

"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

and was recognized as “Best in Texoma” by the publishers of the Sherman Herald-Democrat for three consecutive years.

Before he was first elected to the Texas House in 2018, Reggie served as the Chairman of the Grayson County Republican Party and the Northern Regional Director of the Texas Republican County Chairman’s Association. As a legislator, he serves on the Appropriations Committee and Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee. Throughout his time in the Texas House, Reggie has consistently fought to protect the unborn, lower taxes, defend our Constitutional rights, promote individual liberty, and support our schools and educators. He is actively involved in charitable organizations and previously served on the board of Big Brother Big Sisters and Friends of Scouting with the Texoma Valley Boy Scouts. Along with his family, Reggie attends the First Baptist Church in Van Alstyne. Without question, he has accomplished so much for our community and the State of Texas. I am proud to call Reggie a good friend of mine, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

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

#### RECOGNIZING MATTHIAS ALDACO

##### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

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

Matthias 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 Matthias, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Matthias’s hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

#### INTRODUCTION OF CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT

##### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, today I am introducing the Captive Primate Safety Act of 2024.

The private ownership of primates poses significant public health and animal welfare issues. Primates are not pets: they are highly intelligent and social animals whose needs cannot be met when they are inappropriately confined. However, primates are easily obtained on the Internet and through out-of-state dealers and auctions.

There have been several high-profile incidents of pet primates attacking humans including when a Connecticut woman was mauled by her neighbor’s pet chimpanzee and lost her hands, nose, eyes, lips, and mid-face bone structure, along with enduring significant brain injuries. There is no reason to tolerate the risk of an avoidable tragedy like this that puts the public and first responders at risk. Beyond the immediate health risk of an attack, these animals also often carry dangerous viruses that can be transferred to humans such as COVID-19 and Herpes B.

The Captive Primate Safety Act supplements the more than 30 state laws that already outlaw the private ownership of primates by amending the Lacey Act to ban interstate or foreign commerce, or possession, of any prohibited primate species.

It should not take another tragedy to make common sense change. I thank my colleagues Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK, Congressman JOE NEGUSE, Congresswoman NANCY MACE, and Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL for their partnership, and I look forward to advancing this critical legislation to safeguard public health and animal welfare.

#### RECOGNIZING BRENDA FRAZIER

##### 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, Brenda Frazier, who is described as a volunteer with extraordinary integrity, empathy, and commitment to the cause. Brenda began her journey with A New Generation Pregnancy Center in June of 2014, bringing with her a knowledge and passion for ministry work. Her primary role as a volunteer is to work one-on-one with clients who find themselves pregnant and are not sure what to do. Her connectivity, understanding, and clarity in providing support, education and truth have provided hundreds of clients with the information and knowledge to help them with their decision-making process. Brenda exemplifies purity in action, deed and word. Her kind and thoughtful outlook provides a respite to many people who find themselves in uncharted territories. In addition to her client advocacy position, Brenda provides unwavering support for the pregnancy center’s fundraisers. She has been an instrumental part in the planning, organization and execution of our Annual Clay Shoot. From finding sponsors to sourcing exquisite silent auction and raffle prizes, her zeal for event planning is phenomenal. She does not miss a beat, championing the center’s cause along her path, and providing an avenue for individuals and organizations to understand the mission of services provided to our community. Her energy and enthusiasm for helping others knows no bounds.

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

#### CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR STEVE SIMMONS

##### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Steve Simmons of Sherman, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Steve has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

Steve was born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1955. Throughout his childhood, he frequently moved around the country with his family until they finally settled in Anna, Texas. In high school, Steve was an active member of his school’s football team and had a desire to play college football. His football coach, Hal Porter, had a tremendous impact on young Steve. Coach Porter’s influential leadership style inspired Steve to say, “I want to be special to my kids like he is special to us.” From that day on, Steve knew he wanted to become a football coach himself and make a difference in the lives of our youth.

After graduating from high school in 1973, Steve attended McMurry University and pursued a coaching-teaching career while playing football. He married the love of his life, Doreen, in 1978. They moved to Van Alstyne, where Steve kickstarted his football coaching career at Van Alstyne ISD. He also coached at Chillicothe and Celina before joining the United States Marine Corps Reserves. While in the Marines, Steve earned the rank of Corporal and received a Marksmanship Award while continuing to coach football. He credits his strong faith in God to guiding him towards a long-term coaching opportunity at Howe ISD. For his dedication and efforts, he was named Campus Teacher of the Month twice and was recognized as Teacher of the Month by KLAKE Radio. Steve was also inducted into the Howe Hall of Honor and selected as one of the top educators in Howe ISD’s history. From helping to fundraise, driving students on field trips, and speaking at pep rallies, Steve has made a wonderful impact on the lives of our children while strengthening his faith and community involvement. His signature chant, “Highly Motivated, Truly Dedicated”, continues to encourage students to be the best they can be.

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

#### RECOGNIZING SAM SMITH

##### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

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

Sam 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 Sam, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This