Reverend Theodore Gibson, a former City of Miami Commissioner and community activist. The competition is designed to refine school children's public speaking skills. Mrs. Dawkins is a former Girl Scout Troop leader. She is a member of the American Association of University Women. She is a member of Mt. Zion AME Church in Dania Beach, Florida where she serves as a Stewardess. She has received numerous awards for her service to the community, including a "Women of Impact", Sojourner Truth Award, Dr. Martin Luther King Service Award, U.S. Congressional Award, and numerous other awards and appreciations. Mrs. Nancy Dawkins served as Founder and Charter member of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women—South Florida in every official and organizational position. At the 2015 District Conference, she was presented a "Strands of Wisdom" golden medallion for her 50 years of service to the Business and Professional Women's Club. In 2018, she was recognized by Bethune Cookman University as the institution's oldest living graduate and Ms. Mary McLeod Bethune's last living student.

The City of Miami has recognized Mrs. Dawkins countlessly throughout the years. Northwest 50th Street between 12th and 17th Avenues was designated "Mrs. Nancy S. Dawkins Way" in her honor in 2018. Also, the Miller and Nancy Dawkins Swimming Complex was named after her and her husband at Charles Hadley Park.

She is a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and is still active in the Delta Dears. She is a charter member of National Council of Negro Women, charter member and founder of Northwest Miami Chapter No. 4686 of AARP. She is still active in her National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, the Allapattah Homeowners Association.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mrs. Dawkins for becoming a centenarian, and her ten decades of dedication and service to the community.

HONORING MIDWAY UNIVERSITY  
EQUINE PROGRAM

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Equine Studies program at Midway University.

Midway University is located in the heart of Kentucky's horse country. The equine industry is one of Kentucky's signature industries. Seeing an opportunity to train Midway students for support staff jobs, the University began their equine program in 1974. Stables and horses were leased, and in the first year 50 students were enrolled. The program grew, and in 1978 plans were underway for an indoor arena on campus.

Over the years, the program has evolved from basic horsemanship and hands-on skills to much broader studies. Riding courses developed into competitive college-sponsored teams. Students now have the opportunity to concentrate in Equine Management, Equine Rehabilitation, or Equine Science. Students have access to a large equine herd of various breeds and disciplines. Hands-on learning experiences are available on Midway's working horse farm. In 2023, Midway University started an online program in Equine Business and Sales. They also offer an online MBA with Equine Management concentration.

Graduates from Midway have entered every type of equine business throughout Kentucky, the United States, and internationally. Over the past 50 years Midway has provided high-quality equine educational opportunities for students from across the country.

I appreciate the work of the dedicated staff at Midway University. They have many accomplishments to celebrate as they look back at 50 years of equine education. The future for the Equine Studies program is bright and it is my honor to recognize Midway University before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY YAN

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anthony Yan of Westminster, Colorado. Anthony is one of only a few high school students across the country to be awarded the prestigious National Security Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship. As part of this program, Anthony will travel to Taiwan this summer to engage in intensive instruction in the Mandarin language, while living with a local host family and becoming immersed in Taiwanese culture.

Launched in 2006, NSLI-Y gives high-achieving American high school students the opportunity to gain rigorous instruction and immersive experiences learning languages critical to America's national security and global cooperation. Many NSLI-Y alumni go on to distinguished careers in national security and public service using the language skills gained through this scholarship program.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Anthony Yan for this impressive accomplishment and wish him all the best on his upcoming travels to Taiwan.

HONORING MICHAEL PERUSICH AS  
VETERAN OF THE MONTH FOR  
MICHIGAN'S 9TH DISTRICT

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Michael Perusich, our Veteran of the Month for April 2024 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. It is a privilege to acknowledge the service and dedication of a distinguished American veteran whose contributions and sacrifices have left a lasting impact on our Nation.

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, in 1942, Michael graduated from Henry Ford High School in 1961. After a brief period working in California in the field of electronics and communications, Michael returned to Michigan and enlisted in the Air Force in November 1963, where he specialized in Top Secret Communications Maintenance.

Michael's service took him to the historic island of Iwo Jima from September 1964 to 1965, where he played a crucial role in supporting communications and the Far East Network from this strategic location. His dedication and skill were further exemplified during his two tours in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967, marking a significant chapter in his military career.

After honorably concluding his service, Michael embarked on a successful career with Control Data Corporation, yet his commitment to serving his fellow veterans never wavered. He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4659 in 1992, where he has been an active and valued member for over 30 years. Rising through the ranks to Sr. Vice Commander, Michael has been instrumental in supporting the Post, the Honor Guard, and the Macomb County Honor Guard, demonstrating unwavering dedication to the veteran community.

Michael's contributions extend beyond his military service; he is deeply involved in the local community, regularly assisting in ceremonies honoring veterans. His recognition with the "White Hat" at the 2016 State VFW Convention is a testament to his commitment to veteran support programs, community service, and hospital service.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Perusich's life is a testament to the spirit of American courage, resilience, and unwavering dedication to service. His contributions both in uniform and as a veteran advocate have significantly impacted the lives of many and serve as a beacon of inspiration for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our gratitude to Michael Perusich, not only as being named my district's Veteran of the Month but as a true American hero whose legacy of service and community continues to enrich our great Nation.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE

SPEECH OF

**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 10, 2024*

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the lives of the six construction

workers who passed away as a result of the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore.

Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, Dorian Ronial Castillo Cabrera, Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval, Miguel Luna, Jose Mynor Lopez, and Carlos Hernández.

These men who lost their lives while working on the Bridge were everyday heroes.

These men could've been our fathers, brothers, grandsons, or nephews.

That evening, they arrived at work proudly as immigrants, ready to help build this country with their own two hands by undertaking hazardous and challenging tasks that others refused.

Their dedication reminds us that immigrants should be celebrated and acknowledged for contributing to this country—not vilified and attacked for where they come from, the color of their skin, or their accent.

They deserve to be praised and remembered. We should be inspired by their tenacity and dedication to pursuing the American Dream for themselves and their loved ones.

We will continue to work on behalf of our immigrant community in honor of these brave souls. We will rebuild the Bridge and help build an immigration infrastructure that celebrates our workers.

HONORING SHARON J. STONE

**HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Ms. Sharon Stone for 35 years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Ms. Stone, known as "Sherry" by friends and family, has made outstanding contributions to our country for more than three decades as part of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

Ms. Stone's career with the DoD started in 1989 with Army Medicine in Europe where she served for 10 years and played a pivotal role in implementing centralized medical business operations across Army Europe, aligning personnel, workload, and financial systems. In 1999, she was named the Army Medical Expense and Reporting Program Manager. As Program Manager, she provided crucial medical cost accounting education and training to Army military treatment facilities, significantly impacting the Medical Expense and Performance Reporting System.

In 2004, Ms. Stone spearheaded the development of the U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) Performance Planning Program, translating strategy into action and facilitating the budget allocation of \$6.3 billion for healthcare delivery. In February 2018, Ms. Stone received recognition from the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army for her contributions to MEDCOM and the Army.

Finally, in December 2018, Ms. Stone was requested to lead, develop, and implement the Defense Health Agency's Quadruple Aim Performance Planning process. Since then, Ms. Stone created a single, integrated, transparent process to align military treatment facilities with the Defense Health Agency's priorities. Ms. Stone received the DoD Spirit of Service Award for her display of honor, integrity, and

excellence through outstanding support as a public servant to the U.S. Department of Defense in recognition of her work.

Throughout her career, Ms. Stone has trained over 30,000 personnel across the Military Health System. Her commitment to service and her passion for sharing her knowledge and skills have proven to be valuable assets to her team. Her contributions have had a profound and positive impact on the Military Health System.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Ms. Sharon Stone for 35 years of service to our country, and in wishing her the best in her retirement.

HONORING GLOBAL INNOVATIVE  
FOUNDATION, INC.

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I use today to commemorate the 5th Annual Power & Influence Luncheon hosted by Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. and to pay tribute to their many contributions to our community.

Whereas, the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization that was incorporated in 2019 by a diverse group of professionals engaged to create global awareness for the prevention of crimes and to empower the lives of victims and survivors through support, education, service, and scholarships; and

Whereas, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the esteemed honorees of the 5th Annual Power & Influence Luncheon hosted by the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. These individuals have demonstrated exceptional leadership, compassion, and dedication in their efforts to uplift and support victims and survivors within our community. Among them, we commend Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava for recipient of the Power & Influence Award, State Representative Marie Woodson, District 105, for being recognized with the Trailblazer Award, Miami-Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle as the recipient of the Justice Advocate Excellence Award, and Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody as the recipient of the Iman's Light Foundation Award. We also honor the commitment and service of Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Dept. Director Sherea Green, Hispanic Women of Distinction President & CEO Elaine Miceli Vasquez, Miami Dade College School of Health Sciences Dean Dr. Alwyn Leiba, South Region Florida Nurses Association Director Dr. Guillermo Valdes, Jewish University System President Lucy Alfonso, Quest2Freedom Founder & CEO Victor Williams, Empower U Community Health Center, Guiding Light Outreach Founder/CEO Dr. Shanika Ampah, Miami-Dade County's Office Community Advocacy Communications & Media Director Griselle Marino, Foundation of the Americas & Global Philanthropy Society CEO/Founder Rachel Pinedo, President and CEO of CMS International Group Jeff Lozama, and President of Florida Association of Non-profit Organizations, Inc. Marina Pavlov. Lastly, we recognize the dedicated service of Global Innovative Foundation's 2021–2023 Chairwoman Bernadette Pierre, recipient of the Service Excellence Award.