

her example of dignity, compassion, and commitment to justice.

HONORING LOIS JEAN BUCKMAN

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 honor Ms. Lois Jean Buckman—a pioneering telecommunications executive, beloved community leader, and lifelong advocate for mentorship, education, and empowerment.

Born on March 9, 1947, in Detroit, Michigan, Ms. Buckman was the daughter of visionary entrepreneurs who helped anchor and uplift their community for over 70 years. Her parents were proprietors of local businesses and neighborhood properties—investments that weren't just about business, but about building opportunity, community, and legacy.

At the age of 19, Lois moved to Los Angeles, California, to begin a new chapter. She would go on to build an extraordinary 37-year career at GTE, later Verizon, beginning as the first African American woman hired as a cashier and rising to the position of regional director, overseeing operations across four states. She broke barriers utilizing an indomitable resolve and never forgot to lift others as she climbed. Her boldness—including proudly wearing traditional African attire to celebrate Black History Month in a space unaccustomed to such pride—left a legacy of education and empowerment in the workplace.

Outside of corporate life, Ms. Buckman dedicated herself to community uplift. She served on the board of the Consortium of Information and Telecommunications Executives (CITE), helping to raise over 1.4 million dollars in scholarships for underserved students.

As a co-founder of Sisters Involved in Linking Knowledge (SILK), she helped create a powerful platform for youth and women in high-risk environments. SILK facilitated everything from STEM workshops and college panels to teen leadership conferences and volunteer programs that cultivated self-worth and future success. She also supported Sisters Involved in Nurturing (SATIN), an initiative focused on life skills and self-image development for young women transitioning into adulthood.

Ms. Buckman further served as president of The Regalettes for over 16 years. Founded in 1958, this organization has been rooted in service to the greater Los Angeles community for more than six decades. Under her leadership, The Regalettes awarded over 850,000 dollars in scholarships, hosted annual toy drives, and celebrated individuals who dedicated their lives to service and social impact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me to celebrate Lois Jean Buckman as a woman of substance, vision and action. She has opened doors that were never meant to be closed again. Her courage, grace, and commitment to lifting others reflect the highest ideals of public service and private leadership.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF HELEN DRAMER JARRELL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birthday of Helen Dramer Jarrell. Helen will turn 100 years old on July 3rd.

Helen Dramer Jarrell was born the eighth child of the nine children Ida Mae and Walter Hubert Waldrop on July 3, 1925. Helen had two sisters and six brothers.

On January 16, 1943, Helen married Efton Harrison. They were blessed with a baby girl, Helen Diane, on November 20, 1943. In 1945, Helen and Efton divorced, and she raised Diane on her own. On June 10, 1948, Helen remarried after meeting Jim Jarrell at work at the cotton mill. They were married for 55 years until Jim passed away in 2003.

Helen has always had a servant's heart. She cared for her mother until her passing and worked for many years at the Mary Brandon Nursing Home in Oxford, Alabama, as a nurse's aide. Helen has two grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren. After retiring from the nursing home, Helen helped raise her great-grandchildren and later helped at the Senior Center until she retired at 90 years old.

On March 13, 2011, her daughter passed away. In December, she moved into the Oxford House Apartments. She has made many friends in the past 14 years. She enjoys playing dominoes and exercising. Helen is a woman of faith and loves her family deeply.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Helen on this milestone and wishing her a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING SUSAN NEWHART ELLIOTT FOR HER SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON SCHOOL OF LAW

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor a distinguished scholar from my Congressional district who is retiring after 31 years of service at the University of Dayton School of Law.

Susan Newhart Elliott has served as a professor at the School of Law since 1994, is Director of the Zimmerman Law Library, and also serves as the University of Dayton Law Review faculty advisor. Susan earned her law degree from the University of Dayton in 1987, and was the law review's Managing Editor while she was a student. She has taught numerous classes in addition to serving as an Assistant Dean.

Susan also holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from Miami University, as well as a Master's in Library and Information Science from Kent State University.

After receiving her law degree, Susan clerked for Judge Walter Rice of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio for

two years before joining the law firm Coolidge, Wall, Womsley & Lombard, where she concentrated in complex litigation. She has also been an English instructor at Miami University, Xavier University, and Wright State University.

As director of the Zimmerman Law Library, Susan has worked tirelessly to make certain that the library supports the school's mission of providing the highest quality of service to the law faculty and its students. This includes overseeing services to all library patrons, making sure the necessary books and electronic resources are available and accessible, and providing reference service seven days a week with a librarian who holds a Master's in library science and a law degree.

Susan has helped train the minds of the law school's best and brightest students. Graduates have gone on to lead successful lives serving their communities as attorneys, judicial clerks, members of distinguished law firms, legal counsel in state and federal agencies, and on my Congressional staff. Her work has been critical to the law school's growing reputation, as the University of Dayton School of Law is tied for third among Ohio's nine law schools according to the most recent U.S. News & World Report rankings.

For nearly 20 years, Susan has served as a reader for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, evaluating nonfiction books submitted for consideration by the judges for the award. Inspired by the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords that ended the Bosnian War, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize is the only literary award in the United States that recognizes authors who utilize the power of the written word to promote peace.

In recognition of Susan's longstanding service and contributions to the legal profession, an endowment was created in her name to recruit legal scholars to write for the University of Dayton Law Review, as well as to support the law review in perpetuity.

Susan Newhart Elliott exemplifies all of the best qualities of a teacher, a scholar, and a public servant. She is a credit to her profession, and is loved and admired by her students, her colleagues, and her friends. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking this truly outstanding citizen for her three decades of service to the University of Dayton School of Law. I wish her a happy, healthy, and productive retirement.

HONORING THE GOLDEN CELEBRATION FOR LOUELLA AVENT'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

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 honor an extraordinary woman, Ms. Louella Avent, as she celebrates her 85th birthday. Though her official birthday was May 13, 1940, we joyously mark this milestone with a celebration on Saturday, June 7, at the Rose Room.

Born in Oxford, Mississippi, Ms. Avent was raised by dedicated farmers. For the past 65 years, Chicago has been her cherished second home. A lifelong learner, she graduated high school and continued her education at Loop College, now Harold Washington College. Her commitment to education continues even now as she embraces "senior life."

Ms. Avent's professional life includes dedicated service to the City of Chicago and, most recently, as a greeter at Mark Realty. She's also certified by the Chicago Greater Food Depository and proudly identifies as a chef by trade.

Throughout her career, she has had the honor of meeting numerous political figures, a testament to her widespread connections and impact. For Ms. Avent, the proudest moments in her workplace have always revolved around "just being able to help people." Her guiding principle, "If I can help somebody along the way, then my living will not be in vain," perfectly encapsulates her loving and serving spirit.

Her dedication extends far beyond her professional roles. Ms. Avent is a profound woman of faith, having transitioned from Baptist to Pentecostal about 62 years ago. She emphasizes that serving the Lord is the core value guiding her life.

She is a true community worker, participant, and activist, known for organizing a multitude of events. Her leadership and keen ability to identify needs and act upon them are truly remarkable.

Ms. Avent has been a lifelong supporter of Operation PUSH, officially becoming a member in March 2025. Her commitment to civil rights and community empowerment is unwavering. Among her major milestones, she fondly recalls meeting the late Mayor Richard Daley, and the esteemed Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. and Mrs. Jacqueline Jackson.

Her journey through 85 years has been marked by both illnesses and losses, yet through it all, "the joy of the Lord has been her strength." She is incredibly proud of her dutiful son, Caesar, an MBA graduate, who she credits as a true blessing in her life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating a remarkable individual whose life exemplifies resilience, service, and profound love for humanity.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
HONOR OF SEAMAN ANGELINA
PETRA RESENDIZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to speak on the tragic and untimely passing of Seaman Angelina Petra Resendiz. I wish to honor her for her invaluable service to our great country.

Seaman Resendiz displayed the highest levels of duty and courage in the line of duty. Her service is representative of the many brave men and women who volunteer to serve their country.

This exemplary young woman enlisted in August 2023 as a culinary specialist in the United States Navy. During this time, she performed her duties admirably and to the best of her abilities.

Unfortunately, Seaman Resendiz was unable to finish her service to our country due to her tragic passing. Nobody should ever be targeted or harmed by their peers or superiors. We owe an enormous debt to our brave service members, and the least we, as Members

of Congress, can do is ensure that they are protected regardless of gender, ethnicity, or where they are stationed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I wish to honor Seaman Resendiz for her service and sacrifice. She was taken from us too soon and I stand in solidarity with her family and so many others in their pursuit of justice.

STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC
SERVICE WINTER 2024 PUBLIC
SERVICE REVIEW

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues and all Americans to read the recently published Winter 2024 edition of Public Service Review.

The Review is a quarterly publication of the Stennis Center for Public Service. The Stennis Center is a federal, bipartisan legislative branch agency established by the United States Congress to promote public service and strengthen the highest ideals of public service in America. Established in 1988 in honor of the late Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi, the Stennis Center provides a variety of public service programs and development opportunities for young people, leaders in local, state, and federal government, and congressional staff. In addition to its Starkville, Mississippi, headquarters, the Center also has a Washington, D.C. office on Capitol Hill. I am proud that several members of my staff, including my Chief of Staff, my Staff Director on the Committee on Education and Workforce, and my Education Policy Director on the committee have served as Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows in the 115th, 117th, and 119th Congresses respectfully.

The Winter 2024 edition of Public Service Review comes at a pivotal moment as we are in the early months of a new Congress and a new administration. In this time of transition, elevating the importance of public service is critical. The contributors to this edition, including senior public servants and participants in the Stennis Program for Congressional Interns, reflect on what it means to serve and to lead with purpose, integrity, and heart.

I am proud that this edition includes an interview conducted by Mezhiah Scott, a graduate of Virginia State University, of Michael Maul, Director of the Department of Planning and Budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Their conversation centers on adaptability and collaboration in the public sector, with Director Maul emphasizing the vital role of mentorship in building a stronger future for government leadership.

This edition includes other student led interviews by Cameron Mayers from the University of Mississippi School of Law, Adam Royko from Cleveland State University, Zahra Wakilzada from Georgetown University, Sydney Aalbers from Texas Tech University, Skylar Kil from Tulane University, Vivian Tarbert from Smith College, TaylorAnn Wooley from Black Hills State University, Javier Kowalchuk from the University of Florida, and Trinity Wilson from Alcorn State University.

Each of these students should be proud of the work they contributed to the Winter 2024

edition of Public Service Review. Their interviews of individuals who have devoted their lives to public service reflects the heart of this publication and the work of the Stennis Center—the belief that public service is enriched by diversity of thought, background, and experience.

Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to read the latest edition of Public Service Review. The Winter 2024 edition and previous editions can be accessed online by visiting www.stennis.gov.

HONORING GUN VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, June is Gun Violence Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about gun violence and its devastating impact on our citizens and Nation. It is a time to honor the lives of those tragically taken due to gun violence, to recognize that gun violence inflicts trauma and tragedy on individuals, families, and communities, and to advance effective gun violence prevention efforts.

In 2023, there were nearly 47,000 firearm-related deaths, which is approximately 128 people dying due to firearms every day. In 2024, more than 500 mass shootings occurred—more than one a day. Gun violence is the leading cause of death of children and teens. Yet the Trump Administration pushes action after action to make Americans more likely to suffer gun violence.

President Trump effectively legalized machine guns, rescinded millions of dollars in grants for gun violence reduction, eliminated gun violence data, and revoked the zero-tolerance policy that was a powerful tool for combatting gun trafficking and straw purchases. Further, the Republican budget bill would eliminate the gun silencer tax on the purchase or transfer of silencers and eliminate silence registrations. The Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans seek to undo decades of progress reducing gun violence. It is imperative that we continue to fight for the right for our youth to live in a society where they do not have to worry constantly about gun violence.

Illinois and the City of Chicago have made great progress in implementing programs that reduce gun violence. Three years ago, Illinois created the Office of Firearm Violence Prevention which is responsible for awarding grants to organizations rooted in helping reduce gun violence, including the Chicago-based Peacekeepers Program. The Peacekeepers Program currently serves around 30 communities. In the communities that the Peacekeepers served, there was a 31 percent reduction in gun violence in 2023 and 2024 compared to the previous two years. Illinois and the City of Chicago can implement strict gun regulations and fund programs that reduce gun violence, but if neighboring states like Indiana and Wisconsin keep weak restrictions in place, then almost anyone can cross those state borders and acquire a gun.

We must do more. We must limit the number of guns that exist in our country. We must