

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Mississippi Link newspaper. Since 1993, The Mississippi Link newspaper has been a guiding light for past generations, this generation and those yet to come.

The Mississippi Link, which spans three decades, is a testament of creative genius and artistic vision. Writers invoke stories as the eye perceives them. These shared stories reach out to others—irrespective of age and time. When you tell your stories, you come with messages that offer solace, whether focusing on home, news, buzz, opinion, sports, entertainment, education, religion or health. Through truth telling and opining—connections have been made with the readers—and a long-lasting relationship has been established. This month, The Mississippi Link celebrates 30 years of pride, accomplishments, struggles and universal love.

Without contributions from The Mississippi Link newspaper's advertisers and sponsors there would be no publications. They recognize the character of the paper's anchors: Jackie Hampton, publisher, Minnie Garrett, copy editor and Marcus Johnson, graphic artist. These three are the bridge that transmits the paper into our hands.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Mississippi Link newspaper for 30 years of trailblazing journalism in the State of Mississippi.

HONORING LEW MOYE

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to honor Lew Moyer on his 80th birthday for his years of dedication and service to our communities in Missouri's First Congressional District. Lew Moyer exemplifies civil rights leadership that prioritizes doing the most for everyone—starting with those who have the greatest need.

For more than 50 years, Mr. Moyer has passionately fought to ensure that Black & brown workers are represented fairly within unions, and he has never backed down in joining others in the name of social and economic justice. As President Emeritus of the St. Louis Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Lew has ensured that the voices of marginalized workers are heard.

In the 1960s, Lew Moyer was one of the founding members of Black Employees for Equity at Chrysler. Their group filed a racial and sexual discrimination complaint and took direct

action forcing Chrysler to comply with the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Lew's leadership opened up job opportunities in skilled trades, clerical and supervisory positions for Black and brown workers as well as women on the assembly line. In 1978, Lew Moyer and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists played an integral role in defeating right-to-work in Missouri, and they have never stopped fighting, coordinating workers in North St. Louis County and across our region to get out the Black Vote.

St. Louis and I are forever grateful for his unparalleled leadership, his visionary guidance, his generous spirit, his unrelenting solidarity—and for leading with love for our entire St. Louis community in the struggle for equity and justice. On this joyous occasion, we honor Lew Moyer and express our deepest gratitude to him and his family as we wish him and all those he loves more life and joy.

HONORING SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE WOMEN'S GOLF TEAM ON THEIR SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the student athletes of Sandhills Community College's (SCC) Women's Golf Team on being recognized as Academic All-Americans by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

SCC has a proud history of both academic and athletic excellence and is a regional leader on both fronts. I was proud to see so many SCC student athletes carry on this great tradition and be named to the 2022–2023 Academic Teams of the Year.

In particular, I would like to recognize the SCC Women's Golf Team and the following members of this team on their achievement of this honor. Student athletes, Ava Ray and Trinity Ahing.

Their great success in the classroom is proof that each of them truly embody what it means to be a student athlete. I think I speak for everyone in our community when I say they have made Pinehurst and the whole of Moore County proud.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the SCC Women's Golf Team for this great achievement and to wish them continued success both on the green and in the classroom.

HONORING SERGEANT JAMES EDWARD MCDANIEL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a retired, tenacious,

and self-motivated U.S. Army veteran, James Edward McDaniel.

Sergeant McDaniel dedicated over three decades to serving in the U.S. Army Active Duty and Army Active Reserve. His versatile role included serving in various Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) such as communications, ammunition, maintenance, and as an instructor. Notably, he contributed as a training instructor at Camp Shelby, preparing young soldiers for deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. In 1991, Sergeant McDaniel played a vital role in the Persian Gulf war: Operation Desert Storm, serving as an ammunition specialist. He concluded his military career with retirement in 2006. Simultaneously, during his deployment to Operation Desert Storm, Sergeant McDaniel worked with Baxter Healthcare, where he eventually retired in 2016.

Beyond his military career, Sergeant McDaniel is a passionate basketball and football enthusiast, actively supporting his grandchildren's sporting events across different locations. Having attended Shaw High School and played on the basketball team, he proudly contributed to the team's historic win of Shaw High School's first overall basketball State championship in 1973—an achievement still celebrated by the City of Shaw after 50 years. Interestingly, Sergeant McDaniel's grandson, part of the McEvans High School basketball team, mirrored this success by winning the State championship 50 years later. Sergeant McDaniel continues to attend local basketball and football games, offering valuable encouragement and sharing his wealth of knowledge with the student athletes. Currently, Sergeant McDaniel actively participates in local basketball and football games, offering valuable encouragement to student athletes. He shares his knowledge and provides insightful pointers on various plays and emphasizes the importance of good sportsmanship. Sergeant McDaniel firmly believes in the pivotal role of education, advocating for pursuits in 2- or 4-year colleges, trade schools, or even the military as valuable pathways to personal and professional growth. His life's path has shown that the military is a great career starter. Any of these routes will provide students with an avenue to a successful life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant James E. McDaniel for his passion for leadership and service to the United States of America.

CELEBRATING JIM LEYLAND'S ELECTION TO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Western Pennsylvanian Jim Leyland's election to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

A former Pittsburgh Pirates manager, he led the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1986 through 1996. Even though it was his first Major League head coaching gig, he did a damn fine job. Over his 11 seasons with the Bucs, he accrued 851 wins with the team—the third best record in Pirates history.

Jim Leyland led the club to three straight division titles and was named Manager of the Year twice (and then again as manager of the Detroit Tigers). He of course led the Florida Marlins to win the 1997 World Series, and he won the American League pennant in 2006 with the Tigers.

He's a die-hard baseball guy and a beloved Pittsburgher. I'm proud to represent him as my constituent in Thornburg, PA.

I welcome Jim to the Hall, and I congratulate him on this historic achievement.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES VAUGHAN

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community and military service of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Vaughan, who celebrated his 100th birthday on December 10, 2023.

Lt. Col. Vaughan began his collegiate career in 1941 at Clemson College, which is now known as Clemson University, before leaving school to serve in WWII as a Combat Engineer in the U.S. Army. After his discharge in 1948, Lt. Col. Vaughan returned to Clemson University and completed a degree in Agricultural Engineering. Next, Lt. Col. Vaughan earned a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

In January 1953, Vaughan married Evelyn Lancaster Vaughan, who passed away earlier this year. He then left to defend our country in the Korean War. He would later retire from the U.S. Air Force Reserve after 28 years of faithful service and begin a new career with the South Carolina Soil Conservation Service—where he worked for 28 years before retiring in 1983.

Lt. Col. Vaughan is a loving father to three children, with seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, Charles Vaughan's life is one of devotion to his country and local community. General Douglas MacArthur once said, "No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation." After 100 years of life, Lt. Col. Vaughan continues to embody the vigilance that Gen. MacArthur described. I hope he will continue to inspire those around him in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding votes I missed during the week of December 11, 2023.

I was unable to be in Washington this week as I was home for the funeral and associated mourning period for my sister-in-law, Debra Dann Kay, who lost her four-year battle with lung cancer on December 9, 2023. May her memory be a blessing.

For legislation passed under suspension of the rules, Roll Call Votes 707, 709, 712, 713, 714, 715, 724, I would have voted YEA on these important bipartisan bills. For the procedural motions, Roll Call Votes 710, 711, 719, 722, I would have joined with my Democratic colleagues in voting NO.

On passage of the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act, I would have voted NO during Roll Call Vote 708 because this is comprehensive legislation that deserved thorough consideration and debate, and should not have been considered under suspension of House rules, precluding the ability to offer amendments.

On the Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act, I would have voted YEA on the Democratic Motion to Recommit during Roll Call Vote 716 and would have voted NO on final passage during Roll Call Vote 717. This legislation would needlessly hinder important governmental rulemaking and, if it becomes law, would infuse ambiguity into these administrative processes.

I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Vote 718 to support final passage of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act to expand milk options for schools serving federal school meal programs.

I would have voted NO on Roll Call 720, reflecting my opposition to the absurd Republican impeachment farce. Despite months of focus, Republicans have provided no evidence supporting their claims about President Biden, and in fact have yet to explain specifically what or why they are investigating.

I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 721 for passage of House Resolution 927 condemning antisemitism on university campuses and believe we must do more to urgently address the troubling national trend of growing antisemitism on campus and across the country.

I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Vote 723 on passage of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Finally, I would have voted YES on Roll Call Vote 724 in support of my colleagues Reps. GUS BILIRAKIS and PAUL TONKO's important work to bring more research into combating Parkinson's Disease, a brutal diagnosis and disease impacting their families and millions around the country. I lost my uncle, Stephen N. Berkowitz, this past September to Parkinson's following a heroic 35-year battle with the disease. I am proud to join with and commend Reps. TONKO and BILIRAKIS for their leadership on this issue and pray for the families of Reps. BILIRAKIS, JENNIFER WEXTON and others around the country who have been impacted by Parkinson's.

HONORING JUDGE DEBORAH MCDONALD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge, Deborah McDonald.

Judge McDonald grew up in Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District, Fayette, Mississippi and graduated from Jefferson County High School. She is a mother to one adult son and is a faithful member of East Mount Olive MB Church in Lorman, Mississippi. She is a graduate of Alcorn State University, where she studied social science education. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law, where she served on the Moot Court Board.

In 1991, Judge McDonald entered private law practice. Her private practice areas included civil rights, employment discrimination, consumer law, personal injury, product liability and family law. She did extensive work in voting rights litigation, including legislative redistricting.

Judge McDonald served as Fayette Municipal Judge for 23 years. She was attorney for Jefferson County Hospital and Jefferson County Nursing Home for 24 years. She was an attorney for the city of Port Gibson for almost seven years and represented the Hazlehurst School District for three years.

On November 27, 2018, Judge Deborah McDonald was elected and began her judicial term on January 7, 2019. Judge McDonald began her legal career as an attorney representing the poor at the former Southwest Mississippi Legal Services McComb. She worked for Legal Services for nine years, serving as a State Attorney, Managing Attorney and Executive Director.

Judge McDonald has been admitted to practice before all State and Federal courts of Mississippi and the U.S. Supreme Court. She was recently honored with the Pathfinder Award on October 26, 2023, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a trailblazer, Judge Deborah McDonald.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF NORMA TORRES

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Norma Torres. Ms. Torres will retire today, on December 15, 2023, after three decades of service to the Brownsville and Rio Grande International Railway (BRG). She was the first and only Hispanic female president of a short line railroad in Texas history.

Norma joined the Brownsville and Rio Grande International Railway as a Customer Service Agent in 1989, rose through the ranks becoming President in 2001. During her tenure as president, BRG's carload grew exponentially from moving 10,000 cars per year to more than 52,000 cars today.

Norma recently stated, "When I started 20 years ago, I was the only woman in many rail industry meetings. And for me, coming from being the one woman in the meeting, it's always a proud moment to see all the women contributing to the rail industry today with high leadership positions."

Mr. Speaker, Norma Torres is a trailblazer and a leader. Her contributions to the Brownsville and Rio Grande International Railway and the Rio Grande Valley are invaluable, and I congratulate her on her retirement.

HONORING BRAYLON MEADE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary constituent of mine, Braylon Meade. Braylon's dedication to athletics, commitment to academics and service to others is an inspiration to our entire community. Kind, positive, and contagious work ethic are just some of the several descriptions of Braylon's outstanding character.

As a student at Washington-Liberty High School Braylon displayed commitment to academics taking all International Baccalaureate classes. Outside of the classroom he dedicated himself as both a football and basketball player for the Generals. One coach remarked, "Braylon went above and beyond to make himself the best athlete that he could be. He was the kind of player that, if you asked him to run through a brick wall, he'd do it and not complain."

Off the court, Braylon served his community by coaching youth sports, organizing a basketball tournament to raise funds for cancer research, and volunteering at a local food pantry.

As a fan, Braylon's dedication to the Maize and Blue was unmatched—ultimately gaining acceptance into the University of Michigan.

As his birthday approaches and we enter the holiday season, I wish Braylon's mother Rose, father Kris, sister Kerry, brother Bryan and countless friends, teammates and classmates peace knowing and feeling the love that surrounds Braylon.

HONORING MAHARAT RORI PICKER NEISS

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to honor Maharat Rori Picker Neiss, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis for her steadfast advocacy for the people of St. Louis. As Congresswoman for Missouri's First District, I have seen firsthand how her leadership has helped to bring greater understanding and compassion throughout our district and the state of Missouri.

Rori is a passionate advocate for the Jewish community, the LGBTQIA+ community, and for social justice, and she is a trailblazer in her own right. As one of the first graduates of Yeshivat Maharat, a groundbreaking institution training Orthodox Jewish women to be spiritual leaders and halakhic authorities, she has paved the way for others to follow.

Rori also works relentlessly to advance interfaith initiatives by bringing together diverse local and national leaders. She has been a strong advocate and friend to my office as we work to do the most for every person in St. Louis—starting with those who have the greatest need, and we are grateful for her leadership. Missouri's First District is undoubtedly enriched by Rori's service. On behalf of Missouri's First, I thank her for all that she does to strengthen our community.

HONORING D'ASHLEY COHEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Black professional, D'Ashley Cohen.

D'Ashley Cohen is a native of Grenada, MS, and a graduate of Grenada High School. She is the daughter of Darin Cohen and Andrea Cohen. She is the mother of Addison Garner, and the late Madison Garner. She is also the youngest of her siblings.

After graduating high school, she attended South Alabama where she received her bachelor of science in K-6 elementary education and joined the illustrious Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, where she served as the leader of the Economic Development Committee. After entering her career in teaching, she pursued her master's degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on reading and language arts.

D'Ashley developed the love for students during her teaching career, which motivated her to pursue her specialist degree in educational administration and supervision.

D'Ashley is currently the owner/founder of Inspire Educational Services, LLC, where she provides educational consulting for struggling schools and tutoring services.

D'Ashley is an English language arts instructional coach, where she specializes in training, co-teaching, and modeling effective implementation of the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards, Mississippi Teacher Performance Standards, and Louisiana State Standards.

She is currently pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership at Nova Southeastern University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing D'Ashley Cohen for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be a light that shines even in her dark times.

HONORING SYLVIA OGRON

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish my constituent, Sylvia Ogron, a Happy 100th birthday. Sylvia is the proud mother of four, grandmother of nine, and great-grandmother of 19—the matriarch of a big, beautiful family that is her pride and joy.

Sylvia, once an avid baker and tennis player, has lived in South Florida for decades, where she has enjoyed watching the new generations of her extended family continue to grow.

Always the competitor, Sylvia has lived a long, full life, surrounded by family and friends who love her dearly and cherish every moment spent with her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Sylvia a Happy 100th birthday—here's to many more.

RECOGNIZING NADINE WOODWARD

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nadine Woodward and thank her for both her dedication and service as the 45th Mayor of Spokane.

Nadine has been a trusted member of our Spokane community since 1990, when she first arrived after earning her degree from the University of Portland. She began her career—and quickly became a household name—working for two of our region's television news stations, KREM and KXLY.

In 2019, after nearly three decades as a broadcast journalist, Nadine decided to step into the political arena and run for public office. In 2020, she was sworn in as mayor and got to work for our city. For 4 years, she worked tirelessly and dedicated herself to making Spokane a better place for people to live, work, and enjoy.

This wasn't always easy. Mayor Woodward took office during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and she quickly proved herself to be the fierce leader we needed in times of uncertainty. She fought to protect individual liberty, get children back in school, and did everything she could to keep businesses open—all while making sure people had access to the health care they needed during an unprecedented time in our nation's history.

Nadine also made it a top priority to support our city's men and women in blue who work around the clock to keep our community safe. She was instrumental in establishing a violent crime task force that empowered law enforcement officers to do their jobs and get dangerous offenders off the streets. She also tackled the homelessness crisis head-on, working hard to clean up Camp Hope, which was at one time the largest homeless encampment in Washington state and a hotbed for drug dealing and other criminal activity.

Leading with compassion on this issue, Mayor Woodward worked side-by-side with shelter organizations to increase capacity by more than 500 beds. But she didn't stop there, instead championing efforts to increase homeownership within our community, working with the city council on the Spokane Housing Action Plan to help increase affordable and accessible housing options for families. The plan, which included new zoning laws to fast-track construction, will have a long-lasting impact by making it easier to create new residential areas that meet Spokane's current and future housing needs.

Perhaps what I'm most grateful to Mayor Woodward for is her commitment to being a steadfast partner in the fight against fentanyl. It has been encouraging to work with her to bring together law enforcement, community leaders, and families in an effort to stop the flow of this deadly poison that is destroying lives and families in our city. Her leadership on this issue has been so important to not only raising awareness, but actually beginning to get these drugs off our streets.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Nadine's committed service to the Spokane community that I am blessed to call home. She has been a tremendous advocate for our city, and as she moves on from her position as mayor, I

ask that my colleagues join me in thanking her for her years of devotion and public service.

HONORING SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT ATHLETES ON THEIR SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the student athletes of Sandhills Community College (SCC) on achieving GPAs of high remark.

SCC has a proud history of both academic and athletic excellence and is a regional leader on both fronts. I was proud to see so many SCC student athletes carry on this great tradition.

In particular, I would like to recognize the following members of these teams on their achievement of this honor. Student athletes, Ava Ray, Trinity Ahing of the Women's Golf team, Emma Brown, Lannah Huneycutt, Keke Lawrence, Alyssa Maragelis, Anna Ty Ivey, Jalasia Ray, Mackenzie Swett, Rachel Burley, Olivia Barlowe Britta Martin of the Beach and Court Volleyball teams, Alon Hanani, Isaiah Nelson, Zac Sledge, Sam Stoltz, Kendall Woodriddle, and LeNijel Robinson of the Basketball team, and Logan Hay, Noah Maness, Alex Martin, Liam Harris, Supinat Rvjraran and Ben Read of the Men's Golf team.

Their great success in the classroom is proof that each of them truly embody what it means to be a student athlete. I think I speak for everyone in our community when I say they have made Pinehurst and the whole of Moore County proud.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the SCC Athletics Department for this great achievement and to wish them continued success both on the court and in the classroom.

HONORING CURTIS LACEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and selfless leader, Mr. Curtis Lacey. Curtis has shown dedication to the citizens of Warren County.

Curtis Lacey, tree and brush foreman for the Warren County Road Department, is commended for his lifesaving actions on October 30, 2023. On that afternoon, Lacey approached the scene of a wreck that left Linda Blissett, 76, trapped in her vehicle. He acted quickly, administering lifesaving care until the authorities arrived.

The Warren County Board of Supervisors issued a proclamation commending Lacey for his heroic efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Curtis Lacey for his passion

and dedication to the City of Vicksburg and Warren County.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT
LYNETTE ZELEZNY

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my friend and colleague, Congressman DAVID VALADAO, to recognize President Lynette Zelezny on her retirement today as President of California State University, Bakersfield. Over the course of her 35-year career in the education field, President Zelezny has inspired students, professors, and administrators through her passion for improving the academic success of our next generation, especially within the California State University system.

President Zelezny's career with the California State University system started in 1974 with her enrollment in Humboldt State University, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in 1979 and her Master's Degree in Psychology in 1981. Following her completion of a Doctorate in Social Psychology at Claremont Graduate University and an MBA from the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno, President Zelezny stayed at Fresno State, serving in a variety of educational and leadership roles. Most notably, President Zelezny served as Chief Academic Officer, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Fresno State. In 2018, President Zelezny made history when she became the first female President of California State University, Bakersfield.

Over the past five years, under President Zelezny's leadership, California State University, Bakersfield has successfully navigated new challenges and achieved several important milestones. She not only led the university through the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic but did so with an unwavering commitment to the well-being of students and faculty. One of President Zelezny's top achievements has been developing CSUB's California Energy Research Center into a robust hub for energy research throughout the Central Valley. As Kern County gains and sustains ever more national importance as a hub for energy production, future generations in our region will look back on President Zelezny's initiative with great appreciation.

A true champion of Central Valley education, particularly in Bakersfield, President Zelezny's passion for the community has been a driving force behind her efforts. She recognized the unique challenges and opportunities presented in the region and strengthened the ties between the university and our community.

On behalf of the Central Valley of California, we would like to express our gratitude for President Zelezny's leadership to California State University, Bakersfield and her role in shaping the future careers of countless students. We would like to congratulate President Zelezny on a well-deserved retirement, a successful career in education, and for her many contributions to our community.

HONORING REVEREND DOCTOR
LUKE TORIAN

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and honor the Rev. Dr. Luke Torian on his 35-year career in ministry. Dr. Torian has dedicated his life to serving and ministering to others through his work in the church, in the community, and in Virginia's House of Delegates.

A strong believer in the power of education, Dr. Torian graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Winston-Salem State University, followed by a Master of Divinity degree from the School of Theology at Virginia Union University, and finally a Doctor of Ministry degree from the School of Divinity at Howard University.

Throughout his career, Dr. Torian has served in many roles including youth minister, associate pastor, and chaplain. In 1995, he was installed as Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, where he has led a vibrant congregation of more than 4,000 people. He has been a fixture of the community, providing his congregation with support, kindness, and fellowship. Dr. Torian has built a church community that ministers to its congregants through Sunday services, Bible studies, social activities, music and arts, scholarship opportunities, and more.

Dr. Torian's outstanding leadership has been recognized by many over the years. He was awarded the James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of Faith Award by Howard University, a reflection of his dedication to his work and his positive contributions to his community. As a trusted source of knowledge and service, his impact has extended past Prince William County—first with his appointment to the Virginia Board of Counseling by Virginia Governor Mark Warner, and later with his 2009 election to represent the 52nd District in the Virginia House of Delegates.

As a Delegate, Dr. Torian has served his constituents faithfully, advocating to improve education and criminal justice policies in the Commonwealth. In 2020, he was chosen to chair the Virginia House Appropriations Committee—a historic appointment that made him the first African American in Virginia's history to lead the Committee, and a role he will resume in 2024 as he continues his legislative service.

As we look back on his career in the church, Dr. Torian has been a tremendous leader in his community, providing exceptional service and ministry to those in Prince William County and beyond. I am certain that his next chapter will also be guided by his love for service, love for learning, and his faith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Rev. Dr. Luke Torian, I wish him, his beloved wife Clarice and their daughter Constance, the very best as they prepare for the next step in his career.

HONORING ROSLAND E. CLINTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosland E. Clinton.

Rosland E. Clinton was born on December 31, 1980, to the late Jessie and Estella Clinton in Clarksdale, Mississippi. She was welcomed by four siblings: Leslie Clinton-Johnson, Peter T. Clinton, J. Audre Clinton and Alexis Clinton. She grew up on Lewis Street in Marks, Mississippi.

Rosland attended K–8th grade at Westside Junior High School (currently Quitman County Middle School). After completing Junior High School in 1995, she attended Quitman County High School (currently Madison S. Palmer High School). During her time in high school, she received notable honors/accolades such as highest scorer on the Functional Literacy Exam (FLE), Miss Belle in the Belles & Beaus Pageant, Miss Sophomore, Miss Junior, Senior Class President and the 1st Miss Madison S. Palmer High School. She graduated number 3 in the class of 1999. Rosland continued her education at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi. In May of 2003, she graduated with an associate of arts degree in general business. Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi, was her next stop. She graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in business administration in May 2006. After years on an educational sabbatical, Rosland enrolled in Kaplan (Purdue) University in 2012 to obtain a master's degree in business administration. She completed the program with honors in July 2014. Currently, she is preparing to enroll in an educational specialist program for spring 2024.

Rosland has been employed with the Quitman County School District since joining the team in October 2001. She has served in multiple roles such as an assistant teacher, library aide, reading teacher, special education teacher, cheer coach, powerlifting coach and assistant principal. Currently, she is the principal at Quitman County Elementary School. This is her third year serving as principal. The school has obtained and sustained a 'B' accountability rating. She believes in building capacity in her students and staff.

Rosland is the mother of two children, De'Marcus Rucker and De'Maya Thompson. She has one grandson, Aaron Jackson III. She also has a goddaughter, Paris Riley that she loves like her own. She often says that her children give her the drive to push harder in spite of the turbulence brought on by life.

Rosland is an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She currently serves as second antibasilus in the Zeta Psi Zeta Chapter Clarksdale. She stands on the sorority's founding principles: scholarship, service, sisterly love and finer womanhood. She is a board member for Reclaimed (The Village) in Marks, Mississippi. She is also a member of Silent Grove MB Church in Marks under the leadership of Rev. Ezra Towner, Jr. She serves on additional panels that work toward improving humanity and the community.

Life has issued Rosland many trials and tribulations such as losing her dad at a young age, becoming a teen mom, suffering depres-

sion/anxiety, and experiencing rejection. Her entire outlook on life changed August 5, 2006, when her mother suffered a heart attack and stroke, which caused an internal brain aneurysm. She began to focus on putting things in order by priority and doing things that made her happy. She tries to find the positive in every situation. If people were asked to describe her with three words, they would probably say that she is analytical, supportive, and compassionate. Her motto is: "If God is in it, the devil can't do you any harm".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing principal Rosland E. Clinton for her dedication in serving her school and community.

CONSIDERING THE PROPOSED MENTHOL BAN**HON. MIKE EZELL**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express deep concern regarding the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s decision to ban the sale of menthol cigarettes. If the Administration continues with this proposal, it must work with the appropriate law enforcement agencies to mitigate the potential increase in illicit cross-border activities related to menthol cigarette smuggling.

While I acknowledge the negative health effects of cigarettes, the consequences of opening an illicit market could be detrimental. As a career law enforcement officer, I have seen the effect of imposing federal bans on contraband firsthand. Mandates such as this encourages terrorist and cartel organizations to smuggle cigarettes across our wide-open southern border. With the increasing influx of drugs, including fentanyl and narcotics, already coming across our border and the number of cartels reportedly expanding operations to include cigarette smuggling, our nation cannot afford to give terrorist and cartels another revenue stream to terrorize our communities.

As the Administration looks to finalize this rule, I urge the administration to consider all the consequences of this rule and take steps to lessen the risks associated with this ban.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT E. 'BOBBY' BURNS**HON. AUGUST PFLUGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert E. 'Bobby' Burns on his retirement from the Midland Chamber of Commerce after twelve years leading the organization, and more than four decades of service to the Midland community.

Bobby is officially retiring after an illustrious career as a business owner, three-term mayor, and most recently as the President and CEO of the Midland Chamber of Commerce. Under Bobby's leadership, the city of Midland and its business community soared to new heights.

As Mayor, he led the charge to connect Midland and Odessa to the rest of the country

through the creation of the Midland International Airport and connected Midlanders through the construction of Loop 250. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Scharbauer Sports Complex.

While leading the Chamber, Bobby revitalized the organization and oversaw the Four-Star Accreditation of the Midland Chamber with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He was instrumental in the development of the first-class Barbara & George H.W. Bush Convention Center in the heart of downtown Midland, and he raised funds for the life-size sculpture of the President and Mrs. Bush.

I especially want to recognize Bobby for his love of Midland and this great nation. Under his watch, Bobby organized the 4th of July Star-Spangled Salute and the Midland-Odessa Fly-In to Washington D.C. The Salute is still the most widely attended annual single-day event in all of Midland, and the Fly-In brings West Texas values—especially those foundational to the oil and gas industry—to our nation's capital.

Above all else Bobby is a family man: husband to Denise 'Deni,' father of two, and grandfather of three. I want to sincerely thank his family for their service and for supporting his efforts. Please join me in recognizing Bobby for his decades of selfless service to the community of Midland.

HONORING THE ST. LOUIS COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to congratulate the St. Louis Metro Area Chapter Coalition of Black Trade Unionists on their 50th anniversary.

For 50 years, CBTU has been the voice of Black workers within the trade union movement in St. Louis. By pushing organized labor to create more equitable conditions and meet the needs and aspirations of Black and low-income workers, CBTU has truly been a voice for the people.

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists played an integral role in defeating right-to-work in Missouri, and they never stopped fighting and coordinating workers across our region and state to vote and remain civically engaged. Through education and outreach, CBTU has been on the frontlines fighting for our workers, teachers, and most marginalized communities, and ensuring that our democracy is protected.

St. Louis and I are forever grateful for CBTU's unwavering solidarity. CBTU is continuously leading with compassion for our entire St. Louis community in the struggle for racial equity, justice, and freedom. Congratulations on 50 years of service.

HONORING LTC NAYARI CAMERON**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel

Nayari Cameron, a resilient and self-driven U.S. Army veteran on the verge of retirement.

LTC Cameron currently holds the role of in-service Interceptor Boost Vehicle Product Manager at the in-service Ground-Based Interceptor Fleet Project Office, Ground-Based Midcourse Defense, Missile Defense Agency, stationed at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

Continuing the legacy set by preceding generations of American servicemen and women, he bravely heeded his country's call and served with pride. LTC Cameron has dedicated 28 years of exemplary service to the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing LTC Nayari Cameron for his passion for leadership and service to the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
JOSEPH BRIAN HANNIGAN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Joseph Brian Hannigan, an active community leader and highly admired public servant who passed away on May 21, 2022, at the age of 76.

Born in New York City in 1945, Brian Hannigan was raised in Wakefield, Rhode Island. Brian attended South Kingston High School and then went on to Saint Thomas More School in New Hampshire where he developed his gift for writing. He later went to Saint Louis University (SLU), becoming the President of SLU's Young Democrats and ultimately became Chair of the College Democrats of Missouri.

In college, Brian served as chair of the Robert F. Kennedy for President club, which launched his career in Democratic political campaigns. His passion for politics led him to a job as the Scheduling and Advancing Director for the Governor of Illinois. Throughout his life, no higher complement could be paid than referring to him as a 'great advance man.'

While in Illinois, he met his wife, Judy, on a double date in Chicago. They threw dance parties, traveled the world, and enjoyed foreign films together. Eventually, they left Illinois for Washington D.C., and Brian became the Deputy National Finance Director for the Democratic National Convention. His skills as an advance man with an encyclopedic memory and attention to details served him well in his roles on the advance teams for President Carter's visit to Israel in 1979 and President Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland in 1995. His career went on to include numerous communications and government relations positions, including his time as Communications Director for the Virginia Baseball Stadium Authority and his time in Governor Mark Warner's administration.

Brian brought the same level of dedication and passion for national politics to his roles in the community. He served as President of the Dominion Hills Civic Association for over 20 years. Brian was also a staunch believer in the positive impact of youth sports, as he became the Chairman of the Arlington County Sports Commission, President of the Better Sports Club, and would often drive around Ar-

lington to ensure that his children's teammates could make it to practices and games.

Those who had the pleasure of spending time with Brian know that he lived life to the fullest, whether that was 'dancing like no one was watching,' looking for any excuse to go on a road trip, or refusing to pass up any opportunity to bodysurf a wave. He is loved dearly, and his passion and dedication has left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Joseph Brian Hannigan. His leadership and commitment to public service was inspirational, and he will be missed by all who knew him. I also extend my deepest condolences to his wife of 44 years, Judy, and his children, Connor and Megan, and their families.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2670,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today in favor of the Conference Report on the Fiscal Year 24 NDAA. This conference report is the result of bipartisan efforts to strengthen our national defense while supporting our military members, families, and communities. I would like to thank Senator REED, Senator WICKER, Chairman ROGERS, and Ranking Member SMITH for their leadership throughout the entire process to produce this bipartisan bill.

I would also like to thank Chairman WALTZ of the Readiness Subcommittee for his partnership, Jeanine Womble the Readiness PSM, my MLA Rob Hurd, and my Defense Fellow Taylor Brunstad. I am proud of the work we have done to protect the Readiness of our Armed forces. This bill continues our work, along with our Senate colleagues, to support military families by providing more childcare centers, protect basic healthcare rights for women service members, support energy resiliency on our bases, increase base pay to retain and recruit top talent, and demand DoD accountability and transparency on spending to prevent wasteful use of taxpayer dollars.

It is of vital importance to me to support our servicemembers and their families at bases like Travis Air force Base and ensure they have the housing, training, equipment, and the quality of life they need and deserve. I am proud to continue my work to serve the men and women in my district, and to serve the brave men and women volunteering to protect our freedom. While this bill is a strong bipartisan effort to support the military, there is still more to be done and I look forward to building on these efforts in the years ahead.

DIRECTING CERTAIN COMMITTEES TO CONTINUE ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS INTO WHETHER SUFFICIENT GROUNDS EXIST FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF JOSEPH BIDEN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 918, Republicans' baseless attempt to distract from the ongoing criminal proceedings against former President Donald Trump.

After a year of frivolous investigations produced no evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden, Republicans brought to the floor a resolution directing committees to pursue a sham impeachment inquiry. This resolution is clearly an attempt to minimize and distract from former President Trump's high crimes and misdemeanors, during the same week that his criminal trial proceedings reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

While House Republicans have spent the year wasting time and taxpayer dollars, Democrats have delivered the votes to prevent a government shutdown—not once, but twice. This body has a duty to keep the government functioning and open for the American people, yet Republicans time and time again have shown no interest in meeting that obligation.

As we approach the halfway point of the 118th Congress, it is clear the majority would rather spend their time distracting the American people with their extreme MAGA messaging instead of doing the serious work of legislating. It is past time for House Republicans to start addressing the serious and urgent needs of all our constituents.

HONORING DR. JAMINETTE D.
CARTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of many great principals in Jackson, Mississippi, Dr. Jamiette D. Carter.

Jamiette D. Carter, M.A., Ph.D., '09, was named Principal of Obama Magnet Elementary School for the 2023–2024 year.

Dr. Carter has been with Jackson Public Schools (JPS) for over 12 years and has significant experience assisting teachers and administrators with guiding students toward meeting individual learning goals. Previously, she served as the director of program implementation for the JPS Office of School Support. In this role, she worked directly with district superintendents, principals, and other stakeholders to facilitate school improvement initiatives and federal compliance. Her career began in the classroom at Lester Elementary, where she taught 4th and 5th grade ELA while also serving as team lead, supporting the mission and vision of the school. She then honed her leadership skills as a curriculum coordinator with the Office of Elementary Education

and as an interventionist at Power APAC, helping to maintain its A-rating and elevation to No. 7 in the state during the 2017–2018 school year.

Dr. Carter is a 2009 honor graduate of Tougaloo College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She earned her master's in Elementary Education with the highest honor of Summa Cum Laude from Belhaven College, and earned her Ph.D. with the highest honor of Summa Cum Laude from Jackson State University in 2018. Dr. Carter is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

As the new principal of Obama Magnet School, she is excited to continue the tradition of excellence and innovative teaching and learning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Jamiette D. Carter for her dedication to improving the future daily.

HONORING THE WORK AND SERVICE OF RICH FITZGERALD, ALLEGHENY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and legacy of Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.

County Executive Fitzgerald is finishing up his third and final term in the county's top elected position—one he has held since 2012.

Born and raised in the City of Pittsburgh, Rich Fitzgerald graduated from Carnegie Mellon University. He and his wife, Cathy, have eight children. "Fitz," as he is fondly called, is well-known for his work ethic and his ability to bring people and organizations together to tackle the biggest issues facing our region.

He first was elected to the County Council in 1999 and served on the Council—including as Council President from 2004 through 2011—until his successful election as County Executive.

Under his leadership, Allegheny County has seen strong and solid job growth, a diverse and growing economy, and an excellent quality of life. The 2020 Census is a testament to County Executive Fitzgerald's leadership: for the first time in sixty years, the county's population grew over a decade. He also led the region through the dark days of the COVID-19 pandemic with consistency and reassurance, striving to protect public health and keep the economy strong.

While we only crossed paths in elected office a short period of time, I greatly appreciated his guidance, experience, and collaboration.

Fitz is a public servant through and through. Though he closes this chapter as Allegheny County Executive, the impact of his work for the Common Good will remain.

On behalf of the good people of Pennsylvania's 17th Congressional District, I thank Fitz for his years of service.

HONORING SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURT AND BEACH VOLLEYBALL TEAMS ON THEIR SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the student athletes of Sandhills Community College's (SCC) Court and Beach Volleyball Teams on being recognized as Academic All-Americans by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

SCC has a proud history of both academic and athletic excellence and is a regional leader on both fronts. I was proud to see so many SCC student athletes carry on this great tradition and be named to the 2022–2023 Academic Teams of the Year.

In particular, I would like to recognize the SCC Court and Beach Volleyball teams and the following members of these teams on their achievement of this honor. Student athletes, Emma Brown, Lannah Huneycutt, Keke Lawrence, Alyssa Maragelis, Anna Ty Ivey, Jalasia Ray, Mackenzie Sweet, Rachel Burley, Olivia Barlowe and Britta Martin.

Their great success in the classroom is proof that each of them truly embody what it means to be a student athlete. I think I speak for everyone in our community when I say they have made Pinehurst and the whole Moore County proud.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the SCC Court and Beach Volleyball teams for this great achievement and to wish them continued success both on the court and in the classroom.

HONORING WILLIE JAMES THOMAS SR.'S 103RD BIRTHDAY

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to wish a happy 103rd birthday to Willie James Thomas Sr. On behalf of Missouri's First District, we are thankful for everything he is and everything he has done to provide for his family, neighbors, coworkers, and friends.

One hundred and three is a remarkable milestone and worthy of great celebration. Mr. Thomas has seen and lived through segments of history that most of us can only rely on through books and education, and from being in close community with elders like him. His trials, triumphs, and everything in between are a beautiful testament to a remarkable and full life.

Throughout his life, Mr. Thomas has had many blessings. He is the beloved father of three, a grandfather of 10, a great-grandfather of 21, and great-great-grandfather of six. As a World War II Army Veteran serving in England, France, and Germany, we thank him for his dedication to his family and service to our country

I am so grateful for the opportunity to celebrate his life because it is an inspiration to so many of us in St. Louis. I wish Mr. Thomas peace and continued joy tending to the best yard in University City throughout his 103rd year.

Happy birthday and bountiful blessings to Mr. Willie James Thomas Sr.

HONORING JUDGE LATRICE A. WESTBROOKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and selfless leader, Judge Latrice A. Westbrook. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to make a difference.

Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge Latrice A. Westbrook of Lexington was recently honored by Austin Peay State University as one of its Outstanding Alumna. She was honored at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Lunch on Oct. 28 on the Clarksville, Tennessee campus.

Judge Westbrook, who was born in Memphis, earned a bachelor of science degree from Austin Peay State University in 1994. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Detroit Mercy Law School. In October 1997, shortly after graduating from law school, Judge Westbrook became the first African-American woman Assistant District Attorney in the Second Circuit Court District on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. She joined the Jackson law firm of Byrd and Associates in 2000, then opened her own law practice in 2001, representing clients in both criminal and civil matters.

Judge Westbrook then served as prosecutor for the city of Durant and as city attorney for the town of Isola. For almost 10 years, she served as a public defender in Holmes County. She hosted a radio program "Ask Latrice The Lawyer" on WMPR 90.1 from 2010 through 2012. She created and produced the show to inform the public about the criminal justice system and encourage civic engagement. In 2013, she became interim communications director for Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba, then joined the Jackson City Attorney's Office as legal counsel for the Jackson Police Department.

Judge Westbrook returned to private law practice in 2014. She was then appointed Municipal Judge for the city of Lexington in 2015 and served until she was elected to the Court of Appeals in November 2016. In January of 2017, Judge Westbrook took office on the Court of Appeals. She was named as Outstanding Woman Lawyer of 2017 by the Mississippi Women Lawyers' Association. Judge Westbrook was also inducted as a Fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation in 2022.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge Latrice A. Westbrook for upholding justice and fighting for the constituents in the State of Mississippi.