

from Kansas City Community College and graduated cum laude from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science in aeronautical engineering before serving as a captain in the Air Force.

Even in the wake of disappointment following his rejection from the final 1963 astronaut group, Mr. Dwight did not retreat. Instead, he worked for IBM, started a construction company, opened his own barbecue restaurant, and finally, as if none of this was enough, earned a Master of Fine Art in Sculpture from the University of Denver. He's since become a highly respected artist. His sculptures focus on Black history and include memorials and monuments across the country.

The Kansas state motto is "ad astra per aspera," which means "through hardships to the stars." Mr. Dwight embodies everything it means to persevere and, literally, reach for the stars. He is a true example of the American dream, and I'm honored to have such an extraordinary individual call Kansas City home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 2024, I was unable to vote due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 393.

RECOGNIZING FREDDY HOWELL

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bryan County Fire Chief Freddy Howell. Mr. Howell has had a wonderful thirty-nine year career serving his community, and we are all better off for and will deeply miss his passionate service.

During his time of public service for Bryan County, Mr. Howell led his department in various cleanup efforts and oversaw the expansion of the fire department.

He led the cleanup for a tornado in North Bryan that damaged many parts of our community, and Mr. Howell secured several grants that grew his department's team from 36 to over 100 firefighters.

The fire department also acquired new equipment, ambulances, and tankers under Mr. Howell's leadership. With his passion for aiding others, Mr. Howell greatly enhanced Bryan County's emergency response capabilities.

Following his retirement from the Bryan County Fire Department, Mr. Howell plans to join the private sector as a customer relationship manager. I thank Mr. Howell for his impactful public service to Bryan County.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF PATRICIA JEAN HAYES POPE

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Patricia Pope on her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Patricia Jean Hayes Pope has lived in the Central Valley her whole life, having lived in San Martin, Salinas, King City, and now Visalia. Mrs. Pope will reach an incredible 100 years of age this August, and is deserving of recognition for the incredible life she continues to live.

Born on August 4, 1924, to Katherine Hitchcock and Francis "Austin" Hayes in San Jose, California, she is the middle child of three, born between her oldest brother Jack and younger brother Danny. While attending King City High School, she played piano for the dance band, clarinet in the school's marching band, and was the editor of the school newspaper.

After high school, Mrs. Pope attended Hartnell Junior College, after which she began teaching 4th grade at King City Grammar School. At the city pool in 1945, she met Marion Pope, who was then serving in the U.S. Navy. The next year, they were married in Del Monte, California, a marriage which would last 65 years. They later moved to King City, California, where they had five children together—Susan, Linda, Dennis, Laurie, and Leslie. Throughout their lives, Mrs. Pope has been dedicated to her children and active in their activities. She served as den mother for Cub Scouts and troop leader for Girl Scouts, taught 4-H sewing, and was president of the Parent Teacher Association.

Mrs. Pope has been an active member of her community throughout her life. She worked as the bookkeeper for her husband's painting business and was a substitute teacher at the local elementary school. Mrs. Pope also dedicated more than 4,000 hours as a volunteer at the local hospital service league. Mrs. Pope and her husband were key participants in the establishment of the Mee Memorial Hospital Foundation. To honor their life of service to the community, they were named King City Citizens of the Year in 1997.

After her husband's passing in 2012, Mrs. Pope moved to Visalia to be closer to her family. She is the proud grandmother of 2 grandsons, 7 granddaughters, and 16 great-grandchildren. In addition to spending time with her family, she remains a thriving member of the Visalia community, enjoying playing piano concerts, painting, and spending time with friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Mrs. Patricia Pope on her 100th birthday.

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to respect the passing of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. She leaves behind a significant legacy, grounded in a lifetime of passionate, diligent public service.

I came to know Sheila during the eight years we served on the Homeland Security Committee together. Having worked alongside her and engaged in countless debates with the good Congresswoman from Texas, I can say with full certainty that she was one of the hardest working Members of Congress I have known. Sheila was always incredibly well prepared, and although we commonly disagreed on ideological matters, I greatly respected her conviction.

In one of her final statements, she said, "the road ahead will not be easy, but I stand in faith that God will strengthen me."

I will miss Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, and I extend my most sincere condolences to her family.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF CHARLES OLVERA LONA

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to announce the passing of Charles "Charlie" Olvera Lona on June 26, 2024. Charlie was a beacon of justice, advocacy, and hope in Kansas City's Westside community and beyond. I urge us all to celebrate and remember the life of this incredible activist, community leader, friend, brother, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Born in Kansas City on October 14, 1946, to Wesley H. and Luz O. Lona, Charlie became an active community member of Kansas City's Westside neighborhood—a historic Mexican-American community—at birth. A graduate of Westport High School and Metropolitan Community College, Charlie took over his family business and transformed it into a Westside, and Midwest, staple.

Through dedication, effort, and business acuity, Charlie transformed his father's automotive repair shop into one specializing in building custom lowriders. His business, Lona & Sons Hydraulics, brought this unique aspect of Chicano culture to Kansas City. As Charlie allowed lowrider culture to make its mark on Kansas City, his skill and work brought attention from all over the United States.

Charlie's contribution to Kansas City's Chicano community did not stop at his business. He spent his life uplifting and empowering the residents of the Westside through his relentless advocacy and commitment to being a voice for the unheard. Worried that his fellow residents were being excluded from city affairs and left with disproportionately low resources, Charlie became a proud supporter of the Chicano Movement in the 1960s. He courageously marched, organized, and protested for

equal rights and better conditions for the Westside neighborhood and beyond. Charlie also founded the Kansas City chapter of the Brown Berets, a Chicano activist group inspired by the Black Panthers. Collaborating with other famous Chicano leaders like Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales and Cesar Chavez, Charlie inspired Kansas Citians to join El Movimiento.

In addition to bringing nationwide movements to Kansas City, Charlie placed great value on local activism. His political influence helped elect many Chicano leaders to local government, allowing Westside residents to take part in the city affairs from which they long felt excluded. He also is responsible for the founding of the Aztlan Center for Chicano cultural education and empowerment, and for immensely expanding the impact of the Guadalupe Centers, a local social service agency for Latin Americans in the United States, that is now the longest continuously standing agency of its kind. Even as he neared the end of his life, Charlie never wavered in his fight for justice and equity.

Though Charlie has passed, his legacy and impact on Kansas City will remain long past our mortal lifetimes. I am reminded of Mark 10:45—"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Charlie's life was one dedicated to serving others in need, bettering the lives of countless people throughout. Charlie is survived by his loving family, friends, and the current and future generations of the Westside. As we celebrate and fondly appreciate the decades of devoted service from Charlie, let us be inspired by him to advocate for justice and uplift our community.

RECOGNIZING BILLY COVINGTON

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Billy Covington and his dedication to leading the youth at the Jenkins Athletic Club.

Billy is just now retiring after an impressive 30 year run as the organization's executive director. However, Billy's love for the club began well before he took on this leadership role. In fact, the Jenkins Athletic Club provided a formative experience for Billy in his youth.

It was here where Billy developed a passion for basketball and the club itself, later winning the state crown for Savannah High in 1974 and continuing to play at Livingston University and South Georgia State College.

Under his leadership, the Club's programs served the community's youth greatly. Just last winter, it had an astounding and diverse cohort of 800 kids in their basketball league. As described by Billy, the Jenkins Athletic Club is not just an afterschool program, but a haven of sports and coaches who care about its youth and their families.

Congratulations to Billy on his retirement. His impact within his community will be felt forever.

RECOGNIZING THE 12 AND UNDER MAMIE JOHNSON LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 12 and under Mamie Johnson Little League softball team for winning the 2024 District of Columbia Little League State Championship and advancing to the Eastern Regional Tournament of the Little League Softball World Series. The team has made D.C. proud.

Founded in 2021 and named after the first woman to pitch in the Negro Leagues, the softball division of the Mamie Johnson Little League has given girls in D.C. the opportunity to learn softball fundamentals. Congratulations to the entire team: Noelle O'Brien, Cayla London Smith, Sasha Wilson, Shawndella Walker, Emily Alvarenga, Alayana Kennedy, Aryn Davis, Lyric Barnett, Devin Barnes, Kellyn White and Karsyn White.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring these talented young women from the District of Columbia on their tremendous achievement.

CELEBRATING MOTT'S LOUNGE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a truly remarkable milestone: Mott's Lounge in Burlington, Illinois, celebrates 100 years of rich history, community spirit, and unwavering dedication to its patrons. Founded in 1924 by the pioneering couple Albert and Flora Mott, Mott's Lounge has encapsulated a century of history, evolving through the ages while remaining a cherished cornerstone of the community.

During the roaring twenties, Mott's found itself amidst lively dancehalls, just steps away from a train station that connected folks to the city of Chicago. It was during this era of Prohibition that Mott's Lounge was ingeniously labeled a cafeteria. But behind those walls, it thrived as a lively speakeasy. The cryptic whispers of train conductors providing coded announcements of "Next stop, Vinegar Hills!" have resonated through the years, echoing the spirit of resilience and adventure that characterized that era. Thanks to cleverly concealed back doors leading into cornfields, countless patrons found both refuge and refreshment, forging bonds of camaraderie that still stand strong today.

As we reflect on this remarkable journey, we honor not only the legacy of its founders but the remarkable women who kept the establishment alive. Following Albert's passing in 1950, Flora Mott led Mott's Lounge with grace until her retirement at the age of 85, living a remarkable 101 years. Upon her retirement in 1980, the reins were passed to her granddaughter, Shirley, who transformed the cafeteria into the vibrant lounge we all know and love.

Under Shirley's leadership, Mott's Lounge blossomed as a true community hub. Her unwavering commitment to philanthropy and community welfare is a legacy etched in the hearts of Burlington residents. From opening her home to those facing hardships to hosting successful fundraisers for the United Way, Shirley not only transformed a business but also transformed lives.

Today, the legacy of Mott's is preserved through Shirley's son and his family, who proudly represent the fourth generation of Mott's stewards. They continue to uphold the values of generosity and community spirit that have long defined this establishment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate this centennial achievement. I ask my colleagues to join me in a heartfelt congratulations on 100 years of exceptional service, generosity, and community spirit. May the next century bring continued success, growth and connection with this generous community.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN TOM HAAG

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Haag, my close, personal friend and Chairman of the National Corn Growers Association.

Tom has served on the National Corn Growers Association board since 2016 and has led NCGA on the executive leadership team since 2021. Before NCGA, he was a longtime member of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, serving as its President from 2012 to 2013. Tom is also a fourth-generation family farmer in Eden Valley, Minnesota, growing over 2,000 acres of corn and soybeans with his son Nathan.

I am thankful to have had a strong working relationship with Tom throughout his time at NCGA. During his long career working on behalf of Minnesota corn farmers, Tom has been a strong leader and advocate for expanding opportunities for Minnesota's biofuel producers and refiners. Thanks to the hard work of people like Tom, Minnesota became the first state to require biodiesel in our diesel fuel blends in 2018.

In Congress, I am proud to be a co-chair of the bipartisan House Biofuels Caucus and a strong advocate for renewable biofuels. In particular, I have urged the EPA to consider how biofuels can address climate change and improve emissions standards. Minnesota-grown biofuels are critical tools that we have at our disposal right now to help address climate change and stimulate Minnesota's economy, thanks to leaders, and farmers, like Tom.

I'm grateful for our partnership, and I thank Tom, known as "The Legend," for his tireless advocacy on behalf of Minnesota family farmers and corn farmers across our country.