

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.

HONORING CHANCELLOR CAROL
CHRIST'S RETIREMENT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representatives MARK DESAULNIER and ERIC SWALWELL, to honor the retirement of a champion of women's issues, a leader in diversity, and an advocate for high quality and accessible education—Chancellor Carol Christ.

Chancellor Christ began her career in academia at Douglass College, where she studied English Literature and graduated with high honors. Recognizing the value of the liberal arts and sciences, Chancellor Christ earned a Ph.D. from Yale University before immediately joining the English Department at the distinguished University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley).

Chancellor Christ served as a professor at UC Berkeley for over three decades. Her titles included chair of the English Department, dean of Division of Humanities, and provost for the College of Letters and Science. Beyond helping form the minds of the future, Chancellor Christ was key in helping the University achieve its academic and strategic goals.

This made her an ideal choice when in 2017, Chancellor Christ began her term as the 11th chancellor of UC Berkeley. During her term she oversaw academia and education at the highest level. Through thoughtful debate and discussion, strategic financial decisions, the consideration of student and community voices on key issues, and encouragement of a positive environment for education; Chancellor Christ helped cement UC Berkeley as one of the premier learning institutes in the world.

We honor Chancellor Christ and congratulate her on a well-earned retirement. We thank her for her decades of service to educational justice and the careful facilitation of curious young minds and wish her well as she has more time to spend with her children and grandchildren as her legacy continues to grow and impact future generations of students and leaders.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO LIEUTENANT COLONEL
ASA PEARSON

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Lieutenant Colonel Asa Pearson from Bedford, who is retiring from the United States Army after 40 years of honorable service. LTC Pearson began his military career in October 1983, when he enlisted in the Army. He completed his basic training at airborne school and AIT, then he was assigned to the 1st Special Operations Command as a Psychological Operations Specialist. LTC Pearson has been a steadfast pillar in our community, dedicating his time, expertise, and compassion to helping

the knowledge and well-being of those who need it most. During his 40 years of service in the Army, he advanced from Private E1 to Sergeant First Class and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Management from the University of North Texas.

While working as a PSYOP subject matter expert at the John F. Kennedy School of Special Warfare, LTC Pearson was recommended for, and accepted, a Direct Commission. As a Commissioned Officer, he continued his professional development by attending the Bush School of Government to study International Affairs and by earning a master's degree from Texas Christian University. LTC Pearson has consistently sought opportunities to expand his knowledge, attending the Transportation Officer course, the Civil Affairs Officers Advanced Course, and the PSYOP Officers course. In addition, he has served in the following roles: PSYOP Team Sergeant in Desert Storm, Civil Affairs Joint Staff Officer in the Balkans, PSYOP Detachment Commander to Afghanistan, and Civil Affairs Company Commander in the Horn of Africa.

LTC Pearson was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his heroic actions in Desert Storm and has also received four Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, and the Russian Basic Airborne Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Asa Pearson exemplifies the finest North Texas has to offer. As we honor him today, we do so not just with gratitude for his 40 years of service in the United States Army, but also with appreciation for his dedication to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF PA
STATE REP. OBERLANDER

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pennsylvania State Representative Donna Oberlander's advocacy for the 63rd District and to congratulate her on her retirement.

For the past 16 years, Rep. Oberlander has served Clarion and Armstrong Counties, advanced economic opportunities and preserved traditional values.

Throughout her time in public service, Donna has made a lasting impact on our commonwealth. Her legislation, Act 130 of 2022, permitted pilot driverless testing programs, which have created thousands of jobs and contributed billions in investments.

Her advocacy for Act 7 of 2020 has created safer outcomes for medically fragile newborns by regulating milk banks.

Outside of her numerous legislative accomplishments, Rep. Oberlander is a dependable leader. In the Pennsylvania State House, Donna has served as Chairwoman for the House Tourism and Economic and Recreational Development Committee, Republican Whip, Republican Policy Chairman, and Caucus Secretary.

Rep. Oberlander's impressive leadership speaks volumes. She was the first Republican woman to serve as both Republican Whip and Policy Chairman.

Donna Oberlander is an impressive woman; I am fortunate to call her my friend. I thank her for her service to the people of Pennsylvania and wish her well in retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOWELL
"BRENT" SIBLEY

HON. ANNA PAULINA LUNA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lowell 'Brent' Sibley of Oneonta, Alabama, and include in the RECORD his obituary.

Lowell 'Brent' Sibley, 70, of Oneonta, Alabama, passed away on Tuesday, August 6, 2024. He was in the midst of completing a multi-year project developing a retreat in South Alabama to accomplish his son, Forrest's, vision for his Air Force Combat Control brothers. Thanks go out to all "his guys" who have stood in as sons and brothers since 2015.

As a proud Son of the South, Brent was born in Baton Rouge, LA, grew up in Gulf Breeze, FL and made his home in Oneonta, AL. He graduated from UWF with a BS in Marketing, where shortly after, he opened his first business with Chick-Fil-A and made a home for his family. He was an outstanding and dedicated father and worked tirelessly to ensure he gave his children a life full of love and life lessons. He has had a lifelong passion for music and has shared his talent with friends from Shreveport to Pensacola to Gadsden and beyond. His accomplished guitar talent reflected his fierce admiration for the true soul sound of the Blues. An original "Breezer," he leaves behind a legacy of close friendships and of bandmates including the Skydogs who honor the Allman Brothers. His annual Jam for Duane brought together nationwide musical talent and fans for many years. Brent was an avid hunter and woodsman and loved sharing his plethora of knowledge with his children and his brothers within the Special Tactics Community. For those who knew him, Roll Tide. He was also a longtime official of baseball and basketball games. He retired from Realty South in Oneonta, AL.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Raiford and Betty Sibley, and his son, SSgt Forrest Brent Sibley, 21st Special Tactics Squadron.

Brent leaves to cherish his memory his daughter, Jordan Sibley; granddaughter, Sophia, of Pensacola; his fiancée, Mona Maddox; brothers, Bryan Sibley (Sarah) and Dale Sibley; along with nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAYO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Mayo Performing Arts Center (MPAC) in appreciation of its importance to New Jersey's Eleventh Congressional District as a center of entertainment and arts education.

MPAC has its origins in the Community Theater, the first first-run movie theater in