

HONORING GUSTAVOUS "GUS"
HOLMES BELL

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 honor the life of Gustavous "Gus" Holmes Bell III of Savannah, GA, who passed away on July 22nd at the age of 86.

Gus, known by many as "Buster," was a dedicated, hard-working man, who earned a degree in Civil Engineer from The Citadel before attending graduate school at the University of Kentucky.

Gus was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant as a Reserve Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army. After assignments in Virginia, Texas, and New Mexico, Gus moved to Kentucky and was hired in an engineering role. Gus, eventually landed in Savannah and was honorably discharged in 1969.

Gus was an engineer who was instrumental in establishing a partnership between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. In honor of Gus's contributions to the city, Former mayor Eddie DeLoach declared August 11th as "Gus H. Bell III" Day in Savannah.

Gus was also a founder of St. Andrews on the Marsh School in Savannah and a member of First Presbyterian Church in Savannah.

Gus was married for 42 years to his beloved wife Mandy. After her passing, he was blessed to marry Jan Hall. He is survived by his three children, Lisa, Adam and Holmes, as well as his grandchildren and great grandchildren. We mourn his loss and keep him and his family in our prayers.

HONORING WESTFIELD HIGH
SCHOOL COACH CHRISTOPHER
TAFELSKI

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Westfield High School track coach Christopher Tafelski on his recent designation by the U.S. Boys' Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) as the 2024 Boys' High School Track and Field Coach of the Year for the State of New Jersey. This is not Coach Tafelski's first award from the USTFCCCA, and I am certain it will not be his last. Coaching for the track and field and cross country programs at Westfield High School since 2004, Tafelski, a WHS alum himself, has worked to build a team that is not only award-winning, but one with a strong sense of community. Tafelski has led the renowned WHS track and field and cross country teams to multiple national qualifications and state championship titles among countless other accolades. I am honored to have such a dedicated coach and educator in our district, and I look forward to seeing both Coach Tafelski and the Westfield track and field and cross country programs continue to thrive in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, 2024, I was unable to vote due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 400.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I tested positive for COVID in Louisiana, and was restricted from travel to D.C. for the week of July 22 through July 26.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 356; NAY on Roll Call No. 357; YEA on Roll Call No. 358; YEA on Roll Call No. 359; YEA on Roll Call No. 360; YEA on Roll Call No. 361; YEA on Roll Call No. 362; YEA on Roll Call No. 363; YEA on Roll Call No. 364; YEA on Roll Call No. 365; YEA on Roll Call No. 366; NAY on Roll Call No. 367; NAY on Roll Call No. 368; NAY on Roll Call No. 369; NAY on Roll Call No. 370; NAY on Roll Call No. 371; NAY on Roll Call No. 372; NAY on Roll Call No. 373; YEA on Roll Call No. 374; YEA on Roll Call No. 375; YEA on Roll Call No. 376; YEA on Roll Call No. 377; YEA on Roll Call No. 378; YEA on Roll Call No. 379; YEA on Roll Call No. 380; YEA on Roll Call No. 381; YEA on Roll Call No. 382; YEA on Roll Call No. 383; YEA on Roll Call No. 384; YEA on Roll Call No. 385; YEA on Roll Call No. 386; YEA on Roll Call No. 387; YEA on Roll Call No. 388; YEA on Roll Call No. 389; YEA on Roll Call No. 390; YEA on Roll Call No. 391; YEA on Roll Call No. 392; YEA on Roll Call No. 393; YEA on Roll Call No. 394; YEA on Roll Call No. 395; YEA on Roll Call No. 396; YEA on Roll Call No. 397; YEA on Roll Call No. 398; YEA on Roll Call No. 399; YEA on Roll Call No. 400.

CONGRATULATING CITY MARKET

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 celebrate the 76th anniversary of City Market, the supplier to Sea Island Corporation and many other restaurants in South Georgia.

City Market was founded in 1848 in Brunswick by Harold Sigmund and E.W. Stanford, Sr. Upon E.W. Stanford, Sr.'s death that same year, his 18-year-old son and E.W. "Captain Red" Stanford, Jr. took over the business. The two eventually bought out Mr. Sigmund and continued building a great reputation for the business.

City Market then moved to its current location on Gloucester Street in 1969. After his passing, Captain Red left the legacy of City Market to his grandson, Frank "Little Red"

Owens, Jr., as well as his brother and sons, Walker and Wyatt Owens. Left to run the packing house was his son-in-law, Bruce Collins, Sr.

Through the dedication of the family and its loyal customers, City Market has continued to grow and prosper. Congratulations to City Market, a true family business, on 76 years of success and hard work.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY OFFICER PROTECTION ACT OF 2024

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Department of the Treasury Officer Protection Act of 2024. This bill would help protect Treasury Department police officers and the public by allowing all the officers, including those who work at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), to carry their government firearms home.

BEP officers are not allowed to take their government firearms home. However, BEP officers can be targets because they wear uniforms to and from work. Many BEP officers carry personal firearms to and from work because they are not allowed to take their government firearms home, and some are forced to leave those personal firearms in their cars while they are on duty, creating a possibly dangerous situation.

Allowing BEP officers to carry their government firearms home will put them in the same position as Mint officers. Although both agencies are under the Treasury Department under Treasury Department rules, Mint officers are allowed to carry their government firearms home, while BEP officers are not. There is no meaningful distinction between officers for these two agencies. They should be treated equally.

This bill would allow all police officers in the Treasury Department to carry their government firearms home to protect officers and the public, eliminating separate carrying rules for the Treasury Department's different law enforcement agencies.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING JACK RICHTMAN'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a truly remarkable milestone—the 100th birthday of Mr. Jack Richtman, a true American hero.

Jack's life is a testament to resilience, service, and the enduring power of family. A longtime resident of Elburn, Illinois, Jack served our Nation with distinction during World War II. Six months after D-Day, he landed on the beaches of Normandy, bravely fighting in six battles as a gunner on a mortar unit for the Army's 71st Infantry Division. His contributions were instrumental in aiding Allied forces in post-war efforts throughout Europe.

Growing up on the South Side of Chicago, he faced the challenges of the Great Depression, eventually moving to Wisconsin to continue his education. While a Junior in high school, Jack's patriotism ignited after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. His dedication to service led him to the artillery unit, where he honed his skills through rigorous training in California. After the war, Jack served in Austria and returned home with a lifetime of memories and a heart full of gratitude for his fellow servicemembers and the freedoms he defended.

Upon returning home, Jack married his high school sweetheart, Karwyn, building a life filled with love in St. Paul, Minnesota. Their union blossomed into a remarkable family of 12 children, a testament to their unwavering commitment to each other. With a degree in chemistry, Jack's career led him to Illinois in 1971, eventually landing in Elburn in the 1990's, where he has resided ever since.

After 32 years of marriage his wife Karwyn passed away in 1978, but Jack's love for family never wavered. He found love again with Mary Perkins, a widow with eight children, whom he married in 1980. This union brought together a blended family of 19 children, and has blossomed to include 52 grandchildren, and 52 great-grandchildren.

Today, surrounded by his loving family, he stands as a beacon of strength, embodying the spirit of sacrifice and service that defined his generation. Jack continues to live a fulfilling and energetic life in Elburn with his son, Tom.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Jack Richtman and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jack Richtman's extraordinary life and unwavering patriotism. He is an inspiration to us all, and his 100th birthday serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who came before us.

CONGRATULATING STEVIE CANNADY

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 Golfweek Super Senior National Championship Winner Stevie Cannady. Mr. Cannady turned 65 in early January, making 2024 his inaugural season in the Super Senior division.

Prior to his National Championship victory, he had his best finish of 2024 in early May at the Lowcountry Senior invitational, placing in the top 5. He hit 86 percent of fairways and 89 percent of greens with a final-round score of 70, jumping up to the lead and placing first in the National Championship.

Aside from his many golf achievements, Mr. Cannady owns a logistics company specializing in trucking, warehousing, and commercial real estate.

Cannady is a valued member of our community and a force on the golf course. Congratulations to Mr. Cannady on an amazing accomplishment, and I can't wait to see what he achieves next.

CELEBRATING THE REEVES-REED ARBORETUM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the Reeves-Reed Arboretum on their 50-year anniversary. I am grateful to be able to celebrate this incredible milestone with the Reeves-Reed family and our community. The Reeves-Reed Arboretum is a beautiful natural setting of a forest and gardens that engages, enriches, and teaches its visitors about environmental stewardship. For the past 50 years, they have shown their dedication to our community through programs and activities for all ages to grow through connecting with nature. Reeves-Reed has something for everyone, including summer camps for children, gardening and hiking groups, scout events, and many opportunities to learn and reflect. As a non-profit organization, the Arboretum and its staff are dedicated to their mission of helping our community and being an educational and spiritual resource for its visitors. Reeves-Reed is also a cornerstone of Summit's cultural landscape, and its 13.5 acres are listed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places. As we reflect on the past 50 years at Reeves-Reed they have exceeded the expectations and I know they will continue to do so for the next 50 years to come. I am honored to have such an amazing community in the 7th Congressional District, and I look forward to what is to come.

CONGRATULATING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. LOURDES "LULU" BLACKSMITH

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Lourdes "Lulu" Blacksmith on her retirement and to honor her many years of dedicated service to communities across Kane County and beyond.

Dr. Blacksmith's Journey is a testament to the American Dream. Born in Querendaro, Michoacán, Mexico, she arrived in the United States in 1974, embracing a new land with open arms and a thirst for opportunity.

Her career path reflects a commitment to public service and community engagement. Dr. Blacksmith began her exemplary career as the Manager of Community Outreach at AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center in Aurora, Illinois. She went on to serve as the Director of Community Relations and District Press Secretary for the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, demonstrating her ability to navigate the complexities of government and advocate for the needs of constituents. Most recently, she served as the Managing Director of Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs for Elgin Community College, where she helped bridge the gap between education and the community.

In addition to her professional achievements, Dr. Blacksmith has dedicated herself to

empowering marginalized communities. In 1999, she founded *Compañeros en Salud*, an organization that provides vital healthcare resources to the Hispanic community and other diverse groups. Her commitment to social justice is evident in her active membership in numerous organizations, including the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley, RISE of South Elgin, and the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Blacksmith's tireless efforts have been recognized with numerous awards including the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation's Latino Leadership Award, the Quad County Urban League's "Women of Power" Award, and the Chicago Latino Network's Latina Professionals Award.

Her academic achievements are equally impressive. Dr. Blacksmith earned her Doctor of Education degree in Leadership in Higher Education and Organizational Change from Benedictine University, a Masters degree in Higher Education Leadership from Northwestern Illinois University, her Bachelors degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis on Multicultural Studies from DePaul University, and an Associate's degree in Applied Sciences from Waubesa Community College.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Lourdes "Lulu" Blacksmith. Her dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to serving others have left an indelible mark on our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her as she embarks on this new chapter in her life with her husband Steve, two daughters Nikki and Stefanie, and her grandchildren Sophia and Stephen. We wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement, and we express our gratitude for her contributions to Kane County and the Nation.

HONORING WILLIAM ARTHUR HUGHES

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 mourn the loss of William Arthur "Bill" Hughes, who sadly passed at the age of 96.

Bill served for three years in the United States Marine Corps and attended the FAA Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City, which launched him into his 28-year career as a dedicated air traffic controller.

After his time in Oklahoma City, Bill and his beloved wife, Nancy, lived in Wilmington, North Carolina, Savannah, Georgia, and Isle of Hope. After settling down in Isle of Hope, Bill began his second career as a "starter" of one of Skidaway Island's golf courses.

Mr. Hughes was also well known for his incredible athletic skills. Bill played on the Marine Corps football team and was a highly talented bowler.

Bill and his wife Nancy are survived by their three children, William, Martha, and Jennings. Mr. Hughes was a hardworking individual who will be missed greatly by his family, friends, and coworkers. I send my most sincere condolences to Bill's wife and three children. My thoughts and prayers are with all his family and friends in this moment.