

Further, Mr. Ansari is committed to serving others through his faith. As the beloved religious leader of Masjid Nu'Man, Mr. Ansari has become a symbol of hope for the Muslim community and the interfaith community of Western New York. Under Mr. Ansari's leadership, the mosque has held numerous community events in the City of Buffalo, including the "Putting the Neighbor Back in the Hood" event showcasing the Fillmore neighborhood of Buffalo, food and grocery distribution events, annual African American history programs, and regular neighborhood clean-ups. Mr. Ansari's interfaith work has taken him across the world in service of others, working at the Vatican in Rome and in Istanbul, Turkey.

After 9/11, Mr. Ansari brought together over 50,000 people from all walks of life to pray for peace on the steps of Buffalo's City Hall. On September 23, 2001 during the "A Player for America" Interfaith Prayer Ceremony in Yankee Stadium for the families of the victims of 9/11, Mr. Ansari delivered a translation of the Adhan, the Muslim call to prayer.

Today, Mr. Ansari's dedication to serving others and to his faith is being honored with the Hal Payne Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of Buffalo State University. Please Join me in congratulating Mr. Fajri Ansari on this incredible achievement and thanking him for all he does to make Western New York a better place.

RECOGNIZING LAURA BRIGGS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Laura Briggs, who has served as one of my most trusted staff members for more than a decade in her role as a District Field Representative and District Scheduler. Laura is leaving my office after 14 years of distinguished service. For 12 of those years as District Scheduler, Laura has been the glue that has kept my office running efficiently. It is often said that the scheduler has the hardest job in a congressional office. One must possess exceptional organizational skills, a strong work ethic, initiative, professionalism and above all else thick skin. These are all qualities that Laura not only displays but sets the standard.

Constituents of the Sixth Congressional District have also had a fierce advocate in Laura, who has helped countless constituents resolve issues with the federal government. Her advocacy and commitment were never more on display during Superstorm Sandy which devastated my district in 2012 and the COVID pandemic that gripped the world. In the weeks, months, and years following Sandy, Laura was a key field representative helping victims recover and rebuild when everything was lost. During the height of the pandemic, Laura became a leader in my office, helping constituents gain much needed access to unemployment benefits and helping businesses gain access to grants and loans to keep their doors open. Without exaggeration, hundreds of families were able to put food on the table during a time of great uncertainty because of Laura's tireless efforts.

Before joining my office in 2010, Laura started her career in public service as an aide to

three different New Jersey Governors, Richard Codey, Jon Corzine, and Chris Christie. Serving in roles as a scheduler in the Operations office of the Governor and Aide to the Governor in the Appointments Office. Laura received her B.A. in Political Science Magna Cum Laude in 2005 from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Over the last 14 years, Laura has spent a lot of long days, nights and weekends serving my office and ultimately the people of the Sixth Congressional District. I also want to acknowledge the love and support she has received from her husband Jon and her two children Sarah and Andrew. In addition to her public service, Laura is also dedicated to her children and her community, serving as a member of the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore and a volunteer coach with the Point Pleasant Soccer Association.

Mr. Speaker, it should go without saying that the American people, New Jerseyans, and the people of the Sixth Congressional District have been well served by Laura Briggs for the last 14 years. Even though she is moving on from her service to the United States Congress, I wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors and know that whatever path she chooses will be a successful one.

HONORING MR. TRAVIS BELL ON BEING INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL BARBER MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Travis Bell on being inducted into the National Barber Museum and Hall of Fame.

Our military is the best in the world, and Fort Liberty, formerly Fort Bragg, is the largest military base in the world. Cutting hair for some of the highest-ranking military officers in the world is something Mr. Bell has excelled at for 55 years.

Bell grew up in Lumberton, North Carolina working on a farm and learned haircutting from his brother, eventually becoming the most sought-after barber on base. He has truly lived an American dream with leading war heroes, Special Forces legends, Commanders of the 18th Airborne Corps, Generals from the famous 82nd Airborne, and even Secretaries of Defense, all sitting in his chair, requesting his services. Mr. Bell credits his success to his loving and supportive family, and his faith in God.

Through years of hard work, Mr. Bell has shown his commitment to our service members stationed at Fort Liberty, and we thank him for his dedication and service to the folks who keep us safe. This induction is a momentous achievement and Mr. Bell should be immensely proud of all he has accomplished throughout his storied career. Anybody who cuts the hair of Four-Star Generals on a day-to-day basis has definitely earned their spot in the National Barber Museum and Hall of Fame and I'm proud to recognize and celebrate his incredible success today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Mr. Travis Bell on being inducted

into the National Barber Museum and Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING THE LATE MR. CASEY PRICE

HON. MIKE EZELL

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2024

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Mr. Casey Price, of Ellisville, Mississippi, and to acknowledge the local events that are being held this week in his honor.

After graduating from Enterprise High School in Mississippi, Mr. Price was among the first African American students to receive an athletic scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi. He embraced this opportunity and went on to make his name in Mississippi's Fourth District on the basketball court, averaging eleven points and nine rebounds per game. After a successful collegiate career, Mr. Price applied the skills from his achievements at the university to benefit his community.

Upon graduating in 1974, Casey Price began coaching at South Jones High School in Mississippi. His coaching methods made a lasting impact on his players, leading the team to a championship and providing invaluable lessons on winning and leadership. However, Mr. Price's influence extended well beyond basketball.

Seen as a father figure by many, there are numerous stories of how his unwavering encouragement in all aspects of life left an indelible mark on everyone in the community who had the privilege of learning from him. Even in retirement, he continued to support his former students. Mr. Price set a strong example both on and off the court, and I am confident those who knew him will continue to be motivated by his legacy.

I am deeply grateful for Mr. Price's work and his commitment to shaping many lives in South Mississippi. Let us all follow his example to encourage the next generation of local leaders.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S BEACH VOLLEYBALL TEAM ON THEIR 2024 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2024

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the University of Southern California (USC) Women's Beach Volleyball National Championship win. Their victory on May 5th marked the team's fourth straight championship and seventh overall national title, as well as the 136th national championship for the University of Southern California. In addition, it is the 28th National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) win for the Woman of Troy.

On behalf of the 37th Congressional District, I want to extend an enthusiastic congratulations to Ashley Pater, Grace Hong, Delaney

Karl, Maby Thomas, Olivia Bakos, Madison Goellner, Madison White, Emily Fitznek, Bailey Showalter, Megan Kraft, Maddi Kriz, Delaynie Maple, Molly Phillips, Zoey Mitchell, Audrey Nourse, Ainsley Radell, Grace Seits, Klaire VanDeusen, Gabby Walker, Kaylee Young, and Nicole Nourse on their impressive triumph. Kudos for all their hard work.

I would also like to congratulate Coach Dain Blanton, Assistant Coaches Gustavo Rocha and Emily Hansen, and Director of Operations Claire Kieffer-Wright, who all played a vital role in leading these young women to victory. Their dedication to drawing out the best in their players and serving as encouraging voices has no doubt played a part in this victory.

Athletics are a celebration of the human spirit. Playing a sport at the Division I collegiate level is no small feat, that level of play requires hustle and determination. The Women of Troy have shown us the power of unity in achieving high-arching goals; their spirit of camaraderie has allowed them to overcome obstacles and emerge victorious. Their shared goal and commitment to one another helped them achieve an unprecedented fourth-straight championship for a USC women's team.

In June, we celebrated the 52nd anniversary of Title IX. Decades ago, women wouldn't have had the opportunity to be part of a collegiate level, championship-winning team. The USC Women's Beach Volleyball team has inspired countless young girls to pursue their dreams fearlessly and are a testament to the progress that has been made in athletics.

The Women of Troy secured their seventh beach volleyball national title while battling their crosstown rivals, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Bruins. Twin sisters Audrey and Nicole Nourse won the deciding match for a second year straight, leading their team to claim victory once again in the 2024 NCAA championship.

The Nourse sisters, along with other graduating student-athletes, deserve special recognition as they move on to new endeavors. Seniors Olivia Bakos, Megan Kraft, and Delaynie Maple and graduate students Ainsley Radell, Grace Seits, Maddi Kriz, Molly Phillips, Emily Fitzer, Audrey Nourse and Nicole Nourse should be proud of then leadership and example-setting. We will all miss watching them play, and we will never forget the mark they have made.

As a USC alumna, I was excited to meet the Women of Troy and congratulate them on their National Championship title. I could not be prouder to share an alma mater with these remarkable women. I stand here today to say Fight On, Trojans.

HONORING CONRAD SHIPYARD ON THE DELIVERY OF THE FIRST NEW CLASS YRBM VESSEL TO THE U.S. NAVY

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Conrad Shipyard for its delivery of the first new class Yard, Repair, Berthing, and Messing (YRBM) vessel to the U.S. Navy.

Conrad Shipyard has a legacy of quality and safety in providing premier vessels to the U.S. government and commercial enterprise. The new class of YRBM vessels are needed to modernize the living and housing conditions for thousands of Navy personnel. These vessels will provide a temporary home for our service men and women whose other vessels are in port for repair and maintenance.

I have had the privilege of touring Conrad Shipyard in Morgan City, Louisiana and seeing firsthand the finished product of a dedicated, skilled workforce. The work being done at Conrad and shipyards in South Louisiana drives economic growth, brings jobs and prosperity to our community, and provides our Armed Forces with the necessary tools to secure America.

The new class of YRBM barge craft are essential to the modernization effort led by the U.S. Navy. We should all celebrate Conrad Shipyard's delivery of the first new class YRBM vessel to the U.S. Navy, on track and on schedule, and the work they continue to accomplish for the betterment of the U.S. military.

On behalf of Louisiana's 3rd District, I congratulate Conrad Shipyard on this momentous achievement. I am grateful to the skilled workforce at Conrad for making this possible and thank them for the vital part they play in bolstering our defense maritime industrial base.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF AIR FORCE 1ST LT. RAYMOND T. PLEVYAK

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2024

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Air Force 1st Lt. Raymond T. Plevyak, who will be honored with a Memorial Headstone Marker Service at Arlington National Cemetery.

Air Force 1st Lt. Plevyak was a distinguished F-51D Mustang pilot who went missing in action during the Korean War in 1952.

Though he was declared Killed in Action (KIA) in December of 1953, his bravery and commitment to his country remain deeply honored.

Plevyak entered the U.S. Air Force from Pennsylvania and was assigned to the 67th Fighter-Bomber squadron, 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing.

On March 1, 1952, he departed Hoengsong Air Base in Korea, piloting an F-51D Mustang with the call sign "Topkick Fox Three."

After completing its primary mission of targeting rail lines, the "Topkick Fox" flight of four took fire on its secondary reconnaissance mission, resulting in damage to the lead aircraft.

It was during this mission that 1st Lt. Plevyak went missing.

Despite extensive searches by his fellow pilots, he was never found and remains unaccounted for.

Plevyak's name is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

Along with other medals and citations, he is a Purple Heart recipient. Today, we honor his

memory and the extraordinary sacrifice he made in service to our Nation.

We must always recognize and honor the service members that made the ultimate sacrifice, like 1st Lt. Plevyak. We thank him and his family for his service.

HONORING SHERMAN L. JENKINS' IMPACT ON THE CITY OF AURORA

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I use today to honor Sherman L. Jenkins for his exceptional contributions to our community, particularly through his work with the Quad County African American Chamber of Commerce and his extensive service to the City of Aurora. As a stalwart advocate for economic development, Sherman has dedicated over 20 years to enhancing the prosperity of the city. His leadership as the Assistant Director and later as the Executive Director of the Aurora Economic Development Commission was marked by key initiatives, such as the successful opening of the Hollywood Casino and the establishment of the Chicago Premium Outlet Mall. These milestones not only raised Aurora's profile, but also significantly contributed to the local economy.

In addition to his professional achievements, Sherman's commitment to community engagement is unparalleled. Even after his retirement in 2012, he remained an active force within the city, serving as an alderman at-large for six years, participating in community events, and driving initiatives that foster collaboration and growth.

Moreover, Sherman's passion for community service extends beyond his professional endeavors. As a founding member of the Quad County African American Chamber of Commerce, he has played a pivotal role in advocating for the African American business community and ensuring that their voices are heard.

His involvement with various organizations, including the Rotary Club of Aurora, the Aurora Public Library Foundation, the Ely Chapter of Lambda Alpha International, and the Northern Lights Development Corporation, exemplify his commitment to civic duty and community well-being.

As he embarks on the next chapter of his life, we celebrate his legacy and the indelible mark he has left on the city. We look forward to seeing his contributions continue to inspire future generations through his digital media company, SLJ Communications, Inc., through which he produces the "Tell Me Something Good" monthly publication that covers African American life outside the City of Chicago, and authored Ted Strong, Jr.: The Untold Story of an Original Harlem Globetrotter and Negro Leagues All-Star.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the legacy of Sherman L. Jenkins and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well in all his future pursuits as he enjoys time with his wife, Juliette, his 3 adult children, and his 3 grandchildren, Jai, Makayla, and Xavier.