

has significantly enhanced the aesthetic appeal of our downtown, with 28 projects funded, resulting in a public investment of \$37,664 and a remarkable private investment of \$163,296. This program not only beautifies the downtown, but also stimulates further private investment and economic growth and has had over \$10 million of investment since 2014.

HMSO has played a crucial role in coordinating community events and business development workshops. These activities support local businesses and foster a strong sense of community.

HMSO stands as a model of success-based economic and community development. Its efforts have transformed downtown Oxford into a vibrant hub of activity and culture, reflecting the hard work and dedication of its leaders and volunteers. I commend HMSO for its outstanding contributions to our community and look forward to witnessing its continued success and growth.

HMSO exemplifies the power of community-driven efforts in creating sustainable and vibrant local economies. Their accomplishments over the past decade highlight the importance of preserving our historic downtowns while adapting to modern needs and opportunities. Let us celebrate and support such initiatives that enrich our communities and our lives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 10th anniversary of Historic Main Street Oxford.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL CARBAJAL

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Michael Carbajal, “Little Hands of Stone (Manilas de Piedra)”, and all his accomplishments. Since becoming a boxer, he has accumulated six world championships, an Olympic silver medal, and a 49–4 career record, all of which landed him in the Boxing Hall of Fame. He was also selected Fighter of the Year in 1993 for Ring Magazine and was Comeback Fighter of the Year in 1999. Since his retirement in 1999 after winning the WBO light flyweight title belt, he has shared his expertise, mentoring the next generation of boxers in the Phoenix area. Inducted into the Arizona Sports Hall of Fame, Carbajal has left an indelible mark on Arizona’s boxing scene.

Carbajal’s outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication have been a tremendous source of inspiration for young boxers throughout Arizona. His ongoing support and commitment to Arizona will make a lasting impact for generations to come.

Since he was six years old, Carbajal has been a unified champion, serving as the face of boxing in Arizona for decades. Carbajal’s story lives on as he tirelessly contributes to the next generation of boxers at his 9th Street Gym, blocks from where he grew up. I am proud to recognize Carbajal and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE GORDONSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL TIGERETTES ON CLAIMING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Gordonsville High School Tigerettes for winning the 2024 ISSAA 1A State Championship in softball for the second year in a row.

Gordonsville, Tennessee, is known as a “Title Town” for having won 10 state championships in their history. This year, “Title Town” has another jewel in its crown thanks to the Gordonsville High School Tigerettes. This is the second consecutive state championship win for the team, who beat Eagleville by a score of 5 to 2 last year and by dominating Jo Byrns 11 to 1 this year.

Kailey Plumlee started the game with a home run and also struck out 12 batters in 6 innings as the starting pitcher. From there, the team continued to show up and show off, out-hitting their opponent 13-to-1. The Tigerettes wrapped up their run-rule victory with yet another home run from Callie Dillard.

Throughout the tournament, the girls outscored their opponents 47 to 2 and finished the year with 32 wins against only 5 losses. This great season is a result of hard work, dedication, bountiful talent, and a supportive community spirit. Legions of enthusiastic fans turned out for every game to cheer on their Gordonsville heroes, and on the way home the streets were lined with “Title Town” citizens celebrating the victory.

This is the second consecutive state championship win for the team, which beat Eagleville School by a score of 5-to-2 last year and Jo Byrns High School by a dominating 11-to-1 score this year. The Lady Tigers came to the field in the championship game with a can-do spirit and the goal of getting started early, and they sure did.

This is the third time the Tigerettes have made it to the state championship in recent years, with the first trip resulting in an agonizing 2 run loss. Afterward, Coach Jonathon Bush made it his mission to raise the expectations for the program and challenge the girls to reach new heights. The results speak for themselves—three state titles.

I would now like to recognize everyone who carried the team to victory. Players included: Callie Dillard, McKenzie Herron, Camri Johnson, Kelsey Haley, Bailey Stewart, Kailyn Roberts, Emma Crawford, Madison Askew, Lakin Roberts, Christina Ray, Abbi Brinkley, Kailey Plumlee, Addison Pope, Bailey Trusty, Kelcie Watts, Laura Thompson, and Adalyn Stafford. I’d also like to recognize Head Coach Jonathon Bush and Assistant Coaches Alton Fitts and Scott Pope for the win.

I am proud to represent Gordonsville, Tennessee, and take much pride in the success of the community, the families that live there, and its home team champion. Again, congratulations to the Gordonsville Tigerettes, the 2024 TSSAA State Softball Champions.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Kresge Foundation on the occasion of the centennial of its founding. The growth of the Kresge Foundation over the last 100 years and the contributions it has made to Southeastern Michigan and the Nation is worthy of commendation.

When Sebastian S. Kresge’s first company turned 25 in 1924, he established the Kresge Foundation in the City of Detroit. The foundation was created to promote the ideas of philanthropy and charity while advancing human progress. The Kresge Foundation’s first donation was to the Salvation Army of Detroit and was soon followed by grants to important institutions such as the Detroit YMCA and the Methodist Children’s Home.

The Kresge Foundation continues to uphold its stated values of creativity, partnership, equity, respect, opportunity, and stewardship, all of which have guided the foundation to continue its impactful work throughout the last 100 years. The foundation has produced 16,500 grants and disbursed more than \$5.1 billion dollars, \$1 billion of which have supported the Metro Detroit region. The Kresge Foundation has leveraged these grants to invest in our arts, education, environment, health, and community development. Additionally, The FUEL and ProInspire programs offered by the foundation to grantees show that The Kresge Foundation is committed to fully equipping communities with the tools needed to make lasting change in their cities. By employing a socially and historically conscious strategy to their work, The Kresge Foundation has centered racial equality, diversity, and prosperity for all members of the community in its work over the past century. While the foundation has expanded nationally to Memphis, New Orleans, and Fresno, its continued dedication to its work in Detroit remains clear and impactful.

When Detroit became the largest U.S. city to file for bankruptcy protection in 2013, the Kresge Foundation contributed \$100 million to ensure the city met its pension, which then played a considerable role in allowing Detroit to exit bankruptcy quickly and successfully. In recent years, the foundation contributed \$17 million in grants and \$2 million in social investments to assist in relief from the COVID–19 pandemic. Other projects such as The School at Marymount and fellowships for local artists show a continual investment and commitment to Detroit and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the Kresge Foundation for the contributions it has made to our communities over the last 100 years. We thank the foundation for its century of service, as well as the opportunities that it has made possible for the City of Detroit and beyond.

RECOGNIZING MR. EMILIO LENA

HON. JOHN JAMES

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, while we often recognize noteworthy and acclaimed personalities, we have many other great unsung heroes and amazing souls who do a ton of heavy lifting with little to no recognition. Yet, if truth be told, they serve as the glue, sturdiness, strength, and all that is good about America. They go about their jobs quietly, without having the expectation of recognition. In fact, they do what they do because it's God's work. It's the right thing to do.

I am privileged to be in a position where I can acknowledge one such unsung hero, and his service to our country during the Korean War, Mr. Emilio Lena. Mr. Lena was born in Cassino, Italy on September 10, 1925. He immigrated to the United States on February 1, 1947, not knowing any English but wanting a better life for himself in pursuit of the "American Dream."

He enlisted in the U.S. Army on October 23, 1952, to serve his new, beloved country and was trained as an artilleryman. He learned to read and write English in the Army and obtained his U.S. citizenship. He was honorably discharged as a Private First Class on October 4, 1954. While in service, he earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal. He cherished his time in the military and was a proud veteran his entire life.

He settled back in the greater Detroit area upon his return from service where he married the love of his life, Elena, and raised five children. He never returned to Italy due to his allegiance to his U.S. citizenship.

We thank him for his service and contribution to his country.

CONGRATULATING ROCHESTER
FIRE CHIEF TOM BUTLER ON HIS
UPCOMING RETIREMENT**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Fire Chief Tom Butler, who is retiring as Fire Chief of the Rochester Fire Department in Rochester, Indiana, at the end of this month.

Serving as Rochester Fire Chief since 2008, Tom's career in public safety spans back three decades when he started as a volunteer firefighter for the Department in 1994. Chief Butler's 16 and a half years in his current role means that when he retires on June 28, he will hold the title for the longest serving Fire Chief in Rochester history.

Chief Butler's career with the Rochester Fire Department is but one reflection of his lifelong passion for helping others. Since he was a young man, Chief Butler felt a calling to serve our Nation in uniform. That calling led Tom to enter military service, where he was a military medic for 24 years with stints in both the Army and the Indiana Army National Guard. Part of that service was spent on two tours in the

Middle East, including a deployment during Operation Desert Storm. Tom distinguished himself in service, and his military awards include a Bronze Star, expert field medical badge, and combat medical badge.

Because of his service as Fire Chief, the Rochester community and Fulton County are unquestionably better off and safer thanks to this good man who exemplifies what it means to be a true public servant who sacrifices for others.

Chief Butler's example and leadership are also reminders that first responders are on the frontlines of some of the most difficult situations our communities face. When there is a problem, first responders like Tom answer the call and willingly put themselves in danger's path to keep us safe. For that, all of us are extremely grateful.

I am proud to join so many Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second District in expressing our appreciation to Chief Butler for his impressive career spent in service to others. I wish Tom and his family—including his wife Samantha and their two children Alison and Daniel—all the best going forward as Tom begins the next chapter of his life and a very well-deserved retirement. May God bless.

HONORING MARGARET COWLING

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Margaret Cowling of Lexington, Kentucky. She is an extraordinary educator and is retiring after a stellar career of 49 years. It is my honor to lift her up on this special occasion.

Miss Cowling grew up in Lexington, Kentucky and enrolled as a student at The Lexington School in 1957. Her love for the school and the lessons she learned there had a lasting impact. She attended Indiana University, where she earned degrees in both history and English. Miss Cowling earned a master's degree in history from State University of New York then went to New York City where she enrolled in the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. She returned to Lexington to accept a position teaching history at The Lexington School in 1975. Her intent was to teach for a year then return to New York City, but she fell in love with teaching, which kept her at The Lexington School for 49 years.

Miss Cowling's love for history was evident in the community as well as the classroom. She volunteered as a tour guide at Henry Clay's Ashland Estate, the Mary Todd Lincoln House, and Waveland. She wrote a book, *The Lexington School: Our First 50 Years*, to commemorate the school's 50-year history.

I am a great admirer of Miss Cowling as I was fortunate to be one of her many students. She instilled in me a strong passion for history. She taught me about Vikings, Egyptians, Ancient Greeks, Alexander the Great, medieval times, and so much more. Miss Cowling had high expectations for all her students. An excellent storyteller, she made history come alive. Miss Cowling exemplified a love of learning that has stayed with me over the years.

I have been impacted by many excellent teachers in my life, but Miss Cowling stands

out as my favorite. It is my honor to acknowledge my friend and my teacher for her educational excellence, her enthusiasm for learning, and the impact that she has had on me and thousands of other students over her 49-year career.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PERMIT
THE FLAG OF THE UNITED
STATES TO BE FLOWN AT HALF-
STAFF IN THE EVENT OF THE
DEATH OF A MAYOR OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would make a small but respectful change to federal law by adding the Mayor of the District of Columbia to the list of named principals for whom the President shall order the U.S. flag be flown at half-staff. Current law states that the President shall make this order "upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory." Surely the D.C. Mayor should qualify as such a principal. My bill would add the D.C. Mayor, who has the same responsibilities as state and territory governors, to the current list of officials. This bill is part of a series of bills to ensure equal treatment for the nearly 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia. In the 116th Congress, the House Committee on the Judiciary passed this bill.

Congress has already acknowledged that D.C. is entitled to a place among the states for certain honors. For example, legislation we got enacted gave D.C. a coin after D.C. was omitted from legislation creating coins for the states and required the armed services to display the D.C. flag whenever the flags of the states are displayed. We got D.C.'s Frederick Douglass and Pierre L'Enfant statues placed in the Capitol, alongside the two statues from each state. We also successfully worked with the U.S. Postal Service to create a D.C. stamp, like the stamps for the states, and successfully worked with the National Park Service to add the D.C. flag alongside the state flags near Union Station.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO MADDOX OLATUNDE**HON. BETH VAN DUYN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Maddox Olatunde. As quarterback for L.D. Bell High School in Hurst, Maddox Olatunde helped lead the Blue Raiders to victory over their longtime rival, Euless Trinity, for the first time in 25 years. After completing 18 of 21 passes for 150 yards plus 135 rushing yards and a touchdown, Maddox was selected as the Dallas Morning News "Inside High School Sports" Player of the Week.