

It is with great pride and admiration that I recognize Congregation Beth Israel's 175 years of contributing to our community and to the broader American tapestry of religious and cultural diversity. The history and ongoing vitality of this institution serve as a powerful reminder of the strength and unity found in faith and community.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Congregation Beth Israel on this historic anniversary. I thank them for all they have done and continue to do for the Jewish community of Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District. May their congregation continue to thrive and inspire for many years to come.

HONORING THE 17TH PRESIDENT
OF FLORIDA SOUTHERN COL-
LEGE, DR. ANNE B. KERR

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Anne B. Kerr, who recently retired from her role as the 17th president of Florida Southern College. Her dedication to academic excellence and a quality campus life experience transformed Florida Southern into one of the best liberal arts colleges in the South.

Dr. Kerr developed her interest in education during her psychology studies at Mercer University. She then earned a master's degree in counseling and a doctorate in higher education administration from Florida State University. Prior to her tenure at Florida Southern, Dr. Kerr held executive roles at Rollins College and the University of Central Florida before serving as the University of Richmond's Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Dr. Kerr's 20-year tenure as Florida Southern College's 17th president was the second-longest in the school's history. Her steadfast leadership yielded the college's highest enrollment numbers and academic ranking. The college became a top producer of Fulbright Scholars in the Nation, a prestigious scholarship for students pursuing studies abroad. To house Florida Southern's monumental growth, the college added 22 new buildings, expanded 20 others and restored many of the famed Frank Lloyd Wright buildings.

Dr. Kerr also helped expand Florida Southern's academic offerings by adding 19 new graduate degree programs, including the Barney Barnett School of Business and Economics, the first named school on campus. Other new programs were added in accounting, education, nursing and physical therapy. On the eve of her retirement, she also announced the emergence of a new undergraduate architecture program, with a graduate program to follow in 2028.

Dr. Kerr declared at the start of her tenure she wanted FSC to be "recognized as one of the nation's small, preeminent colleges." It is safe to say she exceeded her vision. Dr. Kerr's success was driven by her faith and the fulfillment brought by seeing her students achieve their dreams. We are lucky she intends to continue to inspire future generations, returning to Florida Southern in Spring 2025 to teach a leadership course in the Barnett School of Business.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Kerr's accomplishments and passion for students is an inspiration to us all. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing her an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING SAMMIA ALLEN-
THOMAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the exceptional accomplishments of Sammia Allen-Thomas, a remarkable student from Yazoo City High School.

Ranking fourth in her graduating class, Sammia's extensive list of achievements speaks volumes about her dedication, talent, and hard work. Her academic honors include the Highest Honor, Distinguished Academic Endorsement, Mississippi Delta Honor Graduate, ACT 20 Plus Club with a score of 24—the second highest ACT score in the district—Miss ACT for both the 2022–2023 and 2023–2024 academic years; and memberships in the National Honor Society, National Technology Honor Society, and Beta Club. She also served as Vice President of both the Math and Science Club and the National Technical Honor Society.

Balancing a demanding academic schedule, Sammia also excelled in athletics. She was the co-captain of the cheer team for three years, earning the title of UCA All American Cheerleader. Additionally, she served as the co-captain of the softball team, being named Softball MVP and All District Player.

Her hard work has been recognized through numerous awards and scholarships, including the National JROTC Sojourners Award, Delta Honor Scholar, Gerald D. Peyton Scholarship, Yazoo Keeper Scholarship, 21 Club Pageant winner and Scholarship, Community Solutions of Mississippi Scholarship, the fourth Annual Shanda Allen-Smith Educational Scholarship, and the Yazoo City High School Class of 1992 Scholarship. Sammia has also been awarded a full academic scholarship to Mississippi Valley State University, where she plans to major in Early Childhood Education and join the cheer team. She aspires to open a preschool to provide young children with a strong educational foundation.

Beyond her academic and athletic pursuits, Sammia has demonstrated a strong commitment to civic duty. She has volunteered at nursing homes, assisted fellow students with ACT preparation, and actively participated in church activities at New King Solomon M.B. Church. Through these efforts, she has made meaningful contributions to her community, fostering unity and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sammia Allen-Thomas for her outstanding achievements. Her story is a testament to the power of dedication, resilience, and community support. As she embarks on her journey at Mississippi Valley State University, we wish her continued success and look forward to the positive impact she will undoubtedly make in the future.

HONORING JIMMY RUSSELL

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a special man, Jimmy Russell, from Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. Mr. Russell, an icon in the bourbon industry, marks his 70th anniversary at Wild Turkey distillery.

Mr. Russell grew up in Anderson County, five miles from Wild Turkey. He followed in his father's footsteps and went to work at Wild Turkey, then known as Anderson County Distilling, sweeping floors. He rotated jobs and learned all the steps involved in making bourbon, discovering that no job is too small and no task too tedious when it comes to making bourbon the right way. In 1967, he became Master Distiller, a position that he held for nearly half a century. Today he is Co-Master Distiller alongside his son Eddie Russell. He is the longest tenured active Master Distiller in the industry.

Mr. Russell has earned numerous accolades for his outstanding work, including being named to the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame, the Whiskey Hall of Fame, and a lifetime honorary member of the Kentucky Distiller's Association. He has been named a Kentucky Colonel by three Kentucky governors and has been a whiskey judge for the International Wine and Spirits Competition.

Mr. Russell is a fixture at the distillery, where he serves as a goodwill ambassador, greeting tourists at the visitor's center, charming them as he imparts knowledge about bourbon, signing bottles, and posing for pictures. He also samples and shares his opinion on new bourbons being developed at Wild Turkey. He enjoys working alongside his son Eddie and grandson Bruce.

Mr. Russell has contributed greatly to the success of the bourbon industry, one of Kentucky's signature industries. It is my honor to lift up the life of this true Kentucky treasure, Mr. Jimmy Russell, and celebrate his 70 years at Wild Turkey.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
WALKER

HON. ROBERT C. "Bobby" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Mess Attendant 3rd Class David Walker.

David Walker was raised in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he attended I.C. Norcom High School, one of the first Black high schools in Virginia. Before graduating, he decided to leave school to join the Navy. At the time, the Navy offered few jobs to African Americans, so Mr. Walker enlisted as a mess attendant.

On December 7, 1941, David Walker was serving aboard the USS *California* at Naval Station Pearl Harbor when the base was attacked by Japanese forces. The USS *California* sank during the attack, and Mr. Walker sadly perished along with 102 other sailors aboard the ship. The remains of many fallen sailors were identified in the years following

the attack, but Mr. Walker's remains were not accounted for at the time and were reburied in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii.

With advances in identification technology, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency decided in 2018 to exhume unknown remains from the national cemetery in hopes of identifying unaccounted sailors. After nearly 82 years following the attack on Pearl Harbor, David Walker's remains were identified earlier this year and were interred in Arlington National Cemetery on September 5, 2024.

Honoring those who have fallen in the line of duty is one of the most sacred responsibilities of our government. Many like David Walker still wait to be identified decades after sacrificing their lives for their country. I want to thank the staff at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency for their work towards finding David Walker and all other servicemembers still lost. We must continue to support this work, so these fallen Americans may receive the recognition they deserve.

RECOGNIZING DR. MEHMET
ULUPINAR

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mehmet Ulupinar for being awarded the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award.

Dr. Ulupinar received the award because of his service to Little Rock through his work as president of the board for the Arkansas Culture and Dialog Center, a nonprofit that aims to promote the understanding of diverse cultures.

He worked tirelessly to foster relationships between the diverse communities and law enforcement in Arkansas by providing educational, social, and cultural services.

Through his work, central Arkansas will be a safer, more connected community.

I thank Dr. Ulupinar for his great work in central Arkansas and I congratulate him on his outstanding achievement.

HONORING MT. HOREB M.B.
CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor a pillar of the community, Mt. Horeb M.B. Church.

Mt. Horeb M.B. Church was organized in 1864 by Rev. Moses B. Black, a missionary sent to the Mississippi Delta by the Baptist Home Missionary Society. This made Mount Horeb the first African American church in Greenville and Washington County, hence the oldest. He pulled together a small group of former slaves, Paul Woodruff, Jerry Bland, Riley Barnes, Jim Campbell, and Shep Hughes. They named the church Mt. Horeb. Horeb which is another name for Mt. Sinai which means "Desolate Place." The church

boasted a membership of around 310 members.

During the early years, the organizers faced challenges in securing a building for worship, as much of Greenville had been destroyed by federal troops during the Civil War. The first building was located on Levee Street, but it was eventually lost to the Mississippi River and the construction of the current levee. Concerned about the river's encroachment, the congregation heeded the advice of the Church's Elders and relocated to the corner of Nelson and Broadway streets. Due to delays, nearly four years passed before a new building was constructed, leading to 1886 being mistakenly recognized as the church's founding year. Part of the land for the original church was purchased from B.L. Lee for \$135.00, and in 1909, an impressive two-story structure with stained glass windows was completed.

Shep Hughes, the longest surviving member of the original group, served as a vital link to future generations. When the late historian Leon C. Chapple completed the church's history, he asked Brother Hughes, "Why the name Mount Horeb?" noting that there were no mountains, hills, or elevated places within a 75-mile radius. It hadn't occurred to Brother Hughes why the church was named Mount Horeb. His response, though simple, was poignant and sentimental: the founders, barely three years removed from the harshness of slavery, felt like the children of Israel emerging from the valley of sin. They began to thirst, not for natural waters, but for the waters of righteousness. Thus, they named the church Mount Horeb, envisioning it as a place where the weary and repentant could come to freely drink from God's life-giving waters.

From the founding pastor to their current pastor, Dr. Albert Calvin, Jr., Mt. Horeb has been served by 21 pastors, with Dr. Calvin serving the longest at 45 years.

In 1993, a Historical Marker was erected by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, which is in the front of the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mt. Horeb M.B. Church for its rich heritage and dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL
AEROSPACE WEEK

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Aerospace Week.

For more than a century, American aerospace trailblazers have propelled the United States to the forefront of global innovation in critical sectors—national defense, safe and reliable transportation, sustainability, advanced manufacturing, and space exploration. National Aerospace Week recognizes the vital role that aerospace organizations and workers play in advancing our nation's security, economy, and technological leadership.

The aerospace industry continues to surge to new heights. In 2023 alone, American aerospace and defense generated an astounding \$955 billion in total sales across the value chain—from small mom-and-pop businesses

to the largest equipment manufacturers. These businesses support more than 2.2 million highly skilled workers across the country, with nearly half of these jobs coming from the supply chain sector. And Americans want to work in aerospace and defense. Not just because the average income is 50 percent above the national average, but because they identify and connect with the industry's mission and its contributions to the United States. With a footprint in every single state, including in my state of Kansas—home to the Air Capital of the World—the aerospace and defense workforce is the backbone of our economy, contributing \$425 billion to the U.S. GDP last year.

The importance of aerospace and defense cannot be overstated. As a close partner with the U.S. military, the industry is a cornerstone of our national security and a critical component of our asymmetric advantage over our adversaries. It is a key tenet of our national defense strategy, equipping our courageous men and women in uniform with the most advanced and effective systems in the world to deter and, if necessary, fight and win wars. Because of the ingenuity and resilience of American innovators, our military is the best in the world.

We are also the global leader in new technologies in aerospace and air transport—technologies that are highly sought-after across the globe. This includes the fastest, safest, most efficient jets; new technologies like advanced air mobility that will enable Americans to get to wherever they want to go—including, eventually, space; and sustainable innovations that will help us be good stewards of our natural resources for generations to come.

The diverse and innovative nature of the businesses that make up the A&D supply chain keeps America on the cutting edge of an ever-evolving global market. Simply put, the world wants what American aerospace is innovating—we are the gold standard.

As we celebrate National Aerospace Week, let us look to the future, where this industry continues to inspire and drive change that will shape the world for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY
INSTITUTE (EESI) ON ITS 40TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), which is celebrating a 40-year history of advancing climate solutions. The institute was founded by a bipartisan group of members of Congress, including then-Rep. Richard L. "Dick" Ottinger (D-N.Y.), who continues to serve on its board of directors as chair emeritus, and then-Rep. Thomas B. Evans (R-Del.). Since 1984, EESI has worked in a non-partisan manner to provide science-based educational resources to policymakers and the public. As we enter this decisive decade for climate action, the role played by EESI in advancing science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges is more important than ever.