

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 Meziah 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](http://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

ban assault weapons and enact strong background checks with no loopholes. We must repeal immunity for firearm manufacturers so individuals can bring civil actions to hold these companies responsible for their role in the gun violence epidemic. We must provide funding for programs with demonstrated success in reducing gun violence.

During my time in Congress, I have worked diligently to pass legislation that will effectively regulate firearms and reduce gun violence. I lead the Ammo Identification Act and the Gun Violence Prevention and Safe Communities Act. These bills aim to reduce gun violence by requiring serial numbers to be engraved on ammunition to improve and creating guaranteed funding for gun violence prevention programs by increasing the excise tax on firearms and ammunition.

Gun violence is a public health crisis, and our federal government must lead the effort to enact effective gun violence prevention legislation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MALIK TODD MURRAY

**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 the remarkable life and profound contributions of Malik Todd Murray, a man who embodied the spirit of lifelong learning, athletic excellence, financial acumen, activism, mentorship and generous philanthropy rooted in faith. His life, marked by exceptional dignity, humility, and class, serves as an inspiration to us all.

Born in Chicago on September 16, 1974, Malik was the firstborn son of Cook County Circuit Court Judge Leonard Murray and the late Linda Diane Gray Murray. His mother, Linda, dedicated her career to education, serving as an assistant principal at Hyde Park Academy following a distinguished tenure as an award-winning history, sociology and psychology teacher.

Growing up in Chicago's South Shore community, Malik's early education at St. Philip Neri Elementary School saw him excel both as an altar boy and a straight-A student.

His passion for basketball ignited at the South Shore YMCA Youth Basketball Program under the guidance of his father, his first coach.

This early dedication paved the way for his admission to St. Ignatius College Prep where he graduated as the salutatorian of his class.

At St. Ignatius College Prep, Malik's athletic talent shone brightly. In 1992, his leadership propelled the boys' basketball team to its first Regional Championship in two decades. That same year, he was named at the Chicago All Area Team, Chicago Catholic League Player of the Year, three-time Chicago Sun-Times Player of the Week and Chicago Tribune Athlete of the Week.

His commitment to excellence in both academics and athletics earned him a four-year basketball scholarship to DePaul University, where he played under Coach Joey Meyer. Malik secured an internship at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and then graduated from DePaul's Driehaus College of Business.

Malik spent 8 years at Bank One Brokerage and ultimately lead the European shift for international exchange traded products. Malik went on to further his education through obtaining an MBA in finance from DePaul's Kellstadt Graduate School of Business in 2004.

In December of 2004, Malik transitioned to Ariel Investments, where his talent and dedication led to a distinguished career culminating in his role as Senior Vice President, Head of Business Development, Institutional Marketing.

Throughout his career, Malik demonstrated a deep commitment to community engagement, serving on the boards of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, DePaul University and St. Ignatius College Prep, where he established scholarships and funds to promote diversity and inclusion. He also held leadership positions with the National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP) and contributed to the Ariel Community Academy school board.

His legacy of excellence and generosity will continue to inspire future generations.

At the young age of 50, Malik Todd Murray passed on April 19, 2025. He was preceded in death by his mother, Linda Diane Gray Murray. He is survived by his longtime partner, Elizabeth; his father, Leonard; his sisters, Kai and Nubia (Brian) Davis; his brother, Kamau (Jennifer), and a wide circle of friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Malik Todd Murray as a testament to the power of hard work, integrity, and a deep commitment to serving others.

#### RECOGNIZING DEPARTING STAFF MEMBER BENJAMIN HONG STARR

**HON. MARK TAKANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2025*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the incredible contributions of one of the most dedicated staffers in Congress, Benjamin Hong Starr.

Ben first came to my office as a Victory Institute fellow, before joining my staff officially as a staff assistant. Ben not only excelled in, but innovated upon, this position—implementing strategies and policies that continue to this day. From making constituents feel at home to battling the rats in the House Office Building basement, Ben proved there was no challenge he could not face.

Ben's unique abilities, professionalism, and dedication are apparent to all who across paths him. Throughout the nearly four years Ben was in my office he continued to exceed expectations in every role he was assigned. As a part of my legislative staff, he continuously found new ways to address the needs of California's 39th district. From spearheading efforts to improve air quality to advancing consumer protections, Ben consistently demonstrated the same zealous ingenuity that made even the most complex issues seem solvable.

As Ben moves into his new role with the Congressional Progressive Caucus, I could not be prouder of the impact he has already made on behalf of the Inland Empire. I, and

every person whose life Ben has touched, will be watching as he continues helping to create a better world.

I congratulate Ben and thank him for his service.

#### HONORING STEVE MARANS, MSW, PHD, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2025*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my profound gratitude and deep admiration that I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Dr. Steven Marans, as he celebrates his retirement from a distinguished career in psychiatry including more than four decades of extraordinary leadership and service at the Yale Child Study Center and in the field of child trauma.

We know that trauma affects the human mind in a multitude of ways and there is no predicting how one might process a traumatic event—the number of different reactions as numerous as there are individuals. This is particularly true for children, all too often too young to fully understand the violence, stress, or trauma they may be experiencing. There are few, not only in this country but in this world, that understand that better than Dr. Steven Marans.

Some of my first real interactions and discussions with Dr. Marans came when he founded the Child Development-Community Policing Program. This pioneering effort was based on the collaboration of mental health and law enforcement professionals in responding to children and families exposed to violence and trauma. He found a better way to help children and their families in their darkest hours. It is a program that I was proud to secure federal funding for and one that has since been replicated in communities both here in the United States and abroad. Dr. Marans went on to become the Director of the Yale Child Study Center as well as the co-founder of the Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention, an evidence-based, early intervention that has been disseminated nationally and internationally, improving outcomes for countless children and families.

Over the course of our careers, I have often sought his counsel, turning to him for advice and as a resource when our communities and our Nation faced traumatic events. From the attacks on 9/11 to the Sandy Hook shooting; from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic to the forced separation of families, Dr. Marans has only ever been a phone call away, and he has never not answered the call. I am not the only policymaker or community leader to have benefitted from his expertise and knowledge. Indeed, in addition to all of his work, Dr. Marans has also dedicated countless hours as a professor, a mentor, and advocate, educating not only new generations of mental health professionals, but also those in government, the private sector and academia. I, like so many others, consider myself fortunate to have been able to learn from him, and even more so that I can call him a friend.

Dr. Marans has dedicated his professional career and much of his personal life to researching and developing innovative approaches to interventions and treatments that