

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 1997 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 1997 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 1997 (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 Waddle 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 Waddle's 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.

## RECOGNIZING JORDYN GOINS

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

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

Jordyn 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 Jordyn, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jordyn'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 Jordyn Goins on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING FELLOW MISSISSIPPIAN AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON FOUNDATION—DANIEL P. JORDAN

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Mississippi native Dr. Daniel P. Jordan. Dr. Jordan served as the executive director and the President of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation in Charlottesville overseeing the historical process and interest of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.

As a native Mississippian, he was known for his "Magnolia Alerts" which would alert him to any vehicle with a Mississippi license plate. David would personally go to the visitor's center and welcome his fellow Mississippians to Monticello.

He was known as "the most consequential president on the Mountaintop since Jefferson himself." He worked hard to raise money for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and to expand the research capabilities at Monticello. David made the history of Jefferson accessible to everyday Americans through expanding Monticello's programing and growing their audience.

Dr. David Jordan was a frequent visitor to the Neshoba County Fair in Mississippi, even during his long tenure in Virginia. I'm thankful for Dr. Jordan's dedication to the scholarship of history, the years of research into Jefferson's life, and his unwavering commitment to his Mississippi roots.

I will end with some of David's words about President Jefferson. "We have 200 people trying to keep up with one man—one dead man, and we will never catch him." If anyone got close to catching Jefferson, it was Dr. Daniel Jordan.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT BARBARA WOODROOF

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Barbara Woodroof of Gunter, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Barbara has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

A native of Massachusetts, Barbara lived in the Bay State until 1978. She received a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana, and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Duke University. After graduation, Barbara taught science in Massachusetts, Texas, and Okinawa, Japan for many years. She met her wonderful husband George while teaching at Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, and they married in 1980. Afterwards, they moved to Texas, where Barbara served as the Director of Religious Education at St. Michaels' Catholic Church in McKinney and the Holy Family Catholic Church in Van Alstyne. In this capacity, she taught confirmation class and worked as a Safe Environment Officer.

In 1997, Barbara became the Precinct Chair of the Grayson County Republican Party after working as an election judge and clerk. She was elected as the County Chair in 2017 and oversaw Grayson County's election procedures and operations for five years. Additionally, Barbara served on the Grayson County College Foundation Board and helped raise money to provide students in our community with scholarships. For her outstanding work and efforts, the GCRP has presented Barbara with the Eisenhower Award and the Chairman's Award. Currently, she volunteers for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Michaels and helps fundraise and campaign for local candidates. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, scrapbooking, and traveling. I am proud of the work Barbara has accomplished, and I am sure she will continue to make a positive impact on our community for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Barbara with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for their dedication to the principles of sisterhood, academic excellence, and public service. For over 116 years, AKA has been a beacon of empowerment for women and a force for positive change in our communities.

I would like to acknowledge the Central Director Kiahna Davis, State Social Action & Connection Chair Sherri Hale, my friend Erica Austin, the Illinois State Co-Coordinator, and Illinois General Assembly Liaison Erika Weaver.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has exemplified leadership and a commitment to uplifting young women from across the country. The sorority's dedication to academic excellence, social justice, and community service has served as an inspiration to countless people across the country.

I want to sincerely thank members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc for their enduring contributions to society. I also want to wish them the best as they visit the Illinois State Capitol, located in Springfield, for their annual day of advocacy. I look forward to seeing what they are able to accomplish in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commend and honor the outstanding work of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, an organization that has long been a beacon of hope and a catalyst for social justice in our communities. Since its inception, Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. has stood firmly at the forefront of the fight for fairness and equity, tirelessly advocating for the rights and well-being of all people.

I also want to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of Alpha Phi Alpha, particularly Midwestern Regional Vice President Frank Stacy Jr., Illinois State Director Dr. Leonard McKinnis II, and Michael Gaines and Robert Dixon, the Directors of Illinois Day at the Capitol. Their commitment to community empowerment and activism serves as an inspiration to us all.

Together, these individuals and organizations embody the spirit of service and selflessness, working tirelessly to provide communities with the tools, knowledge, and support they need to amplify their voices and effect positive change. They remind us that true empowerment begins with collective action and a commitment to social justice. I wish them all the best as they visit the Illinois State Capitol, located in my district, for their annual advocacy day.

HONORING WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY 2024

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Workers Memorial Day 2024 and the workers who have both lost their lives or risk their lives in unsafe working conditions on a daily basis. Too many people across the country, even today in 2024, are still forced to choose between a paycheck and having a safe and healthy workplace. This is unacceptable, and on Workers Memorial Day we remember all the workers who have been injured or have lost their lives on the job.

As a Member of Congress, I am dedicated to working to ensure that Congress and the