

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.

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.

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.

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.

RECOGNIZING AUDRA COHEN-PLATA FOR OVER A DECADE OF SERVICE TO THE 2ND DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas; Audra Cohen-Plata has resided and is an active community member, dedicated public servant, and resident of Dane County, Wisconsin, and

Whereas; Audra fulfilled her duties as an intern in my legislative office as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during my tenure as an Assemblyman in the Wisconsin State Legislature, and

Whereas; Audra assisted as a trusted ally as I attempted my inaugural run to represent the 2nd Congressional District in Congress, and

Whereas; Audra dutifully served as a valued member of my Congressional staff for more than eleven years, and

Whereas; Audra undertook many responsibilities in my district office including, but not limited to, direct constituent assistance and success related to Veterans Affairs and Education, and

Whereas; Audra professionally and loyally performed her duties as Constituent Services Manager, and

Whereas; Audra serves as an inspiration and leader to her fellow colleagues and many residents of the State of Wisconsin.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Mark Pocan, U.S. Congressman for Wisconsin's Second District, do hereby express my appreciation to Audra Cohen-Plata for her many years of loyal service to myself, the 2nd District of Wisconsin, and our country.

HONORING JOHN L. BARNES

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 trailblazer in the realm of education and civil rights, John L. Barnes.

A native of Charleston, MS, John grew up about 10 miles north of Charleston and attended Sherman Creek Elementary School. He was also the valedictorian of his 1964 graduating class at Allen-Carver High School.

He courageously shattered racial barriers while pursuing his education at Mississippi State University (MSU). During his time at MSU, John encountered significant challenges due to racial prejudice and discrimination. As one of the first African American students at the university, he faced hostility, exclusion, and limited opportunities. Despite these obstacles, John persevered, contributing to the gradual transformation of MSU's campus climate. His courage and resilience paved the way for future generations of students seeking equal access to education.

His enrollment at MSU in 1965 marked a significant milestone, as he became the first

African American student to graduate from the university, June 2, 1968. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the MSU College of Arts and Sciences. His brother, Aaron, was the third African American to graduate from MSU. After graduating from MSU, he briefly taught at Allen-Carver School before embarking on his corporate career in New York City. His achievements as the first African American graduate from MSU and his subsequent professional path demonstrate resilience and determination.

While specific achievements beyond this groundbreaking moment may not be widely documented, John's legacy remains an inspiration for those who continue to fight for educational equity and social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing John L. Barnes for his dedication to advocacy in education, civil rights, his courage and perseverance.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COACH DOUG BLEVINS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Coach Doug Blevins, who passed away on March 9th, at the age of 60.

Coach Blevins was born with cerebral palsy. While his condition confined him to a wheelchair for his life, he was not deterred in pursuing a career in the sport of football.

As a student at Abingdon High School, Mr. Blevins served as a student assistant coach, specializing in the kicking game. He would continue his education at Virginia Highlands Community College, University of Tennessee, and Emory & Henry University seeking more student coaching opportunities. Coach Blevins would stay close to home, starting his own consulting firm and assisting prospective kicking talents at summer camps, clinics and more.

In 1994, Coach Blevins was hired to be a consultant for the New York Jets. He would go on to coach for several years in the National Football League, working for the Miami Dolphins and NFL Hall of Fame Coach Jimmy Johnson, New England Patriots and Minnesota Vikings. From 1995 to 2000, he served as kicking coordinator for the NFL Europe League. He earned the remarkable achievement of becoming the NFL's first-ever disabled coach.

Mr. Blevins' success as a coach caught the attention of many talented kickers dreaming of playing in the NFL. Modern-day kicking legends, Adam Vinatieri and Justin Tucker, are just two of 26 current and former NFL kickers and punters who were trained and mentored by Coach Blevins.

Coach Blevins' years of hard work and tutoring prompted a significant recognition from the NFL community: his nomination to the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame. Perhaps, someday he will be inducted.

Most recently, he served as the kicking specialist at East Tennessee State University (ETSU), his alma mater, and as a volunteer assistant on the football staff at Science Hill High School.

Coach Blevins' inspirational journey from Southwest Virginia to the NFL, and his con-

tributions to the sport of football, will not be forgotten—along with his kindness and compassion for others. Despite his lifelong disability, Coach Blevins followed his dreams of coaching football and helped scores of young football players develop and succeed in the sport. May his legacy live on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call No. 337, on Monday, July 8, 2024. Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: Represent Floridians of the 2nd Congressional District of Florida. The Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act must be passed into law. The Long Island Sound is a unique ecological resource for eastern Connecticut, Long Island and the surrounding regions. More than 20 million people live within 50 miles of the Sound's beaches.

I am supportive of H.R. 5441, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act—as a Representative of a coastal district myself, protecting this vast area on the East Coast will improve decades of high levels of pollution, dumping of dredged materials, and releases of untreated sewage that have put the Sound's wildlife population, fisheries, water quality, and surrounding communities at risk. The economic viability of the Sound, which annually contributes around \$9.4 billion to the regional economy, is dependent on activities like sport and commercial fishing, boating, recreation and tourism.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 5441 (Roll Call No. 337).

HONORING FREDRICK TIDWELL

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 servant, Fredrick Tidwell.

Fredrick "Fred" Tidwell hails from Grenada, Mississippi, where he was born to Tinal Lott Rias and Fredrick Tidwell, Sr. Fred graduated from Grenada High School in 2018, where he distinguished himself as the Vice President of the Class of 2018.

Deeply rooted in his community, Fred is an active member of Mt. Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church, where he serves as one of the youth leaders, demonstrating his commitment to both faith and leadership.

Continuing his education journey, Fred attended Northwest Community College, earning an associate of arts degree in 2020. He then pursued his passion for social work at the University of Mississippi, graduating with a Bachelor of Applied Science. Currently, Fred achieved another milestone by receiving his master's degree in higher education administration.