

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.

CELEBRATING DOROTHY
AMERSON-LAW'S RETIREMENT

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dorothy Amerson-Law, who is entering a well-deserved retirement after fifty years with M&T Bank. With her dedication to service and passion for altruism, Ms. Amerson-Law is a true pillar of our community.

A born and raised Buffalonian, Ms. Amerson-Law attended Kensington High School, where she was a star athlete and discovered her passion for banking. She then secured a prestigious internship with M&T Bank. Her excellence in relationship management and risk remediation earned her a permanent position within M&T Bank's retail branches.

For five decades, Ms. Amerson-Law served as an Accounting Associate within M&T Bank's Finance Division. She worked in numerous departments throughout her tenure, including Retail Banking, Auto Lending, Installment Loans, Credit Card Processing, and Financial Controls. In recognition of her exceptional client service, Ms. Amerson-Law received multiple "High Five" awards.

Beyond her professional work, Ms. Amerson-Law is deeply committed to giving back to her community. She serves as the National Vice President of the African American Resource Group and organized M&T Bank's Annual Juneteenth Festival. Further, Ms. Amerson-Law dedicates her time as a volunteer to numerous organizations, including Erie County's "Day of Caring," the Salvation Army, Edward Saunders Community Center, Delavan-Grider Community Center, and United Way of Buffalo. Ms. Amerson-Law's compassion and community spirit shone through in the aftermath of the May 14 shooting, as she played a crucial role in distributing food and resources to all those affected.

Ms. Amerson-Law has earned numerous accolades in recognition of her outstanding contributions to our community. In February 2024, she received the inaugural Dorothy Amerson-Law Legacy Award. This award, named in Ms. Amerson-Law's honor, was a testament to her embodiment of M&T's core values of Candor, Ownership, Curiosity, Integrity, and Collaboration. Additionally, Ms. Amerson-Law received the esteemed Black Achievers Award for commitment to overcoming barriers and embracing inclusivity. Ms. Amerson-Law is a loving wife of forty years to her husband, James, and a proud mother to her two sons, James and Jalen. She credits much of her success to the steadfast support of her family.

Today, Ms. Amerson-Law enters a well-deserved retirement after fifty years of dedicated service. Please join me in congratulating Dorothy Amerson-Law on this incredible achievement and thanking her for all she has done for our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, due to technical difficulties, I was unable to cast my vote on July 22, 2024.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I had to miss yesterday's vote due to illness. During that time, I was unable to make Roll Call votes No. 356, No. 357 and No. 358. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

YEA on Roll Call No. 356, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, S. 3249 to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, as the "Captain Elwin Shopteese VA Clinic";

NO on Roll Call No. 357, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1631 the Pro Codes Act; and

YEA on Roll Call No. 358, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 8812 the Water Resources Development Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances in flight delays, I missed votes on Monday July 22, 2024.

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

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY, GAMMA EPSILON BOULÉ ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Gamma Epsilon Boulé on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, acknowledging its significant contributions to the Sacramento community and its dedication to the principles of leadership, service, and scholarship.

Whereas, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, also known as the Boulé, was founded on May 15, 1904, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by a

group of professionals as the first African American Greek-lettered organization, dedicated to fostering a spirit of brotherhood, professional excellence, and community service; and

Whereas, the Gamma Epsilon Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity was established 40 years ago in the Sacramento region, when its first Sire Archon John Wesley Hudson MD wrote a letter on July 27, 1984 stating that Gamma Epsilon Boulé had completed its chartering ceremony with a list of members including fourteen distinguished professionals in the Sacramento metropolitan area of which two are still living today including Archon Dr. Eugene Spencer and Archon Judge Gary E. Ransom; and

Whereas, the members of the Gamma Epsilon Boulé continues to include an impressive list of local and national leaders representing a variety of professions, including the following: medicine, dentistry, health care, law, politics, architecture, engineering, real estate development, education, the entertainment industry and business; and

Whereas, the members of the Gamma Epsilon Boulé have contributed to the Sacramento community through its dedication to leadership, academic excellence, and civic engagement, and demonstrated exceptional commitment to mentoring youth, supporting educational initiatives, and fostering economic development, thereby enhancing the quality of life in Sacramento; and

Whereas, this 40th anniversary provides an opportunity to honor the Boulé's remarkable achievements and the positive impact it has had on the Sacramento community fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Congress extends its congratulations to the Gamma Epsilon Boulé, celebrating its legacy of excellence and wishing its members continued success in their future endeavors.

I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Gamma Epsilon Boulé's 40th anniversary and wish them the best on their continued work and dedication towards improving the Sacramento region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting on the passage of S. 3249, H.R. 1631, and H.R. 8812.

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.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AWARD THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR RAMON RODRIGUEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to award the Medal of Honor