

commitment to rescuing Americans injured in combat was undeniable throughout his time bravely serving in the U.S. Army.

Sadly, we lost Fred too soon on October 2, 1968, nine days short of his 24th birthday, after his helicopter was shot down in the Quang Tin Province of South Vietnam. For Fred's bravery and sacrifice for our country, Fred's name is listed on panel 42W, line 65 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

After Fred's family and former Middleborough classmates took note that there was no memorial for Fred in his hometown, the community came together to request that the town allow for the culvert bridge on Wareham Street to be renamed in Fred's memory. The measure was approved by the Middleborough Select Board earlier this year, and on April 24, 2024, the bridge will be dedicated in Fred's honor and named the 1st Lieutenant Fred Z. Washburn Bridge.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of 1st Lieutenant Fred Washburn. I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Fred's siblings, Margery and David; Steve Adelman, the Town of Middleborough's Veterans Service Officer; and the Middleborough Memorial High School Class of 1962 for their work to ensure that Fred's dedication and sacrifice for his community and our country be remembered for many years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING ALEJANDRO VALDEZ

#### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alejandro Valdez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Alejandro has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Alejandro, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alejandro's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Alejandro Valdez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

#### RECOGNIZING EMILY HARRINGTON

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Emily Harrington. She joined the Gulf Coast Manatees Homeschool Group in 2023 and has been an incredible member and volunteer that goes above and beyond expectations. Although she is somewhat new, Emily jumped right in with facilitating classes, becoming the Volunteer Coordinator and helps assist with anything

needed in the group. Emily spearheads the Nature Journaling class and has a passion for teaching children. She is a natural leader. She loves to volunteer and offers ideas for the cop. She always gets involved in each community service projects and helps with community outreach. Emily teaches the younger age group and they love her. It is easy to see the joy she feels as they learn and grow. She is truly an unsung hero, as it is important to have a great role model, friend and fellow teacher by one's side.

Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Ms. Harrington has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

#### RECOGNIZING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE RABBIT HOLE

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense pride to recognize and celebrate the grand opening of the newest addition to Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, the Rabbit hOle. Garnering attention on the local and national level, the Rabbit hOle will undoubtedly provide new experiences for children and adults alike as they take on a one-of-a-kind approach to a children's literature museum that has not been pursued before. Through its focus on literature, arts, education, and inclusivity to visitors of all ages, the museum will show its dedication to our community as well as enable others to see the array of activities that Kansas City has to offer. I am truly honored to represent an organization who has worked tirelessly to bring innovation and new opportunities to our community.

The Rabbit hOle's creation can be traced back to married couple Pete Cowdin and Debbie Pettid, who co-founded the museum in 2015. As a result of nearly 30 years in business as booksellers and owners of a local children's bookstore, the Reading Reptile, located in Kansas City, Missouri, the owners decided to venture into a new adventure. It was during their time in this capacity that Cowdin and Pettid began thinking about the possibilities of bringing a book to life by creating an immersive experience for children's literature. After having this idea for nearly two decades, Cowdin and Pettid took a leap of faith and began working to bring their vision into fruition.

As they began working towards the development of this project, their core values focused on creating a culture that centered around the love of children's literature that could remain accessible to all visitors of all ages, builds on the enjoyment of literacy while providing a hands-on experience. Moreover, with a special commitment and diligence to the children who would one day visit the museum, Cowdin and Pettid focused on envisioning a place that would not only be a colorful place for children but one that could further their curiosity and involvement with literature.

In testament to that mission, the Rabbit hOle has secured the rights to over 70 works

from the last century of children's literature with the idea to provide permanent exhibits of classic works as well as rotating installations. Through their desire to remain inclusive and accessible, the Rabbit hOle has pursued works from diverse backgrounds to ensure that visitors from all backgrounds can have access to exhibits that may reflect their own lives and experiences. Beyond their work in diversity, this organization remains invested in the improvement of our community through enhanced programs and experiences they plan to provide to Kansas Citians, visitors, and educators.

This organization will bring an out-of-the-ordinary experience to educators and students as they visit the museum where they will have the ability to have access to a print shop, story lab, resource library, among other new novelties that will enrich the diversity of activities available to schools. Through these activities and possibilities, visitors, especially children, will feel empowered to explore and create their own stories along the way. There lies no doubt that our youth will feel inspired to engage in new ideas and perspectives that will lead to an overall better understanding of the world around them as they continue to grow. Our community is proud to have an organization that supports and stands for these values in our own backyard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the grand opening of the Rabbit hOle and their tremendous accomplishment and service to the Greater Kansas City area. Their enthusiasm for literature, accessibility, and empowerment in the lives of children and adults alike to enhance the quality of life and opportunities to our communities is an example for all to follow. I speak with the voice of Missouri's entire Fifth Congressional District as we say a heartfelt "Welcome" to the Rabbit hOle as we celebrate and congratulate them on their opening and the many achievements to come.

#### CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF JEFFREY LEE HARPER

#### HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 70th birthday of Mr. Jeffrey Lee Harper, who made his entrance into the world on April 26, 1954 in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from Manchester High School in June of 1972 and stayed in the Richmond area as he continued his post-secondary education.

Jeff went on to marry the love of his life, Carole Chalkley, on September 11, 1976. Three years later their daughter, Jamie, was born.

From a young age, Jeff's athletic abilities gained him accolades on the tennis court and the golf course. He played on the high school golf team and showed off his short game by winning a Putt-Putt tournament. As a member of Meadowbrook Country Club for 25 years, he won back-to-back championships at the Walt Disney World Pro-Am Golf Classic in 2008 and 2009 in Orlando, Florida. The 2009 championship was the sweetest since it was also the year that his first and only granddaughter, Rachel Elizabeth was born. She

shares his enthusiasm for the game, and he claims full credit for her talent.

Jeff's ambition, business acumen and mathematical prowess led to a long and successful career in insulation contracting and made him revered in the industry. After many years of dedication to his firm, he retired from Old Dominion Insulation in 2014. As native Virginians, he and Carole traded in long, cold winters for sunshine and warmth and moved to the free state of Florida where they currently reside in The Villages.

Jeff is a devoted husband, father and grandfather and a loyal friend to many. He enjoys traveling to new places, listening to his favorite jazz musicians, and sipping a fine glass of wine.

Mr. Speaker, like a fine wine, Jeff has only gotten better with age. Please join me in toasting to his 70 years and wishing him many more.

#### RECOGNIZING KEATON AHRENDT

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keaton Ahrendt for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Keaton has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Keaton, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Keaton's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Keaton Ahrendt on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

#### RECOGNIZING JACQUELINE VANDYKE

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Jacqueline Vandyke, a volunteer with the Gulf Coast Manatees Homeschool Group. Jacqueline has given so much of herself to make sure children in the program succeed. As founder of the first non-profit homeschool group in Citrus County, she finds fun and interactive ways for the children to learn. The children get to go on trips, learn hands-on life skills, all while making friends. She also is committed to helping install the value of community service in children, spearheading: food drives, feeding programs for the homeless, beautification of church grounds, creating cards for soldiers, and wrapping gifts for cancer patients. Jacqueline makes sure all kids get a moving up and graduation ceremony.

Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go

above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Ms. Vandyke has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

#### IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE CLAIRMONT JEROME "POPS" BARNES

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving husband, outstanding father, proud grandfather, distinguished non-commissioned officer, dedicated public official, faithful servant of God, and friend of long-standing, The Honorable Clairmont Jerome "Pops" Barnes. Sadly, Pops transitioned from labor to reward on April 14, 2024. A public viewing was held on Wednesday April 23, 2024, at Taylor Funeral Home in Phenix City, Alabama, and a memorial service to celebrate his remarkable life was held on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the Revelation Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

The second oldest of five children, Clairmont Jerome Barnes was born on June 10, 1943, to the union of the late Pauline White and the late Eugene Barnes in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was reared by his grandmother, Ms. Mary J. White, a woman of great importance in his life, who significantly shaped his worldview and instilled within him the values of justice, compassion, and determination.

Pops began his life of service when he joined the Army National Guard and enlisted in the United States Army in 1977. Demonstrating his adept leadership skills, he quickly rose through the ranks, ultimately retiring as a Master Sergeant in 1996. Following his retirement from the Army, Pops decided to secure a second bachelor's degree and begin the next chapter of his professional career of service. Desiring to use his time and skills to help those in need, Pops earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Columbus State University at the ripe young age of 57 and served countless patients as a registered nurse.

In 2004, Pops answered the call to run for public elective office. He entered the race for the District 1 seat on the Columbus, Georgia Consolidated Government Council. During the campaign, Pops took the time and effort to knock on every door in District 1, so that he could meet someone in every household he was running to represent and serve. His efforts were rewarded and he was overwhelmingly elected Councilor for District 1. Among his accomplishments for District 1 include re-opening the Boxwood Park, Belvedere Park and Primus King Recreation center; leading the effort to hire 100 additional police officers, and opening a police precinct in the heart of District 1 to dramatically cut the city's crime rate.

Pops also demonstrated a steadfast passion in advocating for Veterans, seniors, and individuals with mental illness. He restarted the Tri-City Veterans Day Parade in 2010; started

a senior advocacy group to help seniors maintain their benefits, and periodically hosted the "Focus on Health" series from the studios of CCG-TV to provide health and wellness education to all citizens in the Chattahoochee Valley area. He also launched a youth vocational training program entitled "Opportunity to Get Ahead" using his own funds; reformed the city's employment policy to allow the hiring of non-violent ex-offenders; and consistently addressed right-of-way upkeep, drainage, street resurfacing, and pothole issues throughout District 1 on behalf of those he served.

In addition to his work as a City Councilor, Pops has been recognized for his community involvement and service with numerous social and civic organizations to include: American Legion; Disabled American Veterans Board; American Military Society Board; Red Cross Minority Recruitment Board; Concerned Citizens of South Columbus Board; and the Columbus Hospice Board. Because of his dedicated commitment to these and other organizations he was the recipient of several awards to include the Family Caregiver Award (2016); the Living Legends Award (2018); the United States Postal Service Purple Heart Award (2019); the Distinguished Older Georgian Award (2020); New Horizons Behavioral Health Impact Award (2021); the Columbus State University (CSU) Legacy Award (2023); the Columbus State University Alumni Award (2023); and the River Valley Regional Commission Council Chairman Appreciation Award (2023).

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." Pops always reached back to help others throughout his life and never shied away from an opportunity to improve the quality of life for those in his community. On a personal note, Pops Barnes was always available and forthcoming regarding issues being considered by Congress. He always gave me sound, wise and honest advice. For that I will be forever grateful.

Pops Barnes accomplished much in his life but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God, the love and support of his wife, Jannie Mae Barnes; his devoted children, Cheryl, Clairmont, Simi, Mary, Robbi, Carla, Phydellis, and Bruce; thirteen grandchildren, and nineteen great-grandchildren. But through their love, inspiration and support, Pops leaves a legacy that has made Columbus, our nation and the world better because he passed this way.

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 The Honorable Clairmont Jerome "Pops" Barnes 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.