

Mr. Speaker, while Pearline began her journey in Louisiana, she became an irreplaceable part of the fabric of Lower Bucks County. Her story is the story of so many who came to Pennsylvania seeking opportunities and helped build stronger, more caring communities for all of us.

Today, we honor Pearline Compton's life and legacy, her legacy of love, her resilience, and her service. She reminds us that one person's kindness, lived out over a lifetime, can transform not only a family, but can transform generations, especially that of our young people.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, Mr. Speaker, we extend our deepest gratitude for her example and our heartfelt sympathies to all whom she loved and all who loved her so dearly.

□ 1030

HONORING BEATRICE LUMPKIN

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and work of Beatrice "Bea" Lumpkin, a union organizer, workers' rights activist, academic, and writer who passed away on June 14 at the age of 107 years.

Bea was a fierce defender of working-class people and an active fighter for civil rights. She was called by some the rock of the labor movement, because she grounded us and taught us how to stay committed to the search for justice and equity for those without power.

Bea marched along with Dr. Martin Luther King in Chicago and was an ally of the Black Panther Party. She was present at every key moment of our labor and civil rights movement for nearly 90 years, up to the recent No Kings marches.

Her engagement with the movement began with a factory job when she was 14 years old. She helped organize the Metal and Machinery Workers Industrial Union, a part of the newly formed Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Her persistence and determination were best exemplified when Wisconsin Steel, the plant her husband, Frank, worked at, abruptly closed and 3,400 workers lost their jobs. For 17 years, the Lumpkins led a successful fight for those workers to receive back pay.

As recently as 2024, Bea was focused on intergenerational work with youth activists and joined the Starbucks workers as they began organizing.

As a retiree, she expanded her activism on issues such as climate justice, the rights of retired workers, and consumer protection against overcharges from utility companies.

Mr. Speaker, Bea believed our job is to make the world a better place. She found joy in the work she did and inspired others, including me, to con-

tinue fighting. The labor movement has lost a giant.

Rest in power, Bea Lumpkin.

HONORING ANTONIO "TONY" ORTIZ

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Antonio "Tony" Ortiz, who recently concluded 26 years of dedicated service at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, including 16 years as president.

For 30 years, Cristo Rey has transformed lives by providing a Catholic college preparatory education, integrated with professional work experience.

Today, the school serves students who are 100 percent bilingual, 90 percent first generation, with a median family income of \$43,000. Cristo Rey has nearly 3,000 alumni, 15 of whom now work at the school. Tony's greatest accomplishment is the culture he built that proudly reflects the strength of my district. The vast majority of students, alumni, faculty, and staff live and maintain deep ties to the Fourth District of Illinois, making the school a strong pillar of the surrounding community.

Under Tony Ortiz's leadership, Cristo Rey Jesuit has become a model of educational excellence nationwide, and his vision has helped the school grow into a national network of more than 40 schools, serving over 13,000 students across the country each day.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Tony Ortiz for his remarkable service and wish him all the best in the years ahead. He has left a lasting legacy in our community.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOTHOUSE

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the HotHouse Center for International Performance and Exhibition, popularly known in Chicago as the HotHouse.

The HotHouse is known for its programming of jazz and world music concerts, multi-disciplinary events, and focus on creating opportunities for artistic practices and performances.

HotHouse has taken the arts into underserved communities, fostering the international exchange of ideas, and serving as a central meeting place for a variety of community groups.

While their physical location at Balbo Avenue closed in July of 2007, the current board continues organizing and programming around Chicagoland.

Over the years, HotHouse has been awarded with many of the top honors in the arts and culture industry, including Best of Chicago, Chicagoan of the Year, and The Abbey, all reflecting its lasting impact in our region.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the HotHouse on this incredible milestone, and I wish the organization many more years of success.

HONORING CLARA MARTIN

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Clara Martin, a beloved educator, broadcaster, and community leader who passed away June 21 at the age of 94.

A graduate of the University of Georgia, Ms. Martin spent 14 years on the faculty at Brenau University, where she launched the school's journalism program and its first radio station.

She went on to own and operate two radio stations in Clarkesville, lead adult education programs at Piedmont College, and later returned to Brenau to direct its journalism and broadcasting programs until her retirement in 2006.

Clara also served as the U.S. Census Bureau administrator and correspondent for several Georgia newspapers. Her decades of work shaped generations of Georgia journalists and broadcasters.

She is survived by three daughters, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, Georgia is grateful for Clara's remarkable legacy of service and education.

RECOGNIZING FRED GRETSCH ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fred Gretsch, a resident of Pooler, Georgia, and to wish him a happy 80th birthday.

Fred is the fourth generation of his family to lead Gretsch, the storied musical instrument manufacturer founded in Brooklyn in 1883 by his great-grandfather, Friedrich Gretsch, a German immigrant.

In 1984, Fred and his wife, Dinah, bought the company back into family hands and built it into the world-renowned name it is today, known for that great Gretsch sound.

Gretsch instruments have shaped American music played by George Harrison, Elvis Presley, Chet Atkins, and Charlie Watts, among many others.

Since bringing the company home to Georgia's First District, Fred and Dinah have generously supported music education, including establishing the Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music at Georgia Southern University.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Georgia's First District, I congratulate Fred Gretsch on 80 remarkable years and thank him for his contributions to American music, craftsmanship, and philanthropy.

CELEBRATING MARKET ON THE SQUARE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true hometown treasure in Georgia's First Congressional District, Market on the Square in historic downtown St. Marys, as it celebrates 25 years of serving our community.

Since opening its doors in 2002, after the restoration of the historic Hernandez grocery store building, this family-owned business has become much more than a general store.

Whether you are picking up a souvenir before visiting Cumberland Island, enjoying an ice cream cone on a warm summer day, or finding a perfect gift for someone, Market on the Square has created lasting memories for many families.

For 25 years, they have watched downtown St. Marys grow, persevered through challenges and storms, and remained a cornerstone of one of Georgia's most charming waterfront communities. Businesses like Market on the Square are the heart of Main Street America, strengthening our local economy, while preserving the character and hospitality that make St. Marys so very special.

HONORING SHERIFF JOHN WILCHER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish my good friend a very happy 82nd birthday, Sheriff John Wilcher, retired sheriff of Chatham County, Georgia.

A lifelong Savannah County resident, George dedicated 49 years of his life to serving the people of Chatham County, earning a reputation as a straight-talking tough guy.

He served in both the United States Navy and the Army Reserve before joining the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, where he rose to the rank of colonel over 40 years of service.

In 2016, Wilcher became the oldest person elected to the sheriff's office in Chatham County history and served with distinction until his retirement in 2024.

Throughout his career, John earned the Georgia Sheriffs' Association Excellence Award and was recognized for his work improving mental health services in jails and raising over \$300,000 for the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to Sheriff Wilcher. The First District of Georgia is grateful for his lifetime of service. Happy birthday to my friend.

RECOGNIZING CHARLOTTE KING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the Member from Delaware (Representative MCBRIDE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible Delawarean whose impact has long shaped the work of racial justice in Sussex County and across Delaware.

Charlotte King, who founded the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice in 2015, has committed decades of her life to fighting inequities across health, education, and public policy.

As we celebrate a decade of work by the Alliance, we honor and celebrate Ms. King's continued impact, her tireless commitment to neighbors, and ceaseless devotion to the betterment of Delaware.

Charlotte King has long been a barrier-breaker. During her time at St. John's University in the 1950s, she was one of the Magnificent Seven, a cohort of seven Black students who enrolled

at the university amid the civil rights movement.

In 2000, she moved to the greatest State in the Union, settling in Lewes, where she began volunteering with the League of Women Voters and was struck by the lack of Black representation in Sussex County.

The weight of the untold stories and unheard voices of our Black neighbors is what drove Charlotte to found the Alliance.

The organization's primary purpose has been to showcase Delaware's history, identify how to support Black Delawareans, and how to empower all Delawareans to be stronger, better advocates for racial justice, and equality.

During her 8 years leading the alliance, Charlotte developed an organization that offered townhalls with civic servants, from local leaders and police chiefs, hosted educational seminars, and supported the development of both the Black Voices Magazine and the African American Film Festival.

I recently had the privilege of sitting down with Charlotte in her living room to hear the stories of her trailblazing life and discuss the ongoing need for progress in Delaware and nationally.

She is a bold leader, a bridge builder, and she continues to serve as a conscience for our State of neighbors.

In the last year alone, her work and impact has been honored. She was inducted into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame, honored by the Delaware Times with the Mitchell Award, and recently named one of the most influential people in Delaware.

At a moment when a coordinated attack on Black political power is unfolding before our eyes across the country, it is citizen leaders like Charlotte who embody that charge from the late Congressman John Lewis to get into good and necessary trouble in order to redeem the legacy and reclaim the story of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize her in this Chamber today and applaud her years of service to Delaware and the powerful work she has done to move the First State toward justice for all.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark both the anniversary of a profound loss and the reminder it serves at this moment in our Nation's story.

Six years ago, Congressman John Lewis passed away. He was a titan of the civil rights movement, who worked tirelessly to deliver justice, expand equality, and secure the right to vote for every American, including Black Americans.

Today, however, we are navigating a moment where the work he devoted his life to is increasingly under threat. We have seen executive actions that would make it harder for Americans to vote. We have witnessed renewed attempts to undermine confidence in our elections and intimidate those who administer them.

Right now in this very Congress, we are facing a renewed push to establish what amounts to a modern day poll tax on Americans.

Most recently, the Supreme Court has facilitated the dismantling of Black political representation in this Chamber and green-lit racial discrimination in voting so long as the proponents simply say it is for partisan purposes.

Congressman Lewis often spoke of his hopefulness for the future because he was adamant that tomorrow could be better and more just than today.

It is our job to pick up that mantle and continue that work.

In 2020, while commemorating the anniversary of Bloody Sunday on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Congressman Lewis reminded us of his important rallying call, to get into what he called good trouble, to help redeem the soul of America.

□ 1045

Throughout his miraculous life, he never lost faith in the central ingredient of change, the necessary foundation of democracy, his belief in the capacity for other people to change, and, therefore, for our country to change.

He reminds us that hope is not reserved for moments when progress feels inevitable or easily attainable. We must harness it, most especially in moments like this one. When the reasons for hopelessness seem greatest, that is when the legacy of good trouble, necessary trouble, is most essential.

CONGRATULATING TANQUE VERDE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tanque Verde High School softball team on winning the 2026 3A State championship title.

The Hawks earned the title by defeating Yuma Catholic by a 10-0 score.

This victory marks the team's first-ever championship, an accomplishment that is exciting and worth celebrating.

During the championship game, Tanque Verde added their first run on the board in the third inning, before adding six runs in the fourth, one in the fifth, and two more in the sixth.

Junior pitcher Claire Achilles was named the Class 3A MVP after pitching six innings, allowing a hit and recording 13 strikeouts.

Additionally, sophomores Mikaela Jackson and Ella Haggard each had three hits during the game.

The Hawks gave all they had and came out on top. I am so proud of them.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Mark Stevens, the whole team, and everyone who made this win possible. Their hard work has made their school and our community proud. I know the Hawks will enjoy their victory. They have earned it, and here is to another