

in no small part to Gigi's leadership and agile responses to these crises and her focus on building the resources, infrastructure, and capacity to support our local small businesses.

In addition to her outstanding professional achievements, Gigi is also a beloved wife to her husband Jeff, and amazing mother to three children. As she begins this exciting new chapter, I am extending my warmest wishes to Gigi and my deep gratitude for her plentiful and enduring contributions to the businesses and people of Montgomery County.

**HONORING RABBI GEORGE
GITTLEMAN**

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi George Gittleman of Congregation Shomrei Torah in celebration of his retirement after twenty-eight years leading his congregation and providing service to our community.

Born in the city of Chicago, Illinois and growing up in Louisville, Kentucky, Rabbi Gittleman joined our community in 1996 when he and his family moved to Sonoma County. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in American History from the University of Vermont, a Masters in Hebrew Letters and Ordination from the Reform Seminary, Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion and is a Senior Rabbinic Fellow with the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Gittleman, affectionately known as Rabbi George, became the rabbinical leader of Congregation Shomrei Torah, a progressive Reform Jewish synagogue in Santa Rosa in 1996. Through his leadership, the congregation grew from 100 to over 475 member families and, in turn, outgrew its facilities. In 2008, the Rabbi welcomed his congregation to a beautiful new temple. This would not have been possible without his determination, fundraising abilities and oversight.

In addition to growing members and Congregation Shomrei Torah's spiritual home, Rabbi Gittleman expanded his temple's programs including the Shomrei Torah Religious School. The school for children ranging from kindergarten through eighth grade teaches Hebrew, religious practices, and about Jewish history and culture. He has also expanded offerings for teens and adults through Torah study sessions, teen groups, dinner lectures, and many trips to Israel, the Amerman South and Eastern Europe.

Rabbi Gittleman is a proponent of tikkun olam, translated as "repairing the world" through our actions. He is a prolific writer and outspoken on many critical issues facing our community. His published works include Maimonides and The Guide to the Perplexed, Lights in the Forest: Rabbis Respond to Twelve Essential Jewish Questions, and We should remember the Shoah in a way that helps to heal the world. The Rabbi is an advocate for addressing challenges including homelessness, food insecurity, affordable housing, LGBTQIA+ rights, gun violence prevention and has gracefully guided his faith community in the wake of the October 7 attacks. He does this through the congregation's

Social Action Committee and in collaboration with other faith and civic leaders. Our district and country are better because of his work.

Beyond his faith and civic leadership, Rabbi Gittleman is a devoted father and husband to his wife Laura, his son Levi, his daughter Sophie, to his son-in-law Julian and to his grandson Jamie. Rabbi George is an avid outdoorsman and from a young age, he was an avid rock climber, skier and mountain biker. Even now, he continues to fly fish, shoot sporting clays, bird watch, backpack and hike. You can often find Rabbi Gittleman playing his guitar with his blues-rock band.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Rabbi Gittleman is a true public servant and has dedicated his time, leadership and wisdom to the benefit of Congregation Shomrei Torah and to our district. After twenty-eight years, he now embarks on his well-earned retirement. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

**RECOGNIZING THE 2024 GOLD-
WATER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPI-
ENT, CHRISTIAN PENA**

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Christian Pena, the recipient of the 2024 Goldwater Scholarship.

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship Foundation annually awards sophomores and juniors in college who have demonstrated an elevated skillset in mathematics, engineering, and science. It is awarded to students to encourage and contribute to their professional endeavors, aiming to bolster the capabilities and quality of U.S. professionals in these fields. Previous scholarship recipients have pursued careers where they have contributed to improving our Nation's well-being.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Christian Pena for his academic dedication to mathematics, science, and engineering.

**HONORING SUNSET VIEW
CEMETERY**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sunset View Cemetery.

Sunset View Cemetery was established in September 2011. It is independently owned and operated by Jimmy and Quartreate Ware, giving personal and professional services to families of the Mississippi-Louisiana and surrounding area in their time of need.

With hard work and dedication, they maintain 20 acres of land covered in beautiful pine trees and a pond, which is located at 1617 Dr. Martin Luther King Road in Natchez.

They offer quality services for burial and gravesite services. They are also a perpetual care cemetery, this means when you purchase your lot or niche, 15 percent of that sale goes into a trust in compliance with Mississippi

state law. This longstanding trust will provide Sunset View Cemetery with the necessary resources for the lasting preservation of our memorial park.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sunset View Cemetery for their actions and achievements in the Natchez, MS community.

**APPRECIATING THOMAS
CAUGHMAN**

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, June 9, 2024, marks the 20th anniversary of the tragic death of Army Specialist Thomas Day Caughman of Lexington, South Carolina. Assigned to the 391st Engineer Battalion, Army Reserve, Spartanburg, SC, Thomas was killed while bravely serving America during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As a 20-year-old graduate of Lexington High School, Thomas had a deep appreciation for America as he included in each of his letters home with the words, "Freedom isn't free."

In a touching tribute to the duty he felt in securing freedom for America, and expressed love for his family, he wrote the following letter in case of his death to parents, Jane and Hamp Caughman, and sister Lisa:

"Dad, Mom, Sis

I think sometimes why I did this and if it was worth it. Then I realize how important people like me are, we all know Freedom isn't never free and somebody must protect that, for my family and everyone who enjoys freedom. Sometimes I get angry because I realize that people take advantage of that. But many respect that also, so its worth it, doing my job as an American soldier I've done many things and seen many things most will never experience. I know the sacrifice to protect the U.S and more important my family and friends.

If ya'll are reading this. I guess it means that I have lost my life on this world but started a new one in Heaven. Don't cry or worry about me, because I have died for my country and yall. We knew what may happen while I was here, but I think it was meant to be. . . .

. . . I really don't know how to end this but, carry on with your lives and remember you live in a great place, where men and women sacrifice so much for all of us. I love yall so, so much.

Sincerely your son and brother, Thomas (PFC Caughman)"

As the grateful father of four sons who have served in Iraq, Egypt, or Afghanistan I especially appreciate the courage and extraordinary maturity of Thomas Caughman. He will always be cherished for his service which has for 20 years achieved protecting Americans from terrorist attacks in the continuing Global War on Terrorism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on June 3, 2024, and on June 4, 2024, I was unable to make it back to D.C. for votes. Had I

been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; YEA on Roll Call No. 235; and YEA on Roll Call No. 236.

HONORING ARIAN TAYLOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Arian La'Pearl Alexandria Taylor, the first athletic swimmer within Jackson Public Schools to receive a swimming scholarship.

Arian signed to Meridian Community College (MCC) for swimming. She is the first Jackson Public Schools student athlete to earn a scholarship for swimming. She is also the first black female swimmer to sign to the MCC Eagles, where she plans to major in Nursing.

The 50- and 100-meter freestyle swimmer hopes to inspire others as she blazes a trail for JPS.

Currently, an International Baccalaureate (IB) scholar at Jim Hill High School, Arian has been an athlete of the JPS Swim Team since 7th grade.

While at Jim Hill High School, her achievements and extracurricular activities include choir, basketball, cheer, and the National High School Honor Society.

Despite her youth, the standout is the first to represent the sport of swimming at Jim Hill High School, the first to receive a swimming scholarship for the District, and the first African American athlete to receive this type of scholarship from MCC.

She learned the lifesaving skill at age 11 thanks to a free summer camp hosted by the 100 Black Men of Jackson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing, Arian Taylor for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

WISHING BRUCE SOWATSKY A HAPPY RETIREMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on this occasion of Bruce Sowatsky's retirement, I recognize his outstanding contributions to the community of St. Charles, Missouri, with great honor and appreciation. Bruce's dedication to improving the lives of children and families has left an enduring mark on our community, and his efforts have touched the hearts of countless individuals.

As Executive Director of the Community & Children's Resource Board, Bruce's leadership has been instrumental in expanding vital services for children and youth, ensuring they can access the support and resources they need to thrive. His commitment to advocating for children's mental health and well-being has greatly impacted many lives. His legacy will continue to inspire us for years to come.

On behalf of the constituents of Missouri's 3rd Congressional District, I extend my sin-

cerest gratitude to Bruce Sowatsky for his commendable service and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 HONOREES FOR THE BROWARD SENIOR HALL OF FAME

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore the significance of the 2024 Honorees of the Broward House Senior Hall of Fame, an esteemed recognition administered by the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County.

The Area Agency on Aging Broward County, a pivotal organization in our community, provides essential services to the county's senior residents. It is part of a state network of 11 different Area Agencies of Aging in Florida, each with unique service and planning areas.

The Broward Senior Hall of Fame comprises seniors 60 and older who have performed outstanding volunteer work in Broward County for five or more years. This year's honorees include Odessa Striggles Bennett, Elizabeth Robinson Massey, Lori Green, Betty Miller, Carolyn Hardy, John Raite, Dr. Jorge Lopez, Joy Rodenberg, Rosena Lott, and Paul Sallarulo.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 23rd Congressional District, please join me in celebrating these individuals on this momentous occasion.

HONORING DR. FRED EARL KENCY, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Dr. Fred Earl Kency, Jr. He has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a strong desire for change.

Dr. Kency is a native of Jackson, Mississippi. He attended Jackson Public Schools and graduated from Provine High School in 2003. He furthered his education at Alcorn State University, receiving a Bachelors of Science degree in biology. He then earned his Doctorate of Medicine at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in 2011. Dr. Kency used the Health Professions Scholarship to pay for medical school and was selected to complete an Internship in Transitional Medicine at the Naval Medical Center San Diego. After 4 years of honorable Navy service with deployments to Africa and Europe, he returned home to Jackson, MS, to complete his Emergency Medicine Residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

He currently serves as a Community Emergency Room physician at Baptist Hospital and an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at UMMC in Jackson, MS. He is also a credentialed staff member at multiple other hospitals in Mississippi.

Dr. Kency is active in the metro Jackson community through his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and other organizations such as the 100 Black Men of Jackson. He currently serves as a board member for the American Academy of Emergency Medicine and a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Dr. Kency owns Kency Medical Services PLLC, which provides medical consultations, medical-legal work, and community medical health advocacy. Recently, The Best of Mississippi Awards recognized and honored Dr. Kency as one of the Top 50 Men in Business in the State of Mississippi. Dr. Kency has fought tirelessly to make Mississippi a healthier and safer place for all its citizens, and his work has not gone unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Fred Earl Kency, Jr. for his dedication and service in the field of Medicine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on June 3rd as I had an immovable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 233, H. Res. 1215, and YEA on Roll Call No. 234, H.R. 6983.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN WILLIAMS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of Mr. John Joseph Williams, a brave and dedicated soldier who served our Nation with distinction during World War II as a member of the Ghost Army special unit.

John was assigned to the Signal Company Special of the Ghost Army, a top-secret unit tasked with deceiving the enemy through elaborate tactical deceptions. He was among the select few who landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day, playing a crucial role in the Allied invasion of Normandy. The contributions of John Williams and his fellow Ghost Army soldiers were kept classified until 1996. Historians credit their unit of 1,100 men with saving an estimated 30,000 U.S. troops, and their work had a significant impact on the outcome of the war.

After the war, John returned to Missouri, where he and his wife, Barbara, raised a family and started a successful career at the University of Missouri. He remained dedicated to his community and country until his passing on January 19, 2010, leaving a legacy of courage, sacrifice, and service.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity to commemorate the life and service of John Joseph Williams.