

Director Mark Scott has worked tirelessly to make the MSU VBOC a place where Veterans are served well. Natalie Rhode, the program director, has also played a key role in the center's success.

The Veterans Business Outreach Center is focused on small business development for Veterans and their spouses. The center was founded in 2015 and covers Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

The Small Business Administration selected the MSU VBOC this year for its successes and unique contributions to the local community.

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy. The MSU VBOC is committed to excellence while supporting many local Veterans as they invest in their communities.

This award is a testament to the hard work by the outstanding team on the front lines at the VBOC.

I am thankful to have the opportunity to congratulate the Mississippi State University Veterans Business Outreach Center on the occasion of this award, and I look forward to continuing to work in Congress on behalf of our Veterans.

HONORING KIMBERLEY
EMMANUEL

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 honor Kimberley F. Emmanuel, an outstanding educator as she retires from Miami-Dade County Public Schools after 3 decades of service.

Mrs. Emmanuel received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Miami and earned a Master of Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. She also received a certificate from the Principal Institute at Harvard University.

Kimberley Emmanuel is currently the Principal of Phyllis Ruth Miller Elementary in Miami, Florida, and she has served Miami-Dade County Public Schools in several capacities for the past 35 years and has led with strength and compassion. She has created a learning environment of high expectations and excellence which has guided her schools to raise their levels with state testing. As an administrator, Mrs. Emmanuel emphasized student achievement by analyzing data, and using it to drive instruction, empower teachers, provide outstanding professional development, and forming an effective leadership team to close the achievement gap.

Mrs. Emmanuel has been recognized in numerous ways over her career, including the 2011 Healthy Schools Program National Recognition Bronze Award and 2004 Finalist as a School Administrator of the Year for the Florida African American Education Alliance. She is the 2008–2009 District Finalist for Principal of the Year; 2008 Urban League of Greater Miami Principal of the Year. She is the recipient of the 2004 Distinguished Leadership Award, and a 2005 Letter of Commendation by Governor Jeb Bush as a School Recognized for Outstanding Progress—Most improvement in the State of Florida.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Emmanuel, Phyllis Ruth Miller Elementary is the recipient of the 2023 Merit School of Distinction. This distinction is the second highest honor Magnet Schools of America bestows and is awarded to those that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to academic standards, curriculum innovation, desegregation/diversity efforts, specialized teaching staffs and parent and community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mrs. Kimberley Emmanuel for all she has achieved.

RECOGNIZING KATELYN
O'CONNELL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katelyn O'Connell of Arvada, Colorado. Katelyn was selected as one of 250 high school students across the country to participate in the Department of State's prestigious Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Program.

Launched in 1983, CBYX selects high achieving youth from both Germany and the United States to live in each other's country for one academic year. During their year abroad, students will foster meaningful relationships between America and Germany, while giving participants new perspectives on peoples and cultures beyond their own. Many CBYX alumni go on to distinguished careers in foreign affairs and public service using the language skills gained through this scholarship program.

This year, Katelyn will travel to Germany, 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 German people.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Katelyn O'Connell for this impressive accomplishment and wish her all the best in her upcoming year in Germany.

IN MEMORY OF JACK KAIN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a very special man, Mr. Jack Kain, of Versailles, Kentucky. Mr. Kain was born on June 18, 1929, and he passed away on March 26, 2024, at the age of 94.

Mr. Kain was raised on a central Kentucky farm by loving parents. In 1947, while he was a college student at the University of Kentucky, he started selling cars. Mr. Kain earned a Bachelor of Business degree from the University of Kentucky. He enjoyed cheering on teams led by coaching legends Adolph Rupp and Bear Bryant, becoming a lifelong UK fan. He served our country in the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant during the Korean War. In 1953, he opened his first auto-

mobile dealership. He continued in the automotive industry, where he built a successful lifelong career. For many years, he and his family have operated Jack Kain Ford, where they have served over 70,000 customers since the 1980s. Mr. Kain was a leader in the automobile industry. He led the National Automobile Dealers Association in 2005 as Chairman. He represented Kentucky's franchised new-car dealers on NADA's board of directors for many years.

Mr. Kain was a leader in his community and was recognized as Woodford County Chamber of Commerce's Businessman of the Year in 1992. A generous man, he supported education, medical care and research, and many other charitable efforts to make the community and the nation a better place.

More importantly than his business and community successes, Mr Kain kept his family at the forefront of his life. He had nine children, twenty-two grandchildren, and eighteen great-grandchildren. He is survived by his wife Alice Stewart Kain and children Vickie Fister, Patrick Kain, David Kain, Steve Kain, Bob Kain, and Bill Kain. He was preceded in death by his daughters Becky Grimes and Suzanne Hockensmith and his son Jack Kain, Jr.

Jack Kain was a great man who loved his family, his community, his country, and his God. He was respected by his community and his colleagues in the automobile industry throughout America. It is my honor to call him my friend and to recognize his life before the United States House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, on the anniversary of the week of the start of the Civil War, I introduce the Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park Act, which would recognize and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington located in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland. The Defenses of Washington, including forts, unarmed batteries and rifle trenches, created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War. This bill would redesignate the 22 Civil War Defenses of Washington currently under National Park Service jurisdiction as a national historical park, and allow other sites associated with the Defenses of Washington that are owned by D.C. or a unit of state governments to be affiliated with the national historical park through cooperative agreements. This bill would also require the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the history of the Civil War, including the history of the Defenses of Washington and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, being assembled, arrayed and conveyed for the benefit of the public for the knowledge, education and inspiration of this and future generations. In 2018, the House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on this bill. Although the Department of the Interior opposed this bill, I feel strongly that the Defenses of Washington need additional recognition and should be redesignated as a national historical park.

The Defenses of Washington were constructed at the beginning of the war, in 1861, as a ring of protection for the nation's capital and for President Abraham Lincoln. By the end of the war, these defenses included 68 forts, 93 unarmed batteries, 807 mounted cannons, 13 miles of rifle trenches and 32 miles of military roads. The major test of the Defenses of Washington came with the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, when Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early, directed by General Robert E. Lee, sought to attack the nation's capital from the north, causing Union forces threatening to attack Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, to be withdrawn. General Early was delayed by Union Major General Lew Wallace at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, and was stopped at the northern edge of Washington at the Battle of Fort Stevens on July 11–12, 1864. The Shenandoah Valley Campaign ended when Union Lieutenant General Philip Sheridan defeated General Early at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia on October 19, 1864.

Nearly all the individual forts in the Defenses of Washington—on both sides of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers—were involved in stopping General Early's attack, and the Battle of Fort Stevens was the second and last attempt by the Confederate Army to attack Washington.

Taken together, these battles were pivotal to the outcome of the war and the freedom and democracy that the war represented for this country. It is therefore fitting that we recognize the Defenses of Washington by redesignating them as a national historical park.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATING BARB HEDSTROM AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CRIME SURVIVORS AND JUSTICE CAUCUS ED STOUT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VICTIM ADVOCACY

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Barb Hedstrom, as the recipient of the Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus' 2024 Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy. Barb Hedstrom serves as Shakopee Police Department's Victim and Community Services Coordinator.

This award's honoree is a professional, volunteer or organization whose efforts directly benefit victims and survivors of crime. The award recognizes innovations in victim assistance and crime victim services in the areas of program development, public or agency policy development, community and public awareness, and collaboration among community and

justice-based organizations that serve crime victims.

Barb is exactly that. The Shakopee Police Department was the first police department in Minnesota to have a Victim Services Coordinator. In 2015, Barb worked with her colleagues to launch the Recovery Assistance Program (RAP), which helps those in recovery by providing scholarships to help break down barriers to treatment. Barb recently started the Law Enforcement Association of Victim Essential Services (LEAVES), which is a statewide professional association of law enforcement-based victim service providers. Due largely to Barb's work, the Shakopee Police Department has been a leader in the State of Minnesota and across the country for victims' services for nearly a decade and has made victim services a top priority.

It is an honor to represent Barb Hedstrom and the Shakopee Police Department in Congress. I look forward to our continued partnership in serving the Second District of Minnesota.

RECOGNIZING MRS. PAULINE BIEDKA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pauline Biedka, a remarkable constituent from my district, and to pay tribute to her on the celebration of her 100th Birthday on April 13, 2024.

The daughter of Philomena and Luke Della Vella, Pauline was born on April 13, 1924 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—one of nine children Pauline married her husband Peter, a World War II Veteran in 1942. They moved to Bristol, Bucks County and built their forever home. They had a daughter and two sons.

Pauline was a "Rosie the Riveter" during World War II and the Korean War. During that time, she worked at Fleetwings and Kaiser Metal in Bristol, Pennsylvania. In addition, Pauline was a Neshaminy School District crossing guard for twenty-five years.

Pauline was and still is a devoted wife, remains an amazing mother, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of twelve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to please join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations, sincere well-wishes, and all of God's Blessings to Pauline Biedka on the celebration of her 100th Birthday.

HONORING DR. GLORIA SMITH

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a trailblazing member of the Michigan State University community: Dr. Gloria Smith. Her lifelong dedication to education, advocacy, and service has left an indelible mark on the university and beyond.

After earning her doctorate from the University of Massachusetts in 1971, Dr. Smith's journey brought her to Michigan State University where she joined the faculty of the Department of Education. Throughout her tenure at MSU, Dr. Smith distinguished herself as a trailblazer and champion of equity, especially for women of color.

Her footprint at MSU is immeasurable. In 1972, she played a pivotal role as a member of the steering committee for the Black Women Employees Association of MSU, where she passionately advocated for the hiring of more Black women professors. Her achievements, including becoming the first Black woman to attain full professorship at MSU and being recognized on the university's Distinguished Wall of Professors, serve as a testament to her contributions and enduring influence.

She lent her leadership and expertise as she served as the Director of African American and African Studies, as a member on the MSU Athletic Board, and on the university's presidential search committee. In 2007, Dr. Smith retired from MSU as professor emeritus in the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education.

Dr. Smith's incredible legacy extends beyond the classroom. She was the first Black President of the Michigan Counseling Psychology and Supervision Professional Organization. She has also been a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first intercollegiate historically African American sorority, since 1958. She served as the organization's 18th Great Lakes Regional Director and has truly embodied her sisterhood's mission to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards and to be of service to all mankind.

Dr. Smith continues to show her commitment to education and serving others as a member of her local chapter of the Links, Incorporated, an organization dedicated to promoting quality education, civic responsibility, and enhancing the quality of life of their communities. She is also a cherished member of her church, The Friendship Baptist Church, where she lives their cote value of serving without restraint.

With profound gratitude for her extraordinary contributions to Michigan State University and her lifelong mission to uplift her community, it is my honor to recognize her service here, in the People's House.