

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF HAYES COOPER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable, professional and kind individual, Hayes Cooper, who the current Hayes Cooper Math and Science School is named for.

Hayes Cooper married Alice Cooper, and they had two children, Leola and Cornelius. Mr. Cooper was a significant figure in the history of education in Merigold, Mississippi, best known for his contributions to the local educational system in the mid-20th century. He first started work for the Merigold School System in 1937 at the old Merigold School. Back then, all the grades were in one building which was located on the east side of Old Highway 61. Mr. Cooper worked as an assistant for a year and then in 1938, he became the lead janitor. He was a true professional and a kind man. He was dearly loved by everyone, and children looked to him as a dear grandfather figure. Mr. Cooper was very dedicated to his work at the school. During World War II when gasoline was hard to come by, Mr. Cooper rode his bicycle to work over two miles each day from Mound Bayou in the Delta heat and winter ice.

After the original Merigold School burned down in 1950, Mr. Cooper decided to retire. When a new school was built in 1960 at the site where the Hayes Cooper Center for Math, Science, and Technology now stands, it was fittingly named in honor of the man who had played such a vital role in the lives of so many Merigold children. His spirit of hard work and dedication continues to resonate through the school and the community. His legacy lives on in the institution's name, reflecting his commitment to education and the lasting impact he had on the children of Merigold.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Mr. Hayes Cooper for his dedication and contributions to the local community's educational system that began at Hayes Cooper School.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARCH AS ZOROASTRIAN LEGACY AND HERITAGE MONTH

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my Resolution to recognize the month of March as "Zoroastrian Legacy and Heritage Month."

Originating in ancient Persia, Zoroastrianism is one of the world's oldest monotheistic reli-

gions. Its legacy includes significant contributions to history and civilization, including influencing democracy, universal human rights, and international trade and commerce.

In fact, Cyrus the Great, a follower of Zoroastrianism, recorded the first declaration of human rights, emphasizing freedom of religion, equality, cultural and civil rights, and the abolishment of slavery. These values were recorded on the famous Cyrus Cylinder in 539 B.C.E. and remain an essential part of our values today—including being enshrined in our own Constitution.

Zoroastrianism celebrates the spring festival of Nowruz during the Spring Equinox in March, signifying the triumph of light, warmth, and life over darkness. March is devoted to Mother Earth, symbolizing peace, love, and harmony.

Today, Zoroastrians continue to contribute to our world and to the United States. The Zoroastrian Association of California has made Orange County its home and serves as a house of worship and a place for social gatherings.

I call on my colleagues to support my Resolution to recognize the month of March as "Zoroastrian Legacy and Heritage Month."

HONORING THE ROSIE THE RIVETER WWII HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park, a site dedicated to preserving and sharing the remarkable stories of the World War II Home Front. Established by Congress in 2000, this park stands as a tribute to the resilience, determination, and unity of the men and women who answered the call to service during one of the most pivotal periods in our nation's history.

For a quarter of a century, the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historic Park has connected visitors from across the country to the inspiring legacies of those who worked in the defense industries, challenged social norms, and laid the foundation for greater equality in the workforce. A significant milestone in this journey was the opening of the park's visitor center in 2012, a space that has since welcomed thousands of guests and showcased the powerful stories and images that define the Home Front experience.

I would also like to recognize the invaluable contributions of the Rosie the Riveter Trust, the park's official nonprofit partner, whose steadfast commitment has helped ensure that these vital stories remain alive and accessible. Through their leadership, the Trust has played an essential role in organizing events, supporting educational initiatives, and strengthening the park's mission.

As we mark this 25-year milestone, let us reflect on the spirit of the Home Front and its lasting influence on our Nation. The legacy of Rosie the Riveter and the countless individuals who shaped our history serves as an enduring inspiration, reminding us that through resilience, unity, and hard work, we can overcome any challenge.

On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th Congressional District, I would like to honor the 25th anniversary of the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historic Park and extend my sincere gratitude for the generations of service to the United States and the Richmond community.

HONORING MICKIE PARKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Mickie Parker for her exemplary service and dedication as the Executive Director of Human Resources at Jackson State University (JSU). Her unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive, and empowering work environment has made a profound impact on the university's faculty, staff, and administration.

With an extensive background in Human Resources leadership spanning the public, private, and non-profit sectors, Ms. Parker has strategically aligned HR functions with institutional goals, ensuring operational success and organizational excellence. Her leadership has been instrumental in fostering a culture of inclusivity, professional growth, and innovation within the JSU community.

Since joining JSU in October 2020, Ms. Parker has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to advancing the institution's mission. Prior to her tenure at JSU, she served as the Director of Human Resources for the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, where she led key initiatives in performance management, compliance, and employee relations. Her dedication to enhancing workplace standards and policies has been widely recognized throughout her career.

A proud native of Carthage, Mississippi, Ms. Parker is a distinguished alumna of Alcorn State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in educational psychology. She remains actively engaged in professional development through her membership in the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR) and the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM). Her involvement in these organizations reflects her commitment to advancing human resources practices and promoting professional excellence in higher education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Mickie Parker for her outstanding contributions to Jackson State University and her dedication to shaping a diverse, inclusive, and thriving educational community.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING DIANE REITZ: A LIGHT OF SERVICE, A HEART OF STRENGTH, AND A LEGACY OF HONOR

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary woman, a true pillar of our community, whose life has been defined by service, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to others—Diane Reitz.

Even as she wages a courageous battle against stage IV pancreatic cancer, Diane continues to give of herself—to her family, her neighbors, her country, and, above all, to the veterans of Bucks County and Southeast Pennsylvania. She is not simply enduring—she is inspiring.

Diane was born in Philadelphia but found her true home in Levittown, where she has lived for 64 years on the very same street—Rocky Pool Lane. It was there that she grew up, raised a family, and built a life of meaning and service. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and went on to become a registered nurse, earning degrees from Philadelphia University and Gwynedd Mercy University. But while her education equipped her with knowledge, it was her heart that made her a healer.

For 56 years, Diane has been the devoted wife of Ronald “Ron” Reitz, an Army veteran and longtime barber. Together, they raised two children, Cheryl and Joan, who, in turn, blessed them with five grandchildren: Emma, Anne, Raegan, Cassidy, and Quinn. But Diane’s sense of duty has never stopped at her own front door.

Service is not just something Diane does—it is the essence of who she is. A pillar of our community, she has led Girl Scout troops, inspired others as a Zumba instructor, and spearheaded efforts that have uplifted countless lives. She raised over \$50,000 for the American Heart Association’s “Go Red for Women” campaign, ensuring critical support for those in need. She has honored our nation’s heroes by organizing reunions for the 75th Ranger Regiment and playing a key role in the 50th Anniversary commemoration of the end of the Vietnam war, ensuring their sacrifices are never forgotten.

But Diane’s impact is more than the sum of her efforts—it is felt in the lives she touches. She offers belonging to the overlooked, purpose to the uncertain, and hope to those in need. She steps forward when others step back, embodying the very spirit of service and reminding us all what it truly means to give of oneself.

Yet, it is her work with our veterans that stands as the most profound expression of her dedication. Recognizing the crisis of veteran suicide, Diane took action. She joined forces with Vietnam war hero Captain David A. Christian to establish Victor Six Health and Fitness, an innovative program designed to combat the mental and emotional struggles afflicting so many of our returning servicemembers.

Drawing upon groundbreaking research from institutions such as Johns Hopkins, the Cleveland Clinic, and Mount Sinai Hospital, Diane developed a 12-week program focused on the critical link between physical fitness

and cognitive health. The impact has been extraordinary: veterans struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI) have not only regained their strength but have rebuilt their lives—finding employment, reconnecting with their families, and reclaiming their sense of purpose. And perhaps most notably, since its inception, not a single veteran who has completed the Victor Six program has taken their own life. Veterans travel hours each way to participate in Diane’s program, not simply because of the results, but because they know that behind it stands a woman who believes in them, fights for them, and refuses to give up on them.

Her work has been recognized with commendations from the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps, but her greatest honor is reflected in the lives she has transformed. I have seen firsthand the strength and camaraderie her program fosters—veterans standing shoulder to shoulder, forging a path forward with renewed hope and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, Diane Reitz embodies the highest ideals of duty, honor, and country. Her story is a powerful reminder that one person, armed with conviction and compassion, can change the world.

RECOGNIZING EULESS, TEXAS
PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICER RUSSELL CARTER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Euleless Public Service Officer Russell Carter for his 25 years of dedicated service to North Texas. A proud graduate of Haltom High School, he furthered his education in criminology and criminal justice through coursework at Tarrant County College and Columbia College.

Mr. Carter began his career in warehouse operations and security at Atlantic Air in Richland Hills and Pinkerton Security at the General Motors plant in Arlington. He joined the City of Euleless in 2000, where his contributions have earned him multiple recognitions, including the 2006 Civilian of the Year Award and 2011 October Employee of the Month. His commitment to excellence was evident by his role in tactical training exercises and assisting in the development of new jail FTO/training manual and Bond Procedures manual.

A dedicated member of the Euleless Police Officers Association, Mr. Carter also volunteers with a charity BBQ team, participating in competitions, and supporting local causes. In his personal time, he enjoys fishing, hunting, and cherishing moments with his family.

Mr. Carter’s professionalism, service, and community involvement made a lasting impact on Euleless. I thank him for his contributions to North Texas and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING RETIRING LIBERTY
COUNTY MANAGER JOEY BROWN

HON. EARL L. “BUDDY” CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Joseph “Joey” Brown for his outstanding service and dedication to Liberty County. Since his appointment as County Administrator in 1992, Joey has worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth operation of the county government, overseeing budgets, capital projects, and essential services that impact the lives of every resident.

A lifelong member of the Liberty County community, Joey and his wife, Kim, have dedicated themselves not only to public service but also to their faith and family. They are active members of the First United Methodist Church and the proud parents of two adult children.

His leadership extends beyond the county, serving on the Liberty County YMCA Board and as Southeast District Director of the Georgia City and County Manager’s Association.

Joey Brown’s commitment to Liberty County is an example of true public service, and today, I thank him for his decades of dedication to the people of Georgia’s First District.

HONORING DR. CORDELLA SHEGOG
SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Cordella Shegog Smith.

Born and raised in Pope, Mississippi, Dr. Smith was nurtured by her single mother, Reba Shegog, in a home filled with love, alongside her grandparents, five siblings, an uncle, and a cousin. She dedicated her career to education and service, retiring as the Center Director of the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center in Batesville, Mississippi. Named after former Governor Cliff Finch and State Representative Dr. Aaron E. Henry, the center flourished under Dr. Smith’s leadership, ranking in the top 10 percent nationwide in student academics, vocational training, and job placement.

After 41 years of service, Dr. Smith retired in July 2022 but quickly answered another calling—teaching. She joined the South Panola School District as a special education teacher at South Panola High School, where she was honored as “Teacher of the Month” in her third month.

A proud graduate of South Panola High School, Dr. Smith pursued higher education at Livingstone College, supported by a scholarship from the West Tennessee and Mississippi Women’s Home and Overseas Society. She credits the church women in her community for recognizing and encouraging her potential. After earning a Bachelor of Social Work degree, she returned to Pope and began her career as the Social Director at Batesville Manor Nursing Home. She later served as a social worker for the South Panola School District and Finch-Henry Job Corps.