

Marion, gospel music career. Traveling extensively to attend Marion's performances and offering her love and encouragement every step of the way.

Mrs. Wilson has constantly shown leadership and caring traits throughout her life, always volunteering to help her family and the community. Her employment as a seamstress and her nurturing obligations in her family and church are just two examples of the various ways her hands have been endowed.

The life of Mrs. Flora Wilson serves as an example of the strength of love, religion, and devotion. Her daily life will continue to inspire future generations, and her efforts have left a lasting impression on those who were lucky enough to know her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Flora Wilson for her hard work and dedication to her community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ASSOCIATION OF EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTORS

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2024*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge members of the Association of Equipment Distributors from all over the country who are in D.C. this week for their annual fly-in. In fact, some of them are joining us in the gallery tonight. These great men and women are entrepreneurs who provide millions of pieces of equipment to all kinds of industries in our country every year that help our country's economy. They deserve our admiration and thanks. They certainly have mine.

#### CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF DR. ROBERT SIMARI

**HON. SHARICE DAVIDS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2024*

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Dr. Robert Simari, executive vice chancellor for the University of Kansas Medical Center, who will be retiring from the University of Kansas on June 30, 2024.

Dr. Simari's career has been marked by a distinguished commitment to uplifting the medical community and paving the way for critical medical research and advancements.

The staff and students at KU are fortunate to have had Dr. Simari as a part of their community throughout his career. Dr. Simari graduated from the KU School of Medicine in 1986 before going on to serve as vice chairman of the Mayo Clinic's Division of Cardiology Diseases. He then returned to KU as executive dean of the School of Medicine from 2014 to 2019.

Dr. Simari then began serving in his most recent position as executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center, where he has been credited with leading the Center during a particularly transformational period. He took part in hiring the deans of the schools of Medicine and Nursing, helped the KU Cancer Center earn comprehensive designation from the Na-

tional Cancer Institute, led a commitment to building a valued and respected workforce, and helped grow KU's research infrastructure in such a way as to enhance KU's status of one of the Nation's top research institutions.

As KU continues to produce excellent medical professionals, cutting-edge researchers, and lifesaving health discoveries, we will have Dr. Simari's legacy to thank. His service to the Kansas City community and the medical community at large will be forever cemented by these contributions, and I'm incredibly grateful for his lifelong dedication to the health and well-being of our region.

#### REMEMBERING WAYNE SMITH

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the remarkable life of Mr. Wayne Smith, who passed away on June 6, 2024, and offer my sympathy to his family. I am grateful for his service to our country as a distinguished maritime captain and an influential legislative figure, notably contributing to the U.S. House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. His dedication to community service, creative spirit, and transformative mentorship leaves behind an enduring legacy of compassion and leadership. I include in the RECORD the following obituary for Wayne Smith:

Wayne Smith was born on December 10, 1945, in Winchester, Massachusetts, where he grew up alongside his beloved sister Wendy, whom he adored.

Wayne graduated from Abingdon High School in 1963 and went on to receive his bachelor's degree from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1968. His maritime career was distinguished by his service as a Captain, commanding U.S. Naval Oceanographic vessels and traveling the world.

From 1975 to 1987, Wayne made significant contributions to the U.S. House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. As Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Oceanography and the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, he played a pivotal role in shaping maritime and environmental legislation. Concurrently, he served as Chief of Staff to Congressman and Senator John Breaux of Louisiana, where his leadership and expertise were invaluable.

In 1981, Wayne, joined forces with Senator John Breaux, who was then serving as the captain of the Mystick Krewe of Louisiana. Together, they conceived a grand and ambitious idea: Louisiana Alive! They aimed to celebrate and showcase the vibrant and diverse culture of Louisiana, extending beyond the well-known charm of New Orleans to include the rich traditions and unique flavors of all the state's parishes. Their vision was to create an event that captured the essence of Louisiana's music, cuisine, and heritage, offering an immersive experience that highlighted the best the state had to offer.

In recognition of Wayne's extraordinary creativity, dedication, and inclusive spirit, Louisiana Alive! 2025 is set to proceed as a tribute to his legacy. This event will not only honor Wayne's contributions but also continue his mission of celebrating Louisiana's unique cultural tapestry.

In 1987, Wayne founded the POTOMACGroup, where he served as

President and CEO. Under his visionary leadership, the firm thrived, representing individuals, associations, and Fortune 500 companies with distinction.

Wayne's commitment to community and education was evident in his service as Vice Chair of the Washington International School and his longstanding board membership with the CASI Foundation for Children, where he focused on adoption issues.

Wayne celebrated 37 years of sobriety, during which he dedicated himself to helping others achieve the same, transforming countless lives through his unwavering support and mentorship. His crowning achievement came in 1999 when he and Don adopted their son, Qwan. As a devoted and supportive father, Wayne nurtured Qwan with boundless love and guidance, playing a pivotal role in his development into the remarkable gentleman he is today. Wayne's commitment to both his sobriety and his family is a testament to his character, illustrating the profound impact one person can have on the lives of many. His legacy of compassion and resilience continues to inspire all who knew him.

Wayne's legacy is one of empathy, wisdom, humor, and stability. He will be remembered for his class, style, elegance, and fierce compassion. His cultivated appreciation for art and color enriched the lives of all who knew him.

Wayne is survived by his loving husband, Don Schimanski; his cherished son, Qwan Smith; his nephews, David and Doug Dekker; and many beloved in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

Wayne's life was a tapestry of compassion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to those he loved and the causes he championed. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

#### RECOGNIZING TED DANSON AND MARY STEENBURGEN

**HON. MARK TAKANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2024*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen for their deep and abiding allyship to the LGBTQ+ community. They did so early in their careers, at a time when we were without many allies who would stand with us. Their courage is to be commended.

Ted Danson is known to many through his leading roles on hit TV shows and movies, like "Cheers" and "The Good Place." He has used his platform as a bully pulpit, fervently championing marriage equality and vocally opposing discrimination against LGBTQ+ people. He has used his star power for good, raising money for LGBTQ+ advocacy groups that fight for a more just and equal society. By bringing the power of his celebrity to bear, Danson exemplifies the profound impact public figures can have in shaping a more inclusive and accepting society.

Mary Steenburgen has built a career on playing warm and wise characters—winning an Oscar along the way—but also one deeply entwined with advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community. From "Philadelphia" to "Happiest Season," she has found ways to use her public persona to advance the cause of LGBTQ+ rights and visibility. Rarely has any one person been able to combine their artistry and advocacy into one, complete body of work. She is a wonder.

Together, Ted and Mary form a formidable team whose combined efforts have significantly bolstered the LGBTQ+ movement. Their enduring commitment to championing LGBTQ+ rights highlights the indispensable role of influential allies in the ongoing struggle for equality and underscores the transformative power of advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these two remarkable artists and advocates, who are true allies to LGBTQ+ people everywhere.

**RECOGNIZING DR. AL MIJARES' SERVICE TO ORANGE COUNTY AS THE OC SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**HON. MICHELLE STEEL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2024*

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Al Mijares' service to Orange County as the Orange County Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Mijares has served as the Orange County Superintendent of Schools since August 2012, where he led Orange County educators in equipping our students with all the necessary tools to "lead the nation in college and career readiness and success." Under his leadership, the Orange County Department of Education was able to help students from Orange County outperform the state and regional averages. Dr. Mijares should be commended for all his hard work throughout his career and his dedication to educating the next generation of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dr. Al Mijares for his service.

**HONORING OFFICER JAMAL MITCHELL**

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2024*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of 36-year-old Minneapolis Police Officer, Jamal Mitchell, who was killed in the line of duty in Minneapolis on Thursday, May 30, 2024. Officer Jamal Mitchell joined the Minneapolis Police Department in 2022. Those who knew Officer Mitchell saw him as a community leader, a changemaker and a peacekeeper.

Officer Jamal Mitchell will be remembered for his compassion, bravery, and love of people. His courageous efforts were apparent early on when he saved an elderly couple from a burning home.

Officer Mitchell showed up to work every day to help keep our communities safe. He was known to have a big heart and chose to use his love of people to help strengthen our communities and support young people. Even as a police officer, Officer Mitchell found time to give back to the community by helping coach first- and second-grade boys' basketball teams.

Officer Mitchell died a hero and will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his partner, mother, stepfather, siblings, and his children.

**RECOGNIZING BORBA DAIRY**

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2024*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Borba Dairy Family as they are awarded the title of 2024 Dairy Family of the Year. Frank G. Borba, Sr. immigrated from the Azores Islands of Portugal to the United States in 1914 at the age of 18. He worked various jobs until he had the opportunity to start his own dairy in 1924. In 1920, Frank married Esperanza (Belmeira) Berberia and they welcomed their son Frank Jr. in 1928. In 1939, the dairy moved to its current location in Porterville, California. Frank Jr. worked on his father's dairy and took over operations in 1951. In 1953, he married Nadine Bettencourt. Together they had 5 children—Susanna, Frank, Chris, Eric, and Mary—who were raised on the family dairy. In 2000, a partnership was formed that established Borba Dairy. Today, the family operates three dairies and takes great pride in their family-owned business. This June, the Tulare Chamber of Commerce, Tulare County Dairy Women, and California Milk Advisory Board are hosting the Annual Salute to Dairy and Dairy Princess Coronation in celebration of National Dairy Month. Each year, Salute to Dairy recognizes a local dairy family for their dedication to the dairy industry and engagement with the community. The Borba Dairy Family is being recognized due to their longstanding commitment to producing quality dairy products and continuing their family legacy. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Borba Dairy Family as they are awarded the title of 2024 Dairy Family of the Year. Their contributions to the Central Valley will be felt for generations to come.

**RECOGNIZING BRIGHTMOOR CONNECTION**

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2024*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Brightmoor Connection, a community food bank and so much more, as they officially open the doors of their new location in Detroit and announce their newest programming and partnerships within this community space.

Brightmoor Connection grew out of a consortium of 9 local churches who came together in 2008 in order to address growing food scarcity concerns for local families. More than that, their unique client-choice approach affords residents dignity while they receive the help they need. In their new space, Brightmoor Connection will grow its network of partners to serve even more communities and families in need. They will also launch their newest youth programming for young entrepreneurs.

Please join me and the 12th Congressional District in celebrating the opening of Brightmoor Connection's new location and announcement of its new programs and services to our community.

**RECOGNIZING UNION LEADER DAVID CASEY**

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2024*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Casey and his 29 years of public service and dedication to the City of Pomona with the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association, Plasterers' Local 200.

David joined the union in 1995 and became a business agent for the union in 2012. In 2022, he was appointed as a business manager for the Plasterers' Local 200. Throughout his time with the union, he also served on the Apprenticeship Committee mentoring the next generation of plasterers entering the field. In 2001, David was instrumental in leading a "Labor to Neighbor" program in the City of Pomona. This program was designed to help seniors improve their homes while beautifying the neighborhood. Through the Plasterers' Union Apprenticeship Program, led by David, local apprentices would work to re-plaster homes of pre-approved low-income seniors.

David officially retired on March 24, 2024. I hope that he gets to rest and enjoy time with his wife, Cyndee, and children, Jason, Kerry, and Stewart. We are grateful for his service to our community.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize union leader David Casey. His years of civic service are worthy of commendation.

**RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER D. BURGOS (USA) SERVICE TO PICATINNY ARSENAL**

**HON. MIKIE SHERRILL**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2024*

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Alexander D. Burgos for his selfless service and dedication to the service members, families, and civilians of Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey. It is my privilege to honor a leader that has served and supported New Jersey's 11th Congressional District, the State of New Jersey, and our country. I look forward to his continued success and contributions to our Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Burgos graduated from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), commissioned into the U.S. Army Infantry, and entered active duty in May 2005. He held a variety of leadership positions as an Infantry Officer prior to entering the Military Intelligence Corps at the rank of Captain. As a Military Intelligence Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Burgos served in a variety of assignments from Company Command to the Joint Chiefs of Staff level.