

RECOGNIZING THE COURAGEOUS SERVICE OF THE SWIFT WATER RESCUE TEAM OF BRISTOL, VIRGINIA

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous service of Bristol, Virginia's Swift Water Rescue Team.

Formed in 2019, the group operates under the Bristol Fire Department and is the only such swift water team in Southwest Virginia, a region that encompasses more than twenty localities and is bigger in landmass than some U.S. states.

The personnel of the Bristol Rescue Team have fought heroically in the most trying of times.

In August of 2024, Tropical Storm Debby battered much of the Southeastern United States.

A month later, Hurricane Helene ravaged much of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District and devastated numerous communities. Historic levels of flooding resulted from the natural disaster.

In February of 2025, major winter storms hit the region and prompted widespread flooding and, in some cases, community evacuations.

These major weather events were met by courageous rescue officers to respond to severe emergency situations.

The Rescue Team tallied more than 80 rescues in the last six months. Their work is crucial as the region faces recovery challenges.

In the face of a historic natural disaster and other extreme weather events, the Bristol Swift Water Rescue Team has performed admirably.

The people of Southwest Virginia are grateful for the Bristol Swift Water Rescue Team, the hours the Team spends training, and its preparation to carry out brave rescue missions for local communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 64.

CELEBRATING MR. JOSEPH SALONIA'S HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we wish Mr. Joseph Salonia a very happy 100th birthday.

Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts on February 17, 2025, Joseph moved to Connecticut as a young man where he grew up during the

Great Depression, He attended school until the eighth grade before being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943. While in the Army, he served at Fort Hood, Texas for weapons and M-10 tank training before serving in Oregon and Alaska prior to joining the Second World War effort in Italy.

For his service in World War II, Mr Salonia received two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart for his combat wounds. After healing from his injuries, Joseph entered Army intelligence, serving in France, before being discharged from the Army and returning to his home in Connecticut.

For decades, Joseph worked as a construction labor iron worker, a tin knocker, and a real estate agent in Connecticut. He married his bride Margaret and had two daughters, Chris and Brooke.

He celebrates 100 incredible years at his Chiefland, Florida home in Florida's Third Congressional District, Happy birthday to Mr, Joseph Salonia.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. RENE LICHTMAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the life and legacy of Dr. Rene Lichtman, a Holocaust survivor and activist in our community who was deeply committed to justice in Southeast Michigan and around the world.

Rene, who passed away at 87, dedicated his life to teaching others about the Holocaust, ensuring that the stories of survivors would never be forgotten. Through his art, film, and photography, he captured the resilience of the human spirit, and through his activism, he fought for social justice and an end to human suffering.

At the age of 63, Rene got his PhD in instructional technology and spent two decades working at Beaumont Hospital. Even at the end of his life, Rene was painting, organizing with JVP Detroit, and standing up for Palestinian human rights. His impact and legacy will live on through his work and the countless lives he touched. May his memory be a blessing.

HONORING JOANNE MANN

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the well-deserved retirement and honor the career of Joanne Mann.

Joanne spent much of her adult life in and around a military environment, serving on Active Duty and in the Reserves for the U.S. Army from 1986 to 1995 as a combat medic. Joanne then joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District in 1995 as a Legal Assistant.

Joanne Mann has served as the Nashville District's Executive Officer and Congressional

Liaison since 2007, where she has been an integral part of the delivering water resource projects for the Nation. She has been the primary liaison for the District, facilitating the building and maintaining of relationships with stakeholders and members of Congress. Joanne has also stepped up in times of need, deploying to Biloxi, MS immediately following Hurricane Katrina, in support of the Corps' Blue Roof program.

Joanne's contributions to the Nation have been recognized with numerous professional awards, including the Commander's Award for Civilian Service and the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal.

With a lifetime dedicated to service, partnerships, and people, Joanne's legacy stands as an example of what it means to live in service of our Nation. Her care and compassion, not only for the mission, but to the Army, her co-workers, and the community are an unparalleled example of a life of service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Joanne for all she has done and continues to do for our community. We wish her all the best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

HONORING SISTER TO SISTER ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sister To Sister on their 30th anniversary.

Sister To Sister is a community-based organization that empowers youth and their families in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Ms. Hakima Abdul Samad Muhammad and Dr. Pamela D. Hall founded the organization in 1992 as an organization to support Black women, but over time, the organization grew to support all children in our community.

Through the years they have launched many successful initiatives to engage young people in positive activities and support families. This can be seen in their S.U.P.E.R. (Supreme, Unity, Perpetuating, Eternal, Revolution) Saturday program and after-school enrichment programs that help young people focus on leadership, community service, civic engagement and other important social values.

Sister To Sister opened their first resource center, "Each One Teach One," in 2018. This center provides female empowerment workshops, computer literacy training for both young people and adults, job training programs for both men and women, parenting classes, supports for anger and substance abuse management, gun violence prevention programs and other assistance programs for homeless people.

Mr. Speaker, as Sister To Sister celebrates their 30th anniversary, I want to thank them for all they have done for the Hampton Roads community. I wish them many more years of success.

HONORING MELISSA SIGMOND FOR
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today in recognition of Melissa Sigmond, a remarkable leader, executive, and community advocate, in celebration of Women's History Month. Throughout her career, Melissa has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence and service, using her diverse skill set to benefit both the business and nonprofit sectors.

Melissa's professional journey is nothing short of inspiring. After earning her degree from UCLA, she began her career in Hollywood, where she worked on global feature film and television production. This experience provided her with a strong foundation in leadership, creativity, and strategic thinking. However, Melissa's career path took a pivot as she transitioned into the finance sector, working at Bank of America, where she led the corporate events team. She then continued her career in finance with hedge and venture funds in Manhattan, where her contributions were instrumental in driving business success.

In 2013, Melissa decided to apply her expertise to nonprofit leadership, an area where she shines. She led the design, build, and opening of New York City's first technology center for older adults, a project funded by former Mayor Bloomberg, Google, Sony, and a range of corporate donors and private foundations. This groundbreaking initiation not only provided critical resources for older adults but also reflected Melissa's deep commitment to using her skills to serve others and address the needs of marginalized communities.

Today, as Chief Executive Officer at the Riverdale Y, Melissa continues to make a profound impact. She has proven herself as a transformational leader, dedicated to building and strengthening community in the Bronx. Her work at the Riverdale Y reflects her dedication to creating inclusive and supportive environments that benefit individuals and families across the borough.

Melissa's multifaceted career and unwavering commitment to social impact highlight her exceptional leadership and ability to create positive change. She has worked with numerous philanthropic organizations, technology and education nonprofits, and faith-based institutions, always focusing on advancing the well-being of the communities she serves. It is with great admiration that I honor Melissa Sigmond for her outstanding accomplishments and tireless dedication to making a difference in the lives of others. Her ability to bring together diverse sectors for the greater good, as well as her devotion to the Bronx and beyond, exemplify the values we celebrate during Women's History Month.

HONORING DR. STANLEY AND
PEARL GOODMAN

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman, two extraordinary individuals whose unwavering dedication to service, philanthropy, and cultural enrichment has profoundly impacted South Florida and beyond.

Since making Broward County, Florida then home in 1962, Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman have been steadfast champions of initiatives that uplift individuals, families, and seniors. Then generosity and leadership have played a vital role in expanding social services, advancing education, promoting Jewish values, fostering a love for the arts, and supporting groundbreaking research in Multiple Myeloma.

Through their philanthropy, the Goodmans have cultivated a spirit of giving, inspiring others to contribute their time, talents, and resources to causes that create lasting change. Their contributions have not only provided immediate support to those in need but have also established a legacy of enduring impact through endowments and promised gifts that will benefit generations to come.

Today, we recognize and celebrate Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman for their remarkable generosity, vision, and commitment to strengthening our community. Their efforts serve as a beacon of inspiration, reminding us of the power of service and the profound impact compassionate, thoughtful individuals can make on others.

On behalf of the constituents of Florida's 25th District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman for their lifelong contributions. May their legacy of kindness and philanthropy continue to enrich lives for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
JAMES MUNS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. James Muns of Plano, Texas, who peacefully passed away on March 6, 2025.

Mr. Muns was born on January 6, 1932. He attended Abilene Christian University, where he met his wife Betty. In the 1970's, Mr. Muns and Betty moved to Plano, where he established the Muns Enterprises investment company that specialized in real estate. One of his first investments in Plano was in the El Rancho Estates, allowing it to become one of the most spectacular and successful properties in the region. From 1992 to 1996, Mr. Muns proudly served as the Mayor of Plano. Under his leadership, Plano experienced significant economic growth, commerce, and population growth, setting the stage for it to be nationally recognized as one of the best cities to live in Texas and the United States. For his

outstanding contributions to the City of Plano, Mr. Muns and Betty were named Plano's citizens of the year in 1994.

In 2007, the Muns established the Betty and James Muns Foundation to support philanthropic, educational, and humanitarian initiatives throughout North Texas. Mr. Muns was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather to four children, ten grandchildren, and many more great-grandchildren. One of his sons, Mr. John Muns, currently serves as the Mayor of Plano in the footsteps of his father. I am deeply saddened to hear of Mr. Muns's passing, as he has made a positive and lasting impact on our community.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mr. Muns's wonderful life and service. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

APPRECIATING MIA LOVE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Mia Love served her country with honor and distinction and to those that know her, she is a trusted friend and loving person.

I had the honor of calling Mia a colleague when she served Congress in 2015 through 2019, as the Congresswoman representing the 4th Congressional District of Utah. Notably, she was the first black female Republican to serve in the U.S. Congress.

Among her distinctions in Congress, Mia served on the Financial Services Committee, as well as the Terrorism and Illicit Finance, Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy and Trade subcommittees. She was also appointed as the only freshman to serve on the Select Panel for Infant Lives, to investigate the selling of organs. Additionally, she was a champion for reducing burdensome regulations and was also a leader in the push for immigration reform.

Mia's commitment to the citizens of Utah began prior to her time in Congress as she served on the city council and mayor in her home of Saratoga Springs, Utah.

After Congress, Mia became a contributor to CNN and was appointed a fellow of the institute of politics and public service at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

Born in New York City to Haitian immigrant parents, Mia is married and a mother of three.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman Love and her family.

HONORING ROSEMARY ORDONEZ-
JENKINS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize an exceptional leader, advocate, and community servant, Rosemary Ordonez-Jenkins, in