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CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, my flight to DCA was delayed and American Airlines lost my checked bag. There was then heavy traffic from DCA prior to these votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 172; YEA on Roll Call No. 173; and YEA on Roll Call No. 174.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT
GERALD TIMMINS FOR HIS
SERVICE WITH THE U.S. MARINE
CORPS AS A MEMBER OF THE
MEDEVAC CREWS DURING THE
VIETNAM WAR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Master Sergeant (MSgt) Gerald Timmins for his valiant service with the U.S. Marine Corps as a member of the Medevac crews during the Vietnam War. This recognition is presented in correspondence with the Medevac crews of the Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act, which honors the selfless and heroic individuals who served in these lifesaving missions.

MSgt Timmins' service exemplifies the unwavering dedication demonstrated by members of these Medevac crews to both their fellow servicemembers and their country. These crews—which include a pilot, crew chief, and medic—courageously operated helicopter air ambulances and are credited with saving more than 900,000 lives throughout the Vietnam War.

Serving at the Marble Mountain Air Facility with Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16) aboard CH-34 helicopters, MSgt Timmins participated in numerous recovery missions, often under intense enemy fire. His role in rescuing wounded soldiers from active combat zones required extraordinary courage and was vital to saving countless lives. His service reflects the bravery and sacrifice of the many Medevac crew members who risked everything to bring others to safety.

In his military service, MSgt Timmins was recognized with two citations for his courage and devotion to duty under hazardous conditions—an enduring testament to his exceptional service.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing MSgt Gerald Timmins for his extraordinary courage as a member of the Medevac crews during the Vietnam War, and thank him for his steadfast commitment to his fellow servicemembers, community, and country.

HONORING ARAMIS BROWN, JR. OF
DYETT HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate an extraordinary achievement by a remarkable young man from my district, Aramis Brown, Jr., a vital member of the Walter H. Dyett High School for the Arts boys' basketball team, the Eagles. This team achieved a historic victory, winning the 2024–2025 Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Class 2A State Championship with a decisive 52–41 win over Althoff Catholic High School on March 15, 2025.

This championship is more than just a win on the court. It is a profound testament to the resilience, determination, and unity of the Dyett High School community and the vibrant Bronzeville neighborhood.

A decade ago, Dyett faced the threat of closure, but through powerful community advocacy and unwavering commitment, its doors remained open.

Today, the Eagles' triumph, in which Aramis Brown, Jr. played a crucial role, symbolizes the incredible potential that flourishes when a community invests in its youth and its institutions.

Aramis Brown, Jr., along with his teammates, demonstrated exceptional skill, discipline, and teamwork throughout their season, navigating challenges and competing at the highest level. His hard work and dedication were integral to the team's success, culminating in this well-deserved championship that brings immense pride and joy to his school, family, and the entire community.

I also extend my deepest gratitude to Head Coach Jamaal Gill, whose visionary leadership and guidance steered the team to this historic victory, and to Assistant Coaches Kimani Harris, Pierre Adams, and Nathan Townsend, Jr., whose mentorship was vital to the players' development.

Aramis Brown, Jr.'s contribution to the Dyett Eagles' journey from near closure to state champions is an inspiring narrative for us all. It underscores the critical importance of supporting our public schools and investing in programs that empower young people to achieve their fullest potential.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Aramis Brown, Jr. and the entire Dyett High School boys' basketball team on their momentous achievement and in honoring them for the inspiration they provide to communities across our Nation.

HONORING COACH JOHN CHAPLIN

HON. MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a giant—not just in Cougar Country, not just in American athletics, but in the world of track and field. His name is John Chaplin.

Born in Los Angeles, educated at WSU, an Army veteran, a professor in geography, and a coach in the truest, oldest, most honorable sense of the word. From 1968 to 1994, Chaplin transformed WSU from a modest program into a global track and field powerhouse.

Under his leadership, the Cougars captured 19 Top-4 NCAA trophies, won 218 All-American honors, and crowned 17 individual NCAA champions. His dual-meet record—202 wins to just 15 losses. Nine undefeated seasons. Six national dual meet titles. He coached Olympic gold medalists, world record holders, and world champions—and he did it not in Los Angeles or Austin, but in Pullman, Washington, on the rolling hills of the Palouse.

Chaplin's recruits came from Spokane, Seattle and from all corners of the globe—young men chasing opportunity, education, and excellence. Henry Rono, Julius Korir, Bernard Lagat—these weren't just track stars. They were ambassadors of what college sports can be: meritocratic, international, and transformational.

But Chaplin was more than a coach. He was a statesman of the sport. He served as U.S. Olympic Head Coach in Sydney in 2000, where his athletes won six gold medals. He chaired the USA Track & Field Men's Committee, refereed NCAA and international championships, advised federations from Russia to Senegal, and lectured on coaching from Argentina to China. He brought honor to his profession and to Washington State.

Mr. Speaker, I must tell you this: The very program he built is being hollowed out. Just last week, WSU announced the elimination of field events and a dramatic reduction in sprints and hurdles. Of the forty-five Cougar Olympians, twenty of them came in field events. The legacy of Chaplin, and the athletes he coached, is being boxed in by a system that no longer rewards broad-based opportunity.

Yes, these cuts come in the shadow of the House v. NCAA settlement. A legal sledgehammer that forces schools like WSU into an unsustainable economic model that drains the lifeblood from Olympic sports. Chaplin's world record holders? His All-Americans? In today's system, they're expendable.

We can fix this. We must. Not with more lawsuits, not with blank checks for the Power Four—but with federal reform that restores equity, sustains opportunity, and honors the values that John Chaplin stood for.

If we lose the spirit of Cougar Track, we're not just losing a program. We're losing a piece of what college sports was meant to be.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MORTON
(MORT) ROSENBERG

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer sincere condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Morton (Mort) Rosenberg, who passed away last month.

Mort stands out as one of our strongest and most astute advocates for congressional prerogatives under the Constitution. It is no understatement that every Member of this body—on both sides of the aisle—owes a debt of gratitude to Mort for his tireless and non-partisan work over his many decades of service, both for the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and after his retirement. I am personally indebted to Mort for his seminal scholarship on Congress's power of inherent contempt, which informed my legislative work on the subject, as reflected in H. Res. 136, which I introduced in the 118th Congress to amend House Rules with respect to the enforcement of committee subpoenas to executive branch officials.

Mort was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1935, graduated from New York University and Harvard Law School, and completed his Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University. From 1972 to 2008, Mort worked at CRS as a Specialist in American Public Law in the American Law Division. During his career at CRS, he was detailed as legal counsel to a special investigative committee and served as a legal advisor to the House General Counsel. Following retirement, Mort worked with the Constitution Project, Good Government Now, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, and the law firm of Barnett Sivon & Natter. Mort's areas of expertise included constitutional law, administrative law, congressional practice and procedure, and labor law. Some of his most important work focused on the scope of congressional oversight and investigative prerogatives, and the validity of claims of executive and common-law privileges.

During and following his career at CRS, Mort authored and contributed to dozens of significant memoranda, reports, academic articles, testimony, papers, and advocacy pieces. In addition, Mort contributed to federal court litigation, assisting with Supreme Court oral argument preparation in *Free Enterprise Fund v. PCAOB* (2010), and authoring an amicus brief in *NLRB v. SW General* (2017), which was cited five times in the majority opinion. He also submitted amicus briefs in congressional oversight cases, including *McGahn v. House Judiciary Committee* (2020). In 2005, Mort received the 2004–2005 Mary C. Lawton Award for Outstanding Public Service from the American Bar Association's Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice.

In my view, Mort's most important legacy stems from his groundbreaking work on Congress's inherent contempt authority and his proposals for revitalizing its enforcement power as follows:

Congress's Contempt Power: Law, History, Practice, and Procedure (CRS Report RL34097, co-authored with Todd B. Tatelman, 2007)

Testimony before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on the

Department of Justice's obligation to respond to congressional subpoenas (2011)

Testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on the challenges Congress faces when the executive branch refuses to recognize contempt citations (2016)

Reasserting Congress's Investigative Authority (R Street Policy Study No. 103, R Street Institute, July 2017)

Summary of Proposed Inherent Contempt Rule (Good Government Now, co-authored with William J. Murphy, July 2018)

Why Congress Can Impose Fines for Contempt (Good Government Now, co-authored with William J. Murphy, August 5, 2018)

Understanding and Confronting the Current Executive Challenges to Effective Congressional Investigative Oversight (Good Government Now, July 4, 2018)

Can a Revised Inherent Contempt Procedure Strengthen Enforcement of House Subpoenas to the Executive Branch? (Good Government Now, Statement for Panel Discussion, October 19, 2018)

The Road to Effective Enforcement of House Committee Subpoenas ("Point of Order," April 27, 2019)

Proposed Inherent Contempt Procedure Rule for the House (Good Government Now, 2019)

Above and beyond his impressive body of legal scholarship, Mort was a generous mentor, teacher, and advisor to CRS and congressional staff. In the words of his former CRS colleague (and current Deputy General Counsel of the House Office of General Counsel), Todd Tatelman: Mort was everything you could want in a mentor and teacher. He was a master storyteller, with a steel-trap memory. He would regale anyone who would listen with endless tales of congressional history, recalling meetings, hearings, briefings, and memoranda he wrote on incredibly esoteric subjects with such detail that you had to listen to.

Mort leaves behind an unmatched legacy of family, friends, and colleagues. While Members of Congress may no longer be able to call upon him to testify, write a report, or file an amicus brief on our behalf, we will continue to benefit from his scholarship and wisdom for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF VERNIS JACKSON

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Vernis Marie Miller Jackson of Portsmouth, New Hampshire—a pioneering educator, visionary community leader, and lifelong champion for civil rights, culture, and historical preservation.

Born in Waycross, Georgia, Vernis' father, Bishop Clinton Miller, and mother, Lottie Butler Miller Randall, immediately moved their baby daughter to Savannah, Georgia, where she would grow up, attending Florence Street Elementary School and Savannah State College before receiving her degree from the University of New Hampshire.

In 1963, Vernis and her husband, Emerald, a sergeant in the United States Air Force, relocated with their two young daughters from Savannah to Pease Air Force Base in Newington, New Hampshire, later moving to Portsmouth, where she would remain for the

rest of her life. For 35 of those years, Mrs. Jackson served as a beloved teacher in the Portsmouth School Department, where her dedication to young people left an indelible mark on generations of students. Yet her contributions to our community extended far beyond the classroom.

Vernis served on a task force for the Equity in Mathematics Education Leadership Institute, sharing the program citywide with students and parents. She helped charter an African American women's organization, named Kwanza, which provided scholarships for local students. She was also a charter member of The Greater Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of The Links, Inc., a national women's organization, where she achieved Platinum status. Mrs. Jackson was a member of the Jonquil Garden Club, a lifetime member of the NAACP, the National Education Association, the New Hampshire Retired Teachers Association, the Crossroads Bridge Club, Friends of Portsmouth Library, and the Portsmouth College Women's Club. Vernis was a member of the Portsmouth Athenaeum and served a three-year term at the Currier Museum of Art and Seacoast Leadership Group. Vernis and her beloved husband, Emerald, also served together for 21 years on the board of the Salvation Army.

In 2000, she co-founded the Seacoast African American Cultural Center (SAACC), an institution dedicated to celebrating and preserving the contributions of African Americans in the Seacoast region and beyond. Under her leadership as president and later president emeritus, the SAACC blossomed into a vital cultural hub, curating exhibitions, hosting performances and lectures, offering scholarships, and bringing generations together through history and art.

Perhaps one of her most enduring legacies is her work at the Portsmouth African Burying Ground Memorial Park. After the discovery of the burial site in 2003, Mrs. Jackson became chair of the African Burying Ground Committee, guiding a multi-year effort to honor those interred in what is now recognized as New England's only known African burying ground dating back to the 1700s. Thanks to her leadership, the memorial park was completed and formally dedicated in 2015—a sacred space that invites reflection, remembrance, and justice.

Mrs. Jackson continued her decades-long fight for equity, education, and civil rights, and her tireless work earned her recognition across the state, including as a "Local Hero" by New Hampshire Magazine, where she was praised for bridging generations and inspiring others through action and service. She has been recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow, a Granite-Stater of the month, and has been presented with both the Martin Luther King, Jr., "Living the Dream Award," and the "Spirit of the Prince Hall" award. She was also a recipient of the City of Portsmouth Mayor's Award for her 11 years of service on the African Burying Grounds Committee.

Vernis Marie Miller Jackson passed away in February 2025 at the age of 92. Though she is no longer with us, her legacy lives on through the institutions she built, the lives she shaped, and the history she preserved for future generations.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vernis Jackson for her extraordinary life of service and leadership. May we carry forward