

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

to Special Forces Command Sergeant Major Ramon Rodriguez of the Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam War.

At the age of 17, Ramon Rodriguez of Wilmington, California, began his military career when he enlisted in the Army during his junior year at Banning High School. Ramon Rodriguez served as a Staff Sergeant in Vietnam for 32 months, becoming one of the most decorated combat soldiers to serve in the Vietnam War.

In recognition of his heroism and fearless actions even when wounded, Staff Sergeant Rodriguez received many medals and awards—including three Bronze Stars with V, two Oak Leaf Clusters, and five Purple Hearts.

There are many examples of Staff Sergeant Rodriguez's bravery, but I will highlight four of them. On August 16, 1967, he volunteered to guide a helicopter by flashlight to evacuate wounded platoon members. Despite being the target of enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Rodriguez remained exposed until the helicopter reached the pick-up zone. On November 8, 1967, he entered a tunnel complex despite the presence of enemy combatants and the risk of a cave-in. Staff Sergeant Rodriguez employed grenades to root out the enemy and prevent their escape. On January 24, 1968, his outpost came under a heavy ground assault. The platoon leader was mortally wounded so Staff Sergeant Rodriguez assumed command. He administered aid and brought the wounded to safety, despite being wounded himself—all while fending off attackers. Staff Sergeant Rodriguez then rallied the remaining men in the platoon and fought off the enemy onslaught. On February 26, 1968, his platoon was ambushed during a search and clear mission. Staff Sergeant Rodriguez assumed command after the platoon leader was wounded. He maneuvered the platoon to return fire and removed all wounded personnel from danger.

After the war, Staff Sergeant Rodriguez graduated from the U.S. Ranger School with distinguished honors, led the Special Forces scuba team at Fort Gulick, Panama, and in 1981, earned the rank of Command Sergeant Major at the United States Sergeant Mann Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez officially retired from the Army in 1983 and was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on June 11, 2008. Rodriguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission for the County of Los Angeles, California.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this brave hero. Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez's devotion to duty and personal courage are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2024*

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes to attend to an emergency in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 344; NAY on Roll Call No. 345; YEA on Roll Call No. 346; and YEA on Roll Call No. 347.

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#### INSPIRING TRUMP CONVENTION

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Republican National Convention Was inspiring for the future of American families with the nomination of Donald Trump and JD Vance.

The Trump-Vance ticket has a proven record of creating jobs, limiting inflation, controlling the border, recovering energy independence, and achieving Peace Through Strength. I have attended Republican conventions since being a Youth Delegate in 1972 in Miami Beach. This convention with grandsons

Addison, Hunter, and Michael in the aftermath of the miraculous assassination survival was a positive revelation of Donald Trump as the leader American families can trust.

Corrupt Judge Merchan has been unanimously condemned for his unethical backfiring and re-electing Trump and now removing Biden. My invitation for Merchan to be my guest at the Trump Inauguration is more profound than ever.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops as the Global War on Terrorism continues. We do not need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

My deepest sympathy for the family of my friend and colleague, Sheila Jackson Lee.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2024*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. 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.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JAHANA HAYES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2024*

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I am unavailable to vote because of travel 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.