

Senior Advisor to Vice President Al Gore, serving as the Vice President's principal advisor on labor policy.

Finally, Mr. Samuel ended his career after 23 years at the AFL-CIO, advocating for its twelve million, five hundred thousand members.

On behalf of the Congressional Labor Caucus, I would like to thank Mr. Samuel for his partnership in fighting to raise standards for all workers, congratulate him on his accomplished career in the labor movement, and extend great appreciation for outstanding service to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Bill Samuel on his career of service and in wishing him a happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING JIM HOST

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exceptional man, Mr. Jim Host, of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Host will receive the 2024 Tom Jernstedt Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2024 Men's Final Four in Phoenix, Arizona. This award is presented to honor individuals who have made a meaningful impact on college basketball.

Mr. Host grew up in Ashland, Kentucky. He earned one of the first two baseball scholarships given by the University of Kentucky in 1955. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in radio arts and played one year of pro baseball as a pitcher for the Chicago White Sox. A shoulder injury ended his baseball career. He was the youngest person to serve in Governor Louie Nunn's cabinet, as Commissioner of Public Information and Commissioner of Parks. He ran for Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky in 1971. Mr. Host served as Governor Ernie Fletcher's Secretary of Commerce from 2003 to 2005. His service to Kentucky continued as the first Executive Director of Rupp Arena, founding chairman of the Kentucky Horse Park, and chairman of the Louisville Arena Authority.

Mr. Host was founder and CEO of Host Communications. His nationally known sports marketing company brought business knowledge and fresh ideas to college sports marketing. He began working with the NCAA in the mid-1970's and transformed the promotion of college basketball and the post-season tournament. Before his involvement, there was no "Final Four" label and not even an official program for the tournament. With his entrepreneurial and innovative skills, he introduced corporate sponsorships, the national radio network, and many other successful ideas that made college basketball what we enjoy today.

Mr. Host has earned many well-deserved accolades. He is a member of the UK Alumni Association Hall of Distinguished Alumni, the UK Athletics Hall of Fame, the National College Basketball Hall of Fame, and the National Tourism Hall of Fame. He was named Kentucky's Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998. From the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, he received the Chairman's Cup Award, the John Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award, and is a lifetime trustee.

For his outstanding service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and for his latest award, the 2024 Tom Jernstedt Lifetime Achievement Award, it is my honor to call him my friend and to recognize his accomplishments before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN TONER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, the Honorable Stephen Toner. Judge Toner exemplifies servant leadership through his extensive involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. Beginning his journey in the program as a youth, he attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, a commitment he has sustained into his adult life. Noteworthy is his dedicated service to the Withlacoochee District for more than a decade, holding positions such as District Commissioner, District Vice Chair, and presently, District Chair. Furthermore, he plays an active role on the Council Executive Board for the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council. Engagement in scouting has afforded Judge Toner a constructive avenue to contribute to his community. On numerous weekends, he can be found instructing merit badge classes, engaging in service initiatives at camp, or simply conversing with scouts, serving as a positive role model for them. Judge Toner plays a pivotal role in inspiring the youth involved in the program to strive for excellence. His dedication lies in ensuring their readiness to tackle life's challenges, irrespective of their magnitude. By emphasizing focus on tasks, objectives, and goals, he instills motivation. Notably, he prioritizes the well-being of our youth over personal interests, establishing trustworthiness and fostering a sense of confidence. The Boy Scouts of America's mission is to "prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." Judge Toner exemplifies this mission through his dedication to supporting the youth of our community. Leading by example, he remains steadfast in his willingness to contribute in any capacity necessary to further this noble cause.

It is clear that Judge Stephen Toner has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR MIKE SHAW

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mike Shaw of Denison, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Mike has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

Mike grew up in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles. From a young age, he maintained a strong commitment to helping others and

serving our nation in any way he can. In 1958, Mike joined the United States Marine Corps, where he specialized in operating sophisticated communications technology. With his new skills in hand, he began a career as a communications technician on the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line, a network of radar stations located in the U.S., Canada, and Greenland. His efforts helped protect our national security and allowed the United States to effectively detect incoming Soviet aircraft and prepare a response.

After spending two years in the Arctic, Mike returned home and worked as a field engineer in the oil fields of Texas and Louisiana. He also served as a technical representative for the U.S. Army Signal Corps during the Vietnam War before going back to working on the DEW Line for an additional five years. In 1999, Mike retired and moved to Denison with his family, where he volunteered at local museums in various capacities. He served as the President of the Denison Genealogical Society and was the Precinct 201 Chair for the Grayson County Republican Party. For his extensive work and efforts to uphold conservative values, the GCRP awarded Mike the Eisenhower Award and the Chairman's Award in 2015 and 2020, respectively. In his free time, he enjoys studying history, genealogy, and collecting artifacts. I am proud to recognize Mike today for his outstanding contributions to our community.

It is an honor to bestow Mike with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING SOPHIA SLAUSON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

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

COMMEMORATING THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK APRIL

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 49th anniversary of the fall of Saigon.

Forty-nine years ago today, on April 30, 1975, the Republic of Vietnam was overthrown by communist forces in an event known as

"Black April" or the "Fall of Saigon," which is observed in Vietnamese-American communities across the United States each year. This event marked the end of the Vietnam War, which claimed the lives of as many as 250,000 South Vietnamese soldiers and nearly 60,000 American soldiers, as well as hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians throughout Southeast Asia. I recognize the bravery of the soldiers of the South Vietnamese military who fought side by side with the United States Armed Forces in defense of the ideals of democracy and freedom.

Since Black April, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese, many of them refugees, have resettled in the United States and built vibrant communities across the country that contribute to the rich diversity of this Nation. They are the sixth largest immigrant group in the United States, representing nine percent of all immigrants from Asia in the United States. And they continue to show fierce commitment to those ideals of freedom and democracy as they speak out against human rights abuses in Vietnam and throughout the world.

Forty-nine years after the Fall of Saigon, I am honored to pay homage to the journeys many Vietnamese refugees and immigrants took across oceans to call America their new home. I am also proud to sponsor the Southeast Asian Deportation Relief Act of 2023, legislation that would end deportations of Southeast Asian American refugees, including many Vietnamese Americans, and establish a pathway to return to the U.S. for the more than 2,000 refugees who have already been deported. On this anniversary, I call on my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation and honoring our commitment to the Southeast Asian Americans who made this country home after enduring war, violence, and genocide.

I am grateful for the opportunity to honor the service and contributions of the Vietnamese American community, and to commemorate Black April on this 49th anniversary of the fall of Saigon.

RECOGNIZING DAVID JACKSON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, David Jackson. For nearly 25 years, David has served the clients and staff of Operation PAR in several capacities. David started out as a detention screener for PAR's Pasco Juvenile Assessment Center in August 2000 and worked his way up to Program Supervisor after earning his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. In 2008, he transferred to Operation PAR's Medication Assisted Patient Services (MAPS) program in Port Richey, where he worked as a substance abuse counselor, assisting clients to learn the skills necessary to overcome their substance use and mental health issues. David went on to complete his Master's degree in Forensic Psychology and became a Master's Level Certified Addiction Professional through the Florida Certification Board. Soon after, David became Clinic Supervisor at MAPS Pasco where he worked

with both clients and counselors to ensure successful treatment outcomes. In November 2015, David was promoted to Program Director at MAPS-Hernando where he has worked tirelessly to increase awareness of the dangers of opioid misuse and educate clients, families, and communities about treatment services through attending meetings, community events, and membership in the Hernando County Community Alliance. As Director, David successfully navigated the COVID-19 public health emergency to prioritize continuity of care for clients while ensuring the health and safety of his team. In 2022, David was named Operation PAR MAPS Program Supervisor of the Year and in 2023 he was named Operation PAR MAPS Clinician of the Year.

It is clear that Mr. Jackson has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL LESTER L. LYLES, USAF

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of General Lester L. Lyles, United States Air Force, (ret.) to his country, to the mission of our armed forces, and to the people of this great Nation. General Lyles is a true leader whose impact has left an indelible mark on America's defense and space sectors, and the security and prosperity of our great Nation.

The General has an educational background steeped in engineering and a distinguished career that has spanned more than 35 years in the U.S. Air Force. He began his academic journey just up the road from this very chamber—at Howard University—earning a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering in 1968 followed by his Master of Science in mechanical/nuclear engineering from New Mexico State University in 1969. His academic pursuits continued to include graduating from prestigious institutions including the Defense Systems Management College in 1980, the Armed Forces Staff College in 1981 and the National War College in 1985. In recognition of his achievements, General Lyles acquired honorary Doctor of Law degrees from New Mexico State University in 2002 and Urbana University in 2009.

General Lyles officially entered the U.S. military after commencement in 1968 as a graduate of the Air Force ROTC program. Throughout his tenure, General Lyles held various assignments and a series of high-ranking positions, including Commander of the Space and Missile Systems Center, Director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, Vice Chief of Staff of the Headquarters of the U.S. Air Force, and Commander of the U.S. Air Force Materiel Command.

Notably, General Lyles led the Space Launch Recovery Program following the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger disaster and later directed the Strategic Defense Initiative under President Ronald Reagan. His strategic vision and dedication played a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of our nation's aerospace and defense landscape.

Retiring from the military in 2003, General Lyles continued to exemplify his passion for

service by transitioning into the world of consulting for both the private and public sectors. General Lyles is currently an executive board member at defense and aerospace contractor KBR, a trustee of Analytic Services, and a managing partner at Four Seasons Ventures, LLC. General Lyles' accomplishments are further underscored by his status as a member of the Defense Science Board, the International Security Advisory Board at the U.S. Department of State, and the President's Intelligence Advisory Board in the White House.

His commitment to community service is equally admirable. General Lyles has been a steadfast member of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum board, where he was recently honored, and a critical leader of the National Space Council Users' Advisory Group. In the Commonwealth, he's been a recognized leader in Virginia Humanities, the Virginia Academy of Science, Technology and Medicine and the Partnership for Public Service.

Over the course of his illustrious career, General Lyles has earned numerous accolades, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster. In 1990, he was named Astronautics Engineer of the Year by the National Space Club (NSC) and later received the Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award for outstanding contributions to military equal opportunity policies and programs from the NAACP in 1994. General Lyles was named Black Engineer of the Year/Lifetime Achievement in 2003 and received the General Thomas D. White Award for distinguished service in national security from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2012. He was elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 2022 and received the Astronautics Engineering Award from the Huntsville Chapter of the NSC just last year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, the citizens of the Virginia Commonwealth and, indeed, the American people, please join me in a heartfelt "thank you" to General Lyles, whose enduring contributions to the United States of America and its missions continue to influence aerospace, defense, and space communities to this day.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR REGGIE SMITH

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Representative Reginald "Reggie" Smith of Van Alstyne, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Reggie is an experienced litigator and current member of the Texas House of Representatives for District 62.

Reggie is a 6th generation Texan and was born in Sherman. In 1991, he graduated from Austin College with a degree in political science. He later received his law degree from South Texas College of Law in 1994 and was admitted into the State Bar. In 2003, Reggie founded Reginald B. Smith Jr. PLLC, which specializes in family and civil law. Over the years, he has successfully practiced family law