

2. Support for Families: it would offer a form of recognition to the families who have endured the loss of a loved one due to the invisible scars of war. They, too, have made significant sacrifices, and they deserve our empathy, understanding, and respect.

3. Awareness: A specific banner would raise awareness about the crisis of Veteran suicides, promoting open dialogue, reducing stigma, and emphasizing the critical need for resources and support for mental health and suicide prevention among Veterans.

4. Community and Unity: it would bring together the broader military and civilian communities in collective remembrance and action, uniting us in our support for those who have served and our determination to ensure that no veteran feels alone in their struggles.

This service banner has been initially manufactured by "The Flag Company" in Clearwater Florida, and adopted by America's Gold Star Families, Military Order of the Purple National, Bruce Rector; mayor of Clearwater, Florida, the American Legion Turner-Brandon Post 7, Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Pinellas County Veterans Association, Florida Veterans Coalition, Veteran Forces, Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 1963, the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 705, Operation Warrior Wishes, and the Sgt. Anthony Patrick Muhlstadt Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Red Star Service Banner and the Red Star Foundation. I applaud them for their work to honor our Veterans and service members lost due to suicide and to provide support and community to their loved ones. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Red Star Foundation all the best in its future endeavors.

HONORING GARRISON
MCMURTREY'S SERVICE AS DISTRICT DIRECTOR

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Garrison McMurtrey for serving for over two years as my District Director.

Garrison is a dedicated public servant with a passion for workforce development and economic justice, with a focus on equity and community engagement.

Garrison started his career working on campaign field teams, went on to work as an Outreach Director for Senator KLOBUCHAR and spent time in corporate public affairs. Hopefully by the time he sees this, he's now Ramsey County's newest Commissioner.

Garrison has been invaluable to my team. All with a person-centered approach, he assisted in elevating the work carried out in the district office. He instituted new casework initiatives, ensuring accessibility and reliability. He operationalized outreach strategies to foster meaningful relationships with community partners.

I've appreciated Garrison's leadership and support during his time with my office. I will miss his dedication and infectious laughter. I'm certain that Garrison will find success in this next chapter and I know he'll remain committed to serving the public for the better.

IN MEMORIAM OF CATHERINE
McCLARY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Catherine McClary, former Treasurer of Washtenaw County, Michigan, who passed away in December before the end of her term. Her decades of public service for the residents of Washtenaw County as a member of the Board of Commissioners and Treasurer are worthy of commendation.

Catherine began her 40-year career in public service in 1974, when she became the youngest ever Washtenaw County Commissioner at 22 years old. She held this position for 14 years before being elected Washtenaw County Treasurer in 1988.

As Commissioner, Catherine led Washtenaw County's first Affirmative Action committee, which fought for equal pay and promotions for women and people of color. She continued fighting for equity as Treasurer, working toward a more fair and just economy through initiatives like the Bridge Loans for Affordability Program, Homes for Generations Program, and Fine and Fee Justice cohort project. She was active in the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), including serving on its Treasury Investment Management Committee. She was honored with the organization's Hero Award in 2021 for her work toward recovery and renewal of Washtenaw County during the Covid-19 pandemic. She also received GFOA's 2022 Award for Excellence in Government Finance for helping implement innovative robotic process automation through the "Robots Record Revenue" project.

Outside of her work as Treasurer, Catherine was a champion for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, the rights of women and people of color, and protection from home foreclosures. She served as Director of the Domestic Violence Project/SAFE House Center Domestic Violence Project Board of Trustees. She also spent time as a counselor and trainer at a women's crisis center and co-wrote the "Freedom from Rape" publication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Catherine McClary's remarkable life and years of public service. Her dedication to her community and many contributions to Washtenaw County have impacted countless others and leaves behind an important legacy. We thank her for her service, and wish her friends and family all the comfort and solace as they mourn her passing.

RECOGNIZING PUNKIN CENTER GIN
IN DAWSON COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize a remarkable achievement in West Texas—the Food, Fuel, and Fiber Capital of the World. Punkin Center Gin, owned by Al Crisp, has marked a grand milestone by

celebrating its one-hundredth year in operation. This family business underscores the resilience and history of our farming community in Dawson County.

Punkin Center Gin opened its doors back on June 11, 1924, making it not only the oldest cotton gin in West Texas but also the second oldest in the entire state still in operation.

Al Crisp's dedication to his family's agricultural legacy is clear. He is proud to maintain a century-old agricultural business in Texas where his ancestors have lived since before it was a state. He was quoted with a sentiment many share in the Lone Star State—"I'm Texas to the core."

Like plenty of our region's farmers, Al values hard work and family. He has pushed off any centennial celebrations until after the harvest season, and he is committed to the future of Punkin Center Gin hoping to pass it down to his children. In West Texas, we take pride in fostering farmers of character who fuel and feed the rest of the country.

On behalf of the 19th Congressional District of Texas, I thank Al Crisp, his family, and the team at Punkin Center Gin for their dedication to agriculture and our community. God bless them and go West Texas.

CONGRATULATING RALPH
HUTCHINSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate East Lampeter Township Manager Ralph Hutchinson on his retirement.

Mr. Hutchinson's career in public service spans four decades. After graduating from Lafayette College and Penn State's Capitol Campus, known today as Penn State Harrisburg, Mr. Hutchinson worked as Executive Secretary for the Borough of Fountain Hill in Lehigh County, as well as Borough Manager for Millersville Borough in Lancaster County. He spent the last 34 years as Township Manager for East Lampeter Township in Lancaster County.

Mr. Hutchinson has witnessed the township grow significantly over the past three decades, and has worked to balance the needs of commercial enterprises and farming communities along the bustling Route 30 Corridor. Mr. Hutchinson has lent his experience and expertise in municipal management to numerous boards and committees.

As he transitions into a well-deserved retirement, the community both thanks and honors Ralph Hutchinson for his years in public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHIEF
WILLIAM "BILL" BROWN

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chief William "Bill" Brown, who passed away on January 24th. Chief Brown is remembered for his integral roles in advancing the safety

and well-being of his community in Montgomery County, Virginia.

After his birth in West Virginia, much of Mr. Brown's early life centered in Southwest Virginia. As one of 12 children, he graduated with the last class of the all-Black Christiansburg Institute in 1966.

Following his graduation, Mr. Brown answered his country's call and enlisted in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He served the 9th Infantry Division and rose to the rank of Sergeant.

Upon his return home, Mr. Brown pursued a career in law enforcement. In 1970, the Blacksburg Police Department hired Mr. Brown, making him the first black police officer in the New River Valley.

For more than three decades, Mr. Brown executed his role with steadfast professionalism and respect. This work was recognized by American Legion Post 182, who awarded him the 1984 Outstanding Young Law Enforcement award.

The dedication and work ethic Mr. Brown brought to the Blacksburg Police Department resulted in his appointment to Chief of Police in 1994. He continued as Chief until his retirement in 2006.

His outstanding tenure with the police department was marked by strong relationships, positive attitudes and a legacy of contributions to the police department.

Following his tenure with Blacksburg PD, the citizens of Montgomery County elected Chief Brown to a seat on the County's Board of Supervisors. His service on the Board lasted from 2008 to 2015. Chief Brown was trusted by his peers to serve as the Board's chairman for his last two years before retiring.

As a result of his public service and contributions to the Blacksburg community, the new William H. Brown Blacksburg Police Department building is named in his honor.

Mr. Brown is preceded in death by his parents Melvin & Ulysses, brothers Herbert and Kenneth, and sister Dr. Marlene Faye Brown.

Mr. Brown will be dearly missed by his loved ones, including his wife Rebecca Brown, to whom he was married for 55 years, sisters Dorothy M. Vanderhall, Denise Holland (Mike), brothers Melvin C. Brown Jr., John C. Brown (Brenda), Earl T. Brown, Mack W. Brown (Karen), Gregory V. Brown (Laurie) and Theron U. Brown, his children and grandchildren.

I join Montgomery County in mourning Chief Brown's passing. Peers, community members and countless others praise Mr. Brown for his profound leadership and lifetime service to the citizens of Montgomery County. We are extremely grateful for Chief Brown's admirable service.

RECOGNIZING HONDA TALON DAY

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, Wednesday, January 29, has been recognized as Honda Talon Day in South Carolina.

Governor McMaster declared this day of official celebration in response to the Honda

Talon being named "Coolest Thing Made in South Carolina" by the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance.

The Honda product stood out against 166 other nominated products with class-leading technology and numerous victories in racing competitions.

Since 1998, Timmonsville has been the exclusive home of Honda side-by-side vehicle manufacturing, where it has produced nearly 4 million units and currently employs over 1,000 South Carolinians—I'm looking forward to the future of Honda manufacturing here in South Carolina's Seventh District.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF BIG G GROCERY STORE IN DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of small-town business owners and the impact they have on local communities and to honor the Griffin family and their locally run grocery store in Decatur, Mississippi.

In January 1975, Buner Lee Griffin and his family opened a full-service grocery store and named it Big G Grocery. For fifty years Big G Grocery has served the Decatur community with fresh meat and produce through hardships like hurricanes, ice storms, power outages, and the COVID pandemic. Big G Grocery continues to work with the local communities through partnerships with churches and neighboring school districts. By supporting community projects such as food pantries and sporting events, the owners and operators of Big G Grocery have had a massive impact on their local community.

Today, David Griffin keeps the Big G Grocery tradition of service alive. He fills in wherever he is needed and can be found working the cash register, cooking in the deli, or decorating a cake. His dedication ensures continued service for many years to come. I am proud to represent Big G Grocery in my Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING OSAMA SIBLANI'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO JOURNALISM IN MICHIGAN AND THE NATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Osama Siblani of Dearborn, Michigan, on the occasion of his 70th birthday. As founder and publisher of The Arab American News since 1984, his publication has been a crucial addition to the national conversation for over forty years, and his efforts are worthy of commendation.

Osama was born in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1955, and came to the United States in 1976 on a one-way ticket and \$185 in his pocket to

further his education. Working odd jobs, sometimes three at a time, Osama saved up enough to attend the University of Detroit Mercy and graduated with an engineering degree in 1979. In the aftermath of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, he realized that the Arab American voice was missing from how major media covered events in the Middle East. Motivated by this and having settled in Dearborn, the Nation's largest Arab American community, Osama founded The Arab American News in 1984.

The Arab American News quickly became a local favorite due to it being published in both Arabic and English, though this did mean that he needed to bring staff and typesetting equipment in from the Middle East and was essentially publishing two newspapers in one. Osama's political wisdom combined with his ability to bridge the knowledge gaps of American audiences meant that The Arab American News rapidly became the national media's most popular resource for Arab and Arab American opinions and analyses. In 2003, he addressed the American Society of Newspaper Editors at their annual convention. Osama is also a frequent lecturer on U.S.-Arab relations and the role of minority media in America at several institutions, including the Columbia University School of Journalism, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Central Michigan University and Wayne State University, among others. In 2011, he hosted the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) convention in Detroit with a grand opening reception in Dearborn, Michigan.

Osama has always been a staunch supporter of Arab rights, even when the newspaper offices got vandalized and his life was threatened. Whether it was supporting the Palestinians, opposing the 1991 Gulf War, or trying to avert the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Osama didn't quiet down and kept publishing. As a major voice for the Arab American community, he also helped found the Congress of Arab American Organizations (CAAQ) as well as the Arab American Political Action Committee (AAPAC). In support of his community, Osama is the Chairman of the Board of the Garden City Hospital and is also a member of the BRIDGES Program (Building Respect in Diverse Groups to Enhance Sensitivity), a partnership between federal law enforcement agencies and leaders in the Arab American and Middle Eastern communities in the metro-Detroit region to encourage and facilitate dialogue. He has received many awards for his journalistic work, including the "Spirit of Diversity in Journalism" award from Wayne State University as well as being inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Osama Siblani for his contributions to journalism on the occasion of his 70th birthday. For the last 41 years, his voice has rung loud and clear as an advocate for Arab lives around the world and has become a crucial piece of our national discourse. We thank him for his decades of hard work and wish him the happiest of birthdays. I thank Osama.