

her 60's, she enrolled in the 8th grade at a neighborhood school and continued until she graduated with her diploma from Bennett High School, achieving a lifelong dream.

On Thursday, June 6th, Brunette reached 110 years of age. When asked what she attributes to her long life, she says, "I don't know why He does it, but He keeps me alive and I thank Him, I thank Him, I thank Him!"

I join the people of Western New York in admiration of Brunette's commendable achievements, realized over the course of an exceptional lifetime.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. HUGHES VAN ELLIS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate, cherish, and honor the extraordinary life of Hughes Van Ellis, who was born in 1921 in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma—one of the flashpoints of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

He, alongside his sister Viola Fletcher, was one of the last surviving witnesses of the Tulsa Race Massacre.

At the time of his birth, the Greenwood District of Tulsa was a thriving community built up by its Black residents into a nationally renowned entrepreneurial center known as "Black Wall Street."

In 1921, white supremacy and racist violence were common throughout the United States and went largely unchecked by the justice system.

On the morning of May 30, 1921, Mr. Van Ellis and the other residents of Greenwood District had their world shattered when reports of an alleged and disputed incident between a young Black man and a young white woman gave the white community of Tulsa a pretext for violently attacking the prosperous Black community.

The Tulsa Tribune called for a lynching amidst a climate of white racial hostility and white resentment over Black economic success.

On May 31, 1921, a mob of armed white men descended upon Tulsa's Greenwood District and initiated the unchecked violence known today as the "Tulsa Race Massacre."

Tulsa municipal and county authorities failed to take action to protect the Black community, nor did they attempt to calm or contain the violence.

Law enforcement officials deputized many white men who were participants in the violence as their agents.

In just 24 hours, the white mob's violence led to the death of an estimated 300 Black residents, as well as over 800 injuries.

The white mob looted, damaged, burned, or otherwise destroyed approximately 40 square blocks of Black Wall Street in Greenwood District of Tulsa Oklahoma, which included an estimated 1256 homes of Black residents and virtually every other structure, including churches, schools, businesses, a hospital and a library.

Nearly 9,000 Black Tulsans were left homeless and suffered over \$200 million dollars in losses.

In the wake of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the Governor of Oklahoma declared martial law and units of the Oklahoma National Guard participated in the mass arrests of nearly all of Greenwood's surviving men, women, and children, removing them from Greenwood and unlawfully detaining them in holding centers.

Oklahoma local and state governments dismissed and distorted claims surrounding the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre for decades and the event was effectively erased from collective memory and history.

The final injury to Black residents was that insurance companies refused to pay claims for the losses they suffered to the homes and businesses that had been looted or destroyed.

Mr. Van Ellis dedicated his life to ensuring that this atrocity would not be forgotten and to the pursuit of justice for survivors.

Through it all, his love of country shown through his service as a World War II veteran, fighting for our Nation's freedom.

When he returned home, he continued to serve as a soldier in the fight for civil rights, truth, and justice.

He started a family with his wife, raising their seven children, while working as a sharecropper, mechanic, janitor, gardener, and a gas station attendant.

In 2021, Mr. Van Ellis bravely sat before the United States House Judiciary Committee and testified to the dangers of structural racism and inequality.

He drew attention to the abdication of responsibility by government and city officials to rebuild and repair the Greenwood community and testified to the government on the active blocking of recovery efforts by city officials.

Alongside fellow survivors, he demanded that the government not forget about what happened in Tulsa and that the survivors should receive reparations for the trauma they endured.

He was a vocal and staunch advocate for the enactment of H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act, to address injury caused to the descendants of the formerly enslaved.

He encouraged all people in the United States to reflect upon the history of the United States as an imperfect but committed journey to establish a more perfect union and to cherish and exercise the rights, privileges, and responsibilities guaranteed by the Constitution.

Above all, Hughes Van Ellis refused to sit by quietly as a piece of his life was wiped from public memory as well as the history books.

His staunch advocacy for justice and civil rights won over the hearts and minds of millions to his cause, passing on his determination to redress for the wrongs of the past.

Hughes Van Ellis is survived by his daughters Malee V. Craft and Muriel Ellis Watson, as well as his sister and fellow survivor Viola Ford Fletcher.

On behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I take great pride in recognizing Hughes Van Ellis on a meaningful and prosperous life.

CONGRATULATING UL ON 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize UL Solutions on the occasion of the 130th Anniversary of their founding.

Throughout its history, UL Solutions has been an integral part of our Illinois community, consistently working for a "safer, more secure and sustainable world." This remarkable anniversary is a testament to a proud tradition of ingenuity and innovation, and a wonderful moment of celebration for the entire UL Solutions community. I wish all UL employees and their families well as they mark this auspicious occasion.

UL Solutions was founded in 1894 by electrical engineer William Henry Merrill, Jr. Since its founding, UL Solutions has dedicated itself to enhancing product safety and construction safety in America and around the world, becoming a trusted global leader in applied safety science.

Starting from humble origins with a three-person staff, UL today is a powerhouse in championing safer and more reliable standards for consumer products, construction materials, and workplace safety. UL remains a pioneer in American industry, ensuring safety standards in diversified fields ranging from automotive to energy, health care to electronics. UL has improved safety in building construction, and even set the stage for the establishment of the Federal Aviation Administration by becoming the first national organization globally to certify airplanes for use.

For decades UL has influenced American inventions, from kitchen appliances to electronics to automobiles, ensuring that consumers can safely use their toys, tools, devices and vehicles. Today, UL continues to expand safety initiatives while researching cutting-edge innovations, such as next-generation batteries, autonomous vehicles, and 3D printing technologies.

UL Solutions is proudly headquartered in Northbrook, Illinois. It continues to serve as a major tech hub in the 10th District and employs thousands of Illinoisans in building a safer and more sustainable world.

In honor of UL Solution's outstanding contributions to the state of Illinois and its 130th anniversary, the Governor of the State of Illinois, J.B. Pritzker, has proclaimed June 3, 2024 as UL Solutions Day in Illinois.

I congratulate UL Solutions on this anniversary and look forward to working with them as they continue to maintain the safety and integrity of our appliances and materials.

RECOGNIZING RANDY KELLER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Randy Keller of Cañon City, Colorado for his outstanding performance of duties as the Fremont County Coroner during the extraordinary circumstances during the funeral home tragedy in Penrose, Colorado.

In October of 2023, the remains of nearly 200 individuals were found improperly stored at a local funeral home. This horrific and shocking crime rocked this close knit community and prompted Colorado officials to declare a state disaster.

As the Coroner, Mr. Keller oversaw this crisis with incredible efficiency and compassion. Families who had worked with the funeral home during some of their most vulnerable moments were left wondering if their loved ones were cared for properly.

Mr. Keller worked overtime to coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to identify the deceased, notify their loved ones, and seek justice for the community members impacted by this tragedy. Mr. Keller's work gave closure to grieving families and helped restore trust to the people of Fremont County.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Randy Keller for his commitment and service to Fremont County.

CONGRATULATING JACKIE
KALLEN ON HER INDUCTION
INTO THE INTERNATIONAL BOX-
ING HALL OF FAME

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an inspiring trailblazer and groundbreaking Michigan woman, Jackie Kallen, on her induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York.

A Michigan native, Jackie Kallen—born Kaplan—has made an indelible mark on the world of boxing. In an industry that has historically been led by men, Jackie broke through barriers and paved the way for future generations of women in sports management, journalism, and competitive boxing.

Jackie's journey began in the 1970s when, as a show business journalist, she interviewed stars like Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, and the Rolling Stones. In 1977, she began her focus on sports after interviewing Thomas Hearns, then a boxing prospect from the Kronk gym in Detroit. From there, she would serve as Hearns' publicist over the next decade and became a familiar name in Detroit's competitive boxing scene.

In 1988, she made the transition from publicist to manager, where she began guiding the careers of figures like Bobby Hitz, James Tony, and Bronco McKart. Because of Jackie's dedication, she has led fighters to championships, built incredible careers, and inspired countless fans.

In 2004, Kallen was the inspiration for the film *Against the Ropes* and has gone on to author two books, produce a film, and make nationwide appearances as a motivation speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jackie as she celebrates this outstanding occasion. I am proud to celebrate such an inspiring figure work will be sure to inspire generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABE AMO

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, 2024, I intended to vote YES on Roll Call No. 240, Agreeing to the Amendment Number 28 by Congressman BRIAN MAST of Florida that “ensures veterans can participate in state-approved medical marijuana programs. Removes the current directive that prevents VA Medical Facility staff from recommending, making referrals, or completing forms and registering Veterans for participation in state-approved marijuana programs.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 243, Roll Call No. 244, Roll Call No. 245, Roll Call No. 246, and Roll Call No. 247 on June 5, 2024. Had I been present I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 243, YEA on Roll Call No. 244, NAY on Roll Call No. 245, YEA on Roll Call No. 246, and NAY on Roll Call No. 247.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE ASTRO- NOMICAL LEAGUE

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate this year's National Convention for the Astronomical League, occurring in Overland Park, Kansas, from July 18 to July 21, 2024. Our community is honored to host hundreds of amateur astronomers as they come together to embrace scientific discovery and expansion. For 78 years, the Astronomical League has worked to educate and expand humanity's understanding of the cosmos.

The Kansas state motto is “ad astra per aspera,” which means “to the stars through difficulties.” This sentiment is at the heart of who we are as Kansans, and I hope Convention attendees take it with them moving forward. Together, we can overcome any difficulty and strive for what some may believe to be unattainable. With the bright minds that the Astronomical League has fostered, we truly can reach the stars.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating these astronomers as they continue our Nation's proud tradition of leading the world in scientific discovery and nurturing the future of astronomy.

HONORING PROFESSOR HEIDE WHELAN

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of Professor Heide Whelan, Professor Emerita of History at Dartmouth College. Professor Whelan grew up in Lubeck, Germany in the aftermath of World War II.

One of her earliest memories was of Russian tank units stationed less than a mile from her childhood home. This experience informed her love of freedom, democracy, and independent thought. She later emigrated to the United States, becoming a naturalized citizen, and used her personal experiences to illuminate Central European and Russian history. Professor Whelan was a masterful teacher who brought her fascination with and love of Russian culture and history to decades of students at Dartmouth. Her classes on Soviet history were consistently oversubscribed and some of the most popular on campus.

Professor Whelan was also a friend and mentor to students—she led several foreign study programs and provided guidance and personal friendship to her students. She cared about her students, and over thirty years later, her students still care for her.

HONORING DR. YANG DAO

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Yang Dao for a lifetime of achievements spanning over five decades of public service and community contributions to the multi-Lao ethnic people of Laos and the Hmong American Diaspora community in the United States and beyond. Born on September 7, 1943, to Yang Mi Nou and Her Kei in the Xieng Khouang Province during the Royal Kingdom of Laos, Dr. Yang Dao was educated in the time of the French colonial administration of Indochina, received a high school diploma in June 1964, and graduated with a bachelor's degree (baccalaureate française) from the University of Paris in 1968. With funding support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Dr. Yang Dao went on to complete a doctoral program in 1972, becoming the first Hmong in history to receive a PhD in Social Science from The Sorbonne University in France.

After completing his graduate studies, Dr. Yang Dao returned to the Royal Kingdom of Laos to serve the government in many important roles, including as the Director of Human Resources in the Ministry of Planning from 1972 to 1974, and was later appointed by the King of Laos, His Majesty King Sisavang Vatthana as a member of the National Political Consultative Council (National Assembly) from 1974 to 1975 during the last unity coalition government consisting of the Royalist and Neo Lao Hat Sak (Pathet Lao) political factions.

The fall of Laos to the communist Pathet Lao in May 1975 forced hundreds of thousands of Lao, Hmong, and other multi-ethnic