

their spectacular efforts culminated in a prized championship victory.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to Coach Ron Norman for winning his second state title during his tenure at Meridian High School, as well as to his staff for such a successful season. These coaches have been excellent leaders for these young athletes throughout the season and have set them up for great future successes. The young men on this team are great examples to their classmates and community of what can be achieved through working together towards a common goal. We look forward to seeing what all of these exceptional young men achieve in the future.

Again, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Meridian High School basketball team for their state championship victory.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRATERS OF THE MOON

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my esteemed colleagues, Senator MIKE CRAPO, and Senator JAMES E. RISCH, to commemorate a truly remarkable milestone in our Nation's history—the 100th anniversary of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. Situated in the vast expanse of Idaho, Craters of the Moon stands as a testament to the unique geological wonders of our planet and the importance of preserving our natural heritage for future generations.

On May 2, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed the proclamation establishing Craters of the Moon as a national monument. Craters of the Moon has a rich history, both geologically and culturally, spanning much further beyond its time as federally managed and protected land. Craters of the Moon offers countless opportunities for hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, and backcountry travel. Exposed fissures, lava fields, lava tubes, craters, and cinder cones form a strangely beautiful volcanic sea on central Idaho's Snake River Plain.

The significance of Craters of the Moon extends far beyond its stunning natural beauty. Its central feature is the Great Rift, a 52-mile-long crack in the Earth's crust. It serves as a living laboratory for scientific research, offering invaluable insights into the processes of volcanic activity and ecosystem development. Its rugged terrain also provides a habitat for a diverse array of plant and animal species, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

Additionally, Craters of the Moon holds profound cultural and historical significance for the people of Idaho and the broader United States. For centuries, Native American tribes have revered this land as sacred, and its exploration by early pioneers and scientists has helped shape our understanding of the natural world.

Idaho's abundance of parks, forests, and public lands makes our state a wonderful place to live, work, and play. As we celebrate the centennial of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, let us reaffirm our commitment to preserving and protecting this

extraordinary place for future generations. Let us honor the stewardship of those who have worked tirelessly to safeguard its natural and cultural treasures and let us inspire a new generation of Americans to explore, appreciate, and conserve our Nation's unparalleled natural heritage.

In recognition of this historic milestone, and Craters Centennial Celebration, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and in reaffirming our commitment to preserving our Nation's natural wonders for the benefit of all.

THANKING COLONEL ARIEL
BATUNGBACAL FOR HER SERV-
ICE TO OUR NATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) Commander, Colonel Ariel Batungbacal, farewell and thank you as she departs command, after serving at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for the past four years—first as a NASIC Group Commander and then as the NASIC Wing Commander.

Colonel Batungbacal commissioned in 2001, quickly rising through the ranks to Colonel and, most recently, confirmed to the rank of Brigadier General. In other words, through 23 years of dedicated service to her Nation, Colonel Batungbacal has earned a spot in the top two percent of all eligible members who achieve the General Officer rank. An outstanding achievement.

Colonel Batungbacal distinguished herself through her dedicated service to the Department of Defense and her visionary leadership of NASIC, the U.S. Air Force's Service Intelligence Center. During her command, Colonel Batungbacal led the Center through an unprecedented organizational change, adopting an A-staff structure and realigning squadrons to better support mission execution for the high-end fight.

Colonel Batungbacal elevated NASIC's analytic ecosystem by accelerating a multi-year digital transformation effort, prioritizing systems and processes that serve to increase information sharing and remove barriers to collaboration. By weaving these transformation efforts into the Center's near and long-term strategies, she provided the organization with an integrated, measurable path to success. The entire Center has leveraged this effort to accelerate 20 analytic modernization projects, with 245 efforts pending future Center action.

Under her leadership, NASIC led a joint DoD and FBI project concerning a high visibility national effort, enabling critical analysis and dissemination to policy makers. While in command, she also hosted two U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence retreats, effectively showcasing NASIC's efforts aligned to the National Defense Strategy. This unprecedented, bipartisan committee retreat was also attended by 10 senior leaders of the intelligence community. I brought two Speakers of the House to witness the NASIC magic themselves and experience

first-hand the tremendous impact these "MacGyvers" of the Air Force have on our national defense posture.

During her tenure as the NASIC Wing Commander, Colonel Batungbacal oversaw the completion of a \$155 million military construction project—one of the largest in Wright-Patterson's history. Most impressive, this project finished ahead of schedule and under budget. The world-class, purpose-built addition increased NASIC's footprint by 255,000 sq. feet, providing an additional 980 seats and cutting-edge lab space to the U.S. Air Force's largest Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility.

With an intentional focus on workforce development, Colonel Batungbacal repurposed an existing facility to provide internal training opportunities to grow and enhance the careers of her nearly 3,800-member force. Since the building's reopening in 2023, NASIC has hosted nearly 150 classes, training an excess of approximately 1920 individuals. Instructors are often in-house NASIC employees and specialists in their field, offering unique learning opportunities to enhance their colleagues' skillsets.

In addition to her impressive accomplishments as Commander, Colonel Batungbacal's creativity and innovation has shaped the way NASIC is perceived across the Intelligence Community, the Department of Defense, and the state of Ohio. Colonel Batungbacal has left a lasting impression with her creative vision, unifying the mission across the Center and pioneering a recognizable NASIC brand. She will be missed, but I appreciate the lasting efforts she made upon NASIC, Wright-Patterson, and the Dayton community. We wish her the best of luck in her next endeavors at A2/6.

APPRECIATING MAJOR WILLIAM HENRY LUTHER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am grateful to honor the remarkable life of Major William Henry Luther, a highly decorated hero of the Vietnam War, who will be laid to rest at the Dallas-Fort Worth Veterans National Cemetery in Dallas, Texas on June 20th. Major Luther, the brother of Second District resident and Publisher of Linc, Inc. community newspapers, Kirk Luther, also leaves behind wife Jackie Mae, daughter Tracey, son Robert, five grandchildren, one great grandchild, and numerous extended family members and friends. I offer my sympathy to his family.

I include in the RECORD the following obituary for William Henry Luther:

William Henry Luther, a veteran of the war in Vietnam and longtime resident of Edgecliff Village, Texas, passed away on December 10, 2023 in his home. Bill, as he was known to most, was born November 7, 1939 to Kirk Charles Luther and Elizabeth (Betty) Jane Luther in Berwyn, Illinois. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1956. Bill was first deployed to Korea where he served with a medical unit and was there when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

After Korea, Bill was deployed to Vietnam for three combat tours during the 60s. For

his heroic actions as a helicopter pilot fighting in some of the bloodiest battles with the 1st Air Cavalry Division including the TET Offensive and the City of Hue, Khe Sahn, and the invasion of the A'Shau Valley, the U.S. Army recognized Bill for his honorable service with a Silver Star (one of the highest honors to be bestowed upon a combat veteran) the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star (1st OLC), the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/DVC 60, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/PALM, Senior Army Aviation Badge, Army Aviator Badge, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Civil Actions Medal (Unit Citation), Valorous Unit Citation and the Meritorious Service Medal. Bill was the true definition of a warrior and retired from military service with the rank of Major after 22 years, 5 months and 5 days from Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Bill married Jackie Mae Riddle on July 22, 1967 at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and together they raised two children, Robert and Tracey.

After his retirement from military service Bill joined Defender Industries in Columbia, SC and was promoted to the Senior Operations Officer of the southwestern territory which included Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. During that time he moved his family to Ft. Worth and eventually Edgecliff Village where he resided until his passing. Bill was an avid golfer and served two terms as an Alderman on the Edgecliff Village City Council.

Bill is survived by his wife Jackie Mae Luther of Fort Worth, TX.; his daughter, Tracey Scancellia and husband, Jimmy Aguirre; his son, Robert S. Luther and wife, Debra M. Luther, as well as five grandchildren, Jonathan Scancellia, Joseph Scancellia, Bradley W. Luther, Kristina K. Luther, Kelli M. Luther and one great grandchild, Theodore W. Luther; his brother, Kirk F. Luther and wife Kathy A. Luther along with 2 nephews, Aaron K. Luther and Nicholas C. Luther and two great nephews, Jonah Luther and Elijah Luther.

William will be laid to rest with full military honors at Dallas Ft. Worth Veterans National Cemetery on June 20, 2024 at 11:00 am. Remembrances can be made by visiting Wounded Warrior Project at support.woundedwarriorproject.org.

CELEBRATING ROCKY'S PASTIES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate Rocky's Pasties on their 100-year anniversary. I am extremely grateful to be able to celebrate this incredible milestone with the Rocky's Pasties family and our community. A small takeout food business specializing in hand made Cornish style pastries, Rocky's has been family owned and operated for four generations. For the past 100 years, they have shown their dedication to delivering meals the old-fashioned way while carrying a piece of their ancestors with them. They have shown their commitment to this community by preparing daily meals from scratch, using only the freshest ingredients. The Rocky's Pasties friendly environment is a testament to their 100-year history. Rocky's Pasties has been described as an "unexpected gem" but if you are a part

of this community you know it is no surprise. As we reflect on the past 100 years at Rocky's they have exceeded the expectations and I know they will continue to do so for the next 100 years to come. I am honored to have such an amazing community in the 7th congressional district, and I look forward to what is to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF O. LOUIS SOTO

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2024 we lost my father, Lou Soto. He was an amazing dad, loving husband, and joyful grandfather. He was a Navy veteran, computer programmer, as well as a football, baseball and basketball fan. He had a calm, loving, and amiable demeanor, one that inspired peace in others. He had many friends, loved to dance, grill, host BBQs and listen to music.

His story embodied the American Dream. Born in Manati, Puerto Rico, he traveled to the mainland at nine years old. He then served in the Navy as a young man during the Vietnam era. He and my mother, Jean, bought their first home thanks to a VA Loan and attended college thanks to the GI Bill, where he took night classes to finish his degree while working in the day and raising his young family. He worked in computers and information technology for many years. He now leaves behind his wife Jean, son Lou, grandchildren LJ, Mateo, and Sabrina, and myself as well as many other family members. The imprint he has left on our lives, we will carry with us forever.

He was a Catholic and man of faith. Our family will miss him dearly, knowing he now joins the angels, and is finally at peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I was on the floor but was distracted and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 254.

RECOGNIZING MY CONSTITUENT ADVOCATE, DAVID CHERNACK, FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Constituent Advocate, David Chernack, for his work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. At the end of April, David departed my office for a new opportunity to serve as the Immigration Constituent Advocate in the Office

of Rep. Angie Craig, and I could not be more proud or grateful for his service.

Hailing from California, David came to Minnesota for college at the University of Minnesota. While in college, David got hooked on Minnesota politics and spent time interning for Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR and Governor Tim Walz before graduating and joining our office.

The constituents of Minnesota's Third District were fortunate to be served by David who always went the extra mile to help a constituent in need. David's ability to treat each individual as if they were his top priority has impressed our entire office. In under a year, he held two job titles- Staff Assistant and Hospitality Director and most recently, Constituent Advocate- and brought intellectual rigor, tireless dedication, and trademark quirkiness to each role. Our fondest memories include his drives to random parking lots to shepherd lost constituents to our office, lunches consisting of three variations of simple carbs with no protein or produce in sight, and expressions of undying gratitude when given even the smallest treat.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have his dedication and leadership, and he will be dearly missed. However, I'm extraordinarily happy that he will continue to do this work and serve the Nation and the people of Minnesota's Second Congressional District. I wish David all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for a year of faithful service to this Nation—and many more to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DR. GEORGE EVERETT BARNES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a tenacious and self-motivated leader, the late Dr. George Everett Barnes. Dr. Barnes showed what could be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Dr. George Everett Barnes was born in Collins, MS, on August 10, 1941. He was the youngest of nine siblings born to Elmer and Lora Barnes. During the course of his life, his parents stressed the importance of God, family, education, and hard work. He would find his calling as a devoted husband, father, educator, and servant. These values are evidenced by the fact that all nine siblings attended and graduated from Jackson State University. They went on to establish the Barnes Family Endowed Scholarship Fund to aid students majoring in education.

Dr. Barnes graduated from Carver Central High School in Collins and went on to advance his education at Jackson State University (BS, Mathematics), Louisiana State University (MA, Mathematics), Mississippi State University (EdS, Community College Education), and the University of Southern Mississippi (PhD, Educational Administration). He furthered his studies at the University of Illinois and Auburn University.

While attending Jackson State University, he met his wife, Doris. They married in June 1963 and celebrated their 61st anniversary