

RECOGNIZING TOM DEBAUN

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former mayor of Shelbyville, Tom DeBaun.

First elected in 2011, Tom served his community as mayor for three terms.

As mayor, he prioritized economic development and residents, establishing an adult high school, creating Advantage Shelby County, and investing in trails and sidewalks to increase accessibility.

Before serving as mayor, Tom was a probation officer and head of the city's building and planning commission.

Today, I thank Tom for his service and support for the Hoosiers of Shelbyville.

CELEBRATING THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF IRENE "QUEEN OF ALGIERS" BURRUS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Irene Burrus, a woman known as a dear friend, mentor and confidant to many, and most notably, a cornerstone of the Algiers community, my hometown and part of the Congressional District I represent, whose influence was felt far and wide. Her commitment to service was evident through her extensive involvement in various organizations.

Irene Burrus, lovingly known as "Ms. Irene" and the "Queen of Algiers," passed away peacefully on August 23, 2024, at the remarkable age of 101. Born on March 31, 1923, Irene's life journey began on a humble farm in rural Mississippi, where she was raised by her parents, Annis and Alonzo Harrison, alongside her four siblings: Ellie, Jack, Ruby, and Imogene. The Great Depression deeply influenced her upbringing, instilling in her a profound resilience and an unwavering sense of community that would define her life. Irene's life was a testament to devotion—to her family, her community, and the countless causes that she championed with passion and dedication.

The year she turned 100, she proudly served as the Grand Marshall of The Algiers Mardi Gras and rode in the 2024 Krewe of NOMTOC. Irene was known for her sharp mind and quick sense of humor, qualities that endeared her to all who had the pleasure of knowing her. She often remarked, "You've got to leave a place better than you found it or we're really in trouble. I hope I've helped." Her life embodied this philosophy, as she worked tirelessly to uplift her community and inspire others to do the same through her active participation and generosity.

As a key figure in the Kiwanis Club, she generously contributed her time and resources to numerous other causes. She served as Vice President of the Board of Welcome Neighbors and was actively involved in the Kiwanis Club, Tall Timbers Garden Club, and the Algiers Charter School Association for

Fundraising. She was a member of the Algiers Police Advisory Group. She not only organized and funded Mardi Gras breakfasts for local officers, but also Irene's dedication also extended to the Military Wives Organization, the Old Aurora Neighborhood Association's Night Out Against Crime, Save Algiers Courthouse, Chalmette Refining's Westbank Citizens' Advisory Council and the Historic New Orleans French Quarter Easter Parade. As a member of the Algiers Republican Women, she tirelessly worked to support and raise awareness for local initiatives.

She was a cherished daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Irene is survived by her loving daughter, Marilyn Mislove, and her son-in-law, Michael. Her legacy continues through her grandchildren: John Crowe (wife Kelly), Rebecca Crowe Claunch (husband Charles), Alan Mislove (wife Talmadge), and Caroline Mislove, as well as her great-grandchildren Ivy, Courtney, Ava, Abby, Sarah, Reeves, Evan, and Mira.

Preceding her in death were her first husband, Arvid Dahl, her second husband, John C. Burrus, and her beloved daughter, Marcia Dahl Crowe.

I am so blessed and grateful to have known this phenomenal woman, a real Trailblazer and Leader, my true friend. Ms. Irene will forever be remembered for her indomitable spirit, her tireless dedication to her community, and her boundless love for her family. Her legacy of kindness, leadership, and service will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know her. I will certainly miss my dear friend.

HONORING CATHY SCHWANKE

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I would like to recognize Cathy Schwanke for her work with the Anthem, New River, Desert Hills, and Phoenix Republican Club.

Cathy saw a need to educate Republicans in the northern most areas of our Congressional District and was a driving force in creating this group. She works tirelessly to keep members engaged in the political process, promote civic engagement, and educate citizens on Republican principles.

I am thankful for Cathy's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day and honor those who were held captive and were returned, as well as those who remain missing.

Established in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is held yearly on the third Friday of September. This day is marked by ceremonies at the Pentagon and at military installations across the Nation. More than 81,000 American service personnel are missing from previous conflicts and approximately 38,000 are believed to be recoverable. I commend the work of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in searching for our missing Americans and ensuring that no service member is left behind.

As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, I work hard each year to ensure that the POW/MIA Accounting Agency has the necessary funding to continue their essential work. We have a duty to these service members that have endured unspeakable indignities to protect and preserve our freedoms. The United States cannot and will not abandon the search for those who gave their last full measure of devotion in overseas wars.

I cannot express the depth of my gratitude for every patriot who have served our Nation. I will continue to use my role in Congress to bring every imprisoned or missing service-member home. Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of our colleagues in the House of Representatives in commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

HONORING SUSTAINABLE SOLANO'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to honor and commend Sustainable Solano as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. This remarkable milestone is a testament to the crucial work Sustainable Solano has accomplished to support sustainable food access in Solano County.

First established as the Benicia Community Gardens in 1999, Sustainable Solano's all-volunteer organization has spearheaded efforts to bolster local food systems and promote ecologically sustainable practices in Solano County. Since its founding, Sustainable Solano has installed 68 sustainable gardens and planted over 400 trees, helping bring green infrastructure to urban areas in Solano County.

Sustainable Solano's critical initiatives are combating food insecurity in our communities, raise public awareness about the climate crisis, and support our local farmers. In addition, Sustainable Solano's efforts to promote youth engagement will help encourage today's youth to become the environmental advocates and sustainability leaders of tomorrow.

As our planet faces increasingly severe threats from the climate crisis, organizations like Sustainable Solano are critical to building sustainable, resilient communities. We look forward to seeing the essential work Sustainable Solano will continue to accomplish in our communities and beyond.

On behalf of the constituents of California's Fourth and Eighth Congressional District, we would like to congratulate Sustainable Solano on its 25th anniversary and extend our sincere gratitude for its service to the Solano County community.

RECOGNIZING THE WOODLANDS,
TEXAS, ON ITS 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tremendous community in my district, The Woodlands, Texas, as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary on October 19th.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, George Mitchell began developing plans for a new hometown called The Woodlands. Mr. Mitchell's vision was for an all-encompassing, integrated community where residents could live, work, play, learn and pray among a natural forested and preserved environment.

Beginning with the modest purchase in 1964 of 2,800 acres from the Grogan Cochran Lumber Company, over the next decade Mr. Mitchell would invest in an additional 17,455 acres as a start to the master planned community. The first public school opened in 1971, and The Woodlands celebrated its grand opening with the opening of the Village of Grogan's Mill on October 19, 1974.

A master planned community far ahead of its time, Mr. Mitchell created in The Woodlands a thoughtful and diverse living experience that balanced the spirit of neighborhood life with business and innovation, all nestled within a grounded natural setting.

Over its five decades, The Woodlands has grown to include nine residential villages, The Woodlands Town Center, Hughes Landing and the Woodlands Waterway, the community's nexus of business and entertainment. The Woodlands boasts some of the highest ranked schools in the greater Houston region, award-winning medical and wellness centers, and places of worship of virtually every denomination. Today, approximately, 2,668 businesses, including the headquarters of major corporations, are based in The Woodlands.

The Woodlands has become an economic juggernaut in the Greater Southeast Texas area led by the development of The Woodlands Town Center. Spanning 1,000 acres, the urban core features premier office and retail space, a plethora of world class dining and entertainment options, hotels, healthcare and residences, all within a walkable environment. Economic development has been key to the success of The Woodlands generating commercial growth that has contributed to sustaining a low tax rate for residents while preserving the exceptional amenities that distinguish The Woodlands from many urban cores.

Likewise, the 151 parks, over 220 miles of hiking and bike trails, pools, public art, water sport destinations and signature golf courses highlight the community's natural surroundings. And yet, with all the community offers, the forest remains. Over the years, nearly one million seedlings have been given away at Arbor Day festivals and planted to enrich the community's forested beauty. Today, almost 8,000 of 28,500 total acres, remains open space.

This dedication to the natural environment was a priority in the development of The Woodlands. Parks have been planned and developed hand-in-hand with residential development. Families can enjoy a park within a 10-minute walk. In fact, The Woodlands was de-

signed to be park plentiful, boasting one park per 815 residents, placing the community 200 percent above the national average for parks per resident, according to the National Recreation and Parks Association.

George Mitchell strategically planned The Woodlands with a focus on residential development first, laying the groundwork and support for a robust commercial destination aimed to create a central hub that would enhance the overall community experience and attract businesses, residents and visitors. Since its founding, The Woodlands has emerged from a fledgling outpost of the Greater Houston area to a thriving community ranked the No. 1 Community to Live in America in 2021 and 2022. As The Woodlands celebrates five decades of diversity, innovation and community pride, we all look forward to its even more promising future.

In recognition of the 50th Anniversary, The Woodlands community will come together for a week of events culminating in a community wide celebration on October 19th. I congratulate The Woodlands on its 50th Anniversary and wish its residents a safe and joyous celebration on this momentous occasion.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER STATE SENATOR PRISCILLA DUNN

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of a beloved educator and public servant, former Alabama State Senator Priscilla Ann Proffitt Dunn, who passed away on September 17, 2024, at the age of 80.

Senator Dunn was born on October 8, 1943, to Johnnie A. Proffitt and Mary Ella Walker in Margret, Alabama. She attended J.S. Abrams High School, where she made a name for herself as the captain of the Cheer Leader Squad and the first Ms. Abrams High.

Upon graduating from J.S. Abrams High School with Honors in the Class of 1961, Senator Dunn continued her educational journey at Alabama State University, where she received a bachelor's degree in education, and the University of Montevallo where she earned her master's degree in education.

With a lifelong passion for education, Senator Dunn worked in the Public School System of Alabama for 30 years where she poured into the children of her community. Known for her kindness and generosity, she often personally paid for school supplies that many of her underserved students could not afford.

In 1998, motivated by the pursuit of justice and an abiding love for the people of her community, Senator Dunn sought public office, bringing her immense talents to the Alabama State Legislature where she represented the Bessemer and Jefferson County area for nearly a quarter century. She began her political career in the Alabama House, where she represented the 56th District from 1998 to 2009. She later represented District 19 in the Alabama State Senate, serving from 2009 until her retirement in 2022. Her 24-year tenure was marked by compassionate and powerful

advocacy on the issues of education, women's and children's rights, and combating the epidemic of homelessness.

Senator Dunn spent her life giving back to her community. She served in a leadership capacity on numerous organizations, including President of the Concerned Citizens of Bessemer Cut-Off, Coordinator for the Jefferson County Democratic Conference, Board Member for the Bessemer Civic Center, President of the Humanistic Challengers Federated Club, Secretary of Girls, Inc. of Central Alabama, Board Member of the Jefferson/Shelby Counties American Cancer Society Advisory Board and Board Member for the State Democratic Executive Committee and many more.

Having accepted Christ into her life at a young age, Senator Dunn was a devoted servant of God who led by example and always practiced what she preached. She was an instructor for the Jefferson County Congress of Christian Education and a Trustee and Sunday school teacher for her home church, the Shady Grove Baptist Church.

Senator Dunn is survived by her beloved husband, the Honorable Grover Dunn; her daughter, the Honorable Karen Dunn Burks (Eric Burks—deceased), her brother, Herman L. Lumzy; two grandsons, Grover Blake Burks and Frederick Brock Burks; nephews, Herman Lumzy (Jasmine), Mario Lumzy (Rhonda); her niece, Tameeka Lumzy Todd (Jeremiah) and a host of relatives and friends.

On a personal note, I was blessed to have known Senator Dunn and her wonderful family. As Alabama's first Black Congresswoman, I stand on the shoulders of amazing leaders like Senator Dunn who opened the doors for me and many others. She was a grand dame whose footsteps we as Black women elected officials in Alabama are blessed to follow.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of State Senator Priscilla Dunn and her decades of exemplary service to the State of Alabama and our Nation.

HONORING AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S DAY

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA), based in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and to celebrate American Business Women's Day.

ABWA's Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter held its first meeting on May 22, 2019. Since then, the organization has provided opportunities for local business leaders to network and learn from one another. Through their work to recognize the rich contributions of women in business, members have brought together businesswomen from various fields and highlighted their voices at the local and national level.

I thank the Fredericksburg Women Inspiring Women Leaders Chapter for their unwavering commitment to fostering growth and excellence, spotlighting the role of local businesswomen in growing Virginia's economy, and