

RECOGNIZING THE CLARKSTON
HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING
TEAM'S OUTSTANDING SEASON

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional achievements of the Clarkston High School wrestling team and their dedicated coaching staff during the 2024–2025 season. Their unwavering commitment, discipline, and perseverance have brought immense pride to their school and community, both on and off the mat.

This season, the Clarkston Wolves continued their tradition of excellence, securing their 18th consecutive District Championship and capturing their first Regional Championship since 2021. Their remarkable determination propelled them to the State Semifinals for the first time since 2007—an extraordinary milestone in the program's history.

Beyond their dominance in competition, these student-athletes demonstrated the same level of excellence in the classroom, earning recognition as an Academic All-State Team—a testament to their hard work and dedication both as wrestlers and as scholars.

Individually, the Wolves had an impressive presence at the state tournament, with nine wrestlers qualifying, six earning a place on the podium, one claiming a State Championship title, and another finishing as a State Runner-Up. These outstanding accomplishments reflect their relentless drive, skill, and sportsmanship.

At the heart of this success is Head Coach Brian Gibbs, whose leadership and passion for the sport have shaped Clarkston wrestling into a powerhouse program. His impact on these student-athletes was recognized with the Regional Coach of the Year award and the prestigious Michigan Division 1 Coach of the Year honor—achievements that underscore his dedication to fostering a winning culture built on hard work, respect, and perseverance.

This program's success is also a testament to the collective effort of 55 student-athletes and seven devoted coaches, each playing a vital role in this historic season.

Mr. Speaker, the Clarkston High School wrestling team has exemplified the values of teamwork, resilience, and excellence. I extend my sincere congratulations to the entire team, their coaches, and their families for an unforgettable season. Their achievements serve as an inspiration to their peers, their community, and the future generations of Clarkston wrestlers.

HONORING HAROLD HALL

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 legacy of Mr. Harold Hall, a devoted community servant, entrepreneur, and beloved family man.

Born on August 21, 1937, Mr. Hall was the son of the late Ruby Edwards, whose love and guidance instilled in him a deep commitment to family and service.

For over 50 years, he was a pillar of the LeLand community, where his entrepreneurial spirit and steadfast dedication to others left a lasting impact. Through his business ventures and countless acts of kindness, he worked tirelessly to uplift and support his neighbors, embodying the values of perseverance, generosity, and service.

Mr. Hall's life was a testament to hard work, love, and an unwavering devotion to both family and community. Though he will be deeply missed, his legacy lives on in the many lives he touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring the life and service of Mr. Harold Hall, recognizing his enduring contributions to his community and the profound love he had for those around him.

DESIGNATING APRIL 29 AS
#ENDJEWHATRED DAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, for millennia, the Jewish people have sustained their shared religious, cultural, and ethnic identity and traditions in the face of enslavement, persecution, genocide, segregation, and discrimination, and all manner of adversity; and

Whereas, ever since the first Jew set foot in America in 1654, members of the Jewish community have made indelible contributions to the culture, history, and social fabric of Georgia and the United States of America, strengthening the country and helping shape all areas of American life; and

Whereas, the first 42 Jewish immigrants arrived in Savannah, Georgia, on July 11, 1733, making Savannah the largest Jewish settlement in the English colonies in North America at the time; and

Whereas, the belief in the greatness of the American way of life, the freedoms enshrined in American law and jurisprudence, and the opportunities sustained by American democracy drew generations of Jewish immigrants to America, including Jews fleeing persecution and pogroms in Europe and the Middle East, Holocaust survivors, and Jews trapped behind the Iron Curtain; and

Whereas, this history encouraged many Jews to become leading proponents and supporters of the civil rights movement, marching shoulder to shoulder with African Americans and others, united in support for equal rights, equal protection under the law, and the recognition and respect of human dignity; and

Whereas, the Jewish community has prominently participated in virtually every civil rights effort in the American experience, fighting against discrimination and bigotry in all its forms and demanding the equal rights of every member of society; and

Whereas, despite the advances made in promoting social justice for other minority groups, the Jewish community has continued to be subjected to antisemitism and Jew-hatred, including discrimination in the workplace, at school, and in public spaces; and

Whereas, this antisemitism and Jew hatred has manifested in places of work, on cam-

pus, and in society, expressing itself as both discrimination and violence targeting Jews for their identity and seeking to deny their shared identity, including their indigenous connection to their ancestral homeland; and

Whereas, hate crimes directed against the Jewish community have skyrocketed in recent years, inspiring the formation of a grassroots End Jew Hatred civil rights movement to alter public discourse and make Jew hatred unacceptable in contemporary society, empowering Jews with positivity and strength to discover and enjoy their heritage in whichever manner they choose, without fear of attack or persecution; and

Whereas, we all share an obligation to condemn and combat Jew hatred in all its forms; and

Whereas, April 29, 2022, marked the recognition of the first #EndJewHatred Day, on which people joined together to commit to ending Jew hatred across the United States and to work toward the promise of a bright future that can only be achieved by fighting racism and bigotry today; and

Whereas, we recognize the urgent need to stand resolute against Jew hatred so that the intergenerational trauma of the past shall never be repeated; now, therefore, be it

Proclaimed, that I, Honorable Earl L. "Buddy" Carter, in recognition of the need to end Jew hatred in this generation, declare and proclaim every April 29 to be #EndJewHatred Day; and be it further

Proclaimed, that I, Honorable Earl L. "Buddy" Carter, affirm and proclaim that the 1st Congressional District of Georgia condemns Jew hatred in all its forms and shall stand resolute to end discrimination against, and persecution of, the Jewish community.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS-24 HOME-
TOWN HERO DR. KATIE SIMPSON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, who is described by others as a giver, leader, mentor, servant, strategist, planner, and doer. It's clear that Dr. Katie Simpson of Southlake goes above and beyond to help and inspire individuals in our community. While her husband served as an Active-Duty fighter pilot, Katie was an Air Force volunteer, establishing a bi-annual family deployment fair in Ramstein and mentoring other military families during her husband's deployments.

Now, Katie serves North Texans in a variety of ways—as a volunteer team leader at the Texas Ramp Project, Dr. Simpson surveys sites, designs ramps, and leads a volunteer crew in building dozens of wheelchair ramps. Leading three textile ministries, she makes prayer shawls for patients at Texas Oncology, makes blankets and hats for veterans transitioning out of homelessness, works with the Fort Worth VA, and creates fidget quilts/blankets for special needs children and individuals in memory care. Katie also finds time to volunteer with her church and delivers meals weekly with Metroport Meals on Wheels in Southlake.

Katie's tireless service has earned her numerous awards, including the National Daughters of the American Revolution Distinguished

Citizen Medal in 2021, Excellence in Community Service in 2016, Texas Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding DAR Service to Veterans in 2017, and the Arts Council Northeast Shining Star award for volunteer leadership service to the community.

I thank Dr. Katie Simpson for her unwavering commitment to serving others. Her devotion to our North Texas community is appreciated and continues to inspire those around her.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH BONGARZONE'S RETIREMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AFTER 37 YEARS

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a dedicated constituent Mr. Joseph Bongarzone, a distinguished Letter Carrier with the United States Postal Service, retiring after a 37-year career dedicated to serving the community of Hatboro, Pennsylvania.

Joseph embarked on his journey with the United States Postal Service on February 14, 1987, beginning as a clerk in Southampton, Pennsylvania. After nearly a year of service in that role, he transitioned to the Hatboro facility, where he would remain for the rest of his career, steadfastly delivering mail and upholding the principles of dedication, diligence, and service.

Coming from a family with a deep-rooted tradition in the Postal Service, Joseph was honored to follow in the footsteps of his father, Joseph, and his two brothers, Paul and Jeff. His career was defined by an unwavering commitment to his duties, demonstrating an exemplary work ethic that inspired colleagues and endeared him to the residents he served. Regardless of inclement weather or personal hardship, Joseph's dedication never faltered—his presence was a certainty, ensuring that his community received their mail with the efficiency and reliability that only a true public servant could provide.

In recognition of his outstanding service and commitment to safety, Joseph was honored with the prestigious Million Mile Award from the United States Postal Service—a testament to his exceptional record of accident-free performance and dedication to excellence. This honor is reserved for those who have exemplified the highest standards of professionalism and care in their service.

As Joseph officially retired on February 28, 2025, we take this moment to extend our deepest gratitude for his decades of dedication and service to the people of Hatboro. His legacy stands as a shining example of what it means to be a committed public servant, and his contributions to the United States Postal Service will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable career of Joseph Bongarzone and wishing him a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement. May his legacy of integrity, commitment, and service continue to inspire future generations of postal workers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. LAMAR BRAXTON, SR.

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 remarkable legacy of Dr. Lamar Braxton, Sr.

Lamar Braxton, Sr. was born in Red Lick, Mississippi, on May 30, 1934. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1967 from Alcorn State University, served his country in the United States Army, and later completed his Master's in History from Tennessee State University. Dr. Braxton was a devoted member of East Mt. Olive Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon. He was married to the late Lee J. Braxton and was the father of Lamar Braxton, Jr.

Dr. Braxton's professional journey was marked by dedication to community service. Initially preparing to begin his doctoral studies, he was asked to serve as the Director of the newly formed Adams-Jefferson Improvement Corporation (AJFC), a community organization serving residents of a two-county area. What was intended to be a temporary assignment ultimately lasted almost 42 years, with Dr. Braxton serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the AJFC Community Action Agency. During his tenure, he grew increasingly aware of the vital role education plays in shaping the futures of young people. His unwavering commitment to empowering individuals and promoting sustainable development left a lasting imprint on both our organization and the communities we serve.

Dr. Braxton was a trailblazer in many ways. He organized one of Mississippi's first computer training schools on the campus of Natchez College. His "Computer Camp" offered training to 40 youths from Southwest Mississippi each summer, providing them with an advantage that helped them compete on a national scale. Furthermore, Dr. Braxton was instrumental in bringing the national Head Start program to Southwest Mississippi, establishing centers across the region and providing early childhood education to thousands of our citizens.

As a visionary leader, Dr. Braxton's passion and dedication to community development positively impacted countless lives. His innovative spirit and tireless efforts played a key role in shaping AJFC into a respected organization that continues to champion community action and development. Dr. Braxton inspired many with his wisdom, kindness, and steadfast belief in the potential of others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late, Dr. Lamar Braxton, for his extraordinary contributions to our community. We will continue to reflect on his enduring legacy, which will continue to inspire future generations.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT AND SERVICE OF BILL WHITNEY

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 Bill Whitney as he

retires from the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. Throughout his life, Bill has been a dedicated and tireless advocate for working people. His legacy of service, advocacy, and leadership will continue to inspire us for years to come.

Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, Bill's early years were spent working on his family farm alongside his three brothers. After his family relocated to Walnut Creek, California, Bill attended Ygnacio Valley High School and went on to earn a degree in Zoology from the University of California, Davis. Bill's commitment to service was evident from his collegiate years, where he was deeply involved in sports and extracurricular activities, including Boy Scouts, Key Club, and his fraternity, Theta Xi.

Bill began his career in service after moving to Benicia in 1977. He was a proud member of the Lions Club, Rotary Benicia Historical Society, and the Chamber of Commerce. Bill also served on the Benicia City Council from 1999 to 2007, where he tirelessly advocated for his community.

Mr. Whitney is a true champion for working people. He is a proud member of three unions: The Retail Clerks Union, the Inland Boatmen Union, and the United Association of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry. Throughout his career, Bill has played a pivotal role in advancing workers' rights, improving workplace conditions, and ensuring fairer wages for workers.

Bill's leadership and advocacy have expanded economic opportunities for working families and improved the lives of countless workers and their families. His advocacy for working people has left an indelible mark on the labor movement in California and beyond.

On behalf of California's 8th Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Bill Whitney on his well-deserved retirement. Mr. Whitney's years of service have left a lasting legacy and significantly enhanced the lives of countless working people.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT OMAR ALONZO RAMIRO

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Omar Alonzo Ramiro and recognize his service to our Nation.

Staff Sergeant Ramiro demonstrated a deep sense of dedication to his community from an early age. Before enlisting, he graduated from Servite High School and worked at St. Catherine's Academy in Anaheim, an institution with a proud history of shaping young leaders. In 2009, he answered the call to serve our country and enlisted in the United States Army, embarking on a military career that would take him across the world in defense of our values.

Throughout his enlistment, Staff Sergeant Ramiro demonstrated exceptional courage and resilience. As a Motor Transport Operator, an Airborne soldier, and a Psychological Operations specialist, he played a vital role in military and diplomatic operations while deployed to Afghanistan and serving across Europe and Africa. Even after sustaining a serious injury in