

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SENATOR BILL DODD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Bill Dodd, an esteemed member of our Napa, Solano, Yolo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, Sacramento, Lake, and Colusa communities. His 25 years of public service and his tireless dedication to our community exemplify why he is being honored today.

As a fifth generation Californian, Senator Dodd has deep roots in Napa County. He and his wife Mary live in Napa and raised their five children there. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from CSU Chico, where he also served on their Policy Advisory Board and as President of the Inter-Fraternity Council. In 2022, he was named a Distinguished Alumni of Chico State.

Senator Dodd's commitment to our community is evident from his long history of public service. He began his career as a Napa County Supervisor, where he served four terms between 2000 through 2014. Some of his accomplishments while in office include contributing to the successful completion of Napa County's flood control project, the restoration of over 900 acres of wetlands, and the securing of over \$1 billion in investments for local businesses. Then, in 2014, he ran and won his race for the California State Assembly. While in the Assembly, he helped establish California's Earned Income Tax Credit. His dedication to the preservation of the environment and to small businesses has continued to influence his work to this day. In 2015, Senator Dodd announced his candidacy for California State Senate, and assumed that office in 2016.

Currently, Senator Dodd represents California's 3rd Senate District, where he has established himself as a prolific legislator, with approximately 114 bills signed into law. In the Senate, he is chair of the Senate Governmental Organization Committee, and a member of the Transportation Committee; the Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee; the Revenue and Taxation Committee; the Business and Professions committee and the Insurance Committee. He is also the Co-Chair of the Senate Select Committee on California's Wine Industry and the Legislative Delta Caucus. Like his work in the Assembly and on the Board of Supervisors, Senator Dodd's work in the Senate has spanned issues as diverse as protecting the environment, advocating for small businesses, and protecting seniors. For example, he has been a leader in California water policy and in wildfire prevention legislation, where he has worked to protect consumers from utility rate hikes and future wildfires.

Senator Dodd has rightfully been recognized for his tireless public service. As a legislator, he has received numerous awards, such as:

the California State Association of Counties Distinguished Service Award (twice); League of California Cities Legislative Leadership Award; California Association of Winegrape Growers Legislative Leadership Award; the Napa County Farm Bureau Lifetime Achievement Award; Consumer Attorneys of California Senator of the Year, California Coverage & Health Initiative Champion for Coverage Award, Napa-Solano Central Labor Council Labor Partnership Award; Solano County Board of Supervisors' Robin Jenkins Memorial Award; Solano Transportation Authority Legislator of the Year; California Building Industry Association Legislator of the Year; DISCUS Legislator of the Year; CAL FIRE Local 2881 Legislator of the Year, and American Legion of California Legislator of the Year. He has also been honored specifically for his environmental advocacy, which includes being awarded the Restore the Delta's Delta Advocate Award; the Pacific Water Quality Association Legislator of the Year; the Environmental Champion award from the Community Water Center, California Trout, Clean Water Action and Audubon. His philanthropic efforts in raising over \$3 million for local charities have also resulted in his naming as the Napa Valley Chamber of Commerce's 'Citizen of the Year.'

And this does not even encompass all of his service. Senator Dodd has also served on the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Napa County Transportation Planning Agency, the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the Napa County League of Governments, and the Napa County LAFCO. He also has served on the board of nonprofits such as the Queen of the Valley Hospital Foundation, Justin-Siena High School, the Health Care for the Poor Committee, the Wolfe Center Youth Drug and Alcohol Center, the Children's Health Initiative, and as an honorary member of Hospice, Adult Day Services, and Clinic Ole. He has also been named an honorary Commander for the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Senator Dodd for his dedicated service to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CONGRATULATING THE MISSOURI CLASS 2 BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONS, IBERIA RANGERS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Iberia Rangers for their remarkable achievement of clinching the Class 2 state championship in high school baseball.

It is worth noting that this state title marks Iberia's second in program history. In the championship game, led by a complete game thrown by Noah Riemensnider, the Rangers

beat Maysville 7 to 3. Their win capped off an undefeated 28–0 season. This victory adds another illustrious chapter to the Rangers' legacy and serves as a source of pride for the community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Iberia Rangers Baseball team for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, MELANIE MORALES

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Melanie Morales, the recipient of the 2024 Goldwater Scholarship.

The Bary Goldwater Scholarship Foundation annually awards sophomores and juniors in college who have demonstrated an elevated skillset in mathematics, engineering, and science. It is awarded to students to encourage and contribute to their professional endeavors, aiming to bolster the capabilities and quality of U.S. professionals in these fields. Previous scholarship recipients have pursued careers where they have contributed to improving our Nation's well-being.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ms. Melanie Morales for her academic dedication to mathematics, science, and engineering.

HONORING ALCORN STATE GOLDEN CLASS OF 1974

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Alcorn State University Golden Class of 1974 for their golden diplomas to commemorate their 50th graduation anniversary.

The Golden Class of 1974 were the first class to have degrees conferred from Alcorn State University rather than Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College. The largest golden class in the history of the University, with 125 participants received golden diplomas to commemorate their 50th graduation anniversary. Dr. Marcus Ward, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, spotlighted the golden graduates as having the largest golden graduate's endowment with \$375,000 presented to the University. The class also had the largest lifetime giving award with 1.5 million dollars donated to the university.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Alcorn State University Golden Class of 1974.

• 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.

REMEMBERING LARRY COX

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Larry Cox, a transformational figure in the development of Memphis International Airport in my hometown over more than 40 years, who passed last Friday at the age of 76. Mr. Cox spent his entire 41-year career at the airport, beginning as an unpaid intern and ending with the last 29 as President and CEO of the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority. During his tenure, in much of which the airport was a major Northwest Airlines and later Delta hub and the largest cargo airport in the world, he oversaw development of the World Runway, an 11,120-foot runway to accommodate FedEx and other nonstop intercontinental flights, which was dedicated in 2000. Mr. Cox served as Chairman of the American Association of Airport Executives, on the board of Airports Council International and President of the Tennessee Association of Air Carrier Airports. His influence was recognized with the Federal Aviation Administration's "Kitty Hawk" Award in 1996. In addition, as a civic leader, he served as Chairman of the board of directors for the Greater Memphis Chamber, the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau (now Memphis Tourism), and the Mid-South Minority Business Council. Mr. Cox, an Air Force veteran and licensed pilot, earned undergraduate Economics (1969) and graduate MBA (1974) degrees from the University of Memphis. I express my deep condolences to his wife Patrica, his two daughters, Stephanie and Leigh-Ann, his extensive family and his many friends and colleagues. Mr. Cox made Memphis a better place and improved the air travel experience, and he will be missed.

CONGRATULATING THE MISSOURI CLASS 4 BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONS, BLAIR OAKS FALCONS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the achievements of the Blair Oaks Falcons baseball team in clinching the MSHSAA Class 4 State Championship.

Under Coach Mike DeMilia's leadership, the Falcons displayed excellence throughout their playoff run. During their run, they notably defeated three of the MHSBCA's top-five ranked teams, including the 32-win Benton High School Cardinals. Blair Oaks' rich tradition in baseball has been furthered with this fourth state title in the program's history, marking their second championship in the last five seasons. I congratulate the Blair Oaks team for their hard work and perseverance and for serving as a source of school and community pride.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Blair Oaks baseball team for a job well done.

HONORING ANDERSON STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable church, The Anderson Street Community Church of Christ.

In 1958, men and women of the community of Marks came together under the instructions of God, to prepare a house of worship for the community. There were initially only 8 members who planted crops, sold the products of that crop to buy the property that the Church now sits on at 541 Anderson Street. After years of laboring, under the directions of then Pastor Nelson Burres, the Church grew into the Community House of Worship it now is.

The Anderson Street Community Church grew and became very instrumental in the establishment of other area churches in Water Valley, Cold Water, Como and Batesville, Mississippi during the 70s and 80s.

Pastor Burres passed away in 2006 when the present pastor, Stanley Lang, became the minister. He and his wife have labored since faithfully at Anderson Street.

Pastor Stanley and his wife started a campaign to build a new building for the church in 1998 and in 2006, that building was materialized. The membership had dwindled to 8 members when this undertaking started. Due to perseverance, the church grew to over 100 members prior to COVID-19.

The Anderson Street Community Church of Christ was birthed out of the heart of dedicated pastors like Pastor Stanley who allowed great preachers before him to mentor and mold him into the pastor for his home community.

Pastor Stanley Lang is Chair of the County Democratic Party. He is Vice-Chair of the Board of Commissioners of North Delta Regional Housing Authority (NDRHA). He is also Coahoma Community College's Industrial Training Coordinator.

Since the church's inception in 1958, and it's humble beginning, the church has grown and now aids as a pillar in the community for services to the community.

April 2024 marked the Community Church of Christ's 65th-year anniversary. The Community church has done much for the community by way of scholarships to community high school graduates and to graduating members of the church from surrounding towns. The Church has established an education scholarship in honor of Pastor Stanley's grandmother, Rosie Lang. She was a dedicated member who believed greatly in education. This scholarship has been a staple by which they honor and serve their members and community. The Church has provided transportation to education centers (Ged), voting precincts, doctors' offices, etc. for many community members seeking to improve their education, health, and overall life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Anderson Street Church of Christ for its longevity and dedication to serving the community.

HONORING GIGI GODWIN'S DECADES OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent and beloved friend, Ms. Gigi Godwin, as she concludes a chapter of exemplary service to the people and businesses of Montgomery County. Gigi's vision as President and CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) expanded the organization into a nationally recognized resource for innovative business practices and inclusive programming. The communities of Maryland's beautiful Eighth District owe her a debt of gratitude for developing vital services for local business owners from all walks of life.

Gigi's career has spanned across the U.S. Congress, the National Academy of Sciences' Climate Research Board and the alternative energy sector. She found her way to MCCC in 2003 as Director of Education and Outreach before rising to become MCCC's President and CEO. She played a pivotal role wearing the additional hat of the MCCC Foundation's Treasurer, developing educational programs and initiatives to support the Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation's Veteran Institute for Procurement. This remarkable program has provided training at no expense to nearly 2,500 veteran-owned small businesses to improve their access to the federal contract and procurement process. Gigi not only recognized our important obligation to ensure that economic opportunities are available to veterans—she made it happen, and earned a Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition for her efforts in 2010.

As a passionate advocate for Montgomery County's local economy, Gigi also helped broaden government contracting opportunities to many more businesses in Montgomery County. In addition to her work to establish veteran-centered procurement training, Gigi seized on the potential of Montgomery County's proximity to the engine of federal government to start the GovConNet Council, which educates business owners on the latest contracting opportunities, and advocated for the unanimous passage of the Small Business Runway Extension Act.

Gigi's service has extended beyond MCCC to encompass some of Montgomery County's most beloved and foundational institutions. She earned an Honorary Degree from Montgomery College for her five years of service advancing education equity on the College's Board of Trustees. She also served on the boards of the Montgomery County Business Roundtable on Education, the Committee for Montgomery, the Montgomery County Executive's Business Advisory Board and Imagination Stage.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention Gigi's signature grace and her steady leadership during some of the most tumultuous economic periods in American history. Her service as the head of MCCC spanned the depths of the Great Recession and a global pandemic. The economic recovery in Montgomery County and the resilience of our small businesses is due

in no small part to Gigi's leadership and agile responses to these crises and her focus on building the resources, infrastructure, and capacity to support our local small businesses.

In addition to her outstanding professional achievements, Gigi is also a beloved wife to her husband Jeff, and amazing mother to three children. As she begins this exciting new chapter, I am extending my warmest wishes to Gigi and my deep gratitude for her plentiful and enduring contributions to the businesses and people of Montgomery County.

HONORING RABBI GEORGE
GITTLEMAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi George Gittleman of Congregation Shomrei Torah in celebration of his retirement after twenty-eight years leading his congregation and providing service to our community.

Born in the city of Chicago, Illinois and growing up in Louisville, Kentucky, Rabbi Gittleman joined our community in 1996 when he and his family moved to Sonoma County. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in American History from the University of Vermont, a Masters in Hebrew Letters and Ordination from the Reform Seminary, Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion and is a Senior Rabbinic Fellow with the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Gittleman, affectionately known as Rabbi George, became the rabbinical leader of Congregation Shomrei Torah, a progressive Reform Jewish synagogue in Santa Rosa in 1996. Through his leadership, the congregation grew from 100 to over 475 member families and, in turn, outgrew its facilities. In 2008, the Rabbi welcomed his congregation to a beautiful new temple. This would not have been possible without his determination, fundraising abilities and oversight.

In addition to growing members and Congregation Shomrei Torah's spiritual home, Rabbi Gittleman expanded his temple's programs including the Shomrei Torah Religious School. The school for children ranging from kindergarten through eighth grade teaches Hebrew, religious practices, and about Jewish history and culture. He has also expanded offerings for teens and adults through Torah study sessions, teen groups, dinner lectures, and many trips to Israel, the Amerman South and Eastern Europe.

Rabbi Gittleman is a proponent of tikkun olam, translated as "repairing the world" through our actions. He is a prolific writer and outspoken on many critical issues facing our community. His published works include Maimonides and The Guide to the Perplexed, Lights in the Forest: Rabbis Respond to Twelve Essential Jewish Questions, and We should remember the Shoah in a way that helps to heal the world. The Rabbi is an advocate for addressing challenges including homelessness, food insecurity, affordable housing, LGBTQIA+ rights, gun violence prevention and has gracefully guided his faith community in the wake of the October 7 attacks. He does this through the congregation's

Social Action Committee and in collaboration with other faith and civic leaders. Our district and country are better because of his work.

Beyond his faith and civic leadership, Rabbi Gittleman is a devoted father and husband to his wife Laura, his son Levi, his daughter Sophie, to his son-in-law Julian and to his grandson Jamie. Rabbi George is an avid outdoorsman and from a young age, he was an avid rock climber, skier and mountain biker. Even now, he continues to fly fish, shoot sporting clays, bird watch, backpack and hike. You can often find Rabbi Gittleman playing his guitar with his blues-rock band.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Rabbi Gittleman is a true public servant and has dedicated his time, leadership and wisdom to the benefit of Congregation Shomrei Torah and to our district. After twenty-eight years, he now embarks on his well-earned retirement. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 GOLD-
WATER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPI-
ENT, CHRISTIAN PENA

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Christian Pena, the recipient of the 2024 Goldwater Scholarship.

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship Foundation annually awards sophomores and juniors in college who have demonstrated an elevated skillset in mathematics, engineering, and science. It is awarded to students to encourage and contribute to their professional endeavors, aiming to bolster the capabilities and quality of U.S. professionals in these fields. Previous scholarship recipients have pursued careers where they have contributed to improving our Nation's well-being.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Christian Pena for his academic dedication to mathematics, science, and engineering.

HONORING SUNSET VIEW
CEMETERY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sunset View Cemetery.

Sunset View Cemetery was established in September 2011. It is independently owned and operated by Jimmy and Quartreate Ware, giving personal and professional services to families of the Mississippi-Louisiana and surrounding area in their time of need.

With hard work and dedication, they maintain 20 acres of land covered in beautiful pine trees and a pond, which is located at 1617 Dr. Martin Luther King Road in Natchez.

They offer quality services for burial and gravesite services. They are also a perpetual care cemetery, this means when you purchase your lot or niche, 15 percent of that sale goes into a trust in compliance with Mississippi

state law. This longstanding trust will provide Sunset View Cemetery with the necessary resources for the lasting preservation of our memorial park.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sunset View Cemetery for their actions and achievements in the Natchez, MS community.

APPRECIATING THOMAS
CAUGHMAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, June 9, 2024, marks the 20th anniversary of the tragic death of Army Specialist Thomas Day Caughman of Lexington, South Carolina. Assigned to the 391st Engineer Battalion, Army Reserve, Spartanburg, SC, Thomas was killed while bravely serving America during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As a 20-year-old graduate of Lexington High School, Thomas had a deep appreciation for America as he included in each of his letters home with the words, "Freedom isn't free."

In a touching tribute to the duty he felt in securing freedom for America, and expressed love for his family, he wrote the following letter in case of his death to parents, Jane and Hamp Caughman, and sister Lisa:

"Dad, Mom, Sis

I think sometimes why I did this and if it was worth it. Then I realize how important people like me are, we all know Freedom isn't never free and somebody must protect that, for my family and everyone who enjoys freedom. Sometimes I get angry because I realize that people take advantage of that. But many respect that also, so its worth it, doing my job as an American soldier I've done many things and seen many things most will never experience. I know the sacrifice to protect the U.S and more important my family and friends.

If ya'll are reading this. I guess it means that I have lost my life on this world but started a new one in Heaven. Don't cry or worry about me, because I have died for my country and yall. We knew what may happen while I was here, but I think it was meant to be. . . .

. . . I really don't know how to end this but, carry on with your lives and remember you live in a great place, where men and women sacrifice so much for all of us. I love yall so, so much.

Sincerely your son and brother, Thomas (PFC Caughman)"

As the grateful father of four sons who have served in Iraq, Egypt, or Afghanistan I especially appreciate the courage and extraordinary maturity of Thomas Caughman. He will always be cherished for his service which has for 20 years achieved protecting Americans from terrorist attacks in the continuing Global War on Terrorism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on June 3, 2024, and on June 4, 2024, I was unable to make it back to D.C. for votes. Had I

been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; YEA on Roll Call No. 235; and YEA on Roll Call No. 236.

HONORING ARIAN TAYLOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Arian La'Pearl Alexandria Taylor, the first athletic swimmer within Jackson Public Schools to receive a swimming scholarship.

Arian signed to Meridian Community College (MCC) for swimming. She is the first Jackson Public Schools student athlete to earn a scholarship for swimming. She is also the first black female swimmer to sign to the MCC Eagles, where she plans to major in Nursing.

The 50- and 100-meter freestyle swimmer hopes to inspire others as she blazes a trail for JPS.

Currently, an International Baccalaureate (IB) scholar at Jim Hill High School, Arian has been an athlete of the JPS Swim Team since 7th grade.

While at Jim Hill High School, her achievements and extracurricular activities include choir, basketball, cheer, and the National High School Honor Society.

Despite her youth, the standout is the first to represent the sport of swimming at Jim Hill High School, the first to receive a swimming scholarship for the District, and the first African American athlete to receive this type of scholarship from MCC.

She learned the lifesaving skill at age 11 thanks to a free summer camp hosted by the 100 Black Men of Jackson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing, Arian Taylor for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

WISHING BRUCE SOWATSKY A
HAPPY RETIREMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on this occasion of Bruce Sowatsky's retirement, I recognize his outstanding contributions to the community of St. Charles, Missouri, with great honor and appreciation. Bruce's dedication to improving the lives of children and families has left an enduring mark on our community, and his efforts have touched the hearts of countless individuals.

As Executive Director of the Community & Children's Resource Board, Bruce's leadership has been instrumental in expanding vital services for children and youth, ensuring they can access the support and resources they need to thrive. His commitment to advocating for children's mental health and well-being has greatly impacted many lives. His legacy will continue to inspire us for years to come.

On behalf of the constituents of Missouri's 3rd Congressional District, I extend my sin-

cerest gratitude to Bruce Sowatsky for his commendable service and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 HONOREES
FOR THE BROWARD SENIOR
HALL OF FAME

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore the significance of the 2024 Honorees of the Broward House Senior Hall of Fame, an esteemed recognition administered by the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County.

The Area Agency on Aging Broward County, a pivotal organization in our community, provides essential services to the county's senior residents. It is part of a state network of 11 different Area Agencies of Aging in Florida, each with unique service and planning areas.

The Broward Senior Hall of Fame comprises seniors 60 and older who have performed outstanding volunteer work in Broward County for five or more years. This year's honorees include Odessa Striggles Bennett, Elizabeth Robinson Massey, Lori Green, Betty Miller, Carolyn Hardy, John Raite, Dr. Jorge Lopez, Joy Rodenberg, Rosena Lott, and Paul Sallarulo.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 23rd Congressional District, please join me in celebrating these individuals on this momentous occasion.

HONORING DR. FRED EARL KENCY,
JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Dr. Fred Earl Kency, Jr. He has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a strong desire for change.

Dr. Kency is a native of Jackson, Mississippi. He attended Jackson Public Schools and graduated from Provine High School in 2003. He furthered his education at Alcorn State University, receiving a Bachelors of Science degree in biology. He then earned his Doctorate of Medicine at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in 2011. Dr. Kency used the Health Professions Scholarship to pay for medical school and was selected to complete an Internship in Transitional Medicine at the Naval Medical Center San Diego. After 4 years of honorable Navy service with deployments to Africa and Europe, he returned home to Jackson, MS, to complete his Emergency Medicine Residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

He currently serves as a Community Emergency Room physician at Baptist Hospital and an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at UMMC in Jackson, MS. He is also a credentialed staff member at multiple other hospitals in Mississippi.

Dr. Kency is active in the metro Jackson community through his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and other organizations such as the 100 Black Men of Jackson. He currently serves as a board member for the American Academy of Emergency Medicine and a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Dr. Kency owns Kency Medical Services PLLC, which provides medical consultations, medical-legal work, and community medical health advocacy. Recently, The Best of Mississippi Awards recognized and honored Dr. Kency as one of the Top 50 Men in Business in the State of Mississippi. Dr. Kency has fought tirelessly to make Mississippi a healthier and safer place for all its citizens, and his work has not gone unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Fred Earl Kency, Jr. for his dedication and service in the field of Medicine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on June 3rd as I had an immovable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 233, H. Res. 1215, and YEA on Roll Call No. 234, H.R. 6983.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN
WILLIAMS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of Mr. John Joseph Williams, a brave and dedicated soldier who served our Nation with distinction during World War II as a member of the Ghost Army special unit.

John was assigned to the Signal Company Special of the Ghost Army, a top-secret unit tasked with deceiving the enemy through elaborate tactical deceptions. He was among the select few who landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day, playing a crucial role in the Allied invasion of Normandy. The contributions of John Williams and his fellow Ghost Army soldiers were kept classified until 1996. Historians credit their unit of 1,100 men with saving an estimated 30,000 U.S. troops, and their work had a significant impact on the outcome of the war.

After the war, John returned to Missouri, where he and his wife, Barbara, raised a family and started a successful career at the University of Missouri. He remained dedicated to his community and country until his passing on January 19, 2010, leaving a legacy of courage, sacrifice, and service.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity to commemorate the life and service of John Joseph Williams.

HONORING MARSHALL'S MUSIC
AND BOOK STORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the oldest Black-owned bookstore in the Nation, Marshall's Music and Book Store.

Jackson, Mississippi, is home to the oldest Black-owned bookstore in North America. Marshall's Music and Book Store in the heart of downtown Jackson is a family business that opened in 1938.

The quaint store on the almost empty Farish Street has shelves stacked high with books, music, and everything in between. The walls are also plastered with photos of unsung African American heroes with roots in Mississippi.

Pastor Louis Wilcher of the Greater Pearl River Missionary Baptist Church first opened the store 85 years ago on the corner of Farish and Oakley streets. Now, Primm is the third-generation owner of the store. She believes in teaching people about the past, saying that Black history didn't begin with slavery.

Her newfound hope now lies in opening a school. Primm believes that the way to stop the surge of violent youth crime is to teach children about hope.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marshall's Music and Book Store for its longevity and dedication to serving the community.

RECOGNIZING THE LOSS OF A
GREAT COMMUNITY LEADER
AND OUTSTANDING LIFE OF
SGT. STEPHEN BURDICK
"STEVE" HAND

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and blessing to the City of New Orleans, Sgt. Stephen Burdick "Steve" Hand. He was born in Bronxville, New York on July 21, 1941, to Faith Seiple Hand and Edward Sayer Hand, Sr. and grew up in Scarsdale, New York. Mr. Hand was deeply committed to our beloved city. He served as a leader in the initiative to preserve and restore New Orleans through his work at the Vieux Carré Commission, and the French Market Corp during the 1980s and 1990s. After living a full life dedicated to serving others, Steve (82 years old) passed away on January 8, 2024.

Steve was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1963. His training took place in Fort Benning, Georgia, with the 17th Artillery 2nd Infantry Division under Battery C 7th Battalion ("Garry Owen"). He served one tour of duty in 1965 to Vietnam in which he was stationed at An Khe with the 3rd Brigade 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Mr. Hand earned the title of Sergeant before being honorably discharged from the Army.

Upon returning to the United States, Steve returned to his studies and ultimately graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick,

Maine with a bachelor's degree in economics. After graduating, Steve began his career, working in Communications and Public Service. He fondly reflected on his experience working on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant and Press Secretary to Senators Winston L. Prouty of Vermont and Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, the first popularly elected Black senator. He went on to earn a master's degree in Landscape Architecture at LSU in 1982, where he developed an appreciation for the state of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. At LSU, he wrote his thesis, about the historical, cultural, and political influences that have contributed to the development of the gardens and courtyards within the French Quarter. This thesis was instrumental in his future experiences in New Orleans, where he was dedicated to preserving, enriching, and educating others about the local landscaping and architecture that makes our city so special.

As a hardworking and dedicated Director of the Vieux Carré Commission, Steve used his expertise in the French Quarter's architectural landscape to preserve the historical and cultural character of New Orleans's oldest neighborhoods. Among his many accomplishments in this role, Steve was able to have the golden equestrian statue of Joan of Arc, relocated at Place de France. Additionally, he worked tirelessly alongside the City Council and Mayor's office to ensure that the integrity of this neighborhood and the needs of its residents were protected, pioneering an effort to keep the French Quarter safe and clean. Mr. Hand also served the New Orleans community as the Executive Director of the French Market Corp. in 1994, through which he supported the effort to revitalize and renovate the French Market, leading this historical landmark to flourish in our city's economy.

Steve Hand's legacy will continue to live on through the spirit of this city, which he loved so dearly. It will live on through all of the people, the long-lasting friendships that he made and cultivated, and those whose lives he touched around the Nation. Most importantly, Steve Hand's legacy will live on through his dear, loving family: Bear, his goldendoodle; his brother Edward S. Hand and sister-in-law Susan O. Hand; three nieces Samantha Fratus, Lindsley Rice, and Bailey Jeffrey and their families around the world. Stephen Burdick Hand is an inspiration to all those who dedicate their lives to serving their community. I, too, hope to carry his legacy with me as I continue to serve the people of Louisiana.

HONORING NORTH RICHLAND
HILLS MAYOR OSCAR TREVINO

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oscar Trevino as he retires as Mayor of the City of North Richland Hills. In doing so, he concludes a total of 25 years of dedicated public service as a member of the NRH Council, 22 years of which he led the City as Mayor. He steps down as the longest-serving Mayor in the history of North Richland Hills.

Privately, Mr. Trevino was the owner of O. Trevino Construction, having graduated from

Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1979. Mr. Trevino was first elected to the NRH City Council in May, 1999, and resigned during his second term after being elected Mayor in June 2002. During this time he not only served as a City official and business owner, but also engaged actively with a number of Local, State and National organizations. These included active board leadership positions with the National League of Cities; the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO); the Tarrant Regional Transportation Council (TRTC); Tarrant County Mayors Council; the Regional Transportation Council (RTC); Partners in Mobility; North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG); the Coalition for Better Transportation; Regional Transit Initiative Committee; Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) Advisory Council; North Texas Commission; TEX-21 Committee; North Texas Super Bowl XLV Host Committee Council of Mayors; Birdville ISD Foundation of Education; Medical City North Hills Board; Northeast Leadership Forum; and the Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce, to name but only a few.

Utilizing his considerable organizational and public skills as Mayor, residents of not only North Richland Hills, but from across the North Texas region as well, benefitted greatly from his educational background and the experience and connections he earned as a successful heavy-highway contractor. Awards including the NCTCOG William J. Pitstick Regional Excellence Award, the FWHCC Businessman of the Year and John V. McMillan Hall of Fame Award, and the Excalibur Award from the NE Tarrant Chamber are a sampling of the acknowledgement he received from his peers for his well-regarded impact.

As the 3rd largest municipality in Tarrant County, North Richland Hills grew from 55,000 to over 70,000 during Mayor Trevino's terms in office. Supporting this growth, Mayor Trevino worked to ensure adequate infrastructure, including over \$100 million on the city's streets. He also sought to build strong regional partnerships to increase mobility through highway improvements and the addition of TEXRail as legacies to benefit the community for generations.

Leading the Council and staff as stewards of public funds, Mayor Trevino sought to invest in high-quality services, with a sensitivity of the tax burden for senior citizens and homeowners. Investments in parks, equipment and staff were made to ensure the needs of the City's expanding population were met. Significant updates to aging facilities accomplished during his tenure included a new City Hall as well as new fire and police stations, expanding and equipping the City's professional responders with the best training and tools available to ensure safety and security remained a hallmark in support of NRH's quality of life. Additionally, a modern library, recreation center, animal shelter and senior center were also completed, along with improvements to Iron Horse Golf Course and NRH20 Family Water Park. These facilities provided citizens with community amenities that have allowed the City to provide unique recreation programs and host numerous annual special events. As investments, they also supported NRH with an identity as a desired destination location to support the Nation's second Peppa Pig Theme Park.

These improvements also supported economic efforts within the City to reduce the retail vacancy rate to 6.3 percent, the lowest since his early days on council. This was a significant accomplishment in spite of significant challenges including the pandemic and recessions. The achievement was accomplished by focusing not only on the newly developed neighborhoods, but also including the City's historic areas to redevelop park areas and infrastructure to keep the areas vibrant. The economic vitality is evidenced with the additions of Babe's, Sweetie Pie's, Patriotic Pig, Floor & Décor, Winco, Platinum Music Complex, Painted Tree, Gritr Sports, Seconds & Surplus, Warespace, Truby Hilton Hotel and the development of Volli Entertainment. These private investments only foreshadow the potential of the former mall property redevelopment as new businesses and a Homewood Suites by Hilton are developed around the City's new City Hall.

As the Mayor steps down from his duties, I am proud of all he has accomplished for his beloved City and for the region that has been blessed with his public leadership and service. I have appreciated his wisdom and insight on many occasions and I will personally miss his counsel and friendship. However, I also understand the sacrifice public service requires of family. I wish Mayor Trevino a long retirement with his wife Carol, his children and his granddaughter Reis, to make-up for the time lost as he served. The City, our region and our State are all better as a result of his service.

HONORING GREATER HINDS
STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the community, Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church. Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church has served as a catalyst for the African-American growth in Washington County and the State of Mississippi.

The history and purpose of the Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church is to participate and promote the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ in evangelism, discipleship, Christian education, missions, ministries, social service, and any other objective that the church may consider to be appropriate and desirable.

The Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church was established in 1911 when a group of members chose to leave First Baptist Church, located in Greenville, Mississippi, and start anew. Namely, Deacon John Gray, Deacon John Collins, Deacon Robert Moore, and his wife, Sister C.L. Bean, who were all members of Penthian Hall, begin to hold church meetings in the association's building, located on Cately and Nelson Streets. They eventually moved to 502 Nelson Street, currently known as Doe's Eat Place. In January 1926, "Hinds Street" was founded at its present site under the late Rev. Lynke Williams.

In 1954, Hinds Street underwent a new look with new restorations and 1955 became a new dawning for the Church. A new pastor was

elected, Rev. E.D. Simpson, and a massive renovation took place. The renovation led to a desire to rename the church. Henceforth, it became known as the Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church.

In 1994, the Church committed to continuous improvement of the building. As improvements were made, the church also elected Youth Pastor, Rev. Cedric Reed. Sadly, the year brought the end of era. Rev. E.D. Simpson passed away in October 1994, thus bringing an end to the longest tenured Pastorate of the church,

In March 1995, Rev. Thomas Morris, Sr. became the Pastor. Then, Mr. Frank Seid and married couple, Napoleon and Maurice Thomas, donated property to the church for expansion. Throughout the years, the Church purchased several portions of land in the surrounding neighborhood. In October, the Hinds Street Baptist Church Community Development Corporation was established.

In 1997, the church acquired additional property at 434 Hinds Street. In 1999, Mr. George Lynch generously donated property at the corner of Hinds and Alexander Streets to the church.

In March 2002, the church broke ground for the Greater Hinds Street Church Family Life Center.

In the fall of 2012, the church purchased a small 4-unit apartment complex and a vacant lot across the street, aiming to renew the building for future use and benefit to the church and community. A community garden has since been established on the vacant lot.

In 2013, renovations began to update both the Church and the Family Life Center. This effort, aimed at reinforcing the unity of the church and its facilities, supported spiritual growth and community service.

Countless individuals have been baptized and converted to Jesus Christ for the forgiveness and remission of sin. The church's history is storied with decades long service and contributions by numerous members and friends, who are God-fearing and God-loving, both named and unnamed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church for its rich heritage and dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY FEENSTRA

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on H. Res. 1215. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 233.

CELEBRATING SAGE ELDERCARE'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratula-

tions to SAGE Eldercare on its 70th Anniversary.

I am truly grateful to be celebrating this monumental milestone with you all. Over the past 70 years, SAGE Eldercare has made a deep impact on the lives of older adults in our community. Through delivering meals, restoring family heirlooms, providing companionship, and much more volunteers provide the support for older adults to live the most independent and active lives possible. I am proud to have such dedicated volunteers and organizations committed to helping people in our community within the 7th Congressional District.

I look forward to watching them all flourish in the coming decades. I wish SAGE Eldercare a wonderful anniversary. May their next 70 years be filled with as much success as this one.

RETIREMENT OF COLONEL JOY LYNN ALEXANDER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor the incredible career of Joy Lynn Alexander, who recently retired as a Colonel after thirty years of dedicated service in the military. Colonel Alexander is a highly decorated officer who rose through the ranks of the Mississippi National Guard, eventually becoming the Commander of Camp McCain Training Site.

Throughout her career, Colonel Alexander completed all the necessary professional military education courses, including the U.S. Army War College. Her numerous awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal. She served in various roles, from tactical to strategic positions, and even completed a combat tour in Iraq in 2009 through 2010, where I had the honor of serving alongside her.

Colonel Alexander spent countless days, weeks, months, and years traveling across Mississippi, the United States, and the world to support and lead critical missions. Her dedication and hard work have taken her to many places, all in service to our country and state.

As one of the most influential leaders in the Army, Colonel Alexander always maintained the highest standards, even during some of the most challenging times in history. She is a true American hero and a proud Mississippian. We are deeply grateful for her unwavering commitment to our country and to Mississippi. Her legacy of service and leadership will continue to inspire us all.

HONORING JIMMY WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated efforts of JW Cleaning & Maintenance, owned, and operated by Jimmy Williams. A true entrepreneur, an enthusiastic and self-motivated business owner from Cleveland, Mississippi.

Jimmy Williams started JW Cleaning & Maintenance 20 years ago. The idea of this business on the side developed while working at Baxter Healthcare, where he retired after 31 years. He was also co-owner and operator of County Platter restaurant. After retirement he focused his attention on other ventures, including the cleaning service. He specializes in cleaning and maintaining the upkeep of several medical offices, banks, and businesses in the area. He does both commercial and residential maintenance and cleaning.

Mr. Williams embarked upon the cleaning and maintenance business specifically because he did so much of that while working at Baxter and supervised others doing that. He has a staff of five as well as others when needed. His daughter, Sheila Williams, also works for the business. She handles the books, paperwork, and the business side of the company. Mr. Williams states, "we're thorough and efficient, we do a good job, and we take pride in our work. I check on my staff daily and often go into the offices we clean the mornings before their staff arrives to make sure everything was done properly if I didn't do the work myself." His slogan, "Doing whatever needs to be done, wherever it is needed". This is how his business has remained successful.

He is motivated to make positive impacts on his community by helping people in the community. He loves to cook and take meals to the elderly people in the area as a part of simply giving back to his hometown of Cleveland. This also keeps him active and gives him an opportunity to stay connected with the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jimmy Williams for his dedication and initiative in continuing to offer his services to the community, surrounding areas and the MS Delta. His collective contributions are truly inspiring and reflect the best of our shared values as citizens and neighbors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my votes for H. Res. 1215 and H.R. 6983.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 233, and YEA on Roll Call No. 234.

CONGRATULATING MR. VICTOR MCKENZIE, JR. ON BEING NAMED CHAIR OF VIRGINIA'S ADDICTION AND RECOVERY COUNCIL

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Victor McKenzie, Jr., who was recently named Chair of Virginia's Addiction and Recovery Council.

Mr. McKenzie has devoted much of his career to helping Virginians who suffer from sub-

stance use disorders. A leader in his community, he has been a consistent advocate for expanding access to behavioral and developmental health services for all who need them. As Executive Director of the Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) of Virginia, he works to transform communities across our Commonwealth by spearheading work on substance use disorder and recovery, and providing Virginians with education, advocacy, and support.

Through his work, Mr. McKenzie has provided Virginia families and individuals with the support they need to thrive. His continued commitment to Virginia families is highlighted by his recently being elected Chair of Virginia's Addiction and Recovery Council, where he will advise the Governor, the Virginia General Assembly, and the Board of the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services on matters pertaining to substance use.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating and thanking Mr. Victor McKenzie, Jr. for his service on behalf of the people of Virginia. I look forward to celebrating his contributions to our Commonwealth, and I thank him for his tireless commitment and advocacy on behalf of Virginians struggling with substance use disorders.

HONORING JOSEPH THOMAS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service and dedication of an outstanding individual from Yazoo City, Mississippi, Joseph Thomas, Jr. This individual has made significant contributions to the betterment of the Yazoo County community, and it is fitting that we recognize his achievements.

Joseph Thomas, Jr., a native of Yazoo City, has recently been elected to the Board of Supervisors. This is a testament to his commitment to serving his community and his leadership qualities. Furthermore, Mr. Thomas has been appointed as President of the Board of Supervisors, showcasing the trust and confidence his colleagues have in his abilities.

Mr. Thomas is a proud graduate of Yazoo City High School, where he developed a passion for politics that has guided him throughout his career. His dedication to public service and his tireless advocacy for the residents of Yazoo County are truly commendable.

Additionally, Mr. Thomas worked alongside Davis Peyton, a fellow member of the Board of Supervisors, to organize the inaugural Yazoo County Day at the Mississippi Capitol. This event provided an invaluable opportunity to showcase the rich history and vibrant culture of Yazoo County to state officials and legislators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joseph Thomas, Jr. for his outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment to serving the people of Yazoo County. His contributions have made a lasting impact on our community, and they deserve our utmost respect and gratitude.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PERRY MARKEL WHITTINGTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Perry Markel Whittington, a cherished husband, father, and grandfather who passed away peacefully on May 3, 2024, at the age of 74 Born on August 17, 1949, in Braxton, Mississippi, to Charles Hansford Whittington and Della Pierce Whittington, Markel and his twin brother, Mark, were the youngest in a family of ten children.

Markel graduated from Harrisville High School in 1967 and went on to receive a degree in business administration from Mississippi College in 1971. He began his professional career at McRae's department store in 1969, eventually rising to the position of Store Manager. It was here that he met Elizabeth "Libby" Owens, who would become his wife. The couple married in the summer of 1974 in Pensacola, FL, and later settled in Tupelo, MS. In 1979, Markel left McRae's to purchase and manage Middleton Office Products.

Tupelo was where Markel and Libby chose to raise their family, becoming active members of the First United Methodist Church and forging lasting friendships Markel also contributed to the community as a board member of Alpha House and the Boy Scouts of America, receiving the Silver Beaver Award. A committed Rotarian since 1979, he was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International. Markel also dedicated many years to public service as a City Councilman for Ward 1, serving from 2009 to 2021.

Above all, Markel was devoted to his family. He cherished his role as a husband, father, and grandfather, finding great joy in life's simple moments with his grandchildren. Markel was preceded in death by his wife Libby, his parents, his siblings Joy, Carolyn, and Bill, and his sisters-in-law Betty, Sally, and Opal Whittington.

He is survived by his sons, Preston Markel (Anna) and Pierce Marion (Brittney), grandchildren Stanley Pierce, Catherine Elizabeth, Charlotte Elliott, and Francis "Frankie" Rhodes, brothers Charlie, Ken, Floyd, Bill, Keith, Mark, his favorite cousin Elton, and his beloved dog, Magnolia Blue "Maggie."

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF A GREAT NATIVE SON AND THE OUTSTANDING LIFE OF THE LATE VICTOR JOHN LABAT

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Victor John Labat, born in New Orleans, Louisiana to parents Victor and Jeanne Victor Labat, on November 24, 1932. At the tender age of 91 in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, he recently passed away on Sunday, April 21, 2024. A proud graduate of Xavier Preparatory High School and Xavier University of Louisiana with a degree in mathematics, two key Catholic Institutions, both founded by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

During his college days, he served as the artistic designer and director of the Xavier Yearbook, where he proudly displayed his unique passion for drawing and painting. His professional successes spanned across varying careers. In his early years, he was a construction company owner, designing and building homes around the city of New Orleans. He later moved his family of five to Washington, D.C., with an assignment to desegregate court ordered schools through southern states under the Nixon Administration. His career included being appointed Assistant to Leon Panetta, Director of the Office of Civil Rights under the Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources (HEW). The next assignment took him and his family to Dakar, Senegal, West Africa where he served as Director of the Peace Corps for five years.

With a wealth of international experience under his belt, he established Labat Anderson Inc., one of the country's most successful government contracting firms, creating offices and jobs throughout the U.S. and internationally. The success of Labat Anderson Inc. led to Labat Africa Ltd. in Johannesburg, South Africa. Labat Africa Ltd. is the first African American co-owned company to open upon Nelson Mandela's presidency and to trade on the South African Stock Exchange.

Victor retired to his family's hometown of Bay St. Louis, MS, though he spent a tremendous amount of time in his hometown, New Orleans, welcomed and cared for by family and friends. A vibrant man, that still enjoyed international travel until his passing, found peace in painting, fine dining and French

wines, motorcycle riding, and laughing out loud with his family and friends. He had just completed his first soon to be published book on his family lineage titled, "Is That So? From the Mississippi Gulf Coast, A Portrait of an American Family through Race, Education, Power, Politics, Religion and Class."

Victor is preceded in death by his parents, and a younger brother, Michael L. Labat, Sr. He is survived by his three children, Carla Labat (George Dines), Lori Labat and Yancey Labat (Andrea Menotti), three granddaughters, Akira Scott, Eliza and Serenna Menotti Labat; a brother, Joseph A. Labat, MD (Dr. Deidre Dumas), sister-in-law, Constance "Connie" Ray Labat, Dorothy Martel Labat, Judi Gerhardt; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and associates.

I am proud to have spent time and growing up with mentors from this phenomenal family, as well as their children during my college days, always fascinated by their accomplishments. I am honored to document the incredible life of Victor J. Labat, a life well-lived.

HONORING JAR'KEVIOUS R.
EDWARDS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Jar'Kevious R. Edwards.

Jar'Kevious R. Edwards is a native of Charleston, Mississippi. He is a 2020 graduate of Charleston High School and a 2024 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University.

With aspirations of becoming a news and television personality, he obtained a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication and completed a summer internship at WLBT in Jackson, Mississippi.

Jar'Kevious' bright personality, elegance, oratory skills, and charm have gained him the victory in winning the title of Mr. Mississippi Valley State University in 2023. As a bright and prosperous future awaits, Jar'Kevious plans to branch out into the field of broadcast journalism as a news reporter and/or anchor.

Jar'Kevious' long-term goals include anchoring on Good Morning America, CNN, hosting Entertainment Tonight, and one day his own television talk show.

Jar'Kevious' life motto is, "There is no passion to be found playing small—in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."—Nelson Mandela,

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jar'Kevious Edwards for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.