

he received the first of many Meritorious Company Commendations. In addition, he has been recognized numerous times for valor and lifesaving. Over the course of his public service career, Fire Captain Maironis has committed himself to continuous professional development, completing numerous certification programs in various rescue operations techniques and other technical programming.

Fire Captain Maironis has been an outstanding public servant to the communities served by the Dearborn Fire Department. Please join me in recognizing his twenty-two years of commitment to protecting our families' safety across Michigan's 12th District Strong as we wish him well in his retirement.

**HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
CHARLES BENJAMIN BAYSE**

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2024*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles Benjamin "Ben" Bayse and his 43 years of dedication to serving this country. Ben served as a Navy pilot in the United States Pacific Fleet during World War II and in the Korean War.

For his time and service during World War II, Ben was awarded multiple medals including the World War II Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. In 1949, he was one of the first Navy Pilots to land a jet on a carrier. He did this in a Grumman F9F Panther Jet Fighter during the earliest stages of catapult take-off and landing operations. As a reservist, he served as a Consulting Engineer and Maintenance Officer. He retired from the Navy on his 60th birthday in 1987 at the rank of Captain.

In addition to his service in the Navy, Ben dedicated his life to improve the United States education system. Mr. Bayse earned a Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, to which he then served 37 years as an engineering professor in higher education. He wrote two books regarding his time in the military and education system and the values that should be upheld in these great American institutions.

Ben Bayse was the embodiment of American ideals and exemplified at an extraordinary level what it means to be an American. Ben was willing to make any sacrifice, including the ultimate sacrifice, required to defend the values of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity to commemorate the life and service of a proud American, veteran, and family man, Charles Benjamin Bayse.

**CELEBRATING MOUNTAIN LAKE  
FIRE COMPANY AND LADIES  
AUXILIARY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mountain Lake Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary on their 75-year anniversary. A team of 25 volunteers

including firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and first responders, the Mountain Lake Fire Company has generously supported the communities of both Liberty and White Townships during any and all kinds of emergencies. The Company was founded in 1949 with a single small fire truck, and over the past 75 years the Company has grown into a pillar of the community, from bringing townspeople together for their annual car show to educating children on fire safety. Reflecting on their dedicated service, it is no surprise that the Mountain Lake Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary is still thriving after 75 years. As a former volunteer firefighter myself, I am honored to have such dedicated first responders and community members in the 7th Congressional District, and I look forward to seeing them continue to flourish in years to come.

**HONORING LINDA KEYS**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, Ms. Linda Keys.

Linda Keys was born in July 1955 to the late Willie and Mary Phipps Keys. She grew up in a rural farming community where hard work and familial support were fundamental values. Being the youngest of seven children, Linda witnessed her parents' dedication firsthand. Her father worked tirelessly as a farmer to provide the necessities of life, while her mother juggled the roles of homemaker and wage earner, demonstrating an unparalleled work ethic.

Raised in Mississippi Linda's upbringing instilled in her a drive for academic excellence and a belief in the transformative power of education. She graduated from Quitman County High School (QCHS) in Marks, Mississippi, in 1973 and then pursued higher education at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1978.

Although Linda initially aspired to become an educator, her path took an unexpected turn when she was offered a full-time position at Ford Motor Company after completing internships. Embracing the opportunity Linda embarked on a career that required her to balance the demands of work, education, and motherhood with unwavering determination.

After the passing of her husband in 2012, Linda transitioned into a retired lifestyle until her mother's declining health prompted her to move back to Mississippi in 2015. It was during this period that Linda's compassion for the less fortunate was reignited, as she witnessed children enduring the bitter cold without adequate clothing.

Motivated to make a difference, Linda founded Mississippi Coats4Kidz in January 2016, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing coats, blankets, and other essentials to children living in poverty across Mississippi. Through her steadfast leadership and the support of various stakeholders, including grants, sponsors, and donors, Linda's organization has distributed over 100,000 coats to date offering warmth and hope to countless children in need.

Linda's philanthropic efforts have garnered recognition and accolades, including certificates of recognition from the Mississippi State Senate awards from organizations such as Men United and WMC Action News 5, and the prestigious Governor's Initiative for Volunteers of Excellence award in 2022.

In addition to her charitable endeavors, Linda is an active member of various professional and nonprofit associations, including National Association of Professional Women and the Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits. She is a devout believer in the power of faith and community and attends Pleasant Grove M.B. Church in Crenshaw, Mississippi, where she finds spiritual guidance under the leadership of Pastor Prez Jackson.

As Linda continues her mission to serve the vulnerable members of her community, her unwavering commitment to making a difference, one coat at a time, stands as a testament to the transformative impact of compassion and resilience.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Linda Keys for her service to the community.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. ERIC SORENSEN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2024*

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed one vote on July 8, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 336 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 897—Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act.

**RECOGNIZING DR. STEPHEN  
PAPPAS**

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Dr. Stephen Pappas. A lifelong Washingtonian, Stephen was born in 1930 to the late Steve and Georgia Pappas and was a proud graduate of Western High followed by his ophthalmology residency at Episcopal Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital. In 1961, Dr. Pappas completed his clinical fellowship in the retina service at Harvard's teaching hospital, Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary, in Boston. He returned to Washington as the first formally fellowship-trained retina specialist in the region. A deeply patriotic American, Dr. Pappas was honored to serve as Chief of Ophthalmology at the Naval Dispensary in Washington, D.C. from 1961 to 1963, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He later served as a civilian consultant at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda from 1968 to 1976. In 1963, he founded his solo ophthalmology practice, providing compassionate, state-of-the-art care. In 1978, he moved his growing practice, Retina Consultants, from the District to Bethesda. One of the founding members of the Washington Hospital Center Retina Clinic,

he supervised and trained generations of ophthalmology residents as a volunteer from 1963 to 1994. He was also assistant clinical professor in Ophthalmology at both GWU and Georgetown. He continued to value his professional relationships with mentors, peers, and mentees for his entire career and beyond. His distinguished career was marked by many local and national accolades. Despite these remarkable professional achievements, Dr. Pappas will most be remembered as a man of faith who was truly devoted to his beloved wife of 62 years, Virginia (Ginny) Nicoludis Pappas, as an incredible father to Dr. Stephen Pappas, Jr. (Michelle) and Adrienne Kalavritinos (Jack), and as a loving papou to his four grandchildren: John, Analiese, Mark, and Alexander. He was an active, early member of the St George Greek Orthodox Church in Bethesda, MD. Faith, family and friends were paramount in his life. His remarkable ability to connect through his warmth, sense of humor, and genuine caring will be remembered by all who knew him. May his memory be eternal.

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CELEBRATING STELLA JIMENEZ

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2024*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the dedication and hard work of an outstanding employee, Stella Jimenez, as I bid her farewell as she moves on to the next step of her career.

Stella Jimenez brought a wealth of experience and an unwavering commitment to community service.

Stella's journey was characterized by her unwavering dedication to enact positive change.

In her capacity as District Director, Stella assumed a pivotal role in leading diverse initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of residents in Imperial and Riverside Counties.

Stella demonstrated a profound understanding of the community's needs and challenges. Her leadership, characterized by a unique combination of grace and effectiveness, garnered admiration and respect from colleagues and constituents alike.

Stella's dedication to community engagement was unparalleled. Whether it was championing the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument or ensuring full stakeholder engagement in Imperial County, she approached each initiative with unwavering determination and a genuine desire to make a difference.

Stella's influence extended to coordinating high-profile events, such as the Department of Homeland Security's visit to present the Outstanding Citizen by Choice Initiative Award by Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Under her guidance, these events not only achieved success but also carried a deeply personal touch, reflecting Stella's commitment to meaningful engagement and connection.

Collaborating closely with the staff of White House Senior Advisor Mitch Landrieu, Stella facilitated impactful visits to various sites.

Through her efforts, she fostered community dialogue and left a lasting impact, further so-

liding her reputation as a dedicated and effective advocate for change.

Stella's colleagues referred to her as someone who was always reachable, willing to advocate for them, and someone who went above and beyond to go across the aisle and work with local and state partners to help a constituent in need.

She empowered others to navigate challenges with newfound assurance and strength.

The impact of Stella's mentorship on many is immeasurable. Her guidance not only shaped others' professional trajectories but left an indelible mark on their personal development as well.

I am profoundly grateful for the privilege of working with Stella Jimenez.

Through her tireless efforts and unwavering passion, Stella Jimenez stood as a beacon of inspiration, leaving an enduring and profound impact on the communities she served. Her legacy continues to inspire others to strive for positive change and to make a difference in the world around them.

I look forward to seeing what Stella Jimenez does next and know that she will continue to inspire those around her.

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HONORING KARMEN ASHLEE BERNARD

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and commend the remarkable achievements of Karmen Ashlee Bernard, a trailblazing student from Yazoo City High School.

Karmen has made history by becoming the first student from Yazoo City High School to fulfill all requirements for an Associate of Arts Degree from Holmes Community College before graduating high school. This monumental accomplishment is a testament to her exceptional scholarly abilities, relentless dedication, and unwavering perseverance.

Throughout her time at Yazoo City High School, Karmen has distinguished herself as a scholar of extraordinary caliber. Her participation in dual enrollment courses at Holmes Community College has not only showcased her commitment to academic excellence but has also set a remarkable example for future generations of students. Karmen's dedication is further evidenced by her consistent placement on both the President's and Dean's Lists at Holmes Community College, highlighting her tireless work ethic and intellectual prowess.

In addition to her academic achievements, Karmen has been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, an esteemed organization that recognizes high-achieving college students. This honor reflects her outstanding academic performance and commitment to the values of scholarship, leadership, and service.

Karmen has expressed deep gratitude for the opportunities provided by Holmes Community College, stating, "I am incredibly honored and humbled to have had the opportunity to pursue my academic interests at Holmes

Community College. Completing my associate's degree before graduating from high school has been a truly transformative experience, and I am grateful to God and for the support of my teachers, mentors, and family throughout this journey."

As Karmen prepares to begin her undergraduate studies at Prairie View A&M University in the fall, she will major in Chemistry with a concentration in Biomedical Sciences. Thanks to her dual-enrollment credits, Karmen will enter as a Junior, fast-tracking her path towards achieving her goal of becoming an orthodontist.

Karmen Ashlee Bernard serves as an inspiration to her peers and the entire community, embodying the values of scholarship, leadership, and perseverance. Her historic achievement at Yazoo City High School paves the way for future students to aspire to and achieve their highest academic goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Karmen Ashlee Bernard's exceptional accomplishments and wish her continued success as she embarks on her next chapter at Prairie View A&M University. Her story is a testament to the power of ambition and the importance of supporting our students in their educational endeavors.

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CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM OF TIMBERLINE LODGE EMPLOYEES AND FIRST RESPONDERS

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2024*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the extraordinary heroism displayed by Timberline Lodge employees and first responders from Hoodland Fire, Clackamas Fire, Estacada Fire, Portland Fire, Gresham Fire and the United States Forest Service.

In the middle of the night on April 18, 2024, a fire was detected in the attic of the historic Timberline Lodge on Oregon's iconic Mount Hood. Lodge staff jumped into action with fire extinguishers and safely evacuated guests who were staying at the Lodge, many of whom were roused from their sleep to be escorted out. Fire crews from around the mountain arrived in record time to battle the blaze and protect Timberline Lodge, a national historic treasure.

Constructed in 1937, Timberline Lodge stands on the south slope of Mount Hood at an elevation of 6,000 feet. Iconic and awe-inspiring in its architecture and design, it is a tribute to the rugged spirit of the Pacific Northwest. The Lodge was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1977 and is one of Oregon's most popular tourist attractions, drawing nearly two million visitors every year.

The quick thinking, bravery, and exemplary effort by both staff and first responders ensured that fire damage was limited to the attic and that all the guests made it out safely with no injuries reported. To think, we could've lost this national treasure if it wasn't for the courageous actions of a few brave souls. I am forever grateful for their response.