

Supervisor Carson is a Bay Area native from Berkeley, California. He has a B.A. in Political Science and Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master of Public Administration from Cal State University, East Bay, and a Juris Doctor from the John F. Kennedy School of Law.

Keith Carson has a long history of supporting our community through involvement in local politics. His interest in politics began in the Youth in Government program, where he was able to join a student assembly in Sacramento and learn about the government and legislative processes. He then served as an intern for Berkeley's first Black mayor, Warren Widener, as a student, and later went on to work for former Congressman Ron Dellums after his graduation from UC Berkeley. After working for Congressman Dellums for fifteen years in both his district and D.C. offices, Carson ran for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 1992.

As Supervisor, Carson chairs many Alameda County committees, including the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, the Alameda County Budget Work Group Committee, the Alameda County Personnel, Administration, and Legislation Committee, and the Alameda County Health Committee. As chair of the Budget Committee, Carson championed a more inclusive and transparent budgeting process for the county.

In addition to chairing committees, Supervisor Carson represents the Board of Supervisors on the Board of Directors for many local organizations, including the Executive Committee of the California State Association of Counties, the National Association of Counties, and the National Organization of Black County Officials. He is also a member of the Alameda County Transportation Commission, the Alameda County Employees Retirement Association, and the Bay Area Council Economic Institute.

Carson's many accomplishments as Supervisor over the years include creating AC Impact, a program that aims to reduce homelessness in Alameda County by providing permanent and supportive housing to chronically homeless adults. He has also been a leader in bringing the county to a more sustainable future, adopting a Green Building Ordinance that requires county municipal projects to be built to a U.S. Green Building Council LEED Silver standard. Additionally, he has supported the funding of a Community Capacity Fund, which helps community organizations deliver re-entry services for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Carson's 30+ years of service have undoubtedly made Alameda County a better, more inclusive place. Supervisor Keith Carson is a beloved leader in our community, and I honor and thank him for his dedication to supporting Alameda County over the years.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER RHODES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Christopher Rhodes who serves as a volunteer Board Member for

the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. 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 Mr. Rhodes and his fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

RECOGNIZING JOHN VIGIL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

IMPORTANCE OF ACTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BLACK MENTAL HEALTH

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today I stand with my Congressional Black Caucus colleagues to address the urgent challenges faced by the Black community in mental health during Mental Health Awareness Month and to call us to advocacy, awareness and action.

While Black adults experience mental illness at similar rates to the general population, they face different outcomes. Between 2010 and 2020, Black individuals saw significant increases in suicide rates. While the share of drug overdose deaths among majority individuals decreased between 2015 and 2020, shares of these deaths among Black people rose, accounting for their disproportionate share of drug overdose deaths.

The barriers to mental wellness for Black Americans are complex. They include but are not limited to mental health treatment stigma, limited access to culturally competent care, or care at all, and the enduring effects of racism and racial trauma. Historical and ongoing racism contributes to higher poverty rates, in-

creased incarceration, and limited access to healthcare and housing, as well as more subtle forms of discrimination like microaggressions, all of which deeply impact Black mental health.

Despite comparable rates of mental health conditions, only 39 percent of Black individuals have received mental health services due to systemic barriers and stigma. Approximately 10 percent of Black people lack health insurance, significantly affecting their access to care, and when care is sought, it often occurs in emergency departments rather than from mental health specialists. The scarcity of Black professionals in the mental health field exacerbates this gap in health care access, understanding, and trust.

Our response must include advocacy, awareness, and action.

We must push for policies that dismantle systemic barriers to mental health care, and societal drivers of Black mental health challenges. We must pursue initiatives that focus on education and destigmatization so more Black individuals seek help without fear of judgment. And we must act. We must promote diversity, equity, and inclusion training in medical education and provider training to mitigate provider bias and care inequality. And we must continue to address the enduring effects of racism and racial trauma.

Mental health is a right, not a privilege, and it is our duty to ensure that this right is upheld for every community, especially those that have been marginalized for far too long. Let us use National Mental Health and Wellness Month to commit to meaningful change. Together, we can foster healing, understanding, and resilience for all Americans.

HONORING THE VALIANT EFFORTS OF THE MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Madison County community for its valiant and courageous spirit.

On October 24, 2023, Madison County first responders began the difficult task of containing the Quaker Run fire. The following day, Madison County declared a local emergency after the fire continued to burn and eventually spread into Shenandoah National Park. As the fire continued to grow and weather conditions continued to work against first responders, it was inspiring to watch local residents and volunteers come together—soon, local news stations and articles began to highlight these efforts and the contributions made by these brave individuals who assisted first responders in navigating the steep and difficult terrain to contain the fire.

Unreliable cellphone service added to the uncertainty. In response to this, Verizon provided a mobile site for emergency personnel to use to facilitate and coordinate communication. It also allowed the Virginia Department of Forestry to generate maps on site that proved useful in helping organize the efforts on the ground to contain the fire.

In the face of adversity, the community came together to protect neighboring areas

and help Madison County in its efforts to contain the Quaker Run fire. Notably, volunteers—many of them local farmers and bear hunters—helped install large containment lines to keep the fire away from the community and also helped distribute food and water. The collaborative effort between the Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia National Guard, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, local fire and emergency services, law enforcement, and more than 140 volunteers and nearly 20 fire and EMS companies is a true reflection of the caring individuals who lent their time and a helping hand to assist in containing the fire and keeping Madison County residents safe.

On November 3, 2023, the fire had spread to roughly 1,500 acres. On November 9, 2023, the State of Virginia declared a state of emergency. Finally, on November 17, 2023, the Quaker Run fire was declared 100 percent contained with about 3,397 acres of private, state, and federal lands affected by the fire. The efforts made by volunteers and first responders from Madison County and across the Commonwealth were crucial to preventing further damage and ensuring the safety of residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and celebrating the courageous men and women who came together—from volunteers to first responders—to help their neighbors and provide support to one another as they fought to contain the Quaker Run fire. Their unwavering commitment to helping their community during this time of need is a source of inspiration and I am honored to represent them in Congress.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN NEWMAN

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a man whose service and leadership have left a lasting mark on everyone he's worked with throughout his career. Brian Newman is the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of UPS, he recently announced he will depart in June after having served the company for five pivotal years.

The United Parcel Service, commonly referred to as UPS, operates in over 200 countries and territories, with 500,000 employees globally, including nearly 7,000 in the state of Minnesota. Each day, 22.3 million packages and documents make their way through the UPS network.

Hockey players thrive under pressure, rely on their teammates, and appreciate the rewards of hard work, dedication, focus and discipline. Brian, a fellow ice hockey player and fan, embodies the hockey ethic.

Brian began his career in 1990 as an investment banker working for PaineWebber in New York City. He then spent 26 years with PepsiCo and served in a variety of finance leadership roles spanning Europe, Asia, and North and South America. He also served as Executive Vice-President for PepsiCo's Global Operations and as Chief Strategy Officer.

During his five-year tenure as UPS's Chief Financial Officer, Brian navigated the company

through some challenging situations. Under his leadership, Brian delivered results that supported employees, customers and communities. His list of accomplishments during just five years with UPS is impactful, and his leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be overstated. He has left an indelible mark on UPS's people.

Brian is an effective executive and financial expert, always ensuring his people, investors and shareholders understand the complexities of UPS's financial standing. He is a trusted advisor to his peers, a leader for UPS employees around the world, and a member of UPS's executive leadership team. Brian embodies UPS's purpose statement of moving our world forward by delivering what matters.

Brian also serves on the board of Colgate-Palmolive as well as his alma mater, Georgetown University and Delbarton School. A native of New Jersey, he still considers the tri-state area his home.

I know Brian will be missed by all who had the opportunity to work with him throughout his impressive career. His positive impact on UPS will continue to be felt for years to come. We all wish Brian, his wife, Lynne, and their children, Kendall, Shay, Conor and Finley, the best as they begin the journey ahead of them.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THERESA M. CLAIBORNE, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE PILOT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Colonel Theresa M. Claiborne, who was the first African American female pilot in the United States Air Force. Aside from her many accomplishments, Claiborne is flying her last commercial flight this month.

Captain Claiborne was born on May 25, 1959, to Wayne Morris, Sr. and Dorothy Claiborne in Emporia, Virginia. She attended California State University, Sacramento, where she earned a degree in Communication, Culture, and Media in 1981. Claiborne completed the University of California-Berkeley Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) program and was commissioned as a United States Air Force second lieutenant on June 20, 1981.

Following the completion of pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas, Lt. Claiborne graduated as the first African American female pilot in the United States Air Force on September 16, 1982. During Claiborne's active-duty years, she rose in rank to Captain and served as a KC 135 pilot at Loring Air Force Base, Maine. Captain Claiborne credits the Tuskegee Airmen as dutiful servicemen who paved the way for her and the Black women and men to follow.

After 9 years of dedicated service, Captain Claiborne retired from active-duty service and joined the United States Air Force Reserves as a flight commander and an instructor pilot, becoming a Lieutenant Colonel in November 2001.

Concurrently, after leaving active-duty service, Captain Claiborne joined United Airlines

as a flight engineer, working her way up to the rank of captain. She remained one of only 15 Black female pilots at United Airlines until 2019.

On January 6, 2003, Lt. Colonel Claiborne retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves but maintained her position as Captain with United Airlines, accumulating over 15,000 civilian flying hours.

However, Lt. Colonel Claiborne's service did not stop there. In 2016, she co-founded the Sister of the Skies with pilots Christine Angel Hughes and Nia Wordlaw, with the mission of supporting and building a diverse aviation workforce by offering workshops, mentorships, and scholarships.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Lt. Colonel Claiborne for her more than 20 years of service to our armed forces and for paving the way for a new generation of Black female pilots.

HONORING MARY YVONNE MYERS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mary Yvonne Myers, a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, and cherished Oakland community member. She was born on October 29, 1937, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi as the eldest child to parents James Calvin and Nancy Stewart Slaughter. Mary, later known as 'Yvonne' moved from Mississippi to San Diego, California in 1953 with her family. Her family flourished in their business ventures and elite social circles in California. In San Diego, Yvonne was mentored by her Aunt Mae, who was part of a group of African American entrepreneurs and community leaders in the area.

After completing her high school education at San Diego High School, Yvonne and her family moved to Northern California in 1959. Yvonne began a fellowship with the Faith Chapel Church of God in Christ, where she met Minister Levi Young. They were married in August of 1961, and had three wonderful children together, along with Levi's son from a previous union. Through this marriage, Yvonne developed a love for ministry as she walked in the office of First Lady of the Revelation Church of God in Christ. Under the leadership of her husband and pastor she was licensed as a Missionary in the Church of God in Christ, and as the First Lady, Yvonne mentored many young women as they began their Christian journey. As the Executive Administrator of Charles Harrison Mason Bible College, Yvonne ensured that students were successful in their quest to get a deeper understanding of the Word of God. In the late 70s, Yvonne and Levi amicably took separate directions in life, dissolving their union.

Yvonne remained very involved in Christian churches and continued to mentor young women in the church. In the late 1980s, Yvonne met the love of her life Reverend Clayton Myers, Jr. In July of 1989 the two were united in holy matrimony, a match truly made in heaven. Together, they led the auxiliary ministry of Evergreen's senior living facility, The JL Richards Terrace.