

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.

HONORING MARSHALL'S MUSIC
AND BOOK STORE

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 the oldest Black-owned bookstore in the Nation, Marshall's Music and Book Store.

Jackson, Mississippi, is home to the oldest Black-owned bookstore in North America. Marshall's Music and Book Store in the heart of downtown Jackson is a family business that opened in 1938.

The quaint store on the almost empty Farish Street has shelves stacked high with books, music, and everything in between. The walls are also plastered with photos of unsung African American heroes with roots in Mississippi.

Pastor Louis Wilcher of the Greater Pearl River Missionary Baptist Church first opened the store 85 years ago on the corner of Farish and Oakley streets. Now, Primm is the third-generation owner of the store. She believes in teaching people about the past, saying that Black history didn't begin with slavery.

Her newfound hope now lies in opening a school. Primm believes that the way to stop the surge of violent youth crime is to teach children about hope.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marshall's Music and Book Store for its longevity and dedication to serving the community.

RECOGNIZING THE LOSS OF A
GREAT COMMUNITY LEADER
AND OUTSTANDING LIFE OF
SGT. STEPHEN BURDICK
"STEVE" HAND

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and blessing to the City of New Orleans, Sgt. Stephen Burdick "Steve" Hand. He was born in Bronxville, New York on July 21, 1941, to Faith Seiple Hand and Edward Sayer Hand, Sr. and grew up in Scarsdale, New York. Mr. Hand was deeply committed to our beloved city. He served as a leader in the initiative to preserve and restore New Orleans through his work at the Vieux Carré Commission, and the French Market Corp during the 1980s and 1990s. After living a full life dedicated to serving others, Steve (82 years old) passed away on January 8, 2024.

Steve was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1963. His training took place in Fort Benning, Georgia, with the 17th Artillery 2nd Infantry Division under Battery C 7th Battalion ("Garry Owen"). He served one tour of duty in 1965 to Vietnam in which he was stationed at An Khe with the 3rd Brigade 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Mr. Hand earned the title of Sergeant before being honorably discharged from the Army.

Upon returning to the United States, Steve returned to his studies and ultimately graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick,

Maine with a bachelor's degree in economics. After graduating, Steve began his career, working in Communications and Public Service. He fondly reflected on his experience working on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant and Press Secretary to Senators Winston L. Prouty of Vermont and Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, the first popularly elected Black senator. He went on to earn a master's degree in Landscape Architecture at LSU in 1982, where he developed an appreciation for the state of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. At LSU, he wrote his thesis, about the historical, cultural, and political influences that have contributed to the development of the gardens and courtyards within the French Quarter. This thesis was instrumental in his future experiences in New Orleans, where he was dedicated to preserving, enriching, and educating others about the local landscaping and architecture that makes our city so special.

As a hardworking and dedicated Director of the Vieux Carré Commission, Steve used his expertise in the French Quarter's architectural landscape to preserve the historical and cultural character of New Orleans's oldest neighborhoods. Among his many accomplishments in this role, Steve was able to have the golden equestrian statue of Joan of Arc, relocated at Place de France. Additionally, he worked tirelessly alongside the City Council and Mayor's office to ensure that the integrity of this neighborhood and the needs of its residents were protected, pioneering an effort to keep the French Quarter safe and clean. Mr. Hand also served the New Orleans community as the Executive Director of the French Market Corp. in 1994, through which he supported the effort to revitalize and renovate the French Market, leading this historical landmark to flourish in our city's economy.

Steve Hand's legacy will continue to live on through the spirit of this city, which he loved so dearly. It will live on through all of the people, the long-lasting friendships that he made and cultivated, and those whose lives he touched around the Nation. Most importantly, Steve Hand's legacy will live on through his dear, loving family: Bear, his goldendoodle; his brother Edward S. Hand and sister-in-law Susan O. Hand; three nieces Samantha Fratus, Lindsley Rice, and Bailey Jeffrey and their families around the world. Stephen Burdick Hand is an inspiration to all those who dedicate their lives to serving their community. I, too, hope to carry his legacy with me as I continue to serve the people of Louisiana.

HONORING NORTH RICHLAND
HILLS MAYOR OSCAR TREVINO

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oscar Trevino as he retires as Mayor of the City of North Richland Hills. In doing so, he concludes a total of 25 years of dedicated public service as a member of the NRH Council, 22 years of which he led the City as Mayor. He steps down as the longest-serving Mayor in the history of North Richland Hills.

Privately, Mr. Trevino was the owner of O. Trevino Construction, having graduated from

Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1979. Mr. Trevino was first elected to the NRH City Council in May, 1999, and resigned during his second term after being elected Mayor in June 2002. During this time he not only served as a City official and business owner, but also engaged actively with a number of Local, State and National organizations. These included active board leadership positions with the National League of Cities; the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO); the Tarrant Regional Transportation Council (TRTC); Tarrant County Mayors Council; the Regional Transportation Council (RTC); Partners in Mobility; North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG); the Coalition for Better Transportation; Regional Transit Initiative Committee; Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) Advisory Council; North Texas Commission; TEX-21 Committee; North Texas Super Bowl XLV Host Committee Council of Mayors; Birdville ISD Foundation of Education; Medical City North Hills Board; Northeast Leadership Forum; and the Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce, to name but only a few.

Utilizing his considerable organizational and public skills as Mayor, residents of not only North Richland Hills, but from across the North Texas region as well, benefitted greatly from his educational background and the experience and connections he earned as a successful heavy-highway contractor. Awards including the NCTCOG William J. Pitstick Regional Excellence Award, the FWHCC Businessman of the Year and John V. McMillan Hall of Fame Award, and the Excalibur Award from the NE Tarrant Chamber are a sampling of the acknowledgement he received from his peers for his well-regarded impact.

As the 3rd largest municipality in Tarrant County, North Richland Hills grew from 55,000 to over 70,000 during Mayor Trevino's terms in office. Supporting this growth, Mayor Trevino worked to ensure adequate infrastructure, including over \$100 million on the city's streets. He also sought to build strong regional partnerships to increase mobility through highway improvements and the addition of TEXRail as legacies to benefit the community for generations.

Leading the Council and staff as stewards of public funds, Mayor Trevino sought to invest in high-quality services, with a sensitivity of the tax burden for senior citizens and homeowners. Investments in parks, equipment and staff were made to ensure the needs of the City's expanding population were met. Significant updates to aging facilities accomplished during his tenure included a new City Hall as well as new fire and police stations, expanding and equipping the City's professional responders with the best training and tools available to ensure safety and security remained a hallmark in support of NRH's quality of life. Additionally, a modern library, recreation center, animal shelter and senior center were also completed, along with improvements to Iron Horse Golf Course and NRH20 Family Water Park. These facilities provided citizens with community amenities that have allowed the City to provide unique recreation programs and host numerous annual special events. As investments, they also supported NRH with an identity as a desired destination location to support the Nation's second Peppa Pig Theme Park.