

It is with great honor that I award retired USAF Colonel Jimmie W. Hanes, Jr. with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE HONORABLE ALGENON L. MARBLEY

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the distinguished service of the Honorable Algenon L. Marbley from my district, who has served the Southern District of Ohio since 1997, after his appointment by President Clinton and unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

In 2019, the Judge became the first African American from the segregated South to serve as Chief District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. Under his leadership, the Court remained one of the Nation's most productive, even through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2023, the District was ranked in the top 15 most productive federal district courts. His dedication to justice is unparalleled.

As Chief Judge Marbley celebrates his 70th birthday and concludes his tenure, I extend my deepest gratitude for his service and friendship and wish him continued success in his next chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALAPAHA COLORED SCHOOL

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Alapaha Colored School in Alapaha, Georgia, on November 8, 2024.

Built in 1924, the Alapaha Colored School is one of the last surviving wood-framed schools that served the black population in and around Berrien County, Georgia. Alapaha Colored School was founded by Mr. Nathan Bridges, a former slave who moved to Alapaha around 1880, and Mr. Brutus Shipman, who was raised by Bridges.

This school was in operation from 1924 until 1953, when a modern school was constructed for African American children. The school accommodated eleven grades while only having four classrooms. The school board later used the building for summer GED classes for WWII veterans who could not finish school before the war.

In 2002, after the restoration efforts of Alapaha's former Mayor, James Boone, and several former school students, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, it is a museum for everyone to visit and learn about this important piece of African American history in our district.

This school is a testament to its founders' commitment to educating African American children in Georgia's Eighth Congressional

District. I join the Town of Alapaha in recognizing and celebrating the historic achievements of this establishment.

HONORING STEVE MONTENEGRO

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Arizona State Representative Steve Montenegro from Legislative District 29, covering the West Valley in the Phoenix-metro area.

Representative Montenegro is the Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, and a member of the Government and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. He has earned the Hero of the Taxpayer and the Friend of the Family awards for his voting record throughout his tenure in the Arizona Legislature.

Representative Montenegro is a strong conservative, who has supported many bills to strengthen the state's economy, defend life, secure the border, and safeguard the Second Amendment.

Arizona's 8th Congressional District is thankful for Representative Montenegro's endeavors on behalf of his district and our state.

RECOGNIZING MACY PETTY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Macy Petty, who was named a 2024 Young Christian Woman of Distinction.

Macy Petty is the legislative strategist at Concerned Women for America. In this role, she advocates for biblical values and constitutional principles in public policy. She graduated from Lee University with a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration with minors in business administration, communication arts, and pre-law.

While playing NCAA volleyball at Lee, Macy joined CWA as a women's sports spokeswoman, advocating for sex-based protections at the state and federal level. A platform was created to defend truth through her experience playing against a male athlete on a girls' volleyball team. Her experience has given her the opportunity to speak across the country about the dangers of gender ideology.

Macy is published in news outlets, including Fox News, the Daily Caller and Washington Examiner. She is regularly interviewed on national media outlets, such as Fox News, Fox Business, and Newsmax.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this young woman of distinction.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF JAMES DAVIDSON HALLOWELL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary spirit and life of James Davidson Hallowell; a great son, husband, father, businessman, philanthropist, and community leader.

On July 25, 1933, James was born to Dennis and Doretta (Johnson) Hallowell in Brawley, California. Just one year after his birth, James and his family relocated to Clovis. He graduated from Clovis High School and later pursued higher education at Fresno State. He graduated from Fresno State with a degree in marketing in 1955. James devoted much of his youth to helping at his family's dealership, and after graduation he chose to work full-time at, Hallowell Chevrolet. He later married his high school sweetheart Coralein "Coke" Smith on Valentine's Day in 1957 and began leading the family business in 1965. He was a talented businessman and by the end of his tenure the dealership had generated over \$65 million in sales.

James's work as a philanthropist and community leader was rightfully recognized as he attained many well-deserved accolades throughout his life. From 1969 to 2000, Mr. Hallowell received the Sid Craig School of Business Alumni and Friends Award, the Fresno Junior Chamber of Commerce Award as Fresno's Outstanding Young Man, Time Magazine's Quality Dealer Award, the Leon S. Peters award, the AFP Outstanding Philanthropist Award, and along with Coke he won the Excellence in Business Hall of Fame Award. Finally, he was honored with Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters from Fresno State.

His love for life was reflected in his passion for cycling and biking across Europe along with his community activities. James was a charter member of the Fresno Business Council reflecting his commitment as a businessman who wanted to serve by tackling issues in the community. In 1995 James and Coke made a five-year pledge of \$100,000 to Fresno State. He was on the board of the Fresno Philharmonic and the Fresno Art Museum. Mr. Hallowell had a seat on Community Medical Center's Board of Directors. James cared deeply about the community which is perfectly illustrated by his and Coke's donation of a conservation easement on their 700-acre cattle ranch for the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.

In James's passing, we celebrate a life that left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on through his family; wife Coke, daughters Joell and Elise, and grandchildren, Taylor, and Alden Moir. May we draw inspiration from James's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of James Davidson Hallowell.

CELEBRATING HENRY PELAK'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor my constituent, Mr. Henry Pelak, who turned 100 years old on July 24th of this year. Mr. Pelak has dedicated his life to our country, his family, and Michiganders.

Pelak was born in the summer of 1924 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After high school, he proudly served our country in the United States Navy. Once he completed his training with amphibious naval vessels in Virginia and Florida, Pelak was assigned to be a motor machinist on a naval landing craft and deployed to Europe.

During World War II, Pelak was stationed in England to prepare for the Normandy Invasion. On June 6, 1944, he was on one of the first boats to hit Omaha Beach on D-Day in Nazi-occupied France. His bravery contributed to the successful deployment of troops during the first wave of the Allied Invasion, where he landed military and naval combat demolition units to clear the way for incoming infantry. After the invasion, Pelak was reassigned to a unit in Bremerhaven, Germany, and reenlisted for two more years.

I am so proud to honor Henry Pelak, not only for reaching this incredible milestone, but also for his unwavering service to our Nation. His life stands as a shining example of true courage, resilience, and patriotism.

As we celebrate Mr. Pelak's 100th birthday, I want to express my deepest gratitude for his tremendous service to West Michigan and the United States. May he have a happy, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF KEVIN
SPOUL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to extend my personal congratulations and to honor and recognize a dedicated public servant and community leader, Sheriff Kevin Sproul, on the occasion of his retirement as Sheriff of Dougherty County, Georgia. The community will gather in Albany, Georgia on September 28, 2024, to celebrate his retirement after 42 years of service at the Dougherty County Sheriffs Office.

A resident of Dougherty County since he was 7 years of age, Sheriff Sproul graduated from Albany High School, received an associate's degree in Social Work from Darton College, and a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from LaGrange College at Albany. He also earned the Master Level 5 Gang Expert Certificate in 2007 from the National Gang Crime Research Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Sheriff Sproul started his career at the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office on September 8, 1982. For over four decades, he has worked in virtually every one of its divi-

sions, including jail operations, protecting our roadways, and mentoring the community's young people. Sheriff Sproul understands that fighting crime and ensuring public safety starts with educating our students on character and instilling within them the values they need to be good citizen leaders. Over the course of his career in law enforcement, he has taught over 16,300 students in partnership with the Dougherty County School System.

In 2008, Mr. Sproul launched his campaign for Sheriff with the spirit of service and justice held close to his heart. He is now finishing his fourth term as Dougherty County's top law enforcement official, a position he has utilized to increase the efficiency of his agency, improve the quality of life for inmates, and make Dougherty County a safer place to live and conduct business.

As Sheriff, Sproul made a point to engage with and collaborate with leaders from across the state in order to improve public safety for all. He is a member of Georgia Gang Investigators Association (G.G.I.A.) and has served on the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) National Training Team. He has also served on the Stop the Violence Board, Regional Police Academy Board in Tifton, GA, and the GBI Regional Drug Task Force Board, as well as the Albany Civil Rights Board and the SOWEGA Council on Aging Board.

Sheriff Sproul has contributed so much to his community and accomplished so much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the Grace of God, and the love and support of his wife of 41 years, Vicki, their three children, and one granddaughter.

George Washington Carver once said "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Sheriff Kevin Sproul has embodied the spirit of that quote throughout his career and his community is stronger and more secure thanks to his unwavering leadership.

On a personal note, I am blessed to call Sheriff Sproul my friend, and it has been a pleasure working with him during my time in elective office. Kevin never told me just what I wanted to hear; he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will always cherish the fidelity of his friendship and the timbre of his character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Sheriff Kevin Sproul upon the occasion of his retirement. We wish him and his family all the best as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING THE LANSING
ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to honor and celebrate the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs. As the association prepares to merge with the Eastside

Community Action Center, I want to reflect on its incredible impact and decades-long service to the Lansing community.

Since its founding in 1945, this historic organization, originally known as the Lansing Association of Colored Women's Clubs, has served as a pillar of social, cultural, and economic empowerment, particularly for Black women in Lansing.

Founded through the efforts of Dr. Rose T. Brunson, Mrs. Gertrude Lee, and Mrs. Ina B. Majors, the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs began with a vision to address the needs of local residents. Their determination led them to secure initial funding, which enabled the group to open their original clubhouse. The organization later moved to its present location in 1969, which has since been recognized as a historic site by the Michigan Historical Commission.

The association's legacy is intertwined with the very fabric of Lansing, and its impact can be felt across generations. From its early work establishing a nursery to its many decades of providing a clubhouse where Black organizations could meet and host activities, the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs has been instrumental in advancing opportunities for the Black community.

In response to recent fundraising efforts, the organization will merge this year with the Eastside Community Action Center. This merger will allow the association to continue its programming and contribute to broader initiatives that include youth activities, housing programs, and financial literacy education—initiatives that will carry forward the spirit of the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs.

This upcoming transition marks the end of an era for the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs, but it is also an opportunity to celebrate the organization for striving to form necessary partnerships in its efforts to continue fulfilling its purpose. The clubhouse, a place of significance for the Black community, will continue to serve as a space where important work will take place. Though the name of the organization may no longer stand alone, the values and commitment of the women who built it will continue to inspire new efforts to improve the lives of others.

As we reflect on the association's remarkable history, let us celebrate the generations of women who fostered peace, harmony, and higher standards of living for Lansing residents. It is with deep appreciation that I recognize the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs and its incredible legacy here in the official record of the United States House of Representatives. May its mission continue to guide and uplift the community for years to come.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT
JOSEPH JESSE ROBERT, USAF,
RETIRED, WITH A CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present retired USAF Staff Sergeant Joseph Jesse Robert, of Mart, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His lifelong