

the beauty of the river that has shaped our community.

What sets Quapaw Canoe Company apart is their unwavering commitment to environmental conservation and cultural preservation. Their work goes beyond simply providing recreational activities; it involves a deep respect for the river's ecosystem and a passion for sharing the rich stories of our past. Through their efforts, they have fostered a greater appreciation for the Mississippi River and have played a crucial role in maintaining its natural beauty for future generations.

During the challenges of the past few years, Quapaw Canoe Company has demonstrated remarkable resilience and innovation. They adapted their business practices to meet new demands and continued to serve our community with dedication and excellence. This ability to overcome obstacles and continue to thrive is a true reflection of the spirit of entrepreneurship.

As we celebrate their accomplishment, it is fitting that we recognize Quapaw Canoe Company for their outstanding achievements. John Ruskey and his team are deserving of this honor, and their success serves as an inspiration to us all.

Please join me in extending heartfelt congratulations to Quapaw Canoe Company for this prestigious award. Their contributions to our community and their dedication to their mission are truly commendable.

MISSION VIEJO CITY MANAGER  
DENNIS WILBERG RETIREMENT

**HON. YOUNG KIM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Mission Viejo City Manager, Dennis Wilberg, for his decades of service to our Mission Viejo community and to Orange County.

His work in the public and private sectors of civil and transportation engineering, including 20 years as City Manager, has left an enormous impact across Mission Viejo and the County.

From helping create the second-largest animal shelter in Orange County and building a water treatment facility, to increasing public safety and maintaining the City's transportation network, there's no question how he has become the longest-tenured city manager in Orange County.

I thank Dennis for his dedication to keeping our communities safe and connected.

We are grateful for his leadership, and I wish him a wonderful retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 2024, I was not recorded on Roll Call No. 391. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 391.

APPRECIATING  
BRUCE SAMUEL KIMBRELL, JR.  
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. MICHAEL WALTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and an exceptional leader in our U.S. Navy.

Commander Bruce Kimbrell has distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication by serving this Nation in uniform. For the past year, Commander Kimbrell served admirably as the Department of Defense Legislative Fellow for my office where he handled House Armed Service Committee hearing preparation and execution while also contributing to my work on with the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Above all, he was the driving force behind my Maritime policy portfolio via multiple, pieces of maritime legislation, congressional letters, as well as multiple Maritime Statecraft engagements with representatives from the Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, Maritime Administrator, and an extensive executive list of Maritime industry stakeholders involved in carrying out maritime statecraft activities and national maritime strategy.

His efforts advanced a shared effort for reinvigorating our Nation's maritime sector and gaining greater insight into the tools available for helping create a more favorable global environment for advancing America's maritime power.

Commander Kimbrell has had a remarkable twenty-two-year career after enlisting into the U.S. Navy in 2002, graduating from the University of Massachusetts in 2011, and commissioning as an Ensign designated as an Intelligence Officer. He served aboard two aircraft carriers, an amphibious war ship, as well as temporary duties aboard the NATO Afloat Standing Maritime Group Flag Ship. Later, he won the 2017 RADM Thomas A Brooks Junior Officer of the Year for the Naval Intelligence Community Award while assigned to Carrier Air Wing THREE. He also served as the Deputy Director of Maritime Intelligence Operations Center and Chief of Targets for U.S. FIFTH Fleet during which he was designated as a member of the Military Top 40 Under 40 in 2017 by Recruit Military, Bradley Morris, Inc. In addition, he served as the Executive Assistance to the Director Maritime Operations as U.S. Pacific Fleet prior to his role as Special Advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations on force design, strategic planning, ally and partner interoperability, and strategic risk.

The Secretary of the Navy was impressed enough by his legislative work and especially in his creation of the maritime task force that he selected Commander Kimbrell to serve as his Special Advisor in which he advised the Secretary on maritime policy at the intersection of industry, government agencies, strategic think tanks, maritime advocacy groups, and U.S. Congress. His efforts led to the second annual Maritime Statecraft Innovation workshop sponsored by the Secretary of the Navy and Maritime Administration.

Mr. Speaker, next month Commander Kimbrell will assume duties as the Deputy

Legislative Director to the Commander of European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. It has been a great pleasure to work with Commander Kimbrell during his time representing the Department of Defense in my office on Capitol Hill. On behalf of our grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Commander Kimbrell and his four children. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in our U.S. Navy. They have dedicated their lives to the service of our great Nation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KATIE PORTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call Nos. 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, and 399. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 391, NAY on Roll Call No. 392, YEA on Roll Call No. 393, NAY on Roll Call No. 394, NAY on Roll Call No. 395, NAY on Roll Call No. 396, NAY on Roll Call No. 397, NAY on Roll Call No. 398, and NAY on Roll Call No. 399.

#### HONORING DIXON FAMILY SERVICES

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dixon Family Services as they celebrate their 40th year of service.

Established in 1984, Dixon Family Services is a community-based organization that offers intervention and support services. Cooperating with local schools, churches, businesses, and community members, Dixon Family Services assists residents in the pursuit of goals such as financial stability, improved or increased employment, escape from domestic violence, household budgeting, improved nutrition, and emotional wellness.

Dixon Family Services maintains the Dixon Family Services Food Pantry, which helps combat food insecurity in local households. Dixon Family Service also acts as a bridge between residents and larger health care and governmental programs, ensuring that the local population is aware of and able to use resources that they may have otherwise overlooked or struggled to access.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our community's need for human services dramatically increased. Answering this need, the dedicated staff of Dixon Family Services ensured that the organization safely remained open. Because of their compassion and commitment, Dixon Family Services was able to continue to provide vital information and referral services to clients even during the depths of the pandemic.

Dixon Family Services uplifts members of our community, providing future opportunities for all. Over the past 40 years, Dixon Family Services has welcomed numerous college intern therapists, case managers, and clerical

and administrative staff, who were able to gain invaluable experience in the organization prior to moving on to other important positions or launching private practices in social work. Additionally, many of the clients Dixon Family Services provides resources to have gone on to make their own contributions to the community, paying forward the same assistance that they received.

Although, historically, many of its programs were funded by government contracts or grants, in recent years Dixon Family Services has been supported primarily by private foundations, corporations, churches, service organizations, and businesses, as well as many caring and generous community members whose donations and kind words of support sustained the organization.

Mr. Speaker, during these last 40 years Dixon Family Services has consistently upheld a devotion to the highest ideals of community service. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Dixon Family Services' outstanding work by and for our Dixon community, and its 40th year of service.

CELEBRATING THE INCREDIBLE  
LIFE OF TESSIE NELDA  
PREVOST-WILLIAMS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Orleans' beloved native daughter, a true friend, mentor and confidant to many, and most notably, a Civil Rights Pioneer of the New Orleans Public School Desegregation—The New Orleans Four, Tessie Nelda Prevost-Williams. She was born Tessie Nelda Prevost at Charity Hospital on September 26, 1954. She passed away surrounded by her immediate family and loved ones on Saturday July 6, 2024, at the age of 69. She is survived by her mother Dorothy Mackey Prevost (93), her sister Tory Prevost (D'Wayne Hulbert), and her lifelong friends, Civil Rights Pioneers Gail Etienne and Leona Tate. She was preceded in death by her father Charles Henry Prevost, Jr., and her husband Dwight Williams.

She was a life member of Branch Bell Baptist Church, located in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Louisiana, christened, baptized and later joined in holy matrimony on October 20, 1984, to the late Dwight Williams at that location. She was an active member in the church from a very young age, from serving as president of the Youth Usher Board to serving as President of the Senior Usher Board. Always on program at church, speaking and performing, she was a spirited child who was loved and known by many.

Tessie Prevost is most noted as one of four 6-year-old girls who became the first African Americans to desegregate formerly white only public elementary schools in New Orleans and the Deep South. On November 14, 1960, with world-wide attention set on the city of New Orleans, Ruby Bridges, Gail Etienne, Tessie Prevost, and Leona Tate (The New Orleans Four) escorted by U.S. Federal Marshals wearing yellow armbands desegregated two schools. Three of the girls (Gail Etienne, Tessie Prevost, and Leona Tate) enrolled at

McDonogh 19 elementary school located at 5909 St. Claude Ave. The fourth girl (Ruby Bridges) enrolled at William Frantz elementary school located at 3811 N. Galvez St. As America's Little Soldier Girls, they played an integral and pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement sparking the inspiration for the Children's Crusade of 1963.

After McDonogh 19 became predominantly black, Tessie, Gail and Leona along with 8 other students desegregated another formerly white only public elementary school in the Lower Ninth Ward Thomas Jefferson Semmes, where they endured violent, horrifying and dehumanizing treatment from white teachers, students and cafeteria workers who spit in their food and at times refused to serve them.

After successfully desegregating TJ Semmes and completing 6th grade, Tessie's parents enrolled her at Rivers Frederick Junior High School, where she found music. She learned to play the flute and joined the marching band. Tessie remained in predominantly Black schools continuing her education at Joseph S. Clark Senior High School. There, she also played in the Joseph S. Clark Marching Band. Following high school, she attended the University of New Orleans and University of Southeastern Louisiana focusing her studies on education and history. She stayed active in community civic engagement to make things better for her people and served as a member of Women for Progressive Action, where she would encourage her community to register to vote.

As a professional, Tessie was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for several years, but she answered her call to work in education and community. Her proud moments were supporting young kids and families who didn't have dental insurance when she first started working at Louisiana State University Health Science Center in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. She later became an assistant to Professors in the Biochemistry Department where she prepared syllabi for the Ph.D. program at LSU School of Dentistry. After 27 years of service, she retired in 2017.

In celebration of the 60th Anniversary of school desegregation, then N. O. Councilperson Cyndi Nguyen brought forth the resolution to honor Tessie Prevost, Gail Etienne, Leona Tate, and Ruby Bridges recognizing November 14th and New Orleans Four Day. The City Council of New Orleans voted Yes unanimously. On November 14, 2020, the City Council of New Orleans and the office of Mayor LaToya Cantrell hosted a special Proclamation Day Ceremony at Gather Hall to commemorate the 60th Anniversary proclaiming November 14th forever New Orleans Four Day. On that day, all four Civil Rights Pioneers were honored equivalently and each of them were given a Proclamation. Finally, after 60 years, they each received the Key to The City from the office of Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

Following the Gallier Hall celebration, the members of The New Orleans Four started receiving national recognition and accolades due to the work of various media industry professionals, elected officials and Black women in corporate executive leadership. The multimedia project called The New Orleans Legacy Project, collaborated inducting The New Orleans Four into "Voices of The Civil Rights Movement". Their Interview segments garnered over one million views across the entire Comcast/NBCUniversal and NBC platforms.

As a result, Tessie Prevost, Leona Tate, and Gail Etienne appeared in their first national network television interview on the Today Show with Rhema Ellis reporting from New Orleans. This news feature exposed the untold story about Tessie Prevost, Leona Tate and Gail Etienne and catapulted the three members of The New Orleans Four to equivalent recognition and honor to Ruby Bridges for their sacrifice and courage. For decades as hidden figures, they endured dehumanizing degradation and felt the world and America forgot about them.

Following the Today Show news feature, the Civil Rights Pioneers received their first national award during the 2022 Essence Festival of Culture Dove/Unilever Crown Awards held July 2, 2022, honored the members of The New Orleans Four with the Living Legend Award. On August 6, 2022, the Urban League of Louisiana honored the three hidden figures as notable Changemakers Tessie, Leona, and Gail's story moved many to recognize the importance of fact checking.

The following year, they garnered more local and national news features like the 2023 CBS News Black History Month feature by reporter Jamie Wax which highlighted the untold story of The New Orleans Four helping to raise more awareness about the illegitimate revision of the accurate historical record. Now, America and the world have been reinspired by the powerful courage of The New Orleans Four who rocked the Nation and changed the world.

In October 2023, at 69 years of age, Tessie became Chief Operating Officer of her own company, New Orleans Four, LLC., partnering with her childhood friend and fellow classmate, Gail Etienne who serves as Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Prevost and Ms. Etienne committed themselves to preserving and protecting the history and legacy of The New Orleans Four. Before her passing, Tessie and Gail partnered with the industry professionals who paid it forward to ensure that the story of The New Orleans Four would never be lost in history again. They planned to release a host of projects with the launch of The New Orleans Four Legacy Collection and their Serving Black Girl Magic Since 1960 brand and initiative.

Tessie Prevost, a child soldier, a civil rights pioneer, an activist for justice and a businesswoman and entrepreneur, profoundly stressed a quality and equitable education as the key to success and achievements "Education unleashes the past and paves the path of the future".

In November 2023, as part of the 50th Anniversary of Bayou Classic, the Southern University Law Center at the Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights & Justice presented and honored the members of The New Orleans Four during the Southern University convening of the Board of Directors. Civil Rights Pioneers Tessie Prevost, Gail Etienne and Leona Tate were honorary Marshals in the Bayou Classic Parade. The ladies received joyous shouts of thank you from parade goers. State Representative Alonzo Knox petitioned Governor John Bel Edwards to sign an official statement. In November, for their 63rd anniversary, the Governor signed the official statement in support of the City Council of New Orleans proclaiming November 14th—New Orleans Four Day.

On May 14, 2024, Tessie Prevost, Gail Etienne, and Leona Tate were invited to be