

Over the last 10 years, Matt has consistently proved to be a tremendous source of knowledge to the chairs of the Subcommittee on both sides of the aisle, the numerous defense clerks, and his staff colleagues alike. I am grateful for his counsel as the Subcommittee navigated a challenging period for the defense and security of our Nation. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Matt for his service to our country and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED'S 77TH SECOND DISTRICT CONFERENCE

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Phi Omega Chapter in Buffalo, which is proudly hosting the District Conference for the Second District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in Western New York. Founded in 1911 at Howard University, Omega Psi Phi is a national, not-for-profit civic fraternal organization dedicated to serving communities both locally and globally. With over 700 chapters across the United States and internationally, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. works together to create a lasting impact on society.

The Second District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. proudly includes 2,700 members across 84 chapters, with 62 graduate chapters and 22 undergraduate chapters. Over 3,000 attendees are expected at the conference, including state and local dignitaries, community leaders, families, friends, and the general public. This gathering provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen connections and further the mission of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.—dedicated to promoting brotherhood, scholarship, and service, while enhancing the mental, social, spiritual, and physical well-being of its members and the communities they serve.

Since its establishment in 1947, the Second District has worked tirelessly to fulfill the mission of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., further enriching the communities it serves. Over the past seven years, the district has awarded scholarships to more than 700 students, totaling over \$1 million annually. Additionally, the District continues to implement impactful programs such as mentoring and tutoring, fatherhood initiatives, Stop the Violence campaigns, and Habitat for Humanity. These programs play a vital role in uplifting and supporting our community, creating lasting, positive change in the lives of countless individuals.

The Second District is also dedicated to health initiatives, partnering with organizations such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Through health symposiums, blood drives, and wellness events, they work to improve the well-being of underserved communities, embodying the true spirit of Omega Psi Phi through these impactful contributions.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the members of the Phi Omega Chapter and the

Second District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for their outstanding commitment to service, education, and community enrichment. Their work has touched countless lives, and we are all the better for it.

HONORING CAPT E. ROYCE WILLIAMS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my constituent, Escondido resident, the secret soldier of the Korean War, and America's true Top Gun hero. I'm talking about the one and only Captain Royce Williams, who turns 100 tomorrow, on April 4th.

It is difficult to describe what Royce did for more than 30 harrowing minutes more than 70 years ago in the skies over the North Pacific and the coast of North Korea.

On that day in 1952, Capt. Williams faced seven Soviet MiG-15s. Alone. Royce shot down four. Alone.

He survived dozens of bullet holes to his plane, and a 37-millimeter round to his fuselage. Six inches to the right or left would have meant certain death.

This was indomitable courage and the demonstration of the highest skill under incalculable duress. And it was kept secret for 40 years.

We won't stop until Royce Williams receives the recognition he doesn't seek but richly deserves.

I wish a Happy Birthday to Royce. Next stop: The Congressional Medal of Honor.

CELEBRATING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a terrific institution that I am proud to represent in Maryland's Fifth District: Bowie State University. On January 9, 2025, the school marked its 160th anniversary. The school will celebrate that historic milestone with a gala later this month.

The oldest historically Black university in Maryland, Bowie State University (BSU) has been a beacon of opportunity, innovation, and academic excellence in our state and country ever since it was founded as the Baltimore Normal School for Colored Teachers in 1865. Many of its first students were recently emancipated Marylanders. The school offered Black Americans a pathway to educational—and economic—advancement at a time when they were largely barred from such opportunities.

Back in 1865, the school had only a few small rooms and a handful of students. Today, BSU boasts a 339-acre campus and over 6,350 undergraduate and graduate students. It offers more than 65 bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and certificate programs. From quantum computing and artificial intelligence to biotech and pharmaceutical development, BSU stu-

dents are producing cutting-edge research in the fields that will define the global 21st-century economy. Indeed, just this year, BSU received the distinguished 2025 Carnegie Research Activity Classification in recognition of its trailblazing research.

Mr. Speaker, I've worked with many BSU students, faculty, and staff over the decades, and I can personally attest to how impressive they are. They are leaders not only in their fields but also in our community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this milestone. I have no doubt that BSU's next 160 years will be just as successful as its first 160 years.

REMEMBERING MR. DARRELL ROWSER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Darrell Rowser, a man whose strength, dedication, and unwavering love for his family left a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. Mr. Rowser's commitment to his work, faith, and most importantly, his family, defined the essence of his character.

Born on September 14, 1958, in Buffalo, New York, to his late father Bertin Rowser, and his mother, Marlene Rowser, Mr. Rowser was the third of five children. He received his formal education through the Buffalo Public School system and graduated from Kensington High School in 1976. He then went on to receive his Associate's Degree at Medaille College.

Mr. Rowser was a dedicated athlete, excelling in basketball, track, and Taekwondo. He won All-High championships in the 400-meter and 800-meter races at Kensington High School and later continued playing basketball, winning championships with the North Buffalo Community Center league. After 30 years of training, he earned a Black Belt 2nd Dan in Taekwondo. Mr. Rowser also had a love for music, playing bass guitar with his brothers in a band, and filling his home with his favorite songs.

After college, Mr. Rowser began his career at General Motors for 10 years, later working at Ford Motor Company Stamping Plant where he retired in 2024 after 33 years. While at Ford, Mr. Rowser rose to the role of Team Leader, earning him a Six Sigma Lean Belt certification which represented his commitment to knowledge, efficiency, and excellence. Mr. Rowser was known to be fair but firm at work, and with his recognizable voice that commanded attention, he was greatly respected by his team.

What truly defined Mr. Rowser was his deep love for his family. His greatest joy was spending time with his wife Jacqueline and their children Brandon and Brianna. Mr. and Mrs. Rowser shared a 37-year marriage built on love, faith, and cherished memories. He is survived by his wife and children, his mother Marlene Rowser, mother-in-law Violet Lewis, brother-in-law Darryl Prude, and many other loving family members and friends.

Mr. Darrell Rowser lived a life devoted to his family, his work, and his faith. His unwavering

love for his family and his commitment to those around him left a lasting impact on all who knew him. Mr. Rowser believed deeply in the importance of family, and he worked tirelessly to create a life full of love, faith, and cherished moments. His strength, kindness, and dedication will always be remembered, and his legacy will continue to inspire all those whose lives he touched.

HONORING RABBI DAVID
STEINHARDT

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi David Steinhardt, a distinguished spiritual leader and educator, as he prepares to retire after more than three decades of dedicated service to B'nai Torah Congregation in Boca Raton, Florida. Rabbi Steinhardt's journey to the rabbinate was shaped by his early experiences as the child of refugees from Nazi Germany and his deep connection to the Conservative Jewish movement, cultivated at Camp Ramah and Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Connecticut.

Ordained in 1982 at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Rabbi Steinhardt began his rabbinical career in Ohio before joining B'nai Torah in 1994, where he has since become a transformative figure. His proudest accomplishments include revitalizing the synagogue's religious after-school program, which saw attendance soar from under 40 percent to over 85 percent, and overseeing over 1,000 bar and bat mitzvahs. His congregants noted that in his congregation of 1,300 families, Rabbi Steinhardt has made it a point to connect deeply with them, even knowing them all by name. Under his leadership, the synagogue grew significantly, expanding both its staff and its reach in the Boca Raton community.

Rabbi Steinhardt's commitment to Jewish education and community service has left a lasting legacy. As he transitions to "rabbi emeritus," he will continue to contribute to his congregation and community, while embracing a busy retirement filled with teaching, writing, meditation, and time spent with his family.

It is a privilege to recognize Rabbi Steinhardt today, and I wish him a fulfilling and rewarding retirement, and continued success.

RECOGNIZING GERALDINE F.
THOMPSON'S SERVICE TO THE
GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Geraldine F. Thompson was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and grew up in the South Dade town of Perrine, Florida, where members of her

family worked in agriculture and construction. She was married to the Honorable Emerson R. Thompson, Jr. She was the mother of three children—Laurise, Emerson III, and Elizabeth—and the proud grandmother of six granddaughters and one great-grandson. She enjoyed reading, writing, volunteering, and traveling.

She attended Miami Dade Community College. After receiving a scholarship to the University of Miami, she received an undergraduate degree in 1970 and a Master of Science from Florida State University in 1973. Geraldine F. Thompson served for six years as an Orange County Public Schools teacher. She later served for 24 years as an administrator at Valencia Community College, where she established the College Reach Out Program, which enabled thousands of low-income and disadvantaged students to fulfill their dream of going to college.

Senator Thompson developed a reputation as a respected local historian for compiling the history of African Americans in Central Florida and authoring the book "Black America: Orlando, Florida." She developed a passion for the history of African Americans in Central Florida. She wrote a play based on her book called "A Vote a Voice."

Her passion led her to preserve one of Orlando's unique landmarks, the Wells' Built Hotel. During the days of segregation, it provided lodging to some of America's most prominent citizens, including Justice Thurgood Marshall, Ray Charles, and performers on the chitlin circuit. Today, that landmark is known as the Wells' Built Museum of African American History and Culture.

She served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2006 to 2012 and 2018 to 2022. She was elected to the Florida Senate in 2012 and served until 2016, and she was serving as the senator of Senate District 15 in Orlando at the time of her death. Significant legislation that she initiated and passed included bills to exonerate the Groveland Four, provide compensation to James Joseph Richardson, who was wrongfully incarcerated for 22 years, outlaw discrimination against pregnant women in the workplace, and a Specialty License Plate to benefit organizations that comprise the Divine Nine with 85 percent of the proceeds from the sale of the plate benefiting the organizations to support scholarships.

Career highlights, honors, and awards include: Having roads designated for Bob Billingslea, July Perry, Edna Hargrett, and Bessie Coleman; Resolution for George Starke and exoneration of the Groveland Four; Recipient of the 2022–2023 Humanitarian Award from the Orlando International Film Festival; 2021 Civil Rights Hall of Fame from City of Orlando 2022; Outstanding Public Official Award from Healthy Start Coalition of Orange County; 2019 MLK Humanitarian Award from Central Florida Steppers; 2022 Warrior for Democracy Award from The League of Women's Voters; 2022 Mountain Top Trailblazer Award from Cultured Pearls of Alpha Kappa Alpha; 2018 Drum Major Social Justice Award from Alpha Pi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; 2016 Legislative Advocacy Award from Democratic Women's Club of Florida Inc.; 2013 Mary Hatwood Human and Civil Rights Award from the National Education Association; 2012

Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award from Inter-Civic Council of the Southern Christian Leadership Council; 1996 Commitment to Excellence Award from Mid-Florida Chapter of NFBPA; 1992 Summit Award from the Women's Source Center; and Life Time Achievement Award from the Metropolitan Orlando Urban League.

REMEMBERING MR. JOHN
BERNARD OWENS

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. John Bernard Owens, affectionately known as "Gadget," a beloved father, grandfather, and community member whose legacy of love, generosity, and devotion to his family will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Born on January 15, 1938, in Buffalo, New York, to the late John and Mary (Blount) Owens, Mr. Owens was one of eight children. He graduated from the Lackawanna School District, after which he spent over 30 years in the industrial industry, eventually retiring from the Buffalo Brake Beam Steel Company.

Mr. Owens was an active member of the Greater Love Fellowship of Buffalo under the leadership of Elder George Herring. His deep faith and commitment to his community were always evident. Anyone who knew Mr. Owens knew he had many passions. He was a devoted family man, and to him, "family was everything." He was known for his generosity, always giving and helping others in need. His love for his family and his desire to be there for others left a lasting impact on all who crossed his path.

Mr. Owens was also a passionate sports fan. His favorite teams were the Buffalo Sabres and the Baltimore Ravens. He also had a great appreciation for music, especially the timeless songs of The Beatles, which brought him much joy throughout his life. Whether cheering for his teams or sharing his love for music, Mr. Owens brought joy to those around him.

Mr. Owens was predeceased by several loved ones, including his wife Clara, son Jamar, grandson Derrick, and several siblings. He is survived by his children John (Voncille), Clarice, Michael (Marie), Terrance, Desiree, Rodney (Nan), and Anthony Owens; his sister Eunice (Lester) Hubbard; 18 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren, along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mr. John Bernard Owens lived a life of devotion to his family, his community, and his faith. His unwavering commitment to those he loved and his generosity towards others made a profound impact on all who knew him. Mr. Owens was a man who believed in the importance of family above all else and worked tirelessly to provide for and support those around him. His kindness, loyalty, and the warmth of his heart will forever be remembered, and his legacy will continue to inspire all those whose lives he touched.