

RECOGNIZING NORTH CENTRAL
TEXAS COLLEGE'S 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North Central Texas College (NCTC) as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding. I'm pleased to congratulate NCTC on reaching such a significant milestone in the school's history. NCTC has served the communities and citizens of Denton, Cooke, Young, and Montague counties throughout its history. It is an honor to applaud the excellent educational opportunities they have afforded the thousands of North Texas students they have taught throughout their 100 years of existence.

NCTC was founded in 1924 by Randolph Lee Clark and over the last century has undergone an eventful transformation. Established as Gainesville Junior College, the school began as an extension of the local public school system operating in 3 rooms of the Newsome Dougherty Memorial High School building in Gainesville. The school continued as Gainesville Junior College until 1954, then operated as Gainesville College from 1954 to 1961, as Cooke County Junior College from 1961 to 1974, and Cooke County College from 1974 to 1994. Beginning in 1994, the school became North Central Texas College and proudly carries that name into the present day and forward as a bastion of higher education in North Texas.

NCTC currently serves North Texas students across six campuses in Corinth, Denton, Flower Mound, Bowie, and Graham as well as the original campus in Gainesville. Its most recent location at Champions Circle in south Denton County opened in 2022, offering specialized industry training. NCTC is the oldest, continuously operating two-year college in Texas. I stand here today to celebrate the first 100 years of excellent service in education provided by North Central Texas College and look ahead to the school's continued positive impact in its next 100 years.

HONORING MAKEDA "DREAD"
CHEATOM

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Makeda "Dread" Cheatom, an exemplary community leader, who has served the 52nd District for more than 50 years, specializing in the visual and performing arts throughout the City of San Diego.

Makeda grew up in San Diego, CA and has dedicated her life to music, art, culture, and the well-being of community members. In 1971, she opened the Prophet Vegetarian Restaurant, the first vegetarian restaurant and international cultural center in San Diego. The opening of the Prophet served as a catalyst to her career, collaborating with various international health advocates and artists, such as world-renowned musician Bob Marley.

Makeda began her music promoter career hosting her own radio show Reggae Makossa, which has been on-air for more than 30 years. She has also coordinated and hosted Bob Marley Day at the San Diego Sports Arena for more than 25 years. In 1989, she established WorldBeat Cultural Center, a non-profit multicultural center in Balboa Park Makeda currently serves as the Executive Director.

The WorldBeat Center is dedicated to promoting, presenting, and preserving the African Diaspora and Indigenous cultures of the world through music, art, dance, multimedia arts, education, and STEAM research programs and events. The organization is leading as one of the most-important multicultural art and event centers in San Diego—a place to celebrate all cultures, all art, all music, all dance, and all people.

She also established the WorldBeat Center's Children's EthnoBotany Peace Garden which is used to bring families outdoors and teach children of the origins of their food and science. The WorldBeat Center's Children EthnoBotany Peace Garden, honoring the great George Washington Carver, furthers the organization's mission to preserve and promote African and Indigenous art forms.

Her work in the community has impacted the lives of thousands and has cemented her place in San Diego. She has been honored and recognized by the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame, the African American Heritage Foundation, San Diego 10 News, KPBS, San Diego Unified School District, California State 78th Assembly District, UC San Diego Life Course Scholars, and California Senator President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins. In 2020, she had a mural dedicated to her career in music and community advocacy.

She has participated in a four-year research project through the National Science Foundation and worked as a co-principal investigator with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. She currently serves on the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership Executive Committee, the Balboa Park Committee, and the San Diego Natural History Museum's Canyon Initiative Advisory.

Makeda exemplifies how music, art, dance and culture can unite people across varying cultures. Makeda's vision has brought past, present, and future generations of community members the opportunity to express themselves through varying art forms and gain a diversified outlook on life.

Makeda was awarded the Cesar E. Chavez Humanitarian Award on March 14th during the Barrio Station 54th Anniversary Dinner. She is celebrated for her dedication and lifelong commitment to community members as an inspirational director, mentor, and advocate.

HONORING GRAND MASTER BYUNG
LEE

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true pillar of my community, Grand Master Byung Lee of King Tiger Taekwondo in Greenville, North Carolina. Grand Master Lee recently received his ninth-degree black belt, the highest achievement in his field of martial arts. Only 1,000 worldwide and 100 individuals

in the U.S. have received this rank, which qualifies him as an exceptional, unparalleled expert in his craft. I remember fondly when my sons and I studied Tae Kwon Do under him. I was always impressed by his dedication, talent, and professionalism.

The word Taekwondo can be translated as tae ("strike with foot"), kwon ("strike with hand"), and do ("the art or way"). In addition to its five tenets of courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit—all of which Grand Master Lee exhibits. The sport requires three physical skills: poomsae, kyorugi, and gyeokpa.

Grand Master Lee came to the United States from Jeonlabukdo Province, Korea in 1988 to educate about the wonderful teachings of taekwondo. In his decades of service, he has had a lasting impact on the Greenville community and his faith community. He has instilled the great virtues of mental fortitude and discipline in many lives. I am honored to extend this chamber's recognition of this esteemed individual to celebrate not only his remarkable achievements in martial arts, but his enduring legacy of inspiration and empowerment for all.

RECOGNIZING DAUPHIN-MIDDLE
PAXTON FIRE COMPANY

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the Dauphin-Middle Paxton Fire Company on the auspicious occasion of its 100th Anniversary on August 10, 2024.

Established in 1924, and originally the "Dauphin Fire Company," the Dauphin-Middle Paxton Fire Company has served our communities tirelessly over the past century, around 60 square miles in Middle Paxton, and a population of over 5,000. The Company also generously provides assistance to Susquehanna Township, Lower Paxton Township, West Hanover Township, Duncannon, Marysville, and Halifax.

Through federal grants, hosting myriad fundraisers (like Bingo, chicken BBQs, etc.) and generous donations from the community, Dauphin-Middle Paxton Fire company has been able to modernize both its equipment and training to better serve its Citizens. Through the continued selfless service, dedication, and leadership of present Fire Chief Shane Swenson and distinguished Firefighters, the Company will continue to faithfully execute the critical task of safeguarding our Citizens and Communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the Dauphin-Middle Paxton Fire Company on its 100th Anniversary, but more importantly, on their service and selflessness by which we all should be judged.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BECCA BALINT

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present on July 22, 2024 due to flight

delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356, YEA on Roll Call No. 357, and YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JOHN
HEMMINGS, III

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of John Hemmings, III, who is retiring as Executive Director of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, what we in Southern Ohio know as the OVRDC, after committing 33 years of life and work to the Commission.

Starting as a Regional Planner in 1991, John has held almost every position within the Commission, serving as Executive Director since 2008.

During his time at the OVRDC, John lent his skills and talents to countless programs that helped revolutionize the Ohio River Valley, including a regional commission that coordinates a cross-governmental approach to improve the local community through infrastructure and economic development.

As a Scioto County native, John's commitment to the region has led to critical improvements in the lives of so many Ohioans. Working with him to advance the dreams and lives of so many has truly been an honor.

HONORING GILBERT GARCIA ON
HIS EXCEPTIONAL CAREER IN
JOURNALISM

HON. TONY GONZALES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gilbert Garcia, a distinguished journalist with more than 30 years of dedicated service to the San Antonio community and beyond.

A native of Brownsville and a Harvard University graduate, Mr. Garcia has made significant contributions to journalism, earning numerous awards for his insightful reporting on politics, sports, religion, music, and much more. He authored "Reagan's Comeback: Four Weeks in Texas That Changed American Politics Forever," and his work has been featured in the national anthology "Da Capo Best Music Writing 2001."

Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Garcia has written for esteemed publications such as the Dallas Observer, Phoenix New Times, San Antonio Express-News, and Plaza de Armas—earning six Press Club Awards.

Most recently, as an Editorial Writer and Columnist for the San Antonio Express-News, Mr. Garcia has provided readers with in-depth analysis and commentary on local politics, economics, and social issues, greatly enriching the community's understanding of important local, state, and federal matters.

Mr. Garcia's exceptional contributions to journalism have profoundly shaped Texas and our Nation for the better. We thank him and wish him all the best in his well-deserved tran-

sition. Undoubtedly, his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of journalists, and we are immensely proud of him as he begins to write the next chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING AN OUTSTANDING
EDUCATOR AND THE HISTORICAL
CAREER OF VERANIECE WIL-
LIAMS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and resilient individual, Veraniece "Nanny Vera" Williams, for recently completing 50 years as an educator in Congressional District in Louisiana.

Ms. Williams graduated from Southern High School (Baton Rouge, Louisiana) in 1967. She attended Southern University and Agriculture & Mechanical College, graduating with a degree in Business Education in 1971. She also earned an English Minor from Nicholls State University—1973—Thibodaux, LA. She later earned a Master in English Ed., Administration and Supervision from Southern University—in 1981; Nicholls State University—1982 Plus 30 Guidance Counseling—Thibodaux, LA; National Beauty School—1983 Cosmetology—New Orleans, LA, and was an Insurance Agent.

Ms. Williams's first teaching job was at Montague Elementary School, where she taught English and Social Studies to 4th-grade students. She later moved to Henry Louis Bourgeois High School (HLB), where she taught Business and English. At HLB, Ms. Williams sponsored the Key Club of America, educating young students on the importance of school and social organizations.

After 22 years at HLB, Ms. Veraniece moved to John McDonogh High in New Orleans, teaching Business and Marketing Education with an emphasis on Entrepreneurship Studies. In collaboration with Tulane University, Ms. Williams taught entrepreneurship to high school students in a real-life setting. During this time, Ms. Veraniece Williams went on to be recognized as an Outstanding Entrepreneur Teacher of the Year at Tulane University.

Her dedication to educating young students included consistently managing and seeking the challenge of teaching and inspiring lower-track high school students to succeed in strengthening business skills and writing abilities, including building life skills and motivating students to consider job career goals and higher education. She effectively used town meetings, group learning, role switching, college mentoring programs, field trips, and classroom business operations to motivate students to learn. She also developed student-run businesses inside the classroom. She worked to build interview skills in preparation for work experience, providing job shadowing programs for students, and supervised several clubs in which students participated to introduce reading strategies in teaching literature.

Her experience included CEO/Owner of Vocational/Career School; developing a marketing/entrepreneurship program for high school students; assessment teacher/mentor teacher for the State of Louisiana; Outstanding Entrepreneurship Teacher for Academies of

Entrepreneurship Teacher (High School); High School Programs Teacher (Tulane University) Developed Curriculum program for Failing High Schools (Chair); State Team: Improving Best Practices for teachers at High School Level; sponsor of (Key Club, Marketing Club, Future Business Leaders of America and Yearbook); and Teacher of the High School Yearbook Program. She is the founder of PI 3.14 Inc. (Through which "The Turn-Around Kids Club was created") and CEO of Act Too Travel Inc., Serving as the CEO of a Cosmetology School and Mortgage Loan Originator (State of Louisiana), as well as a Supervisor Federal Credit Union and CEO/La Rue Esplanade Bed & Breakfast—New Orleans, LA Over All Business, and Co-Chair "The Celebration of Women."

Her professional associations include the National Education Association and the National Collation of Black Women membership.

I am so honored to have witnessed her courageous efforts during my career over the years. So many people's lives are forever changed because of the fight she endured during her lifetime. I thank Ms. Williams for all that she has done in her 50-year career.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
ZOOKEEPER WEEK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Zookeeper Week, which is celebrated from July 21st to July 27th, as we honor the dedicated men and women who care for our Nation's diverse and magnificent wildlife while educating the public.

As a proud representative of Northwest Ohio, home to the renowned Toledo Zoo, I have seen firsthand the passion and commitment zookeepers bring to their vital work. These unsung heroes play a crucial role in wildlife conservation, education, and the preservation of endangered species. Zookeepers work tirelessly behind the scenes, ensuring that animals receive the highest standard of care, from nutrition and enrichment to veterinary support. Their efforts not only enhance the well-being of the animals but also foster a greater understanding and appreciation of wildlife among the public. No one exemplifies this more than Laurie Dixon, Lead Zookeeper in the Aquarium at the Toledo Zoo who has dedicated her life to this work for the past 41 years. She shared with me that "Zookeepers are passionate about their animals. So, we provide the best care that our animals need to thrive."

I have loved my Toledo Zoo since I was a little kid. The Toledo Zoo is a great place to make memories with family and friends." Their work is essential to preserving biodiversity and educating future generations about the importance of protecting our planet's natural treasures. Let us take this week to acknowledge and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of zookeepers across our country. They truly are the guardians of our wildlife and stewards of our natural heritage.