

Ogbogu, a star athlete from Coppell. As one of only twelve players nationwide named by USA Volleyball to compete on the U.S. Women's National Team in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, Chiaka has shined on the world stage.

Her stardom is nothing short of remarkable, making her Olympic debut at the Tokyo Summer Games in 2021 where she played a key role in securing the team's historic gold medal. Chiaka's experience competing worldwide, including in Italy, Poland, and Turkey, has established her as a leader on the team.

Before embarking on her professional volleyball career, Chiaka was a student athlete at Coppell High School and at the University of Texas at Austin. While in college, she graduated with the most blocks in school history. Despite her success, Chiaka has a humble attitude.

I thank Chiaka for continuing to set a great example for North Texans of all ages as she makes our entire country proud.

REMEMBERING COACH PRESTON

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Pat Preston, a Bakersfield athletics and education leader who passed away on December 22, 2024, at the age of 76.

Coach Preston served our community as an athlete, coach, and educator throughout his life. After being awarded Bakersfield's All-City pick for Lineman of the Year in 1965, Coach Preston would go on to play linebacker for Stanford University from 1966 to 1970, where he served as co-captain. Following his graduation from Stanford University, Coach Preston returned to Bakersfield High School to be a defensive coach, then went on to serve as Head Coach at Hanford High School, where he served for four years. However, the Bakersfield community beckoned his return, inviting Coach Preston to be the Drillers Head Coach, and he accepted.

Some Drillers who were present for these golden seasons can still remember how his return to Bakersfield reawakened the team's camaraderie and belief in itself. Coach Preston is remembered for leading the Drillers through a 39-game winning streak, including three consecutive undefeated seasons in the Yosemite Division in 1988, 1989, and 1990. Under Coach Preston's leadership, the Drillers also garnered eight league and four section football championships. Keeping the team focused with both his humor and his intensity, Coach Preston cared equally for each person on his team—from the waterboy to the quarterback—and taught them how to be dynamic and energized in all that they did. In 1999, Coach Preston was hired as the Assistant Principal for Liberty High School where he continued to serve our community.

Coach Preston has been inducted into several local halls of fame—the Bob Elias Hall of Fame, Bakersfield High Alumni Association Hall of Fame, and the Drillers Football Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife Patti, and two sons Nathan and Todd.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Pat Preston, a

Kern County community leader and someone who has helped shape generations of young people in our community.

THE DREAM OF CALIFORNIA IS UP IN SMOKE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article by Patti Davis which appeared in The New York Times on Monday, January 13, 2025.

THE DREAM OF CALIFORNIA IS UP IN SMOKE

(By Patti Davis)

I've heard people say they couldn't live in Los Angeles because they'd miss the changing of the seasons, but spending much of my childhood on a ranch in Malibu, I watched as the storms rolled in during the winter months, the land turning green and lush, then blossoming in wild colors and sweet scents in spring, browning and drying out in summer before the air turned cusp in autumn and orange leaves fell from trees to blanket the ground.

There were groves of oak trees, endless green pastures and a pond where ducks made their home every year. Tiny frogs jumped all over the banks of the pond. I'd scoop some up in my hands and laugh when they leaped out, back into the mud. When the winds kicked up in October and November, parts of the ranch did burn a couple of times. But then the rains would come and the land would heal.

The ranch was where we spent our weekends. During the week we lived in Pacific Palisades, so quiet it felt almost like a secret refuge from the noise and busyness of downtown. But that was Los Angeles, too. Now that world is gone.

To look at the footage and the photographs of what the voracious fire turned those neighborhoods into is like looking at a war zone. Everyone is trying to process the grief, the shock. The truth is we'd lost it all well before the fires so mercilessly swept through. The flames just sealed the deal.

I once thought that the land I loved so much would last forever. I couldn't imagine an Earth that would groan and rage and turn chaotic because of human carelessness, human greed and the ignorant assumption that we could just keep pumping poisons into the atmosphere with no repercussions.

Often over the past few days, I've been reminded of the aftermath of Sept. 11, how no one seemed like a stranger.

During these fires, my own home was spared, but everywhere you go people are sharing stories, asking how others are doing. People who never met before, and may never meet again, stop on sidewalks, in stores, to share their fears, their despair. To weep over their losses. To try to make sense of it.

My anger over what we have done to this fragile, exquisite Earth was muffled by grief until the other evening when I was watching a news program that had a panel of commentators. The subject was Los Angeles on fire, and one person mentioned climate change as a cause. Another commentator smirked and said he didn't believe it was the cause.

I felt rage surge up past my grief.

My first thought was "You think you know more than scientists? The scientists who have been warning us for decades?" Then I thought "This young man wasn't even born when I was running through tall green

grasses at our ranch beneath skies that were clear and blue. He has no idea what Earth used to be like." The beauty I grew up around seems like it was so long ago, but it really wasn't.

I'm still heartbroken, but I want us to be angry. Not a destructive anger, a righteous anger. I want us to stand up for an Earth that was created with perfect balance, with beauty and mystery and a divine artistry. An Earth that was put here not for our consumption and our greed but for our nourishment. An Earth that has so much to teach us, and that needs protection, now more than ever.

We have thrown an entire planet out of balance, and now we are suffering the consequences—weather patterns so severe we have no idea how to combat them, and the resulting fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, more severe than anything we've known before.

We can grieve and be righteously angry at the same time. Or there is another scenario. We can be nomads wandering across barren acres of land that were there for our sustenance, if only we'd had the sense to know that and protect the Earth we were given.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HEROES FROM OPERATION TURKEY

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes, the volunteers of Operation Turkey Dallas and Operation Turkey Forth Worth for their work to provide Thanksgiving meals to people in need.

After Richard Bagdonas gave his Thanksgiving leftovers to a homeless man in Austin, he was inspired to launch Operation Turkey, which expanded to our community in 2012. North Texas answered the call to serve, with local volunteers providing thousands of warm meals per year.

Their work begins well before this, but on the day before Thanksgiving, volunteers gather for a Turkey Tailgate to smoke turkeys, sort toiletry and clothing donations, and prepare for an early start. The morning of, helpers of all ages set up, cook, plate, package, and deliver meals and other items to North Texans in need. In 2023, Operations Turkey Dallas and Fort Worth provided a combined 5,400 meals to members of our community.

I thank the volunteers of Operation Turkey for ensuring North Texans have a hot meal on Thanksgiving. Their work exemplifies the generosity that makes our community special.

RECOGNIZING DAISY ELLA PRICE KAHN

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable woman, Daisy Ella Price Kahn, who made significant contributions to her community and to the field of education.

Daisy was born in Marshall, Texas, to the late Memphis and Daisy Bell Price, and she

was the middle of five children. A proud graduate of Wiley College with a degree in Social Studies and English, Daisy went on to teach and inspire countless students in the Fort Worth Independent School District. She earned her Master's in Education Counseling from Texas Woman's University and dedicated her career to supporting students, ultimately retiring as the Lead Counselor at Trimble Tech High School in 2001.

Her impact, however, did not end there. Daisy returned to the district as a part-time and substitute counselor, where she continued to mentor and guide students until 2008.

Beyond her work in education, Daisy was an active member of several civic and social organizations. She was deeply involved in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., where she held numerous leadership roles and performed with the AKA DFW Metroplex Choir. Daisy was also a dedicated member of the Fort Worth Wiley College Alumni Club, the Perennial Cultural Club, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, among others.

Her service to the community extended to her church, historic Greater St. James Baptist Church, where she served as a soloist, Sunday School Teacher, and chair of the Historical Preservation Committee Funds. Daisy leaves behind a loving family, including her three daughters, Denise, Dr. Daphne Kahn-Wiley, and Danielle Kahn, as well as her grandson, Ian Wiley. Her legacy of service, compassion, and commitment to her community will forever be remembered.

It is my honor to recognize the life of Daisy Ella Price Kahn—a woman who touched so many lives through her work, her faith, and her unwavering dedication to others. Her contributions will continue to inspire future generations.

REMEMBERING MRS. REEDIA
FAYE MINSHEW

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Reedia Faye Minshew of Carthage, Mississippi. Mrs. Reedia Faye Minshew was a beloved mother, grandmother, neighbor, and friend and she will be greatly missed. Mrs. Reedia, affectionately known as 'Mamaw', was well known for her faithful presence at Cabin No. 1 at the Neshoba County Fair. Since 1889, the Neshoba County Fair has been a staple of Mississippi history. The Gardner family, from Dixon, Mississippi—just up the road from the fairgrounds—were among the first attendees of the Neshoba County Fair. Mrs. Minshew's father had eight siblings who all grew up going to the fair, and Reedia attended every single Neshoba County Fair throughout her lifetime.

While her legacy of attending the Neshoba County Fair and her family's history at Cabin No. 1 are known, Mrs. Reedia was also an athlete and entrepreneur. Mrs. Reedia owned and operated the Shoe Rack in Carthage, Mississippi, and in her retirement taught a karate class. She is survived by her children and grandchildren. I am honored to have met her and to remember her legacy.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO WALLY FUNK

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Wally Funk. At age nine, Wally Funk took her first flying lesson, sparking a lifelong passion. As a teenager, Wally earned her pilot's license and has gone on to become an accomplished flight instructor and aviator. Wally joined Oklahoma State University's Aviation Team, earning countless awards including the "Outstanding Female Pilot" trophy, "Flying Aggie Top Pilot" award, and "Alfred Alder Memorial Trophy" two years in a row.

In 1961, Wally volunteered for the Women in Space Program, enduring the same strenuous physical and mental tests as the men of Mercury 7. After ranking third out of the 13 who graduated, beating out U.S. Astronaut John Glenn on many of the tests, Mercury 13 was denied the opportunity to travel to space. Decades later, at the age of 82, Wally became the oldest woman to venture into space on Blue Origin's New Shepard suborbital spacecraft. She was recently inducted into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, symbolizing the remarkable career of Grapevine's very own aviator-turned-astronaut.

Wally's perseverance has inspired many North Texans. I Congratulate Wally on her deserved induction to the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame. I look forward to hearing about more of her accomplishments in the near future.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISVILLE METRO
COUNCILWOMAN CINDI FOWLER

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louisville Metro Councilwoman Cindi Fowler in honor of her exemplary leadership, unwavering dedication, and significant contributions to the residents of Louisville Metro Council District 14.

Since her election in 2012 and re-elections in 2016 and 2020, Councilwoman Fowler has represented the neighborhoods of Valley Station, Pleasure Ridge Park, and Kosmosdale with integrity and a steadfast commitment to community growth and well-being.

Councilwoman Fowler demonstrated leadership through her service as Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus, Chair of Parks & Sustainability, Chair of Government Oversight/Audit & Appointments, and her impactful roles with organizations like the National League of Cities and the Kentucky League of Cities.

She has been a dedicated advocate for community development, serving on the boards of Southwest Community Ministries, Mattingly Edge, Dixie Area Business Association, Riverport Business Association, and Valley Woman's Club.

Councilwoman Fowler's commitment to the betterment of Kentucky is reflected in her sponsorship of transformative legislation and initiatives, including Sadie's Law, the Union

Safety Ordinance, the Metro Golf Course Ordinance, the \$50 million New Dixie Highway Project, and the Catalytic Converter Ordinance. Additionally, her support for projects such as the Sun Valley Pool investments, U of L Mary & Elizabeth Hospital Women's Health and Birthing Services, Veteran's Village in Southwest Louisville, and the Watson Lane Elementary School redevelopment has significantly enhanced quality of life for Kentuckians.

Mr. Speaker, Councilwoman Fowler's visionary leadership, commitment to service, and dedication to the people of Kentucky has left a lasting legacy. I express my profound gratitude for her leadership, vision, and service, and I wish her well in her future endeavors.

RUSSELL COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Russell County, Kentucky, on celebrating its bicentennial. Russell County is an integral part of Kentucky's 1st Congressional District that is full of rich history and wonderful people. Russell County and its communities have been a special part of Central Kentucky for two centuries.

Russell County was established in 1825 from parts of Adair, Cumberland, and Wayne counties as the 81st county in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Russell County is proudly home to Lake Cumberland and Wolf Creek Dam. These attractions have brought tremendous tourism opportunities and are a major economic driver in the 1st Congressional District.

As we commemorate this bicentennial, I want to thank the citizens of Russell County for their patriotism and community pride. I am proud to represent the good people of Russell County in Congress, and I look forward to seeing even more prosperous years to come.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HEROES FOUNDERS ROWING CLUB

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes on the Founders Rowing Club in Southlake, who gained national recognition by finishing in the top 10 at the U.S. Youth National Championship. This incredible achievement follows their earlier triumph as regional champions.

Despite being one of the smallest teams in the nation, the group of thirteen daring young women have remained undeterred, inspiring many others to dream big. The team worked year-round to reach this point, often completing double workouts. From practicing at Bachman Lake six days a week, rain-or-shine, to being involved in the North Texas community out of the water, the members of Founders Rowing Club are true all-rounders whose dedication will take them far.

Local SMU alum, Matthew Naifeh, serves as their coach and has been instrumental in the