

refugees to flee to the neighboring country Thailand by crossing the mighty Mekong River, where Dr. Yang Dao and his family joined the exodus of refugees in seeking safety. In July 1976, Dr. Yang Dao's family resettled to France and later migrated to the State of Minnesota (USA) in 1983.

Upon his arrival in the United States, Dr. Yang Dao joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus as an Adjunct Professor teaching Southeast Asian Anthropology and History. He went on to teach at many local Twin Cities higher education institutions including Hamline University, and Metropolitan State University. Throughout his career, Dr. Yang Dao has authored many books, including Hmong History, Culture, and Spirituality at a Glance Through Speeches released in 2023, Hmong at the Turning Point (1993—French and English), and first Hmong-French Dictionary (1964). He has also co-authored many books and has written extensively in academic periodicals and Journals.

Dr. Yang Dao is also a well-known public speaker who has participated in many national and international conferences in the United States, France, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and China. He speaks Hmong, Lao, French, English, Thai, Vietnamese and Cantonese (Chinese). Dr. Yang Dao is also a prolific artist and composer who has created albums and popular songs from Sib Pab Ciaj Vaj (Hmong unity) to Nkauj Hnub Twj Tuaj Ci lab (Hmong face a bright new dawn)

As one of the very few surviving officials of the Royal Lao government, Dr. Yang Dao is still very active in civic engagement, frequently traveling internationally to foster public diplomacy by promoting peace and encouraging educational and cultural exchanges.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in this well-deserved tribute to Dr. Yang Dao, for his lifetime of service to Hmong Americans in Minnesota and across the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MONSIGNOR
MICHAEL PICARD'S RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual from my district, Monsignor Michael Picard, who has touched and bettered countless lives in our community through his unwavering faith and commitment to his vocation as a Pastor.

Born May 30, 1938, Michael Picard entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia in 1956 at just 18 years old. After nearly a decade of rigorous theological training, he was ordained on May 21, 1966, and embarked on an illustrious 58-year career dedicated to serving the Lord and guiding the spiritual lives of countless individuals and community members.

Affectionately known as Father Mike, he embarked on his pastoral journey as an Associate Pastor at Corpus Christi Church. Then, in 1967, he was assigned to Cardinal O'Hara High School, where he wore many hats: Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Counselor, Basketball Moderator, and Vice Principal for two years. Throughout his tenure there, Father Mike profoundly impacted students and col-

leagues alike. He mentored countless young men and women, guiding them toward successful futures and emphasizing the importance of character, integrity, and unwavering faith.

Father Mike embarked on a new mission in 1981, taking on the role of Principal at Lansdale Catholic High School. Here, he continued to be a beacon of inspiration and guidance for his students and community, exemplifying unwavering dedication and faith. His remarkable talents and unparalleled leadership qualities caught the eye of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, leading to his recruitment as the Director of the Cardinal's Commission and Office for Human Relations.

In 1989, Father Mike answered the call to serve once more and took on a new role at Saint Andrews Catholic Church in Newtown, Pennsylvania. It has been here at Saint Andrew's that Father Mike has served as Pastor, mentor, and friend to over 20,000 parishioners for the past 35 years. While his list of accomplishments is undoubtedly impressive, the quiet, personal moments are what define his profound impact. With every baptism, confirmation, First Communion, Matrimony, and anointing of the sick, Father Mike has been a steadfast presence for so many in life's most significant moments. His unwavering support and genuine kindness have intricately woven together the fabric of the church community, forming a beautiful tapestry of love and faith. In moments of joy and sorrow, he has stood as a steady pillar of comfort, offering solace and hope to all in need. His influence has grown to extend far beyond the physical walls of Saint Andrews, touching the hearts and minds of everyone fortunate enough to encounter him.

For Father Mike, being a Pastor is not merely a job but a lifelong vocation. His tireless efforts in shepherding the largest Catholic church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and fostering a warm, welcoming environment have transformed Saint Andrews into a beacon of hope, inclusivity, joy, and peace for all who cross its threshold. Yet these accomplishments are not what defines him. Father Mike has shown us that true greatness lies in the everyday acts of kindness, compassion, and encouragement and has the power to transform a community.

It is my great honor to commend and congratulate Monsignor Michael Picard—our beloved Father Mike—on 58 years of inspiring service to our community. His exemplary character, unwavering faith, and positive spirit have touched and bettered the lives of so many, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations of our community members.

My sincere and best wishes to Father Mike as he enters this next chapter of life—may it be filled with continued blessings and the same spirit of love and devotion that has defined his life's work. Thank you to Father Mike for his incredible contributions. His legacy will forever shine brightly in our hearts and our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on June 5, 2024, I missed 5 Roll Call votes. Had I been

present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call No. 243, Schweikert of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 43—YES; Roll Call No. 244, Schweikert of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 44—YES; Roll Call No. 245, Steube of Florida Part B Amendment No. 45—NO; Roll Call No. 246, Motion to Recommit to Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025—YES; and Roll Call No. 247, Final Passage of Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025—NO.

HONORING DANA CAMPBELL
SAYLOR

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dana Campbell Saylor, a dedicated Phoenix community advocate and personal friend.

From her early years as a student at Arizona State University, Dana knew she wanted to dedicate her life to fighting for social justice—especially on issues related to women's equality. She quickly established herself in the greater Phoenix area as a fierce advocate for the vulnerable and underserved, sitting on countless boards, councils, and commissions to channel her passion for public service.

Throughout the years, Dana served four Arizona Governors, two Phoenix Mayors, and several ASU administrators in varying capacities to help address community issues. She used her advisory positions to propose, pass, and implement legislation to enhance the lives of women, children, and veterans.

Many in the Phoenix community know Dana best for her role as CEO of the Maricopa County YWCA. She was a firm believer and role model of their mission to empower women, stand against racism, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. As CEO, she focused her efforts on transforming the organization into the impactful entity it is today. She established the YWCA as a 501c4 for advocacy, created the YWCA Metropolitan Women's Forum, and acted as YWCA Board Chair for the Pacific Region for several years.

Throughout her lifetime, Dana was recognized with several highly esteemed honors and awards such as the NAWBO Visionary Award, the West Valley Mover and Shaker award, the YWCA Dorothy Willey Award, and an induction into the Phoenix Union Alumni Hall of Fame.

Dana continued to serve others until her passing on May 13, 2024. She will be dearly missed, but her legacy in Phoenix will endure through the countless lives she touched. Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on June 3, 4, and 5, 2024, due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on

Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; NAY on Roll Call No. 235; NAY on Roll Call No. 236; NAY on Roll Call No. 237; NAY on Roll Call No. 238; NAY on Roll Call No. 239; YEA on Roll Call No. 240; NAY on Roll Call No. 241; NAY on Roll Call No. 242; YEA 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.

HONORING THE LANSING WOMAN'S CLUB

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Lansing Woman's Club, an organization of incredible women dedicated to personal growth, knowledge, and the betterment of their community. Founded in 1874, the Club has played an instrumental role in promoting lifelong learning and cultural enrichment, thus lifting the skylines of its members, the city of Lansing, and beyond.

The Lansing Woman's Club began with 25 pioneering women who shared a deep commitment to intellectual improvement. Their dedication is encapsulated in the Club's founding purpose: the study and improvement of its members in literature, science, and the fine arts. More than a century later, the Club proudly carries on its mission as members meet each week to learn from one another through the sharing of individually written research papers.

Throughout its history, the Club has been a beacon of progress and inclusivity, committed to welcoming open-minded and determined women to mirror the diverse community it serves. Members have come from various walks of life and professional backgrounds, including doctors, academics, civil servants, and members of the clergy, and have established and supported cultural organizations, hospitals, and educational institutions. To this day, members not only contribute their time and volunteer efforts, but also foster community engagement, provide aid to refugees and supply food and clothing to those in need.

Over the years, the Lansing Woman's Club has hosted many distinguished guests to share their passion and expertise with members, including Frank Lloyd Wright Creativity Award-winning architect Alden B. Bow, three-time Pulitzer Prize winner Carl Sandburg, and acclaimed author Madeleine L'Engle.

Even in the face of adversity, including a devastating fire in 1996 that severely damaged the group's clubhouse, the resilience of its members has ensured the Club's enduring presence. Inspired by one of the Club's earliest members, Irma T. Jones, these women continue to demonstrate that our futures are limited only by the boundaries we set for ourselves.

As we commemorate this significant milestone, let us recognize the Lansing Woman's Club for its unwavering commitment to education, culture, and service to the community. It is with profound respect and gratitude that I honor the Club's 150th anniversary and recognize its members' contributions. May the Lansing Woman's Club continue to inspire and lead for many more generations to come.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. MYRNA JACKSON

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Mrs. Myrna Carter Jackson, a civil rights activist and community leader in Birmingham, Alabama, who passed away on May 31, 2024, at the age of 82.

Mrs. Jackson was born on July 9, 1941, in Birmingham, Alabama as one of eight children to the late Willie George Carter and Willie Lee Ledger. After graduating from A.H. Parker High School at the age of sixteen, she attended Barbara Durr Beauty College in 1965 and obtained a license in cosmetology. Later in life, she continued her educational journey at Lawson State Community College and Miles College, graduating with a bachelor's degree in social work in 2000.

Mrs. Jackson became involved in the Civil Rights Movement at an early age, serving as the First Vice President of the Metro Birmingham Branch of NAACP. After the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church, she participated in the Children's March and Monday Masses, organized by the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth. In response to her peaceful demonstration, Mrs. Jackson was jailed twice and spent more than three weeks in the Birmingham Jail. She experienced violence and troubling conditions during her incarceration but drew strength from the support and comradery that she received from other members of the Movement.

A dedicated community leader, Mrs. Jackson's commitment to service was the throughline of her career. She served as a certified substitute teacher for several Birmingham schools, provided social services and workforce development to survivors of Hurricane Katrina, facilitated job training for students through the Birmingham Works for Youth, and served as Commissioner of the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District. As a member of the Top Ladies of Distinction, she worked with Top Teens of America to provide scholarships and funding for students.

Even later in life, Mrs. Jackson's commitment to the ideals of the Civil Rights Movement never wavered. In 2009, she organized a conference with the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the FBI to promote healthy dialogue between youth and law enforcement. In 2017, she helped commemorate the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and went on to serve as the Interim President for the Metro Birmingham Branch of the NAACP.

Mrs. Jackson received much recognition for her remarkable leadership and contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. She was honored by the Metro Birmingham Branch of the NAACP in 2013 for the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement. In 2017, she was selected by The HistoryMakers for an oral history interview of her incredible life story.

Mrs. Jackson is preceded in death by her husband, Issic Jackson; parents Willie George Carter and Willie Lee Ledger; and three brothers, Gilbert Carter, Alfred Lee Carter, and John Carter. She is survived by two sons Jeff-

ery Jackson and Michael Jackson; one granddaughter Denitra Streeter; one grandson Kieron Jackson; one brother Willie Carter Jr.; four sisters Sylvia Weatherspoon, Lee Edna Boone, Iris Elom, and Wanda Morton, and a host of cousins, friends, and church members.

On a personal note, Mrs. Jackson was a source of great inspiration for me and so many young Black women. A trailblazer and pioneer, she was devoted to her community, her family, and the power of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Movement. It is because of the courage, bravery, and strength of Foot Soldiers like Myrna Carter Jackson that we enjoy the freedoms we have today. Her life is a testament to the power of ordinary Americans to achieve extraordinary social change. May we find comfort in knowing that she lived a full and blessed life, and that her legacy will live on in the lives she touched.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Mrs. Myrna Carter Jackson and her many contributions to the City of Birmingham, the State of Alabama, and our Nation. May she Rest in Peace and Power.

RECOGNIZING ANASTASIOS G. PILIOTIS AND CHRYS MARIA CARDARIS-PILIOTIS

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Senior Special Agent at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and Senior Manager at AT&T, and dear friends Anastasios Piliotis and Chrys Cardaris-Piliotis for their over 40 years of dedication and commitment to providing quality service to the public.

Anastasios earned his Bachelors in Administration of Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement from San Jose State University in 1976, later returning to earn his Master's in 1978 and Ph.D. in Sociology and Anthropology from U.S. International University in 1981. Chrys attended Wayne State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts, Master's, and subsequent Ph.D. in English Language and Literature.

Chrys began her career as an English Instructor from 1973 to 1977, when she began her career with AT&T where she remained for 45 years before retiring in 2023. She served multiple departments working in external affairs, marketing, and engineering, and served on the Women of AT&T Officer and Executive Board.

Following his service as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff at Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department and a Border Patrol Agent, Anastasios continued his career in the Federal government service as a Criminal Investigator at the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Government Printing Office and the Department of Transportation. In 1986, Anastasios transitioned to Senior Special Agent with the Defense Security Services. In 2005, he became a Senior Special Agent with the Office of Personnel Management, Federal Investigative Services, where he served for 18 years until his retirement in 2023.

In addition to his professional commitments, Anastasios also served as an Adjunct Lecturer