

Sam Moore was a legendary soul singer whose voice became a cornerstone of the 1960's music scene. Born on October 12, 1935, in Miami, Florida, he rose to fame as one half of the iconic duo Sam & Dave.

Alongside his partner Dave Prater, Sam recorded unforgettable hits like "Soul Man" and "Hold On, I'm Comin'." Bridging rhythm and blues, gospel, and soul, their songs are still celebrated today for their raw energy and emotional depth.

After parting ways with Dave in the 1970's, Sam pursued a successful solo career, continuing to influence generations of musicians. He earned multiple Grammy Awards and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

When Sam looked to retire, he learned that his record company had not been properly paying his royalties and that he had barely any money in his pension, leading Sam to become an advocate for artists' rights. It's through that advocacy that I had the pleasure of getting to know Sam and his lovely wife, Joyce.

Sam Moore's contributions to music have left a lasting imprint, influenced generations of artists and ensured his place as one of soul music's most celebrated figures. And his story reminds us of the importance of the arts in our society and the need to fairly compensate artists for their work.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUNG AMERICANS FINANCIAL LITERACY ACT

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2025*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to re-introduce the *Young Americans Financial Literacy Act*. Financial literacy is critical to ensuring future financial responsibility. According to the Council for Economic Education's 2024 Survey of the States, 35 states now require high school students to take a personal finance course to graduate, an increase of 12 states since 2022.

Congress has an opportunity and a responsibility to address the pressing needs of individuals faced with losing their financial stability and the challenges of economic uncertainty. This should include financial literacy education reform and long-term solutions to prevent future personal financial disasters. Research-based financial literacy education programs are needed to reach individuals at all ages and socioeconomic levels, particularly those facing unique and challenging financial situations, such as high school graduates entering the workforce, soon-to-be and recent college graduates, young families, and to address the unique needs of military personnel and their families. High school and college students exposed to cumulative financial education show an increase in financial knowledge, which drives increasingly responsible behavior as they become young adults.

According to the Government Accountability Office, giving Americans the information they need to make effective financial decisions can be critical to their well-being and the country's economic health. The global financial crisis, when many borrowers failed to understand the risks associated with certain financial products

fully and currently, the economic hardships presented by the sudden disruptions caused by the spread of COVID-19, underscore the need to improve individuals' financial literacy and empower all Americans to make informed financial decisions. This is especially true for young people as they earn their first paychecks, secure student aid, and establish financial independence. Therefore, focusing on economic education, financial literacy efforts, and best practices for young people between the ages of 8 and 24 is of utmost importance.

America should lead the world with the best-educated students who will drive our economic innovation and success, so please join me in cosponsoring the *Young Americans Financial Literacy Act*. This act:

Establishes a grant program in the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to develop and implement financial literacy programs for young people ages 8 to 24;

Incentivizes the development of partnerships between institutions of higher education, local educational agencies, non-profit organizations, and financial institutions to develop programs aimed at young Americans in different phases of their life;

Ensures the development of evidence-based instructional material that is geared towards targeted groups and addresses unique life situations, including bankruptcy, foreclosure, student loans, credit card misuse; and

Conducts ongoing assessment and accountability of the program over the short- and long-term to ensure that grant money achieves the most significant impact.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the *Young Americans Financial Literacy Act*.

#### RECOGNIZING CATHERINE LOIS PLAFCAN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Catherine Lois Plafcan, a remarkable constituent from my district, and to pay tribute to her on the celebration of her 100th birthday. It is a distinct honor to pay tribute to Mrs. Plafcan on this joyous occasion and to highlight the extraordinary life and contributions that endear her to so many in our community.

Catherine was born and raised in West Philadelphia and graduated from West Philadelphia High School in May of 1944. During her time in high school, she saw her brother, cousins, and friends enter military service to fight in World War II. She attended business school once she graduated high school to work as a secretary at the Philadelphia Naval Home.

Catherine met her husband John Plafcan playing bingo with friends in Mont Clare, Pennsylvania. They married on June 20, 1953, and were happily married for 52 years before John lost his battle with ALS. They had 3 children: Mark, John, and Tina.

Catherine enjoyed sketching landscapes and clothing. She loved to design dresses and coats and dreamed of becoming a fashion designer. Throughout her 100 years, Catherine has exemplified a spirit of resilience, gen-

erosity and dedication and has been an integral member of our community. Catherine truly embodies the spirit of family. She has spent her life putting her family first and her unwavering dedication to her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews is noticed by all who know her. Catherine's commitment to her family is evident in the countless memories she has helped create, and she continues to inspire those around her with her words of wisdom and enduring love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to please join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations, sincere well-wishes, and all of God's Blessings to Catherine Lois Plafcan on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MS. KATHY WAGAMAN

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2025*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Ms. Kathy Wagaman, Executive Director of the South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce. Beginning in 2011, Kathy's leadership has been instrumental in the introduction of many programs and initiatives aimed at increasing opportunity and prosperity for businesses throughout the South Haven area. As Kathy looks forward to retirement, Southwest Michigan is grateful for the dedication she has shown throughout her career.

Kathy first visited South Haven in 1988 when she arrived aboard her 29-foot sailboat, this visit sparked a passion for South Haven and all those who call it home. Throughout her career, she has served in many roles including General Sales Manager for the Battle Creek Radio Group, Business Manager for the Holland Rescue Mission, and as a small business owner, Kathy even possesses a U.S. Coast Guard 100-ton captain's license. Regardless of her role, Kathy leads with passion and makes all those around her better.

Under her leadership, the South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce has expanded to 457 business and nonprofit members, taken leadership of the farmers market, SNAP programs, and the National Blueberry Festival, and implemented innovative programs like Project Fresh and Youth in Business. Under Kathy's leadership, South Haven has become an even more special place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Ms. Kathy Wagaman for her commitment to the South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce, its members, and all residents of Southwest Michigan.

#### RECOGNIZING LOCAL BROADCASTING LEGEND KEN THOMAS

**HON. PETE STAUBER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2025*

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and contributions of

Brainerd, Minnesota, broadcasting legend Ken Thomas.

Ken's broadcasting journey began in 1978 at the WMIN radio station in Maplewood, Minnesota.

Ken then moved to the Brainerd Lakes area, where he spent the next four decades hosting the morning show on WJJY-FM.

Ken has had a number of different morning show partners, but for the past twenty years, he has shared the microphone with his current co-host, Tess Taylor.

Together, Ken and Tess have been the trusted voices that many in the Brainerd area listen to as they enjoy their morning cup of coffee and drive to work.

Ken's joyful and quick-witted commentary even made him a recipient of the National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award for Small Market Personality of the Year in 2017.

Ken's legacy goes beyond the microphone. He is a longtime supporter of the Brainerd Lakes Area Walk to End Alzheimer's and works as a member of the Sertoma service organization. Additionally, every Thanksgiving, he volunteers to serve meals at the local Legion.

As Ken enters retirement, I hope he finds time to enjoy everything he loves about Brainerd, which includes his loving family, his fellow members of The District cover band and Norman's Bait and Tackle Choir, and the tight-knit community he helped shape.

I congratulate Ken and he will be missed from the airwaves, but he has earned this next chapter.

#### TRIBUTE TO LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCILMAN RICK BLACKWELL

#### HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2025*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louisville Metro Councilman Rick Blackwell in recognition of his extraordinary leadership and decades of unwavering service to Louisville Metro Council District 12.

As a founding member of the Louisville Metro Council, first elected in 2002 and re-elected in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020, he has represented the neighborhoods of Pleasure Ridge Park, Riverport, and Valley Station with distinction.

Councilman Blackwell's dedication to leadership has been evident throughout his tenure, serving as President of the Louisville Metro Council, Democratic Caucus Chair, and in various leadership roles including Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Budget Chair, and as a member of the Firefighters Pension Fund Board of Trustees and Louisville Metro Revenue Commission.

His legislative achievements, including the Rental Registry Ordinance, Sunday Alcohol Sales Ordinance, and Kid's Meals Ordinance, reflect his commitment to improving quality of life for Kentuckians. Transformational projects like the Dixie Highway Corridor Master Plan, the \$50 million New Dixie Highway Project, and the Colonial Gardens Public-Private Partnership demonstrate his vision for economic growth and infrastructure advancement.

Through Councilman Blackwell's efforts, Riverview Park has become a cornerstone of

community life, featuring renovated boat docks, a splash pad, playground, pickleball courts, and more. The annual Riverview Independence Festival, which he founded, continues to unite Kentuckians with its celebration of music and fireworks, fostering a sense of community pride and connection.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Blackwell's enduring commitment to serving the people of Kentucky, his leadership in advancing meaningful legislation, and his dedication to fostering thriving communities stand as a testament to the profound impact of his service. I ask that the House of Representatives join me in expressing our profound gratitude for his steadfast commitment to public service and community betterment, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FOOD DESERTS ACT

#### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2025*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act of 2025 to help fight hunger and food insecurity in communities across the country.

I want to share just one example. In June of 2017, Marsh Supermarkets grocery stores announced the closure of many stores throughout the Midwest. Many of these stores were in my district. Many families lacked a car or reliable public transportation to the nearest grocery alternative, often over a mile away. Today, thousands of my constituents are still struggling to find the food they need, with many forced to rely on fast-food restaurants and convenience stores.

These options are neither healthy nor affordable.

Sadly, this situation is not unique. Over 29 million people, almost 10 percent of the U.S. population, live without ready access to affordable, nutritious food, and over 2 million people have no transportation to get to their nearest store. Many have seen their local stores close during the pandemic. Others lost access years ago and now face the severe long-term impacts of obesity, diabetes, malnutrition, and other diet-related ailments.

Unfortunately, residents in these low-income areas tend to spend less on groceries, leaving little financial incentive for traditional grocery chains to make costly investments for new locations.

In the world's wealthiest country, nutritious food should be an expectation, not a luxury. That is why I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act, which creates new avenues to fund stores in underserved communities. This bill will create USDA-funded, state-operated revolving funds that will issue low-interest loans for the operation of grocery stores in food deserts. The bill ensures that recipients of these loans, including for-profit, non-profit, and municipal entities, can provide affordable, healthy food, including fresh produce and staples like milk, bread, and meat. It will also ensure that USDA professionals are available to provide technical assistance to recipients who need it.

Access to healthy food is something that most of us take for granted. But despite our

own experiences, we must remember that millions of our constituents struggle daily to feed their families. With this market-driven approach, I aim to complement existing federal programs and efforts nationwide by ensuring a stable lending stream for struggling grocery stores and sustainable access to food for communities in need.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to support this vital bill.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROY "TANK" COLBRUNN

#### HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2025*

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the life and service of Roy Colbrunn, known affectionately by his friends and family as "Tank," who suddenly passed away at the age of 68. He was a close friend and an outstanding public servant, who will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Tank was raised in Vienna, Ohio and attended Youngstown State University. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps. During his enlistment, he was selected to serve as one of two USMC representatives on the honor detail, and as a pallbearer of an unknown Revolutionary War soldier.

Tank began his lifelong career as a firefighter as a volunteer with the Vienna Township Fire Department. He accepted a full-time firefighting position at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1985 and quickly rose through the ranks to Captain. He was elected and served several terms as president of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Local F-88.

Beginning in 1997, Tank took his mission of public service beyond the walls of the fire station by serving his community of Xenia Township in multiple roles as a volunteer and part-time firefighter, and as a member of the local zoning board. Tank retired from Wright Patterson in 2013, and from the Xenia Township Fire Department in 2016.

Tank served many roles as an IAFF leader: president of Local F-88, 16th District Field Service Representative to the District Vice President, Air Force Materiel Command IAFF Union Liaison, and Federal Joint Council Vice President.

As a union leader, Tank negotiated six Command Labor Agreement Contracts, numerous local union contracts across the country, and fought for the Interests of Department of Defense firefighters. He was instrumental in moving IAFF Local F-88 to a 48-72-hour schedule, significantly improving the quality of life for firefighters.

Tank was a driving force behind the requirement to staff aircraft rescue firefighting vehicles with three personnel, prioritizing not only the safety of firefighters but also our Nation's air crews. His vast knowledge, leadership, dedication, charismatic personality and unwavering care for those he met earned him much deserved admiration and love from those who are his "Brothers and Sisters."

Tank was a big man, with an even bigger heart, known for his kind and gentle nature,