

TRIBUTE TO A.O. SMITH CORPORATION'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate and celebrate the 150th anniversary of A.O. Smith Corporation, a cornerstone of American innovation and industry.

A.O. Smith was founded in 1874 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and over the past century, has grown from a small family business specializing in the fabrication of metal hardware into a global leader in water technology, manufacturing, residential and commercial water heaters, boilers, and water purification equipment. Today, A.O. Smith employs more than 12,000 people across the world and conducts business in over sixty countries. A.O. Smith provided family-supporting jobs for many of my constituents, their parents, and grandparents.

A.O. Smith was instrumental in helping to usher in the automobile revolution, developing a new, lightweight steel car frame—a development that caught the interest of major car companies including Peerless, Cadillac, Packard, Oldsmobile and Ford. Ford's initial order of 10,000 frames led A.O. Smith to develop the world's first mass production process for assembling frames, later introducing the world's first automated frame production line. This first fully automated frame assembly plant came to be known as the "mechanical marvel" due to the line's ability to make a frame every eight seconds—10,000 frames a day. A.O. Smith was also a large component manufacturer that supplied parts to another early Wisconsin pioneering manufacturer, Harley-Davidson.

A.O. Smith engineers discovered an improved method for welding, allowing for the production of a wide range of steel products. This included the pressure vessel for oil refining and large diameter steel pipe, important components in the oil and natural gas industries.

One of the company's most important and enduring innovations was the process of fusing glass to steel. By perfecting this process, the company developed a range of new products, including glass-lined beer kegs, glass-lined brewery tanks, and glass-lined residential water heaters. Glass-lined water heaters rapidly became an industry standard that endures today and led to A.O. Smith's growth as a global leader in water heating products, which now includes industry leading models that are consistently among the most efficient in the market according to the ENERGY STAR program.

In recent years, A.O. Smith has emerged as an industry leader in developing technologies that address our drinking water quality challenges. A co-founding member of the Water Council, A.O. Smith has helped ensure Milwaukee's place as a global water technology hub, while supporting economic development in Wisconsin. The Water Council helped bring about the creation of the Global Water Center, which houses water-related business accelerators and research facilities where engineers conduct controlled testing on water purification products sold around the world. Bringing to-

gether their work has helped transform Milwaukee into a world hub for water research, education, and economic development.

I am proud to recognize A.O. Smith and I share my best wishes with the company and their employees for their continued success.

CELEBRATING TRISTEN EVATT

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Tristen Evatt, the Yulee High School Hornet, who recently won the long jump Class 2A track and field state finals in the free state of Florida. Tristen wrote new Hornet history, becoming the third school state champion, and setting a personal record en route to gold.

Stepping foot onto the University of North Florida campus, Tristen knew she needed to pull off something special, and she did just that. On her final jump, Tristen buzzed through the air to sting the competition with a massive leap, blowing past her personal best.

The state championship was a hive of activity for Tristen. She also qualified in the triple jump, 100-meter dash, and the 4x100-meter relay. Throughout the events, Tristen shined, finishing fourth in the triple jump to go along with her gold medal.

The state finals were Tristen's last high school meet before she heads off to University of South Florida in the fall of 2024, and she was determined to go out on top. Years of hard work paid off and winning the state championship firmly cements her as the Queen Bee of Hornet athletes. We are exceptionally proud of this young lady.

Mr. Speaker on behalf of Florida's 4th Congressional District, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating Tristen Evatt on this remarkable achievement.

HONORING PASTOR ALEXIS WALLACE AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Pastor Alexis Wallace is a bridge builder. Throughout his ministry, he has been dedicated to developing uncommon and challenging relationships in a wide variety of areas.

He is the founder and president of the Jewish Christian Network, which has members from every continent. Pastor Alexis is also the president and founder of Hagiazo Healing Outreach, a ministry with the unique mission of bridging the gap between faith and science to address sickness from a spiritual perspective.

Pastor Alexis is the founder of Global Evangelistic Center, co-pastoring this church in Kissimmee, Florida, with his wife, Evelina. The couple has two children a daughter, Alexia, who is a federal attorney, and a son, Sydney, a recent radiography graduate and practitioner.

Global Evangelistic Center was at ground zero in Abaco, Bahamas, with a medical mission shortly after Hurricane Dorian devastated the island. GEC coordinated the mission with a team of doctors and much-needed medical supplies that impacted the lives of many.

Pastor Alexis attended Oral Roberts University. He has been a publisher of newspapers and magazines, as well as the executive producer of international Christian TV programs that focused on Israel and the Caribbean and reached millions.

CELEBRATING THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIANT NATIONAL CAPITAL BARBECUE BATTLE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 32nd anniversary of the Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle. This District of Columbia summertime tradition takes place during the first full week of summer each year and brings together tens of thousands of families in the D.C. region and visitors to D.C. in the spirit of unity, community and celebration.

The Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle is returning once again to historic Pennsylvania Avenue on June 22, 2024, featuring the Giant National BBQ Championship, the National Pork BBQ Championship, the USO Military Chef Cook Off, the Roseda Best Beef Contest, the Smokin' with Smithfield Rib Contest, the Perdue Sizzlin' Chicken Contest, the Turkey Smoke BBQ Cooking Contest, the Bachan's Chefs Choice BBQ Contest and the Impossible Foods Barbecue Championship.

The Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle has raised millions of dollars for D.C. charities and USO-Metro over the past 32 years and has donated food to numerous food banks.

The Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle has expanded to include a month of celebration in D.C. to promote D.C. and its unique culture, partnering with DC Water, Monumental Sports, Ben's Chili Bowl and the Anacostia Business Improvement District through Art to Go-Go.

The Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle draws some of D.C.'s and the nation's best barbecue talent, and those participants have the duty and the honor of representing D.C. wherever State Barbecue Cooking Championship winners are welcomed.

Mr. Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN LUIS J. RODRÍGUEZ

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2024, Captain Luis J. Rodríguez assumed command of the United States Coast

Guard Sector San Juan. The change-of-command ceremony is a military tradition representing a formal transfer of authority and responsibility from one commanding officer to another. The assumption of command is one of the most significant appointments in the career of a commissioned officer, as it demonstrates their great responsibility to lead and serve.

Captain Rodríguez is a native of Ponce, Puerto Rico. He enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1994 and graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1998. Captain Rodríguez holds a bachelor's degree in criminal Justice from the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, a master's degree in international public policy from Johns Hopkins University, and a master of science degree in hemispheric defense and security from the Inter-American Defense College. Captain Rodríguez is also an Auxiliary Colonel in the Puerto Rico Police Department.

Prior to assuming command of Sector San Juan, Captain Rodríguez served as Deputy Director of International Affairs and Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commandant of the Coast Guard. Previously he worked as Deputy Commander at Sector Key West, where he oversaw all Coast Guard missions in the Florida Keys. He was also appointed Deputy Chief of Enforcement at the Seventh Coast Guard District, as well as Operational Plans, Policy, and International Engagement Section Chief, and Sector Miami Command Center Chief, among other important leadership roles. He also served onboard CGC COURAGEOUS and CGC VIGILANT.

Captain Rodríguez's work has been crucial to accomplish the U.S. Coast Guard's missions in Latin America, the Caribbean, Mexico, Florida and Puerto Rico. He is married to Mrs. Glory Ann Acevedo, and together are the proud parents of Jesús Javier Rodríguez.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Rodríguez's military career is outstanding, and I am confident that the U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Juan will continue to excel under his able leadership. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Captain Luis J. Rodríguez for his dedicated career of service and wishing Sector San Juan many years of success.

HONORING ARMANDO "CURTIS" HIERRO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Armando "Curtis" Hierro is a 36-year-old Cuban-American. He is the national field director for the Communications Workers of America with years of experience organizing for workers and human rights in Florida.

Curtis has a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Central Florida and a certificate in leadership, organizing, and action from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Organizing is a deeply held passion for Curtis. Curtis was born in Miami, Florida, into a

single-mother household where his family faced immense economic challenges, poverty, and homelessness. Through a strong work ethic, a belief in the power of community, and a commitment to education passed on by his mother and grandmother, he was able to be the first person in his family to attend and graduate college. While at the University of Central Florida, Curtis organized students to stand up for campus custodial staff in contract fights and support immigrant workers from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

From 2012 to 2016, Curtis was a founding member and the first field director for the organization Dream Defenders—a community organization in Florida led by young people of color building power and organizing local and statewide campaigns to address issues of poverty, for-profit prisons, and accountable policing. Moving on to the Central Florida AFL-CIO as organizing director, Curtis led the AFL-CIO's efforts to directly support the contract fight for fair wages by Disney workers represented by Unite Here and helped organize workers forming their union for the first time with the Communications Workers of America. Additionally, Curtis co-led the fight to make Orlando the first city in the southeast United States to adopt a Trust Act to safeguard immigrant communities in 2018.

Curtis now focuses his efforts on supporting CWA members in Florida and across the country in developing their leadership and taking action to build worker power.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, and 275 on June 13, 2024, due to illness. Had I been present, my votes would have been:

Nay on Roll Call No. 261; Nay on Roll Call No. 262; Nay on Roll Call No. 263; Yea on Roll Call No. 264; Nay on Roll Call No. 265; Nay on Roll Call No. 266; Nay on Roll Call No. 267; Nay on Roll Call No. 268; Nay on Roll Call No. 269; Nay on Roll Call No. 270; Nay on Roll Call No. 271; Nay on Roll Call No. 272; Nay on Roll Call No. 273; Nay on Roll Call No. 274; and Nay on Roll Call No. 275.

HONORING MARIA ANTONIA "TOÑITA" CAY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Maria Antonia "Toñita" Cay and the 50th year anniversary of the Caribbean Social Club, which stands as the oldest Puerto Rican-owned Latino social club in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. She has been featured in numerous media outlets, publications, and a

documentary. In the past years, notable artists, filmmakers, and musicians have visited Toñita's Caribbean Social Club to experience the unique essence of the rich Latino heritage it now represents.

Toñita, as she is affectionately known, was born on May 10, 1940, in Junco, Puerto Rico. She is the second oldest of nine siblings. In 1956, during the significant migration of Puerto Ricans to New York City, her family settled in the Lower East Side when she was fifteen years old. Several years later, she moved to Williamsburg, where there was an established and growing Puerto Rican community and employment opportunities in the needlework factories that were part of New York's bustling garment industry. In addition to working as factory seamstress, Toñita began designing, sewing, and selling dresses from her home. This home-based business showcased her skills and helped support her and fulfill her dream of owning the building she lived in as a tenant. This established a foothold in her community and laid the foundation for the incorporation of her Caribbean baseball team and club in 1973 at 244 Grand Street in Brooklyn. Her courage and perseverance defied the societal norms of the time.

Today, Toñita is one of Los Sures Williamsburg's Puerto Rican 'Pioneras' and the last women-owned social club. At a time when Puerto Ricans and Latinos were politically invisible in Williamsburg, Toñita helped elevate our presence and cultural identity by establishing the Caribbean Baseball teams, which gathered hundreds of players and their families weekly. Players and their families were proud of Roberto Clemente and wanted to emanate his game. Toñita's grit contributed to more Latino, and women owned social clubs and baseball leagues. During the 1970's and 1980's, the Southside of Williamsburg was flushed with gathering social clubs for baseball and dominoes. In the 1990's, the rising cost of rent and excessive demand on licensing by the city imposed significant hardship for many social clubs including Toñita's. However, she demonstrated remarkable resilience. Her determination was particularly evident when she took on City Hall and won, securing the club's place in the community even as Mayor Rudy Giuliani's administration cracked down on various venues.

Toñita's victory was an achievement. Today, her continued legacy of community support remains steadfast. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she utilized the Caribbean Social Club to provide no cost essential assistance and home cooked meals to her neighbors and all who visited. The Caribbean Social Club is not only home to Puerto Ricans, but also welcoming place for a melting pot of different backgrounds, cultures and professions, reflecting Toñita's inclusive and welcoming spirit. Maria Antonia Cay and the Caribbean Social Club is the embodiment of the American dream. Her business acumen and sense of community has contributed greatly to the social and cultural fabric of the Los Sures community in Williamsburg.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maria Antonia Cay and the Caribbean Social Club on this special 50th Year Anniversary.