

Leadership development is also central to the mission of the college. Boricua College engages and empowers all their students through encouraging the development of students' critical thinking skills and cultural competency to ignite the spark of leadership in their entire student population.

I would like to Congratulate Boricua College on 50 years of providing outstanding education and I look forward to seeing the institution's continuous dedication to their students and the community.

REMEMBERING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER THREE, (RET) CARTER SMYRE, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving husband, outstanding father, proud grandfather, astute entrepreneur, distinguished military officer, faithful man of God and friend of longstanding, Chief Warrant Officer Three, (Ret) Carter Smyre, Jr. Sadly, CWO3 Smyre transitioned from labor to reward on April 12, 2024. A homegoing celebration attended by friends and family will be held on April 19, 2024, at the Ward Chapel AME Church in Columbus, Georgia.

The extraordinary life story of CWO3 Carter Smyre, Jr. began with his birth to the union of the late Staff Sergeant Carter Smyre, Sr. and Mrs. Selma Tinsley Smyre on June 7, 1925, in Griffin, Georgia. Following the example of his father, young Carter Smyre, Jr. set out to blaze his own path in the United States Army. One of his proudest moments was graduating from the U.S. Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, (now Fort Novosel) Alabama. For 25 years, he served his country, rising through the ranks and ultimately being appointed by the Secretary of the Army as Chief Warrant Officer Three—a technical leader, trainer, operator, maintainer, sustainer, integrator, and advisor. CWO3 Smyre's life was always the epitome of the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, integrity, honor, and personal courage—values which give soldiers direction, purpose, and motivation to be, know, and do what is right. And for 98 years that has been his legacy.

Following his retirement from the Army, Carter Smyre owned and operated a grocery store, worked 10 years as a real estate agent at Carter Realty Company and then founded his own company, Smyre Realty Company which he operated for 42 years. He had immense joy when he was able to help others realize the dream of home ownership and because of his commitment to his craft and excellence, former Governor Joe Frank Harris appointed him to the Georgia Residential Housing and Finance Authority Board of Directors where he served the entire State of Georgia.

It has been said that "The true person of success is not the person that climbs the ladder of this life with both hands but who climbs with one hand and reaches back with the other." Chief Warrant Officer Smyre always reached back to help others throughout the Chattahoochee Valley Area to include his beloved East Carver Heights Community, the

Moderns Club and the Path Seekers Civic and Social Club to name a few.

On a personal note, CWO3 Smyre was a special friend and was "family" to my wife, Vivian, and me. He encouraged us to pursue our dreams and supported us every step of the way as he did for so many others who have been blessed by his wise advice, counsel, and mentorship. He led by example and because of that sterling example, others, including his beloved son, former State Representative Calvin Smyre, have thrived in service to others.

Carter Smyre accomplished much in life but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God, the love and support of his late wife, Mrs. Mildred Bass Smyre; his current wife, P.J. Glover; his devoted son, former State Representative and U.S. Representative/Public Delegate to the 78th United Nations General Assembly, Calvin Smyre; his late daughter Gwendolyn Smyre-Foster, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other extended family members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in celebrating the extraordinary life of Chief Warrant Officer Three (Ret) Carter Smyre, Jr. and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends and all who mourn his loss. May we all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AGEGUIDE NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois, an organization dedicated to supporting and empowering older adults to live with dignity and independence. As one of 622 Area Agencies on Aging throughout the United States, established by Congress to implement the Older Americans Act, AgeGuide stands as a representation of excellence in its field.

When AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois was established in 1974, the Illinois Department on Aging designated it as the Area Agency on Aging for DuPage, Kane, Kankakee, Grundy, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties. For half a century, AgeGuide has provided invaluable services and resources to seniors, ensuring that they are well taken care of and respected in our society.

On this momentous occasion, we honor the dedication and hard work of the staff, volunteers, and supporters of AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois who have tirelessly worked towards improving the lives of older adults. Their compassion, generosity, and determination have made a lasting impact on our community, and we are truly grateful for their dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such a proactive and collaborative organization that has positively transformed the lives of countless individuals and I ask my colleagues to

join me in celebrating AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois' remarkable 50 years of service, advocacy, and empowerment for our seniors.

NO U.S. FINANCING FOR IRAN ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 15, I will vote No on H.R. 5921, the No Financing for Iran Act. While I agree with the bill's stated goal of preventing the Iranian government from accessing the U.S. financial system, the bill goes much further than that and has several issues.

Unfortunately, H.R. 5921 as written would likely inflict significant harm on small businesses in Oregon and across the country. The bill includes provisions to prevent the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. (ExIm Bank) from financing projects associated with Iran's government. However, under current U.S. policy, ExIm is already prohibited from doing business with the government of Iran and Iran-related sanctioned persons (as are all U.S. government entities and U.S. persons).

As Ranking Member WATERS has noted, H.R. 5921's duplicative provisions will impose overly burdensome requirements on the ExIm Bank, which would dramatically increase the cost, processing time, and resources needed to review transactions and help American small businesses. The bill would also put American small businesses at a disadvantage to foreign competitors when exporting their goods abroad.

Given my own work with the ExIm Bank before holding elected office, I know how reliant small businesses engaging in international trade in Oregon and across the country are on the services provided. I cannot support legislation that undermines the ExIm Bank's ability to serve American businesses.

In addition, the bill seeks to prevent Iran from accessing Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)—an international reserve asset that many developing countries around the world rely on—through the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, Iran is already prevented from having access to SDRs thanks to current U.S. sanctions, meaning this bill is unnecessary.

In practice, the bill would actually prevent increases of SDRs to all countries. This is because the IMF process for approving SDR distributions is a simple up-or-down vote on whether there should be a distribution of SDRs to all IMF member countries—there is no avenue at the IMF for SDR votes on individual member countries. As a result, this bill would likely cause significant hardship for many developing IMF member countries around the world.

The U.S. Treasury Department is also opposed to these provisions, stating that this bill would deny the IMF and U.S. Treasury "a tool for promptly responding to global economic crises and preventing spillovers to the U.S. economy."

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK
AND CRISIS**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Black Maternal Health Week, to urgently address the ongoing epidemic surrounding the mortality and health of Black mothers, and to implore this esteemed body to take decisive action on legislation that can help reverse this alarming reality.

Women in America are tragically dying at a higher rate from pregnancy-related causes than in any other developed nation. The disparities are even more stark for Black women, who are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than their white counterparts. This heartbreaking statistic is rooted in a long history of systemic racism and bias. Studies reveal that Black women facing severe injuries or pregnancy complications, or simply seeking assistance, are often dismissed or overlooked in healthcare settings that should prioritize their care—a stark truth regardless of socioeconomic status. A recent study highlighted that even the wealthiest Black mothers and their babies face twice the risk of mortality compared to their white counterparts. This disparity transcends income, as high-income Black women and low-income white women experience similar rates of childbirth-related deaths. Additionally, many non-affluent Black mothers lack access to safe housing, affordable transportation, and nutritious food—essential elements that profoundly impact maternal health. Systemic injustice in our health care and other national capabilities threatens the lives and well-being of all Black mothers, who are unequivocally American mothers.

We cannot allow these inequities to persist when potential solutions exist. I urge my esteemed colleagues to rally behind the efforts and legislation of the Black Maternal Caucus, dedicated to addressing these pressing concerns and championing the welfare of Black mothers. A crucial step forward is the passage of The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act, H.R. 3305 comprising 13 vital bills aimed at tackling this crisis and promoting healthcare equity for Black mothers. The Momnibus encompasses measures to enhance healthcare and economic support for Black mothers, bolster our federal and community capacity to understand and rectify this crisis, and expand and diversify our perinatal workforce to better serve Black mothers. This monumental legislation is cosponsored by 193 of my House Democratic colleagues, 32 senators, and backing from 200 stakeholder organizations.

The Momnibus Act can be a vital first step in forging an America where Black mothers can flourish. Let us unite in our commitment to ensure the health and well-being of all mothers, regardless of race or socioeconomic status, as we strive towards a future where every mother receives the care and support she deserves.

HONORING SGT. JOHN ASHE

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henderson County, N.C. resident Sgt. John Ashe in recognition of his service.

This month, Sgt. Ashe retired from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office after a long and decorated career in law enforcement. He most recently worked as an officer in the Henderson County courthouse, where he developed a close relationship with my district staff.

Throughout John's 26 years in law enforcement, he worked in detention, warrant squad, criminal investigations as a general investigator, and as a narcotics detective, in animal enforcement, and was on the sniper team.

John and his wife, Lisa, have been blessed to share their lives with Meghan, Bryan and Bella, whom they cherish and adore.

I thank Sgt. Ashe for his brave and tireless service to Henderson County, and I wish him best of luck on all the hunting trips in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. VICTOR ALICEA

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Victor G. Alicea, Ph.D., is the founding President of Boricua College. He began his tenure at the College in 1974. During his time at Boricua College, he has proven his steadfast leadership and commitment to moving the institution forward at a time of unprecedented challenge to the health and financial well-being of colleges and universities across the nation.

"The present is the only pathway that connects our past with our future," Dr. Victor G. Alicea, is often heard to remark. Always present in the "here and now" Victor Gabriel Alicea has worked tirelessly for the education and flourishing of all people of New York City. He is the founder and president of Boricua College for the past 48 years.

Dr. Victor G. Alicea was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico and spent his childhood in New York City's East Harlem "El Barrio" and in Harlem. Victor Alicea has worked throughout his life combining intellectual strength and his vast knowledge of education and human polity with the caring he has for people. He has participated and led numerous institutes in public administration, group dynamics, community organization, health and mental health care services and is a practicing social worker, educator, planner, consultant to various community development programs and is a psychotherapist in private practice.

One of President Alicea's foremost commitments has been to New York City, a city he loves. He has served on Mayor Dinkins's Advisory Committee on Appointments. In 1990 Dr. Alicea was appointed Vice Chairman of the New York City Planning Commission by Mayor David Dinkins, and in July, 1995 was named to a second term by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, finally serving for eleven years. He also

served on Mayor Giuliani's Special Panel on the Health and Hospitals Corporation, and was appointed by Governor Pataki as a Commissioner of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and served as Secretary of the Board of Directors of Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, Inc. Currently serves as Member of the Board of Trustees of the NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC).

In 2022, Dr. Alicea completed 48 years as the founding President of Universidad Boricua/Boricua College during which time the College has grown from one floor in a building in Williamsburg Brooklyn, and 26 students, to three campus centers with 800 students and 40 full-time faculty members, in three buildings including a campus in Manhattan, and the recently completed \$47 million campus building for the Bronx Campus, making it a tri-Borough College, the progression has been from graduating three students in 1976 to over fourteen thousand by 2023.

Dr. Alicea's recent inclusion in City & State's 2023 Higher Education Power 100 list is a testament to his unwavering commitment to serving our community and advancing education. As the longest-serving president of a private college in New York State, Dr. Alicea's legacy is one of transformative leadership and a tireless pursuit of excellence.

There are many more years to come for this colossal intellectual giant to serve the people of this great City. Typical of this self-reflecting man that his greatest pride and pleasure has been how much he has learned from the faculty and staff who helped to create the College, and the thousands of students and families that have been touched by Boricua College.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
RENDERING DAY**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2nd Annual National Rendering Day. The burden of responsibility for feeding the world extends beyond the farm. Rendering plays a critical role in ensuring we can meet the growing global demand for food, feed, and fuel, while helping reduce food waste and loss. By recycling unused animal products, renderers create valuable ingredients from resources that would otherwise take up enormous amounts of precious landfill space. Renderers also collect billions of pounds of used cooking oil from restaurants and food manufacturers for upcycling into products and sustainable fuels, like biodiesel.

Rendering not only creates alternative, sustainable fuels to power trucks, trains, water vessels and other vehicles but also feeds our beloved household pets. Rendering is the largest industry involved in prevention of food loss and waste and is an important component of a bio-circular economy.

Renderers play an important role in reducing food loss and waste, sustainably recycling valuable agricultural resources, and positively contributing to local, state, and national and international economies. U.S. renderers contribute \$10 billion in annual economic activity