

David, in Walnut Creek. At this time, Pam made a career shift toward sales and marketing. She served as President and Publisher of Walnut Creek Magazine for over ten years, highlighting the City's residents and businesses. Pam has been a fierce advocate for our local businesses and her work has helped to bring community members together and spotlight local history, entertainment, restaurants, and more. As small newspapers and news outlets become more scarce, Pam's efforts to support local journalism have been critical in keeping our community connected and the public informed on local issues. Through her work with the magazine, Pam has fostered a strong and vibrant community in Walnut Creek and beyond.

Outside of her work with Walnut Creek Magazine, Pam was a devoted wife and mother. Additionally, she continually demonstrated her commitment to service, supporting local education and youth sports and often engaging in volunteer and philanthropic efforts. In her free time, she loved walking the East Bay's beautiful trails with her dog, Sadie.

Sadly, Pam passed away in January 2025. She will be remembered for her passion, leadership, and her deep love for this community. Please join me in honoring Pam Kessler for her many contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING MS. DAWN BAKER
FOR EXCEPTIONAL CON-
STITUENT SERVICES IN OHIO'S
SIXTH DISTRICT

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Dawn Baker for her service in my office and to the people of the Ohio Sixth District. For seven years, Ms. Baker has dedicated herself to the aid of my constituents and I am proud to have witnessed the positive impact her work has created.

Dawn began her journey of public service at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Government. While attending university, she met her husband of 24 years and the father of their two exceptional daughters, Jason Baker. She dedicated herself fully to her family, taking an active role in her children's education and their passion for athletics. In 2017, she decided to put her degree to use as an advocate for the people of Ohio within the office of former Congressman Bill Johnson.

Under the administration of my predecessor, Dawn began her federal career as a Field Representative and caseworker. Being a delegate for OH-06, she took great pride in going out in public and listening to the needs of the people. She worked diligently and, within a few short years, was promoted to Director of Outreach; mentoring those under her tutelage in all aspects of championing the residents of our district.

I have known Dawn and her family both personally and professionally for many years, so upon my election to this esteemed office, I was pleased to make her my Director of Constituent Services. In this role, Dawn has been on the front lines of my office answering calls

to assist my constituents. She saw firsthand the struggles many in East and Southeast Ohio face and has never wavered in her commitment. Dawn's strength is one of her greatest assets, affording her the will to get the job done, but so too is her compassionate spirit as she works tirelessly to assist in any way she can.

As we, the Members of the House of Representatives well know, our staff are often the unsung heroes working hard behind the scenes. So, I ask you today to assist me in thanking Ms. Dawn Baker for her many years of vigorous and dedicated work for the people of Ohio's Sixth District and the Nation, and I wish her the best in her next endeavor.

HONORING FREDERICK "JAY"
STEFANY, III

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Frederick "Jay" Stefany for his 44 years of outstanding Federal service as a senior acquisition executive, as well as the first Maritime Industrial Base Program Manager for the Department of the Navy (DON).

Since he began his distinguished career with the DON in 1981, Mr. Stefany has held several acquisition positions. Notably, he became a member of the Senior Executive Service in March 2012. In January 2021, he was selected to serve as Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, (ASN RD&A) overseeing the Navy's acquisition workforce of more than 50,000 professionals and annual budgets more than \$150 billion. His service to the Navy and Nation has included a variety of key leadership positions including Program Manager for the LPD 17 Class Amphibious Transport Dock ship program, Executive Director, Amphibious, Auxiliary, and Sealift Office, Program Executive Office, Ships, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ship Programs, and as the Principal Civilian Deputy to ASN RD&A. In September of 2024, the Secretary of the Navy selected Mr. Stefany to stand up the Navy's Maritime Industrial Base Office responsible for strengthening and increasing the capacity of the Nation's maritime industrial base to build the Navy and the Nation's needs.

As the Ranking Member and Chair of the House Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, I had the pleasure of working with Jay directly on a wide range of issues in his portfolio. He was the consummate professional who gave Congress good advice and information so that we could perform our constitutional duty to "provide and maintain" for the Navy.

Mr. Stefany's leadership of the Navy's acquisition corps was instrumental during a historic time in our Nation's history. With a rising China and resurging Russia, the imperative to grow the Nation's Navy and deliver advanced capabilities were critical to ensure the National Security of the United States. As the industrial base was recovering from the impacts of the COVID pandemic, under Mr. Stefany's steady

leadership, the Navy delivered over 90 ships, thousands of critical munitions, and spurred new technologies to include unmanned and autonomous systems. Along with his leadership to strengthen and grow the maritime industrial base, his efforts have ensured the Navy is ready to compete and if required, defeat any adversaries.

Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Stefany has received various awards for his outstanding contributions to the DON, the Department of Defense (DoD), and the Nation. These include the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service, DON Civilian Meritorious Service award, and two DON Civilian Superior Service awards. In addition, he is the recipient of performance-related accolades, to include the Navy's most prestigious acquisition excellence award, the Rear Admiral Wayne E. Meyer Memorial Award.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Frederick "Jay" Stefany the III as he retires from Federal service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 16, 2025, I missed roll call vote No. 17. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on ROLL Call No. 17 (On Passage of H.R. 30).

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
C.W. WHITAKER

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. C.W. Whitaker, a dedicated leader in Dallas and friend to Texas' 30th District. Mr. Whitaker has used his platform as the owner of DFWBAM, a social media company to spread, in his words, "blessings, love, and support" to his community.

Mr. Whitaker understands the value of investing in our youth and growing generational wealth for our communities. For thirty-one years, he mentored high school students on what it takes to start and run one's own business, taking them to visit Black-owned businesses in the DFW area. Yet Mr. Whitaker's call to service is not limited to the classroom. Not only has he sat on multiple philanthropic boards and volunteered many hours through his company, Mr. Whitaker has also helped to elevate the businesses, churches, and other community events in the district. The exposure these businesses receive and the community that is built is an invaluable part of what makes this country and individuals, like Mr. Whitaker so amazing: neighbors helping neighbors for the good of all. That was clear during the pandemic when Mr. Whitaker graciously used his voice and resources to publicize four COVID vaccine events my office hosted, contributing to over two-hundred low-income constituents receiving their first and second vaccine shots.

It is individuals like C.W. Whitaker that make serving Texas' 30th Congressional District a privilege and responsibility I do not take lightly. I am proud to recognize the humble servant that is Mr. Whitaker, for the deep passion and commitment he has. May we all follow in his footsteps of selfless action for the betterment of those around us. I thank Mr. Whitaker.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF SHIRLEY MAE BEARD

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and enduring legacy of Shirley Mae Beard, a cherished figure in Louisville, Kentucky, who passed away on January 11, 2025. As the founder and owner of Shirley Mae's Cafe in the Smoketown neighborhood, Shirley Mae was renowned not only for her exceptional culinary skills but also for her unwavering commitment to our community.

For over 30 years, Shirley Mae's Cafe has been a cornerstone of Louisville's restaurant scene and recognized nationally for its fried chicken, hot water cornbread, and warm, welcoming atmosphere. Shirley Mae's Cafe occupies a three-story building built in 1880 on the site of a post-Civil War encampment for freed slaves. Shirley Mae bought the building the same year she opened the restaurant, becoming the first Black owner of the building.

Shirley Mae's dedication to preserving and sharing authentic Southern cuisine provided nourishment for both the body and soul, fostering a sense of unity and belonging among local diners and celebrity visitors alike.

Shirley Mae was an advocate for civil rights and a pillar of strength within our community. Her leadership and passion for justice left an indelible mark on Louisville, inspiring countless individuals to pursue equality and understanding. Shirley Mae Beard shaped our community in more ways than we can count from her civil rights leadership to her famous cornbread.

As we reflect on her life, let us not just remember Shirley Mae Beard for her culinary talents, but also carry forward her legacy of love, unity, and service. May her memory continue to inspire us all to make a positive difference in our community, just as she did throughout her remarkable life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY
CLIFF BAUER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Timothy "Tim" Cliff

Bauer of Winnie, Texas, who passed away at his home on December 19, 2024, after a hard-fought battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family.

Tim was born to Patricia and Leroy Bauer on September 13, 1951, in Beaumont, Texas. He grew up in the Winnie-Stowell community and was a devoted member of Grace Methodist Church. While attending East Chambers High School, he met the love of his life, Vicki Cuniff. After graduation, Tim attended Texas A&M University, earning his Bachelor of Science in Agronomy in 1973. He married Vicki during his senior year, and they returned to Winnie, where Tim farmed rice and raised Red Angus cattle.

In 1998, Tim and Vicki moved to the original Bauer Ranch Homestead, lovingly restoring it and going to great lengths to preserve its history and significance to the local agricultural community. Tim founded Texas Financial in 2002 and revived the Bauer Ranch's cattle operation in 2011, creating the FI Braford herd. He retired from his financial advisement business in 2015 but continued to ranch for another seven years. In 2023, Tim and Vicki moved to Kerrville, where he enjoyed the golden years of his life.

Tim was a man of conviction, stewardship, and passion. He held leadership roles in many organizations and was well known for his love of hunting, fishing, and Western art. Tim will be remembered for his sincere adoration for his family, unwavering faith, and steadfast presence. He was a true cowboy, a man's man, and tough as a boot—I am incredibly proud to have called him a friend. May the Lord bless his memory and his wonderful family. We will miss him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on January 15, 2025, I was unable to vote as I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 13; YEA on Roll Call No. 14; and YEA on Roll Call No. 15.

RECOGNIZING HENNEPIN COUNTY
EFFECTIVELY ENDING VETERAN
HOMELESSNESS

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hennepin County's remarkable achievement of reaching functional zero status in ending veteran homelessness. This designation comes from the Department of Vet-

erans Affairs, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our community, local governments, and multiple organizations that worked rigorously to ensure that every veteran has a place to call home.

While reaching functional zero does not mean the work is done, it formally recognizes that veterans experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County will be quickly identified, sheltered, and transitioned to permanent housing. Hennepin County's robust homeless response system serves as an example to many counties across the U.S. to provide the same adequate support to our veterans.

Please join me in honoring Hennepin County for this outstanding achievement and expressing our deepest gratitude to all of those who have contributed to this incredible milestone.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEBRA
GONSALVES

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Debra Gonsalves.

Throughout her life, Debra demonstrated her deep love for her family, friends, and her community. She was a proud alumna of Clayton Valley High School, often attending football games and sporting her CVHS jacket. Debra adored her family and was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She often volunteered at her daughters' schools, helping to plant flowers and leading yard duty. She regularly attended her children and grandchildren's sporting events and organized family gatherings. Additionally, she loved to travel and often visited Cabo San Lucas, Mexico where she was affectionately known as "Miss Debra". When Cabo was impacted by hurricanes, Debra worked quickly to provide support to victims and organize relief efforts. Debra's kindness and compassion were evident to all who knew her.

Sadly, Debra passed away at the age of 70 on October 4, 2024. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Steve Gonsalves; her daughters, Kelli Dupell (Josh) and Jennifer Herrera (Brandon); her grandchildren, Whitney, Andrew, Steven, Camden, and Paige; her mother, Marie Culum; her sisters, Demery Donovan, Denise Willett, and Diane Culum; her brothers, Frank Culum, Donald Culum, and David Davi; as well as numerous in-laws, nieces and great-nieces, nephews, and great-nephews.

Debra will be remembered for her warm and caring nature and her heart of gold. Please join me in recognizing Debra Gonsalves for her incredible impact on our community.