

started her career in 1983 as a student at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trade Office. Later, in 1985, she joined the U.S. Department of Justice, Marshals Service where she worked to advance their mission of enforcing federal laws and aided various elements of the federal justice system. Over the last 22 years, she has served in the role of Supervisory Case Management Specialist of the East Team at the Clerk's Office where she has been committed to coaching employees and nurturing their professional growth into long-term career successes. She is described in the office as energetic, funny, and committed to helping others—an invaluable set of skills that will be greatly missed.

Early on, Mrs. Leach-Wright demonstrated her skills and received the Executive of Immigration Review Director's Award for her excellence in General Legal Support in 2001. In recognition of her leadership, she received the Executive of Immigration Review Director's Award again in 2020.

Her dedication, commitment, and passion for serving others is inspiring. Her contributions as a Team Leader help shape our future by both empowering professionals with knowledge and inspiring them to continue to learn. I am honored to recognize Mrs. Leach-Wright for her unwavering service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mrs. Kimberly Leach-Wright for her dedication to public service over the last 40 years. I join her friends and loved ones in celebrating her contributions and in wishing her the best as she retires to spend time with her husband, Ron, and her grandchildren.

HONORING SECOND CLASS OF DHS ICDF PROGRAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the second class of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Intelligence and Cybersecurity Diversity Fellowship (ICDF) Program. The ICDF Program intends to help DHS cultivate diverse talent to enter public service in Federal cybersecurity offices and components. This exemplary fellowship class is working across the homeland security enterprise—in DHS Headquarters, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Coast Guard, Secret Service, and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

This year's class includes four returning fellows and eleven new fellows. They represent 10 States and hail from universities of all sizes. Six of this year's class attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and three attend other Minority Serving Institutions. This talented class of fellows represents the diverse perspectives that are needed to help strengthen DHS's ability to analyze the evolving threats facing our Nation. I am proud that the fellowship program I passed through the House has provided pathways to success for each of these future homeland security leaders.

Congratulations to Veronica Kyles, Christian Lopez, Erin Sullivan, Reyben Cortes, Kiara Kelly, Ariel Henderson, Ethan Polhemus, Sage Despignes, Sharanya Padithaya, Zaria Gibbs,

Daryan Lassiter, Kamryn Brown, Shaqandra Roberson, Tori Johnson, and Kaari Harsila.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to following their careers as they progress toward making our homeland even safer.

HONORING MAGGIE VALLEY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Maggie Valley's incorporation as a municipality in North Carolina. Home to about 1,800 North Carolinians, Maggie Valley's rich history predates the town's official incorporation by many years.

Located in Haywood County, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians occupied this region prior to the first White settlers. In the early 1800s, mountain settlers began to move into the valley and brought with them the characteristics that still define Maggie Valley—self-sufficiency, resourcefulness, independence and free-thinking.

In 1890, one of the valley's residents, Jack Setzer, became fed up with having to pay someone to take and pick up mail from the nearest post office located five miles away. Setzer began contacting officials with the United States Postal Service to establish a post office in his area that everyone in the valley could use.

When the U.S. postmaster general approved the creation of the post office, authorities requested that Setzer submit three potential names. He gave them the names of his three daughters: Cora, Mettie, and Maggie Mae.

On May 10, 1904, Jack received a letter from the U.S. Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock that postal authorities had decided on a name: Maggie, North Carolina.

In 1974, the North Carolina General Assembly voted to approve Maggie Valley as an official municipality and approved the town's formation of a local government, consisting of a mayor and a five-member board of aldermen.

Maggie Valley serves as the gateway to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The town's proximity to these two attractions allows thousands of visitors to experience the beauty of Maggie Valley each year.

This year commemorates Maggie Valley's five decades as an official town. As residents celebrate the 50th anniversary this week, they honor the virtues and traditions that have defined Maggie Valley for half a century and look to carry those forward for 50 more years.

EXONERATION OF THE PORT CHICAGO 50

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro for exonerating the Port Chicago 50 after a second review of their case since 1994, correcting 80 years of injustice. As the Congress-

man for Port Chicago, California, I am pleased that justice delayed is no longer justice denied for these American veterans of World War II and their families.

On July 17, 1944, a tragic munitions explosion at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine killed 320 sailors and civilian workers, the majority of whom were African American. While white officers were given time off following the accident, white Navy officers ordered African American sailors to return to work in the same unsafe conditions that killed their fellow servicemen. When 50 of these men refused, they were wrongfully charged with mutiny and convicted in a hastily conducted trial overshadowed by the scourge of racism.

The convictions of the Port Chicago 50 were not just a miscarriage of justice; they were emblematic of the broader racial prejudice that African Americans faced within the military and society at large, even while serving in their country's uniform or contributing to the war effort on the Homefront as civilian workers. These men stood against dangerous conditions and racial discrimination, maintaining their innocence up until their deaths decades later.

Public outrage over their Navy trail and conviction lead to the U.S. Navy becoming the first military service branch to officially desegregate in 1946, helping to civil rights for all Americans. President Truman ordered the desegregation of all U.S. military service branches in 1948. In 1999, President Clinton pardoned Freddie Meeks, one of the three surviving sailors of the Port Chicago 50 and the only to request one. The two other surviving sailors declined a presidential pardon, refusing to ask for clemency for a crime for which they were wrongfully convicted. All three men have since passed away.

Exoneration of the Port Chicago 50 is a long overdue step in addressing historical injustices and affirming our national commitment to equality for all service members and all Americans regardless of race or creed. Now, 80 years later, the families of the Port Chicago 50 finally have closure and justice. I am proud to stand with the families of these World War II veterans and my colleagues, Representatives MARK DESAULNIER and BARBARA LEE, in celebrating this historic moment. By exonerating them, we honor their memory and rightful place in American history, ensuring their legacy is remembered with dignity and as early leaders who helped to inspire what later became the American civil rights movement.

WISHING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ROBERT BOHYER A VERY HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and wish a very happy and special 100th birthday to World War II veteran Robert Bohyer.

Robert embodies what it means to be a member of the "Greatest Generation." When the forces of fascism threatened the peace, security, and freedom of millions upon millions, Robert answered the call to serve, joining the U.S. Army Air Corps—which later became the Air Force—when he was only 18 years old.

As a B-17 tail gunner, Robert was assigned to the 486th Bombardment Group near Sudbury, England and then later to the 483rd Bombardment Group in Italy. All told, Robert flew 35 missions from England and Italy, and he faced down mortal danger with the kind of heroic courage and valor that we desperately need more of today. Robert succinctly captured the danger he confronted by saying "We were shot up but never shot down." Robert distinguished himself in service, and he has the medals and citations to prove it.

President Ronald Reagan reminded us that freedom is fragile and must constantly be fought for and guarded by each generation. That noble mission is exactly what Robert helped carry out when he wore the uniform of the United States Military. Because of the service and sacrifice of veterans, generations of Americans have been able to experience the blessings of liberty and live in a land that is free. For that, all of us owe Robert and his fellow veterans a debt that we can never fully repay.

As Robert celebrates a century of life lived to the fullest, I join his family and countless Hoosiers in wishing Robert Bohyer a very Happy 100th Birthday. I commend him for his loyal service to our Nation in uniform and the many great contributions he has made to our country. May God bless Robert.

HONORING DR. TIMOTHY MURPHY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Timothy Murphy as one of this year's recipients of the University of Buffalo's President's Medal. The University of Buffalo's President's Medal recognizes those who have made extraordinary contributions to the quality of life and development in the University's community. I can think of no one who is more deserving of this award than Dr. Timothy Murphy.

Dr. Murphy is an internationally recognized expert in respiratory infections and has transformed the way the medical community approaches them. His research has made significant breakthroughs in the understanding of bacterial infections in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vaccine development for both ear infections and COPD.

Outside of his groundbreaking research, Dr. Murphy is the founding director of the University at Buffalo Clinical and Translational Science Institute, which advances research throughout the University and its partners to reduce health disparities in our community. With a team of approximately 40 faculty and 118 staff members, the Institute has catalyzed a transformation of the clinical and translational research environment. More recently, the University at Buffalo launched the Community Health Equity Research Institute

under Dr. Murphy's leadership. Working closely with community partners and faculty from all 12 schools at UB, the Institute works to support research that address the root cause of health disparities while developing and testing solutions to the social determinants that cause them.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Dr. Timothy Murphy on his well-deserved achievement of receiving the University of Buffalo's President's Medal. I thank him for his tremendous efforts to advance the medical field all while supporting his community.

RECOGNIZING THE AUBURN MEN'S GOLF TEAM'S NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Auburn University Men's Golf team for winning the NCAA Division I National Title.

On May 29th, the Auburn Tigers held off Florida State University three matches to two to secure their title win. The tournament came down to the last match of the day and was finally won on the 17th hole with a par. The tournament was played at the Omni La Costa Resort in Carlsbad, California.

This is the first national championship for the Auburn Men's Golf Team and advanced the team to 4-1 all-time in NCAA championship match play. Previously, the team had not advanced past a semifinal round.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Clinard, the Auburn University Men's Golf team, students, faculty, and all the fans. War Eagle.

HONORING NURSE HONOR GUARD OF SAINT LOUIS

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with the people of St. Louis today to solemnly pay homage to the Nurse Honor Guard of Saint Louis and its visionary founder and president, Aine Howard-Boerner, MSN.

Since its establishment in 2023, the Nurse Honor Guard of Saint Louis has emerged as a beacon of compassion dedicated to honoring nurses nearing or entering eternal rest, offering solace to grieving families across Missouri and Illinois.

Inspired by the tradition of military honor guards that honor fallen servicemen and women, police officers, and firefighters, the Nurse Honor Guard wears traditional white

nursing uniforms, complete with a red and blue cape and traditional nursing caps. They attend the funerals of their fellow nurses, paying homage and extending comfort to families in their time of mourning.

The organization has conducted 124 memorial tributes, four living tributes, and one memorial table for departed colleagues. Comprised of 30 retired and active nurses, these tributes honor the departed and serve as a source of renewal for the members of the Nurse Honor Guard amidst the formidable challenges and demands of their profession, particularly underscored by the devastating COVID-19 pandemic. Nurses and their communities are reminded of their steadfast courage and unwavering commitment through these services.

As we reflect on the profound impact of the Nurse Honor Guard of Saint Louis, we follow our pledge to honor the memory of our fallen nurses, support grieving families, and uphold the pride and dignity of the nursing profession with enduring gratitude. As a nurse and Congresswoman, I am honored to join our St. Louis community to commend the Nurse Honor Guard of Saint Louis and its members for their exemplary service.

HONORING SIC LESLIE KENNETH CHAMPNEY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor the life of Leslie Kenneth Champney in recognition of his service in the United States Navy Reserve during the Second World War.

Seaman First Class Leslie Champney served his country from September 1, 1943 to May 25, 1946. While in enlisted in the US Navy Reserve, Mr. Champney served overseas as a security officer aboard the SS *Charles J. Folger* and the USS *Barber* for a total of twenty-three months, experiencing both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of the war.

Once while on a ship in the North Atlantic, Mr. Champney and his shipmates encountered a majestic whale, a memory he would often share with his children.

Upon his return from service, Mr. Champney fathered seven children and worked hard as an automotive mechanic, primarily focused on diesel vehicles.

Although he did not often speak of his time in the military, he deserves our gratitude and proper recognition for his contribution to the Allied victory in World War II.

Today, we present the late Mr. Champney's son, Kenn, with the five medals his father earned through his service during World War II.