

award is a testament to Quinn'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 Quinn Johnson on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT HOWARD HANSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Howard Hanson of Granger, Indiana, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award for a lifetime of service to our Nation.

Col. Hanson was born on June 28, 1940, in Slayton, Minnesota. He spent most of his childhood on a family farm and had a desire to serve and defend his country. In 1963, Col. Hanson commissioned into the United States Air Force and served as a pilot with the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron and the 522nd Tactical Fighter Squadron. During the Vietnam War, he flew 315 combat missions in the F-100 Super Sabre fighter jet. Prior to retiring from military service in 1992, Col. Hanson served as the Commander of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 225 at the University of Notre Dame. He remained at Notre Dame until 2005, where he served as the Assistant Vice President and Director of the Office of Research.

Currently, Col. Hanson works part-time at the Warren Golf Course at Notre Dame. He is married to his wife Nancy, and together, they raised two children and have many more grandchildren. In his free time, Col. Hanson participates in community service projects for Kiwanis International and volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate to support children in need. He also enjoys playing golf and walking his German Shorthair puppy. I am proud to recognize Col. Hanson today for his important contributions to our community.

It is an honor to bestow Col. Hanson with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LAWRENCE "LARRY" AMENDOLA

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I use today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of an outstanding member of the New Haven community and my dear friend, Lawrence Amendola. Larry was an extraordinary man who dedicated a lifetime of service to the City of New Haven, particularly the Wooster Square neighborhood we both called home.

Born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut, Larry enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from high school. Stationed in Ger-

many for the majority of his military service, he was honorably discharged before returning to New Haven to begin his career. Larry spent his professional life as a civil servant, beginning his City employment at the CETA Program and later working for the Department of Parks and Recreation, retiring at the age of 75.

Larry also served as President of AFSCME Local 3144 Management Union, one of City's largest unions, for over 20 years. It was in this role that he had the most impact—where he fought on behalf of hundreds of city employees, negotiating contracts that ensured good wages and health benefits as well as pension and retirement security. Larry understood better than most the benefits of the union and he worked tirelessly on behalf of those he represented.

While Larry dedicated his professional life to the City of New Haven, he also dedicated much of his time and energy to the community as well. He served as Vice-President and President of the Saint Andrew the Apostle Society—one of the Italian American social organizations whose goal is to preserve and celebrate our shared Italian heritage. Larry served in these roles for more than 30 years and volunteered countless hours at the Society's annual festival. His work in the community was recognized when he was awarded the Steve Vuolo Award.

I am fortunate in that I knew Larry for most of my life. He was a close family friend, having worked with both of my parents over the years. I had the opportunity to work with Larry early in my career. I was working with the Community Action Institute—at the Skill Center on Cedar Street—and Larry and I partnered to organize additional city employees. He was not only a friend, but a great mentor. I learned a lot from him and was always grateful for his support and friendship throughout my own career.

Lawrence "Larry" Amendola was a remarkable member of our community. His passing leaves a hole in our community that will not easily be filled. I extend my deepest sympathies to his companion of nearly 20 years, Flora D'Elsi, as well as his many cherished nieces, nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews. His passion, advocacy, and commitment to service will long serve as an example to which we should all strive.

HONORING JAMES COLLINS TAYLOR, VETERAN OF THE GHOST ARMY, FOR RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. WARREN DAVIDSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2022, the President signed into law S. 1404, which awarded a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company, known as the Ghost Army. The Congressional Gold Medal is the oldest and highest civilian award in the United States. I rise today to honor Sergeant Major James Collins Taylor II for his contributions, sacrifices, and patriotism while serving in the Ghost Army during World War II. Due to the unit's sworn

secrecy, their service and contributions went unnoticed for far too long.

Sergeant Major James Collins Taylor II was born in Mission, Texas, on November 13th, 1915. Mr. Taylor joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. After the outbreak of World War II, he was assigned to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops. This specialized unit comprised only 1,100 brave Americans and often served near the front lines.

Mr. Taylor helped conduct numerous deceptive campaigns with the Ghost Army throughout Europe. During his service, he received a Certificate of Merit and was promoted to Sergeant Major of the Army—the highest rank possible for an enlisted soldier. While the Ghost Army's work was secret, its impact was substantial. The Ghost Army performed 22 "deception missions" across the front lines of France, Belgium, and Germany. By simulating the movement of 30,000 service members, the Ghost Army fooled German forces and aided General Patton at several critical junctures in World War II.

It is my honor to recognize the service Sergeant Major James C. Taylor and the Ghost Army. Their dedication and service saved thousands of American lives. Although the Congressional Gold Medal reaches Mr. Taylor posthumously, he is survived by a grateful family and country.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPHINE KING

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

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

Josephine has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Josephine, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Josephine'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 Josephine King on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EDDIE BROWN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eddie Brown of Sherman, Texas for a lifetime of outstanding service to our community. Mr. Brown served as the President and CEO of the Sherman Chamber of Commerce until his retirement on March 15, 2024.

A native of Dallas, Mr. Brown attended East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas. After graduation, he began his lengthy career with the Coca-Cola Bottling Company. In

1986, Mr. Brown moved to Sherman with his family to become Cola-Cola's Sales Center Manager, a position he held for over 24 years. During this time, Mr. Brown's longtime support of the Sherman business community, as well as his many years of community involvement, did not go unnoticed. After he briefly retired in 2010, he was selected the following year by members of the Sherman Chamber to serve as its Interim President. In 2012, Mr. Brown became its President and Chief Executive Officer. Through various initiatives and visionary leadership, he laid the foundation for the Sherman business community's tremendous growth and economic success.

During his 13-year career with the Sherman Chamber, Mr. Brown served on the board of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives to advocate for the business community and unite business leaders across North Texas. He was also a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Sherman and the Sherman ISD Education Foundation. Moreover, Mr. Brown led efforts to connect Grayson College and the Texas Association of Business to ensure it received newly enacted education funding. In his free time, he enjoys golfing, traveling, and the outdoors. I am proud of the work Mr. Brown has accomplished for our business and education community.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor Mr. Brown's lifetime of service to the people of North Texas. May God Bless him.

HONORING MR. ANTHONY
DEWAYNE BAKER, SR.'S LIFE
AND LEGACY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Mr. Anthony DeWayne Baker, Sr.—a pillar of our Dallas community.

Mr. Baker was a graduate of David W. Carter High School in Dallas, Texas before rising through the ranks of Airbus helicopters. Anthony then went back to school, graduating from Dallas Baptist University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business in 2005. Anthony's first job was employment at Walls Services delivering sheet rock and in 1991 his career in the aerospace industry began when he landed a job working in the Bond shop at Vought Aircraft, formerly known as LTV. However, after 3 years with his newfound skills he accepted a temporary position as a blade repairman at American Eurocopter (Airbus), and due to his hard work and determined mindset he was later offered a permanent position. Mr. Baker eventually capped off his illustrious career as Vice President for Customer Support at Airbus Helicopters, the first African-American to hold the position.

Throughout his lifetime he overcame many barriers both personally and professionally, while always looking for ways to help others. He was a man of faith who proudly served our community for many years in his capacity as a Deacon, a member of the Cedar Hill Volunteer Fire Brigade; he was the current President of Summit at Lake Ridge HOA; he served on the UTA Engineering Board of Advisors; a

member of the Grand Prairie United Charities Board of Directors, and was involved in countless other charitable endeavors.

My thoughts and prayers are with all those who knew and loved Anthony, particularly his wife, Stacie, and his two children, Anthony DeWayne Baker, Jr. and Avery Alexander Baker. May his memory last forever.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REVITALIZATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1977 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2024

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1977 Technical Corrections Act of 2024, which would address several retirement issues for current and former District of Columbia employees that resulted from the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1977 (Revitalization Act). The Revitalization Act, among other things, transferred several categories of employees who were in the D.C. retirement system to the federal retirement system and the federal government took over paying for the pension benefits earned by teachers, police officers, firefighters, and judges before 1997.

The Revitalization Act transferred several categories of employees, primarily related to D.C.'s criminal justice system, who participated in D.C.'s defined contribution plan from 1987 to 1997 to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). However, these employees' service from 1987 to 1997 was not counted for purposes of creditable service or annuity amount in FERS. In 2009, Congress passed legislation counting this service for creditable service, but not annuity amount. This bill would allow these employees to buy into the FERS annuity amount for 1987 to 1997 by paying 1.3 percent of their base pay plus interest, essentially the employee contribution for this time, which would give them the full retirement benefit to which they should be entitled.

Second, this bill would address two benefit issues for employees in the teachers, police officers, and firefighters pension plans, whose pre-1997 benefits are funded by the federal government. In 2018, D.C. enacted a law to provide domestic partner benefits for the police and firefighters pension plan, which mirrored a law already enacted for teachers. However, these domestic partner benefits apply only to service accrued after 1997, since the federal government funds pre-1997 benefits. This bill would make the domestic partner benefits available for pre-1997 benefits, too.

Finally, in 2012, D.C. enacted the Equity in Survivor Benefits Amendment Act, which reduced from age 60 to 55 the age after which a surviving spouse may remarry without losing survivor benefits for those in the teachers, police, and firefighters pension plans. However, these survivor benefits apply only to service accrued after 1997, since the federal government funds pre-1997 benefits. This bill would bring those pre-1997 benefits in line with both

the post-1997 benefits and the retirement benefits for federal employees in the Civil Service Retirement System or FERS and make an analogous change for D.C. judges, whose retirement benefits are funded by the federal government. In general, for federal retirees, 55 is the age after which a surviving spouse may remarry without losing survivor benefits.

This bill is an important step to assist these workers in getting the retirement benefits they deserve. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR GEORGE W. WADDLES, JR., FOR HIS DECADE OF SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor George W. Waddles, Jr., on the occasion of his 10 years of service to the Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti, Michigan. His significant service to his congregation and community is worthy of commendation.

Pastor Waddles received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Truman State University, a Master of Theology with a concentration in Pastoral Leadership from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Master of Educational Administration from Texas A&M. In 1984, he was licensed to preach at the Ninth Street Baptist Church in Lawrence, Kansas and was also ordained at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church on December 1, 1995. After serving Sunset Missionary Baptist Church of Texarkana in Texas for over ten years, Pastor Waddles began his service as Pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan, in March 2014. Under his leadership, the Second Baptist Church has become a pillar of Ypsilanti, and continues its important mission of serving the community.

Pastor Waddles has led by example and embodies the mission of the church: Connection, Commitment, and Community. During his decade of service, Pastor Waddles has been deeply involved with ministry teams to better serve his community, and the church continues to make a positive impact by promoting the Making Strides Cancer Walk, participating in the Ypsilanti 4th of July Parade, and collecting backpacks and school supplies to help students. Pastor Waddles has also been a lecturer and instructor in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the Wolverine State Convention and Huron Valley District Association. He has served as Dean, and currently is the President of the Huron Valley District Congress of Christian Education. Across all these roles, Pastor Waddles has remained committed to serving his community and uplifting all those within it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pastor Waddles for his decade of public service in Ypsilanti. His commitment to his faith, community, and mission is truly inspiring. I join Pastor Waddles' family, friends, and congregation in extending my best wishes to him during this time, and I am sure he will continue to serve his community far into the future.