

HONORING A.J. SLATER, CARNEGIE MEDAL RECIPIENT FROM LAKE-LAND, FLORIDA

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true hero from my hometown of Lakeland, Florida. Mr. A.J. Slater was awarded the Carnegie Medal, North America's highest civilian honor for heroism.

In November, Mr. Slater came upon the horrific scene of a fiery crash along the shores of Lake Parker. Without hesitation, and with no regard for his own safety, he rushed toward a burning vehicle where two small children were trapped inside. He heard a mother's desperate cries—"Save my kids!"—and immediately jumped into action.

Mr. Slater pulled 3-year-old Walker Willis from the flames, saving his life. In a second, selfless attempt, he returned for Walker's sister, 5-year-old JoLynn. Tragically, the flames and smoke overwhelmed the vehicle before he could free her. For his heroic actions, Mr. Slater suffered severe burns, underwent multiple surgeries, and now carries both the physical and emotional scars of that day.

Though the pain of loss remains, his courage has inspired our community. His humility is just as powerful as his bravery. In his words, "To receive this medal is a wonderful feeling—but still a reminder of JoLynn." Mr. Slater never sought recognition—only to make his parents, his friends, and his community proud.

A.J. Slater represents the very best of us. In a moment when seconds mattered, he chose to run toward danger—saving a child's life and forever impacting a grieving family. As the first known recipient of the Carnegie Medal from Polk County, Mr. Slater now joins the ranks of those who have put the lives of others above their own in a time of great need.

Let his story be a beacon of hope reminding us of the extraordinary courage that can exist in everyday people. Today, we honor A.J. Slater—not just for his heroism, but for his humanity.

HONORING NORTH CROWLEY HIGH SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING TEXAS' 6A DIVISION 1 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor North Crowley High School's football team for winning the 2024 Texas' 6A Division 1 State Championship. The Panthers dominated in the final, amassing 640 yards of total offense and defeating Austin Westlake 50–21 to cap off a perfect 16–0 season. This victory marked the second state championship in program history and the first for the City of Fort Worth in 21 years. The team's outstanding performance earned them a number three ranking in the Nation.

North Crowley's excellence was evident throughout the season. They began with a vic-

tory over nationally ranked DeSoto and later defeated Duncanville in the state semifinals. Their success extended beyond team accomplishments and high-profile matchups, with several standout individual performances. Wide receiver Quentin Gibson was named the 2024 MaxPreps National High School Football Player of the Year and was named the Offensive MVP for the championship game. Quarterback Chris Jimerson, Jr. and running back Cornelius Warren also had stellar seasons and will continue their careers at the Division 1 level next year. Additionally, Head Coach Ray Gates was recognized as the 2024 MaxPreps National High School Football Coach of the Year.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to recognize the North Crowley High School Football Team for its remarkable season. Their undefeated record and numerous accolades are a testament to their dedication, talent, and hard work. Under Coach Gates's leadership, I have no doubt this program will continue to excel—not just in Texas, but on the national stage.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROSIE CARTER ROSS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable, professional and kind individual, Rosie Carter Ross, who for decades, has been a steadfast pillar of strength, compassion, and leadership.

Rosie Carter Ross was born on February 5, 1920, on a farm in Redwood, Mississippi. She is the daughter of Annie Jefferson and Green Carter. Her heritage is a rich blend of cultures—her mother's side has Jamaican and French Creole roots, while her father is of Choctaw and French Creole descent. Throughout her life, Rosie has witnessed the world change in ways few can imagine, yet her principles have remained steadfast, rooted in faith and a deep respect for her elders.

She attended Cherry Street Elementary School in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Her thirst for knowledge, love for education, and aptitude for learning led her to Louisiana, where she studied dance, and later to Rust College, continuing her academic journey. Her involvement in the church played a pivotal role in shaping her life. A lifelong Baptist, she has devoted herself to the Rock of Ages Church in Shaw, where she faithfully served as the choir director and a Sunday school teacher. She was instrumental in commissioning seven churches and served as the spokesperson for the Bolivar County Association, traveling across Bolivar, Washington, and Warren counties.

Rosie, affectionately called "Grandma Love," has lived a life full of love, resilience, wisdom, and grace, inspiring all who have had the privilege of knowing her. Her unwavering dedication to her family, community, Christian faith, and friends has left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who have been touched by her presence. Throughout her 105 years, Rosie has witnessed history unfold, contributed her talents, and remained a beacon of strength, compassion, and kindness. Her en-

during vitality and positive spirit continue to inspire others to cherish the blessings of life, embrace each moment, and face every challenge with courage and optimism.

Her longevity is not merely the result of genetics or diet—it is a reflection of her obedience and wisdom. She credits the elders of her youth for instilling values that shaped her character. Rosie always preferred the company of older individuals, learning from them how to live and grow into the intelligent woman she is today. As her legacy continues through her family, she encourages them to live a Christian and spiritual life guided by God and to never forget the importance of the House of God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Mrs. Rosie Carter Ross for her dedication, unwavering commitment to service, and her contributions to local communities throughout the Mississippi Delta.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL GARRY PATTERSON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I proudly present Colonel Garry Patterson, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. A "Soldier for Life," COL Patterson embodies the values of selfless service and true leadership.

From 1972 to 2003, COL Patterson had an extraordinary 31-year career serving our Nation in the U.S. Army, holding numerous leadership positions across every level. As Chief of Staff for the 49th Armored Division, he played a pivotal role in preparing the unit for deployment in support of peacekeeping operations in war-torn Bosnia. Once deployed, he assumed the role of Chief of Staff for the Multi-National Division (North), leading a diverse team of officers from over ten nations, including Russia, Turkey, and Norway.

COL Patterson's distinguished military service earned him numerous accolades, including the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters. He is also a recipient of the prestigious De Fleury Medal and has been inducted into the Order of St. George, underscoring his outstanding contributions to both the Army and his country.

After retirement from the Army, COL Patterson continued serving his community and the Nation. He leveraged his expertise to improve efficiency while working with several U.S. Defense Contractors. In partnership with the University of Texas and the US Army, COL Patterson assisted soldiers in obtaining the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, impacting the lives of more than 800 students. He serves on the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce Defense Advisory Task Force Committee and is the current Chapter President of The AUSA Executive Committee of the Texas Capital Area.

It is with great appreciation that I award COL Patterson with the Congressional Veteran Commendation. I join his family, friends, and colleagues in recognizing his profound contributions to Texas and to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING KATHY QUIGLEY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kathy Quigley as she retires from the South Shore YMCA. Kathy is a true community leader, who has tirelessly advocated for disadvantaged communities in Quincy and the South Shore throughout her remarkable 30-year career. Whether during her time with the South Shore YMCA, Quincy Community Action, or DOVE, she has dedicated her career to working for the betterment of her community.

In 2007, Kathy oversaw the old St. Boniface Church's transition into the new Germantown Neighborhood Center in Quincy. Kathy then went on to lead the center, which serves over 2,000 people annually, including hundreds of young people.

Under Kathy's leadership, the Neighborhood Center became a beacon of hope for the Germantown community. Today, the center is home to a food pantry, music studio, countless youth activities, and women's empowerment programs.

Throughout her career, Kathy relentlessly pursued funding to support her community, including working with private industry to secure college scholarships for Germantown High School seniors.

Kathy's list of accomplishments range from grand gestures—like in 2011, when she raised the necessary funds to allow the annual Quincy MLK breakfast to continue—to what may be seen as more minor acts of kindness—such as helping an elderly neighbor keep their lights on or a family receive groceries for the week. Kathy has always made sure that no one goes without during the holidays, ensuring that thousands of families in Quincy and the South Shore receive gifts and food during the season.

On March 30, 2025, Kathy will retire from the YMCA. Over the last 30 years, Kathy has dedicated her life to the betterment of others. We are deeply grateful for her service. The world could use a few more Kathy Quigleys.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Kathy Quigley, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing her extraordinary career and thanking her for her years of service to the Quincy and South Shore community.

HONORING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEADERSHIP METRO RICHMOND

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 45th anniversary of Leadership Metro Richmond (LMR), an organization that has been a cornerstone of leadership development and community engagement in the Richmond region since its founding in 1980.

For 45 years, LMR has worked to cultivate diverse, collaborative, and effective leaders who are committed to strengthening the Great-

er Richmond community. Through its signature Leadership Quest program, LMR has empowered thousands of individuals from various backgrounds, industries, and sectors to build meaningful relationships, engage in critical dialogue, and drive positive change.

LMR's alumni include public servants, business leaders, nonprofit executives, and community advocates who have contributed to the progress of Central Virginia. By fostering civic engagement and cross-sector collaboration, LMR continues to shape the future of the region, ensuring that leaders are equipped with the knowledge, networks, and skills necessary to address pressing challenges and seize opportunities for growth.

As we celebrate this milestone, we recognize LMR's commitment to inclusivity and the power of collective leadership. The organization's dedication to uniting diverse perspectives and fostering a spirit of service has had a profound impact on Richmond and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Leadership Metro Richmond for 45 years of service, inspiration, and transformative leadership. May LMR continue to thrive and empower generations of leaders for years to come.

HONORING DELTA FOUNDATION, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable contributions and enduring legacy of the Delta Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community development corporation dedicated to transforming the Mississippi Delta region.

The genesis and vision for the Delta Foundation began in the late 1960's, during a time when many towns in the Delta, with memorable names such as Sledge, Alligator, Beulah, Nitta Yuma, Darling, Bobo, and Midnight, remained trapped in economic hardship. In these communities, the Great Depression's effects seemed never to have fully lifted. Tarpaper shanties and stick houses marked rural Hoovervilles, lacking indoor plumbing or paved roads. Open sewers, disease, and overcrowding were harsh realities faced daily.

In 1969, a coalition of local community organizations resolved to transform this persistent despair into hope. Their vision took shape through the creation of the Delta Foundation—a development vehicle dedicated to building real assets, generating income, and cultivating human capacity within minority and economically underprivileged communities. The Foundation was designed to establish a solid foundation for long-term economic growth in the region.

Through the representation of 14 civil rights and community organizations working in Mississippi, the Delta Foundation was formally chartered. Its core purpose was, and remains, the creation of businesses and jobs for its primary constituents: minority and economically disadvantaged residents of its target areas. Central to the Foundation's mission is the creation of for-profit enterprises aimed at increasing control and ownership of resources by the poor.

For over forty years, the Delta Foundation has faithfully honored the vision of its founders. It has persistently supported economic growth and development across the Mississippi Delta and extended its reach to incorporate community development directly or through strategic partnerships. By challenging the enduring poverty of the region, the Delta Foundation has replaced hopelessness with hope, idleness with productive jobs, and reliance on welfare with financial independence.

The impact of the Delta Foundation has been profound. Entire communities have been transformed, and the lives of thousands of individuals have been permanently changed. The Foundation has created ladders of opportunity where only poverty and dependency once existed.

Today, the mission of the Delta Foundation is to provide community, social, human, and economic development activities to underserved, predominantly minority families, businesses, and communities. This mission is pursued tirelessly to eliminate poverty and build a future of opportunity and prosperity for the people of the Delta region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary accomplishments of the Delta Foundation, Inc. and its unwavering dedication to uplifting the Mississippi Delta and its residents.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF DR. GARY L. GOSNEY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I present Dr. Gary L. Gosney, U.S. Army Veterinary Corps with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Dr. Gosney embodies service and compassion through his commitment to the people and cherished animals of his community.

Dr. Gosney began his military career as a Captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps in August 1968. While stationed in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970, he cared for animals and injured soldiers until they could be medically evacuated. During his deployment, he served selflessly as a Zoonosis Control Officer, cared for the animals of the 4th Infantry Division, became the veterinarian for the 25th Infantry Division, and volunteered at a Catholic leper colony outside of Saigon. His bravery and patriotism in Vietnam earned him numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal with a "V" for Valor.

Upon returning to Texas, Dr. Gosney continued his dedication to service. He opened his own veterinary practice in Temple, Texas in 1970 and was voted the top veterinarian in Central Texas for 17 years in a row. Beyond his veterinary work, Dr. Gosney has made significant contributions to his community. A past president and longtime member of the Temple Founder Lions Club, he has raised thousands of dollars to support local charities. Additionally, as an avid supporter of the arts, he has contributed to over 100 Temple Civic Theater productions and served as its president for seven terms.

Dr. Gosney is a shining example of service and a valued member of the community. I