

commanded at the squadron, group, and wing levels and served as a command pilot with more than 3,000 hours in mobility and trainer aircraft. In addition, he has deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn.

As the Travis Air Force Base 60th Air Mobility Wing Commander, Brigadier General Salmi led the Air Force's largest air mobility organization in terms of personnel and was responsible for the well-being and readiness of more than 26,100 active-duty, reserve and civilian personnel, and their families. In addition, he managed \$13 billion in capital assets, executed a \$650 million budget, and oversaw the Air Force's largest medical center in the continental United States. Brigadier General Salmi's critical leadership and expertise not only made our country safer, but also helped improve the lives of the thousands of military and civilian personnel who work at Travis Air Force Base.

Brigadier General Salmi's commitment to preparing the units at Travis Air Force Base to respond to any potential threat characterized his tenure as Commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing. He led the 60th Air Mobility Wing in executing two intensive joint Agile Combat Employment exercises in the United States Indo-Pacific Command theater of operations while simultaneously providing 35 percent of all Department of Defense logistics support to Ukraine.

Under Brigadier General Salmi's leadership, the 60th Air Mobility won 117 United States Air Force and Air Mobility Command awards. In addition, he directed multiple key military construction projects that will make Travis Air Force Base more resilient and our country more secure.

Brigadier General Salmi's selfless commitment to the military personnel and families stationed at Travis Air Force Base has undeniably improved the base for future generations of servicemembers. On behalf of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for Brigadier General Salmi's dedication and service to our country and community. I know Travis Air Force Base and the Solano County community join me in extending our best wishes as Brigadier General Salmi embarks on his future endeavors.

HONORING GEORGE HOWARD

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the remarkable life and upcoming 100th birthday of George Howard, an African American World War II veteran and an esteemed resident of Lansing, Michigan. Born in Birmingham, Alabama on February 22, 1925, Mr. Howard has led a life of service, resilience, and love for his fellow man. His story is one of transformation, from facing adversity and discrimination to building meaningful and trusting relationships across racial lines.

Mr. Howard's service to our nation began when he was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1943. During World War II, he served in an all-Black unit and was responsible for handling and organizing munitions, a

duty that often placed him under enemy fire. His bravery was demonstrated in key campaigns, including in Naples and the Rome-Arno operations in Italy, and his attachment to the 12th and 15th Air Forces and the Mediterranean Allied Air Force.

Mr. Howard's service earned him multiple decorations, including the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and the WWII Victory Medal.

The experiences Mr. Howard had during the war affected his outlook on life. While serving in Italy and Switzerland, he encountered a level of respect and equality from Europeans that was often denied to him in the segregated American South. These experiences fueled his desire to promote equality and understanding among all people, a mission he has carried with him throughout his life.

Upon returning to the United States, Mr. Howard once again faced the harsh realities of a segregated society. Though he had served with honor and integrity, he and other African American veterans were excluded from celebrations. Despite the lack of recognition and disrespectful treatment, he remained focused on the values he fought for during the war. He expressed deep gratitude for President Truman's decision to desegregate the U.S. Armed Forces in 1948, a significant step towards equality.

After his military service, Mr. Howard moved to Brooklyn, New York, and eventually settled in Michigan, where he built a career as a physical therapy technician at Ingham Medical Center in Lansing. His professional dedication was matched by his passion for jazz music. A proud father of three, he and his saxophone were often exiled by his children to a friend's basement to practice in the early days of developing his talent. Eventually, he was not only performing locally but also traveling across the country to study and listen to other jazz artists. At the age of 92, he realized a lifelong dream by recording his first CD, "George Howard and My Jazz Brothers," thanks to the support of his friends.

Mr. Howard's life is a testament to the power of perseverance and the strength found in service to one's country. To this day, he strongly believes in the fundamental principle that all men are created equal and has spent his life fostering understanding and respect among different cultures. He is also deeply committed to ensuring that people learn about the significant contributions of Black soldiers who have served our country, from the Revolutionary War to World War II to today.

It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize George Howard's extraordinary contributions and wish him a joyous celebration of his 100th birthday in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF JOEY CHIANG

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Joey Chiang, the current president of the Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce of North America (TCCNA). Mr.

Chiang works tirelessly to lead the TCCNA in their mission to support and connect Taiwanese business members in North America.

TCCNA was established in 1986 as a non-profit organization. TCCNA encompasses thirty-five regional chambers primarily composed of Taiwanese immigrants. These regional chambers span the U.S. and Canada, including major metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles, New York, and here in the nation's capital. Under the careful stewardship of past presidents, TCCNA has grown into the largest transnational civilian organization in North America. Serving as a vital platform for communication between Taiwanese businesses in North America and the Taiwanese government, TCCNA regularly advocates for the importance of bilateral U.S.-Taiwan trade relations. As of June 22, 2024, the TCCNA is celebrating its 36th annual meeting of the board of directors. This impressive milestone is a testament to the dedication and passion that TCCNA members bring to their organization.

TCCNA would not be what it is today without the guidance of President Joey Chiang. Mr. Chiang, a talented developer in his own right, has led TCCNA to gather forty new directors under his term. His expert hand brought TCCNA great success in their annual Washington DC Door Knocking Event, where the organization visited over fifty members of Congress. Furthermore, Mr. Chiang is not only a talented and successful leader but a generous benefactor. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he personally arranged and donated millions of masks from Taiwan to the United States for frontline workers. Mr. Chiang's zeal, generosity, and expert governance has significantly enhanced economic and cultural exchanges between Taiwan and the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in commemorating the dedication of Joey Chiang, a man responsible for advancing Taiwanese-American commercial relations.

RECOGNIZING GLORIA ORTIZ-FISHER FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS WITH THE WESTSIDE HOUSING ORGANIZATION IN KANSAS CITY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Gloria Ortiz-Fisher for receiving the prestigious 2024 Mid-America Regional Council Regional Leadership Award. Gloria has bettered the lives of countless people in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District through her remarkable work as the Executive Director for the Westside Housing Organization. This award serves as a testament to her lifelong commitment to supporting her community.

Born in Kansas City—the same city she would later serve—Gloria graduated from Park University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and from DeVry University's Keller Graduate School with an MBA. Since then, she boasts over 30 years of work experience in the field of finance, using her skills to make an impact on her fellow Kansas Citians. Notably, she served as the Director of Finance and Purchasing for Jackson County, Missouri, from

2003 to 2007 and served as a member of its environmental task force, promoting energy efficiency across all County departments. A naturally helpful and supportive person, Gloria first started working with the Westside Housing Organization in 2011 at the request of a friend in need, as there was a vacancy on the board. The rest is history.

Gloria's passion for community service and volunteerism eventually earned her the title of Executive Director of the Westside Housing Organization, which was founded on these very principles in 1973. The group began as Kansas City neighbors joined forces to save their communities from degradation and destruction, forming a local non-profit development group now known as the Westside Housing Organization. With over four decades of experience, growth, and appreciation, the Westside Housing Organization prides itself on working, "at the intersection of home, health, energy, and equity." It not only builds new housing in Kansas City, but also provides essential repair and restoration efforts to citizens who are unable to afford these costs.

Though it has expanded far beyond a small group of neighbors repairing homes, the Westside Housing Organization has maintained the neighborly sentiment that founded the organization so long ago thanks to Gloria's diligent leadership. Gloria has brought far more than remodeled roofs, pristine paint, or functioning furnaces to disadvantaged neighborhoods—she also brings care and dignity to the people she serves. It is through Gloria that the houses and residences the Westside Housing Organization works on become homes and communities.

Gloria's impact on communities is as wide-reaching as it is essential. Beginning with her work for Jackson County, Gloria has worked tirelessly to address ongoing climate concerns and their harsh impact on housing for underprivileged populations. She constantly advocates for sustainability and environmentally friendly housing initiatives, saving lower-income households major costs. Her push for climate sustainability extends beyond her job requirements. Only a year into her role as Executive Director, the Westside Housing Organization was granted with a "Green Designation" from NeighborWorks America for being committed to sustainability. Gloria also serves as Commissioner of the Mayor's Energy Task Force, promoting environmental consciousness throughout the city.

Gloria pours her heart and soul into bettering the lives of Kansas Citians—whether that be in or out of the professional sphere. In her free time, she serves as a mentor for young Latino students in the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Avanzado program and is an active member and Community Leader of the Christ Community Church. Her record of relentless service reminds me of Hebrews 13:16—"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Gloria continues to serve as a shining example of helping others in need, and I am filled with pride at her commitment to service.

With Gloria's devotion to the people of Kansas City, I cannot think of a more deserving recipient of the 2024 MARC Regional Leadership Award. Recipients of this award have embodied excellence and made meaningful contributions to the Greater Kansas City region. As a former recipient of this award, I am in-

credibly pleased to have Ms. Ortiz-Fisher join the cohort of those who have been granted this honor for their leadership and service, and I am honored to share this award with her. May this achievement express the profound appreciation the people of Kansas City, including myself, have for her. Gloria is truly a neighbor for all Kansas Citians and will continue to have a remarkable living legacy in this city—one that will be felt for generations.

RECOGNIZING DONNA M. CHIERA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I use today to congratulate Donna M. Chiera on her retirement as President of the American Federation of Teachers New Jersey (AFTNJ). Ms. Chiera has dedicated over 40 years of service to the education field and her contributions and accomplishments are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

As President of AFTNJ, Donna Chiera brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. She worked as a special education teacher and resource room teacher for the Perth Amboy Public School District for more than 30 years until her retirement from teaching in 2011. Furthermore, Ms. Chiera also served as president of the local union, Perth Amboy Federation of Teachers, from 1991 until 2013, as well as AFTNJ executive vice president for grades pre-K through 12. Her long-standing involvement with AFT and her tenure as an educator exemplify Ms. Chiera's commitment to serve and advance New Jersey's teachers and students.

Representing the interests of 30,000 members of AFTNJ, Ms. Chiera has been an active member of AFT national, chairing the Teachers program and policy council, serving on subcommittees, and participating in both the National and New Jersey Teacher of the Year selection.

In addition to her leadership of AFTNJ, Ms. Chiera is Vice President of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Executive Board and previously served as Vice President of the Middlesex-Somerset County Central Labor Council, Education Chair of Perth Amboy's Strategic Planning Task Force, and Education Co-Chair for New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's transition committee.

Mr. Speaker, please Join me in leading this body in acknowledgement of the contributions of Donna Chiera. She has tirelessly devoted her time to New Jersey's education and labor communities, and I am honored to recognize her today.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPEN BUFFALO

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Open Buffalo and the remarkable work they do to make our community a more just, equitable place for all.

Founded in 2014, Open Buffalo is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing racial, economic, and ecological justice. Open Buffalo works to make Western New York a community free from discrimination and poverty by prioritizing long-term solutions to address systemic inequities. Through all of its actions, Open Buffalo leads with the values of empathy, accountability, collaboration, and restorative justice.

Open Buffalo's work takes place through two main avenues—leadership development and advocacy. They help to create Buffalo's next generation of skilled changemakers, hosting leadership trainings to empower our youth to make a positive difference in our community. Further, Open Buffalo has increased civic engagement in our community by giving individuals the platform to voice their own opinions and ideas.

Since Open Buffalo's founding, they have been a key advocate in social justice-based change, making a tangible impact on the lives of Western New Yorkers. Today, I wish to highlight their newest project, the Open Buffalo Ecology Center. The creation of the "Eco Center" will provide 10 acres of community green space on the East Side of Buffalo. Open Buffalo will host recreational activities and educational events for all in the community to participate in.

For 10 years, Open Buffalo has conducted the grassroots work to make our community a more equitable place for everyone. Please join me in congratulating Open Buffalo on their 10th Anniversary and thanking them for their remarkable service.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR RUSSELL BARTHOLOW FOR 17 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize Major Russell Bartholow for his 17 years of service with the Nebraska Army National Guard.

Russell Bartholow joined the Nebraska Army National Guard in 2007, motivated to do something for our country and for this world.

In 2008, he was sent to Afghanistan, where he spent 22 months serving as the head of a five-person "Effects Cell." He was responsible for developing and conducting civil-military projects in the nine northern Afghanistan provinces. His team completed 31 projects, including providing innocent children with clothes, food and toys.

Major Bartholow always went above and beyond what was asked of him. When he saw the innocent children, he worked hard to find them a safe place to play. He was able to negotiate with Afghan businessmen and elders to raise over \$200,000 in funding for a park. This park included a soccer field, basketball court and merry-go-rounds and provided an oasis of hope and safety for the kids affected by war.

His heart for service and dedication to the children and civilians are further seen in his being awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his coordination of \$12 million in funding for roads, schools and clinics.