

since 1981. His career's impressive capstone came in 2007 when he served as the Vice Commander of the 433rd Airlift Wing at Lackland AFB.

Since retiring from the USAF, Howard has worked tirelessly for other veterans and his community, continuing to exemplify all of the values that are ingrained in our brave men and women in uniform—those of humility, courage, and service above self.

Since 2016, Howard has been the Western U.P. representative for the Veteran's Community Action Team (VCAT), working on many issues and barriers that our veterans face every day. As the Vice-Chairman of the VCAT Steering Committee, Howard and his commendable team were notably able to donate over \$400,000 in food cards to veterans across the U.P.

Howard additionally gives back to his community through the Ontonagon County Veteran's Association, serving as the Commander of Rockland Legion Post 92 and coordinating county-wide veterans' outreach events. As Commander of Post 92, he has almost doubled the membership in seven years.

Every year, Howard plans, organizes, and hosts a Veteran's Day dinner party for almost one hundred veterans and spouses in Rockland, thanking them for their service. He also acts as the speaker for the event each year and personally delivers meals to all veterans that cannot attend.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and entire First District, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Howard Seid for his humble and dedicated service to his community and our Nation. I can think of no one more deserving of recognition as the U.P. Veteran of the Year, and I wish Mr. Seid the best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING WALLY AMOS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Wallace "Wally" Amos, who sadly passed away at 88 years old.

Wally, creator of the Famous Amos cookie empire, left this world much sweeter than he found it. The Famous Amos cookie shop opened in Los Angeles in 1975 and was the world's first cookie shop.

Before creating his cookie business, Mr. Amos served in the U.S. Air Force while stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii. Wally often traveled between Hawaii and California, fulfilling his duties to the U.S. Air Force and his passion for baking cookies.

Mr. Amos is survived by his wife Carol, and his children, Sarah, Michael, Gregory, and Shawn. Wally's hard work and entrepreneurial spirit are testaments to his great character, and he will surely be missed by his family, friends, and his Famous Amos community.

I send my deepest condolences to the Amos family and Wally's friends. Both the family and friends of Wally are in my thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO KEM ANDERSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow South Carolinian and a remarkable public servant. Mrs. Kem Anderson has retired after 28 years of service at the Department of State and the United States Senate. The impact of her work continues to benefit our great country.

A native of Denmark, South Carolina, Mrs. Anderson has worked tirelessly to serve the people of her home state. Earlier in her career, she served as a special assistant to Senator Ernest "Fritz" Hollings (D-SC), where she specialized in immigration casework. She also served on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Subcommittee on the Consumer, chaired by former Vice President Albert Gore; and the Subcommittee on Communications, chaired by Senator Daniel K. Inouye, before joining the State Department in February 1994.

Her State Department career spanned the tenures of nine Secretaries of State. During this time, she worked on numerous high-profile issues, including helping organize the NATO Summit for its 50th anniversary in Washington in 1999. In 1997, she served on the planning committee to rename the State Department's library, the oldest federal government library, after statesman Ralph Bunche, and was recognized by then-Secretary Madeleine Albright for her contributions to these efforts. While serving in the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs, she was responsible for monitoring the work of task forces that were drawing down personnel at U.S. missions in East Africa and served as a control officer for the funerals of two Americans who were tragically killed in the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mrs. Anderson was recently awarded a Meritorious Honor Award for her contribution to the success of the State Department's repatriation of over 100,000 Americans from 136 countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 11, 2020, the United States Senate passed Senate Resolution 567, commending career professionals at the Department of State for their extensive efforts to repatriate U.S. citizens during the pandemic. Her efforts were instrumental in keeping Congress informed on those repatriation efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in commending Mrs. Kem Anderson's extraordinary career and congratulating her on her well-earned retirement. As Mrs. Anderson embarks on this next chapter of her life, I am confident that her years of service will continue to resonate in the halls of Congress, the State Department, and the lives of Americans for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL CAPTAIN VINCENT PAGANO OF BAKERSFIELD ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor California Highway Patrol Captain Vincent Pagano of Bakersfield. Throughout his distinguished career, Captain Pagano has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our community and our country.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Captain Pagano's public service began with his enrollment in the U.S. Navy in 1985. Following his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1989, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in physical sciences, Captain Pagano served as a U.S. Navy helicopter pilot, specializing in anti-submarine warfare and combat search and rescue operations. Captain Pagano served as a Force Protection and Security Office, ensuring security of key military installations, military personnel, and civilians.

Beginning in 1999, Kern County would soon benefit from his Navy learning when Captain Pagano joined the California Highway Patrol, assigned to the Altadena incline. Captain Pagano answered the call of protecting our communities—serving in Buttonwillow, Fresno, and the Grapevine. His leadership and professionalism earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the communities he served, as he was promoted to Sergeant in 2012 and Lieutenant in 2017. From 2019 to 2022, he received his first area command, as Commander in the Fort Tejon Area. Finally, in January of 2022, Pagano was promoted to Captain and Commander of the Bakersfield division of the California Highway Patrol. In this role, he has continued to uphold the highest standards of law enforcement, ensuring the safety and security of the residents of Bakersfield and the millions who traverse California's highways.

Following Pagano's promotion, he immediately launched initiatives to prevent distracted driving deaths and DUIs, and generally encouraging drivers to act more courteously on California's famously busy highways.

California's Central Valley remains beautiful and prosperous, due to the heroism and dedication of people like Captain Pagano, who keep our neighborhoods safe. Captain Pagano's selfless service in both the U.S. Navy and the California Highway Patrol reflects the best of those who wear the uniform. His lifelong embodiment to safety, service, and security, the motto of California Highway Patrol, serves as an example for all who aspire to serve our country and communities with honor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to Captain Vincent Pagano for his outstanding service to our country and his tireless dedication to public safety. On behalf of the 20th Congressional District of California, I would like to congratulate Captain Pagano for his heroic four-decade career protecting our families and communities and wish him the best in his rightly merited retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLE INCORPORATED

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of People Incorporated of Virginia, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. People Incorporated has been a leading advocate for the care of rural Virginians, particularly in Southwest Virginia, since the organization's inception.

People Incorporated got its start in August 1964 in Washington County, providing education, day care and recreation for local residents. At the time, the group was referred to as the Hayter's Gap Community Club before it was changed to the Progressive Community Club.

Expansion of the agency ensued, with services extending to the Bristol area starting in 1974, when it became known as People Incorporated.

The services provided by People Incorporated today help many communities in the Commonwealth, including the people of Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Washington Counties, as well as the City of Bristol. These services include community development projects, family and financial service counseling and employment training, among others.

A resolution from the Virginia House of Delegates commends People Incorporated, noting that the group has grown to such prominence that it "is regarded as one of the most innovative and successful community action agencies" in the country.

Given the struggles and challenges that rural Virginians face, the work of groups like People Incorporated makes a difference and improves the living conditions of many.

I look forward to the continued success of People Incorporated, and thank their leadership, their staff and all affiliates for their tireless commitment to the betterment of our region.

HONORING LARRY STRAUS ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. Larry Straus for his 74 years of dedicated service to the United States Postal Service.

A Drummond Island native, Mr. Straus has been a mail carrier of the USPS since 1950 and has served many Michigan communities over the past seven decades, including Mt. Pleasant and Kingsley. Larry has served the Drummond Island community since 2000 and recently just celebrated his 95 birthday.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. Larry Straus for his 74 years of dedicated service to the United States Postal Service and wish him an incredibly happy 95th birthday.

HONORING LOIS CASON WOOTEN

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Lois Ruth Cason Wooten, who sadly passed away at the age of 95.

Lois studied English and Library Science at the University of Georgia. She took her passion and expertise to work as the Head Librarian at Northside High School in Atlanta, Georgia.

After her time in Atlanta, Lois and her husband Frank moved to Savannah, Georgia where they selflessly served the city in a myriad of ways.

Lois was greatly involved in the Savannah Symphony, Savannah College of Art and Design, and Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Wooten are survived by their beloved daughter, Anna, and their wonderful grandchildren. Lois will always be remembered for her service in the Atlanta and Savannah communities and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

I offer my sincerest condolences to the entire Wooten family. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and Lois' friends today.

HONORING ESTELLA YBARRA FOR HER EXEMPLARY SERVICE AND COURAGE

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Estella Ybarra, from El Paso, Texas, for her exceptional dedication to justice and integrity.

Ms. Ybarra was a juror in a 1990 high-profile case of Carlos Jaile. When the jury convened to deliberate, she believed in Jaile's innocence but ultimately felt intimidated by the aggressive pushes for a guilty verdict by her white, male peers. It was her first time serving in a jury and without a full understanding of the legal system, she felt pressured into a guilty vote, though her conscience told her otherwise.

For almost 30 years, her conscious reminded her of the man whose innocence she believed in. She decided to take action and with great humility, courage, and empathy. She called the El Paso Police Department, who connected her with the District Attorney's office that had won Mr. Jaile's conviction 27 years earlier. The office agreed to reexamine the case.

The reexamination resulted in an Earth-shattering revelation: the District Attorney's office had DNA evidence from the FBI that exonerated Mr. Jaile, but hid the test results. A judge overseeing the re-opened case called the El Paso Police and prosecutor's office's actions "unacceptable" and "grossly negligent if not more."

Estella Ybarra, serving in a capacity that demanded both diligence and empathy, demonstrated remarkable courage and an unwav-

ering commitment to justice. The cascade of events that followed her phone call culminated in Carlos Jaile being released from prison after 27 years of wrongful imprisonment. Her role in this case, as detailed in a recent Texas Monthly article, showcases her dedication to ensuring fairness and integrity within the judicial process.

Ms. Ybarra's actions not only upheld the sanctity of the judicial system but also reinforced the critical role that individuals play in maintaining public trust and confidence.

Today, it is my honor to recognize Estella Ybarra. She embodies the best of El Paso: bravery, persistence, empathy, and a commitment to justice. Her actions exemplify the highest ideals of public service.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARINE EXCHANGE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Marine Exchange of the San Francisco Bay Region, upon celebrating its 175th anniversary. Since its inception, the Marine Exchange has been at the forefront of technological advancement in its industry, implementing groundbreaking improvements to make the maritime industry safer for all.

Originally founded in 1849, the Marine Exchange facilitated safe and efficient maritime trade during the California Gold Rush. Over the decades, the Marine Exchange evolved into a critical driver of innovation in the Bay Area, helping expand and develop the Bay Area's maritime industry. From installing the first electric telegraph on the West Coast to serving as the research and development site for the first vessel traffic service in the country, the Marine Exchange has played an essential role in supporting the America's maritime infrastructure and promoting navigational and environmental safety.

The Marine Exchange's remarkable milestone of 175 years of service demonstrates the organization's sincere commitment to supporting our country's maritime industry and the countless Americans whose livelihoods depend on it. This commitment has led to tremendous economic impact in the Bay Area and beyond, strengthened environmental protections, and improved organization and communication throughout the region.

On behalf of the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to honor the Marine Exchange of the San Francisco Bay Region upon its 175th anniversary and extend my sincere gratitude for its generations of service to the United States maritime industry.