

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING LIFE OF MRS. JANICE MARIE LITTLE BARTLEY

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible life of Mrs. Janice Marie Little Bartley, an outstanding leader, my very dear friend, and big sister. Domiciled in my Congressional District, she was a resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and native of New Orleans, Louisiana, and passed away early Friday morning, June 28, 2024. Janice was an active member of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated Sorority, since her initiation into the Beta Gamma Chapter at Dillard University in New Orleans. As a proud Dillard Alumnae, she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree. As a National Urban Fellow, she earned a Master of Public Administration Degree from Bernard Baruch College, City University of New York.

She was an experienced Housing Administrator who started her housing career more than 35 years ago and worked throughout the years with local, state and federal programs in the areas of community development, neighborhood revitalization, homelessness and HIV housing supports, housing management, housing development and construction. Janice also worked at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana and served as Vice President and Dean for Student Affairs and a member of the Executive Council.

Janice Bartley's career began as the Mayor's Executive Assistant and later the Executive Director for the Office of Housing and Urban Affairs for the City of New Orleans. With a staff of more than 140 individuals and a budget of more than \$30 million, her office had the responsibility of administering the City's federal CDBG funds, ESG, Stewart B. McKinney, HOPWA, HOME and local housing funds. She worked to expand community development projects, create and support viable economic development programs and establish housing programs to reduce blight, revitalize neighborhoods and to create decent, safe and affordable housing opportunities for low income and or vulnerable individuals and families in the community. Within the City of New Orleans Mayoral Administration of then, Sidney Barthelemy, Janice and I worked closely together as Legislative Coordinators.

As she continued her career as a loyal and dedicated employee with a passion for housing, her career continued as HUD Regional Director for Volunteers of America and most recently as Director of Housing Development and Operations at the Council of Aging of Baton Rouge.

Janice has served as the Director of HUD Housing Operations for Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge. She successfully supervised the management of affordable multi-family 202 and 811 HUD properties in Baton

Rouge, New Roads, Lake Charles, Elton and Oberlin, Louisiana. Bartley was recognized by the National VOA for Excellence in Housing and for serving as the 2018 Chair of the National VOA Housing Operations Shared Leadership Network.

In 2006, Janice worked for the State of Louisiana, Office of Family and Children Services. Post Hurricane Katrina, she was assigned to the FEMA Headquarters to provide support and assistance to hurricane victims. She also worked collaboratively with key staff from the Offices of DHH, OCD and the Homelessness Continuum of Care to develop, monitor and manage a \$25.9 million disaster recovery Grant for Homelessness and Housing Support, to implement the Permanent Supportive Housing program and to increase PSH vouchers for homeless individuals or those at risk of becoming homeless.

Janice joined the EBRCOA staff in 2021 as Director of Housing Development and Operations. She worked collaboratively with the Housing Team with direct oversight for the development and construction of Lotus Village Senior Community and served on the Lease Management Oversight Team. She also worked collaboratively with the EBRCOA Construction Team on the predesign and development of Lotus Village at the Lake Senior Housing and the Lotus Village at the Lake Senior Center.

A strong believer in family values, she is survived by her beloved husband of 35 years, Frank Bartley, III, and the mother of four—Domonique M. Bartley, Jacqueline E. Bartley, Frank Bartley, IV, and Nicole A. Bartley. Janice was the sister of Robert Little, Jr. (Patricia), Edgar Little, Sr. (Julie), Yvette Little Fisher (Johnny Jr.), and Monique Brumfield. She is preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Emmalee S. Little. Janice was a faithful member of both Greater Liberty Baptist Church of New Orleans pre-Katrina and Greater King David Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, LA post-Katrina.

I take pride in calling Janice my dear friend. I will forever cherish the time we worked together in my early career as a public servant, crediting her for the many values I hold in serving constituents. The 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana pays tribute to Mrs. Janice Marie Little Bartley on celebrating her life, a very loving person who cares more about others than she does for herself, selfless dedication, devoted leadership, and faithfully serving others.

COMMEMORATING AND HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CUMMINS ENGINE PLANT IN JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of

the Cummins Engine Plant in Jamestown, New York—a beacon of American ingenuity, resilience, and commitment to excellence.

Fifty years ago, in 1974, the Cummins Plant opened its doors in Jamestown. It started as a modest facility, with a mission to produce high-quality engines that would power the dreams and livelihoods of countless Americans. This plant embodied the spirit of Jamestown—a community built on hard work, determination, and a belief in a brighter future.

Over the decades, the Cummins Plant has grown into one of the largest and most advanced engine manufacturing facilities in the world. Its workforce, drawn from the heart of Jamestown and its surrounding areas, has been the lifeblood of this transformation. The plant now employs over 1,500 dedicated individuals, each one contributing to the production of engines and generators that power everything from trucks and buses to buildings and machines.

The plant's history is filled with milestones that reflect its enduring impact. In the 1980s, Cummins introduced the industry-leading Cummins N14 engine, which became a cornerstone of heavy-duty trucking. In the 1990s, the plant embraced advanced manufacturing techniques, paving the way for the production of cleaner and more efficient engines. In the 2000s, Cummins continued to lead with innovations in diesel and natural gas technologies, showcasing their ability to adapt and thrive in an evolving landscape.

As we celebrate this remarkable 50th anniversary, we are reminded of the plant's humble beginnings and the incredible journey it has undertaken. We are reminded of the visionaries who saw potential in Jamestown, the workers who brought that vision to life, and the community that has supported this endeavor every step of the way. In recognizing the Cummins Plant, we honor not just a facility, but a symbol of American industry at its best.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me in congratulating the Cummins Engine Plant on their 50th anniversary and their invaluable service to the residents of our communities.

HONORING ARMANDO VAZQUEZ- RAMOS

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Armando Vazquez-Ramos, an outstanding professor, who has served our Southern Californian communities as an educator and activist for more than 55 years since 1968.

Professor Vazquez-Ramos' family has been active with unions since the 1970's, holding leadership roles in different organizations across Southern California and active roles

• 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.

with the California Faculty Association, California Teachers Association and National Education Association for over 35 years.

Professor Vazquez-Ramos earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mexican-American Studies and a Master's in Psychology at California State University, Long Beach and a Master's in Public Administration at Pepperdine University. As a student leader in 1969, Professor Vazquez-Ramos was a co-founder of the Chicano and Latino Studies department at California State University, Long Beach.

He has taught various topics and issues related to Chicano/Latino studies at California State University, Long Beach Chicano and Latino Studies Department. During his time at the Office of International Programs, he promoted California-Mexico exchange and North American Studies programs. Since 1998, he has led travel-study groups to Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela for students, faculty, and union leaders.

In 1999, he also established the California-Mexico Project at California State University, Long Beach. The California-Mexico Project raised scholarship funds for students to study abroad in Mexico and promote educational exchange. In 2008, Assembly Concurrent Resolution 146 recognized the California-Mexico Project and directed the California Research Bureau to conduct the "The California Research Bureau Report on California-Mexico Study Abroad Programs" study.

In 2010, Professor Vazquez-Ramos established the non-profit California-Mexico Studies Center to research, develop, promote, and establish policies and programs between higher educational institutions and cultural organizations that will enhance the teaching, mobility and exchange of faculty, students, and professionals between California and the U.S. with Mexico.

The establishment and creation of the California-Mexico Studies Center has allowed more than 400 students a safe opportunity to study abroad with an additional 200 students who participated through the California-Mexico Dreamers Study Abroad Program. The California-Mexico Dreamers Study Abroad Program was precedent-setting study abroad model which Professor Vazquez-Ramos established in 2014.

Professor Vazquez-Ramos has impacted the lives of thousands of students during his 55-year career and has created the opportunity for students to return to their birthplace, meet their families, and discover their homeland while advancing their academic careers. His legacy career has established precedent and model programs for universities and colleges to follow for future generations.

Professor Vazquez-Ramos was awarded the Barrio Station Lifetime Achievement Award on March 14th during the Barrio Station 54th Anniversary Dinner. He is celebrated for his dedication and lifelong commitment to his students and our community as a devoted professor, innovator, and mentor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 8812, the Water Re-

sources and Development Act due to air travel delays. I have long supported this bipartisan bill that continues to provide better resources for America's waterways, ports and coastal resiliency.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

HONORING REVEREND W.C. AND DONNA MARTIN

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Wilbert C. Martin, pastor of Bennett Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Shelby County, Texas, and his wife Donna Martin. Through their efforts to live out their faith and serve others, they brought about the foster or adoption of seventy-seven of the most at-risk children in the Texas foster care system.

Nearly three decades ago, Rev. W.C. Martin and his wife Donna, who already had two biological children, adopted another four, starting a movement of twenty-two families within the unincorporated Possum Trot community in East Texas to adopt seventy-seven children.

Mrs. Martin was inspired to adopt after the death of her beloved mother, Murtha, who had raised eighteen children. She stated, "And the Holy Spirit said, 'Think about those other children out there that do not have what you had with your mother.' I was overcome with such warmth. I walked back into the house, picked up the Yellow Pages and called an adoption agency."

The story of the Martins and the Bennett Chapel Baptist Missionary Association Church community has been retold in the recent film *Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot*, which dramatizes their unbreakable faith and generosity for these children. Their story is an inspiration for all of us to give and love more, especially for the most vulnerable.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. JANE BARTKE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mrs. Jane Bartke. Mrs. Bartke, who passed away at the age of 86, leaves behind an indelible legacy of service to our country and Contra Costa County.

A longtime resident of El Cerrito, California, Mrs. Bartke's commitment to her community

inspired her to serve in the California Public School System for over thirty years. Throughout her career in education, Mrs. Bartke served as a teacher, counselor, and Department Chair for West Contra Costa Unified School District. She consistently demonstrated a steadfast dedication to her students, and her wisdom and compassion undeniably changed the California education system for the better.

Mrs. Bartke's commitment to her community extended beyond her critical efforts as an educator. She also served on the El Cerrito City Council, as Mayor of El Cerrito, and as President of the Trust for the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park. Mrs. Bartke's public service was characterized by her selflessness, advocacy for the people of El Cerrito, and commitment to the empowerment of women.

Mrs. Bartke exemplified the spirit of altruism in all areas of her life. She will be remembered not only for her decades of service to California students and teachers, but also for her genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. She leaves behind an everlasting mark on countless students, fellow teachers, and the El Cerrito community.

Mrs. Bartke's enduring spirit will live on in her husband, two daughters, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Bartke's loved ones I know that they, along with the people of Contra Costa County, join me in celebrating her life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF RUSHDIE'S ATTACK

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

"Prolific author, Salman Rushdie, with translations to more than forty languages and winner of multiple prestigious literary prizes, including the 2023 PEN Centenary Courage Award, rewards us with his latest publication, *Knife (Meditations After An Attempted Murder)*. New York: Random House. 2024. He made news around the world when attacked at the Chautauqua Institution, in upstate New York, on August 12, 2022, by a would-be assassin who acted upon the Fatwa of a death sentence issued by Ayatollah Khomeini 33½ years earlier.

The Ayatollah responded to Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses*, which he deemed blasphemous against Islam. Poignantly and ironically, Rushdie was to address that fateful day on creating safe spaces in America for foreign writers in a project, "City of asylum Pittsburgh," initiated by Henry Reese and his wife Diane Samuels. The author's attacker was 24 years old and described by Rushdie as "the A.," referring derogatorily by the author to the vile attack, thus revealing his profound disgust for the attacker's both act and personality. Interestingly the author had a premonition in the form of a dream of being attacked two nights before the shaking event.

Rushdie's overwhelming hurting, physically and psychologically, of the 27 seconds brutal knifing is captured in his inimitable

style, "He had reached his target, after all; his blade was entering his target's body, over and over again, and he had every reason to think he had succeeded in his endeavor and was standing on the stage of history . . . But then he was dragged off me and pinned down. His twenty-seven seconds of fame were over. He was nobody again." Obviously, the author's anger at his attacker who had sought to serve his God at the cost of his victim's life, is tangible. He did suffer from PTSD manifested still in weekly nightmares, and credits writing this book to his literary agent, Andrew Wylie's urging, though reluctant and thinking that his time as an author was over, while expecting the publication of his twenty-first book, *Victory City*.

We are all better off for Rushdie's positive decision at a trying crossword. Losing one eye and enduring six weeks in two hospitals, he however retained his biting humor, "Don't worry I'm the champion of draining fluids." Celebrating his "return to the world," he likened his joyful leaving the hospital to becoming a US citizen in New York in 2016, though this time surrounded by tight security. Ever pondering the meaning of the knife, the tool through which he was expected to die, the meticulous author offers profound reflections on his own artistic knife that is no less consequential without cutting into human flesh, "language, too was a knife. It could cut open the world and reveal its meaning, its inner workings, its secrets, its truths. It could cut through from one reality to another. It could call bullshit, open people's eyes, create beauty. Language was my knife."

Indeed, the author's heroic speaking truth to power before and after the ghastly attack that almost cost his life dedicated to the best in humanity, posits him with our revered teachers and sages uplifting humanity by pointing at its shortcomings. Rushdie reminds me of my late great friend, Eli Wiesel, winner of the Noble Peace Prize. Surely Rushdie too has earned it and/or the Nobel Literature Prize, for his immense contribution toward a sane world. Speaking on May 13, 2022, in the United Nations on behalf of PEN America on the writers' potential contribution in a troubled world facing the Ukraine war, Rushdie did not mince words, harshly criticizing Putin while praising Zelenskyy.

He also expressed grave concern on the role of white supremacy in turning America back and backwards, the deadly attack at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue, yet aiming sharp barbs at his own birthplace India for its religious Hindu-Muslim wars threatening democracy. Regarding himself as non-religious, his deep concern is with religion's proclivity for violence and its need to remain in the private sphere. Reflecting on the September 11 Twin Towers attack, "An aircraft could be a knife, too." He gratefully recalls deceased Egyptian author and Nobel Literature Laureate, Naguib Mahfouz, who opposed the Fatwa against Rushdie, prompting an Islamist terrorist to attack him on October 14, 1994, but he survived. This remarkable book's contribution—testimonial by a great author and humanitarian is both a warning and a celebration."

REMEMBERING THE OUTSTANDING
LIFE OF THE LATE DOUGLAS A.
HARGRAY

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Late Honorable

Douglas A. "Doug" Hargray, as he passed away at the tender age of 58, though a true fighter as a 31-year quadriplegic following a motor vehicle accident.

Doug was born May 21, 1965, in Chicago, Illinois. In his early years, he attended Charles Wacker Elementary School. As a courageous youth, he was an active member of the Cub Scouts and later the Boy Scouts of America. He attended summer camp at Culver Military in Culver, Indiana, from 7 to 10 years old. Doug was awarded first place in a science fair, allowing him to showcase his ideas at a District Science Fair thereafter. Doug then attended Saint Ignatius College Prep for high school in Chicago, IL, graduating in 1983.

Doug was beyond excited to have been accepted and enrolled at Xavier University of Louisiana, located in New Orleans, Louisiana, an institution in my district, of which I am a proud alumnus. After only one year on campus, Doug pledged the most auspicious fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc's Beta Iota Chapter, at Xavier University of Louisiana in 1984. To further define his true fraternal dedication, he was a life member of this outstanding organization, a great fraternity brother, and a mentor to many young men.

After his time at Xavier University, he enrolled at Meharry Medical College to pursue a master's degree in public health. Sadly, during his time at Meharry Medical College, he was seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident on April 21, 1991, leaving him a quadriplegic. He was to enroll as a medical school student later that year.

Doug's gift to serve as an exceptional role model did not only help youth, family, and friends; he also was a significant role model to those that cared for him as a quadriplegic; what a true gift from God. I know that I will miss the opportunity to connect with Doug. He has been a great inspiration to me, and I credit him for the encouragement he offered throughout my political career. His kind words have always been an inspiration to me.

I will forever carry Doug as an Angel on my shoulder, guiding me to further propel in future life achievements. He will truly be missed, warmly thought of, and forever loved for endless years to come. Though his passing brings a tear to our eyes, may all the love, support, and great times bring a smile to our faces as we forever cherish his memories.

May he take his rest in God's Kingdom. His life, legacy, and impact on those he touched will forever be remembered.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDREW S. CLYDE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, due to the Cloudstrike outage, I experienced extreme flight delays and was delayed at the Atlanta airport for twelve hours.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356; NAY on Roll Call No. 357; and NAY on Roll Call No. 358.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my votes for S. Amdt. 3249 or H.R. 8812.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356, and YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

RECOGNIZING THE PROFOUND
SERVICE OF GIANNA EMANUELA
MOLLA

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the living legacy of Gianna Emanuela Molla, MD—who has dedicated her life to the health of women and children as she serves and advocates for the sanctity of life. Her journey, intertwined with compassion, dedication, and profound faith, serves as an inspiration to all who seek to make a difference in this world.

Her mother, Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, showed immeasurable courage during her pregnancy while facing a life-threatening condition. In the end, she was forced to make the hardest choice, herself or her daughter. She heroically chose to prioritize her unborn child, demonstrating a profound act of sacrificial love as a testament to her unwavering belief in the sanctity of all life, a belief that guided her every action and decision.

Continuing in this legacy, Gianna Emanuela Molla has traveled the world bringing a message of hope, love, and maternal appreciation. She actively supports initiatives that promote life-affirming values and contribute to organizations that assist women facing difficult pregnancies. Her life of service extend beyond the confines of her clinic, touching many through her kindness, generosity, and unwavering faith.

Her service is a reminder that we must be grounded in a deep appreciation for life—because there is no greater gift.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE
REPRESENTATIVE SHEILA JACKSON
LEE

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, tonight, we mourn the loss of our dear friend, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

She was a fighter, a fierce intellect, and above all, a force. Her presence here in Washington—for almost 30 years—was unmatched.

Her constituents were not only the good people of Houston; they were the disadvantaged looking for an opportunity, the destitute

looking for a new start in our country, and the vulnerable looking for an advocate.

I have no doubt that her legacy of fearless leadership and commitment to her community will continue to inspire generations.

It would be impossible to distill Congresswoman JACKSON LEE's three decades of service in Congress here tonight but suffice it to say there was not a subject worthy of attention that she ignored.

As a Member of the Homeland Security Committee since it became a standing committee almost 20 years ago, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE fought for resources for first responders, help for those suffering the effects of natural disasters, and immigration policies that reflect our values as a Nation of immigrants.

Congresswoman JACKSON LEE's reputation preceded her. On Capitol Hill, it appeared that she could be in more than one place at once.

Within one hour, the congresswoman could be observed giving a floor speech, participating in a committee hearing on a topic she cared about whether or not she was a Member of the committee, and then giving remarks at an event to support a cause.

She was relentless, and every cause she took on was better because of it. The Nation owes her a debt of gratitude.

I am grateful that Congresswoman JACKSON LEE decided to lend her immeasurable energy and tenacity to the Homeland Security Committee. Her absence will be felt just as much as her presence, and we will miss her dearly.

Tonight, we continue our prayers for her family, friends, and constituents.

May God bless SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

TRIBUTE TO THE BURBANK COMMUNITY YMCA ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Burbank Community YMCA, located in Burbank, California.

The Burbank Community YMCA was founded in 1924 with a commitment to strengthen individuals through youth development, social responsibility and healthy living. Starting from humble beginnings in a single room, the Burbank Community YMCA has grown into a vital community resource, mirroring the national YMCA's vision of creating stronger communities and a more equitable society by providing comprehensive services and programs. The Burbank YMCA boasts an impressive 57,000 square foot Child Development Center, which provides educationally enriching after-school programs and preschool education, a three-story physical fitness facility, an aquatic center and indoor pool and the Y's Choice Café, which offers healthy refreshments as well as a social gathering area.

The Burbank Community YMCA has a wide array of programs in an inclusive environment to help children, individuals and families, regardless of age, socioeconomic status, race, gender, gender expression and identity, ethnicity, religion, cultural background or ability to reach their full potential and become stronger

in spirit, mind and body. Programs include family, adult and senior fitness, and youth sports such as swimming and diving lessons and events, baseball, and gymnastics, and "Learn, Grow, Thrive," an educational summer camp in partnership with the Burbank Unified School District for children and youth from low-income households. The YMCA also has the Social Impact Center which opened in 2021, an LGBTQIA+ Resource Center that supports LGBTQIA+ youth and their families, and a robust Youth in Government program.

The Burbank Community YMCA has been an essential force in Burbank, making a positive difference in individuals' lives. The impact over the past century is a testament to its hardworking, committed staff and volunteers, and the residents of Burbank are indeed fortunate to have such a beloved and revered institution in their community.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Burbank Community YMCA for a century of dedication to the greater Burbank area.

REMEMBERING THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF JUDY SCHNEIDER

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of Judy Schneider. The stories told at her retirement reception in 2019 were full of laughter and more than a few tears. Talk about a life well-lived.

Judy started her public service career working on committees in both chambers focused on congressional reform. She then became an analyst at the non-partisan Congressional Research Service. As each of us well knows, Judy then went on to befriend, mentor, and provide so much more to Members of Congress and their staff as a specialist on all things Congress over the next four decades.

Funny, foul-mouthed, and just opinionated, Judy had a deep love of both democracy and Congress. Whether a Staff Assistant or a Chief of Staff, a Member of the House or a Senator, she consistently passed along her love and knowledge for how the game is really played in Congress.

Through her work, Judy sought to develop not only an educated Member or an educated congressional staffer, but to live up to what the Founding Fathers envisioned and expected of an educated constituency.

But the gift Judy shared and taught so many through her exacting lectures and conversations was to train each Member and each staffer so Congress functions better, so that democracy functions better.

It is my true hope that wisdom is never lost by those who have the honor of working in this institution and complex.

There have been 56 Speakers of the House of Representatives and 45 Presidents of the United States. There has only been one Judy Schneider.

To ascribe so many positive qualities to one individual might be seen as the usual gilding of the lily. In the case of Judy, it was simply the truth. My life, this institution of Congress, and our country are better off thanks to her 43 years of Congressional service and life here

on Earth with us. May her memory be a blessing.

PASSING OF REP. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, the people of Texas have lost a great leader and a devoted public servant, and we in the Congressional Black Caucus have lost a dear friend.

I join in sending my heartfelt condolences to her husband, Dr. Elwyn Lee, their two children: Jason and Erica, and their two grandkids: Ellison and Roy during this difficult time.

Congresswoman Jackson Lee was more than just a colleague. She was my sorority sister, a mentor, and a dear friend. She was never afraid to stand up for what she believed, and she never stopped fighting for the people she served.

There is no question that our Nation is better off for her decades of public service and her tireless advocacy on behalf of her constituents.

A champion for racial justice, police reform, and combating violence against women, Sheila will be remembered as a fierce advocate, not only for the people of Texas, but Americans all across this Nation.

To know that her life was cut short by a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer is heartbreaking. It is the very same disease that claimed the life of our dear colleague, John Lewis, and my beloved mother, Nancy Gardner Sewell. By the end of this year, an estimated 51,000 Americans will lose their battles to pancreatic cancer as well. This is why I have made it my mission to reduce racial disparities in this disease to double down on our Nation's effort to prevent, screen, treat, and eventually find a cure.

Sheila will be dearly missed in the House of Representatives. I will always cherish her mentorship and her words of wisdom. She always inspired us to work harder and fight harder for the people we represent.

I join my colleagues in celebrating her extraordinary life and career. May her legacy live on through the many lives she touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent because of flight issues. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356; YEA on Roll Call No. 357; YEA on Roll Call No. 358; YEA on Roll Call No. 359; YEA on Roll Call No. 360; YEA on Roll Call No. 361; and YEA on Roll Call No. 362.

RECOGNIZING NORTH CENTRAL
TEXAS COLLEGE'S 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North Central Texas College (NCTC) as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding. I'm pleased to congratulate NCTC on reaching such a significant milestone in the school's history. NCTC has served the communities and citizens of Denton, Cooke, Young, and Montague counties throughout its history. It is an honor to applaud the excellent educational opportunities they have afforded the thousands of North Texas students they have taught throughout their 100 years of existence.

NCTC was founded in 1924 by Randolph Lee Clark and over the last century has undergone an eventful transformation. Established as Gainesville Junior College, the school began as an extension of the local public school system operating in 3 rooms of the Newsome Dougherty Memorial High School building in Gainesville. The school continued as Gainesville Junior College until 1954, then operated as Gainesville College from 1954 to 1961, as Cooke County Junior College from 1961 to 1974, and Cooke County College from 1974 to 1994. Beginning in 1994, the school became North Central Texas College and proudly carries that name into the present day and forward as a bastion of higher education in North Texas.

NCTC currently serves North Texas students across six campuses in Corinth, Denton, Flower Mound, Bowie, and Graham as well as the original campus in Gainesville. Its most recent location at Champions Circle in south Denton County opened in 2022, offering specialized industry training. NCTC is the oldest, continuously operating two-year college in Texas. I stand here today to celebrate the first 100 years of excellent service in education provided by North Central Texas College and look ahead to the school's continued positive impact in its next 100 years.

HONORING MAKEDA "DREAD"
CHEATOM

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Makeda "Dread" Cheatom, an exemplary community leader, who has served the 52nd District for more than 50 years, specializing in the visual and performing arts throughout the City of San Diego.

Makeda grew up in San Diego, CA and has dedicated her life to music, art, culture, and the well-being of community members. In 1971, she opened the Prophet Vegetarian Restaurant, the first vegetarian restaurant and international cultural center in San Diego. The opening of the Prophet served as a catalyst to her career, collaborating with various international health advocates and artists, such as world-renowned musician Bob Marley.

Makeda began her music promoter career hosting her own radio show Reggae Makossa, which has been on-air for more than 30 years. She has also coordinated and hosted Bob Marley Day at the San Diego Sports Arena for more than 25 years. In 1989, she established WorldBeat Cultural Center, a non-profit multicultural center in Balboa Park Makeda currently serves as the Executive Director.

The WorldBeat Center is dedicated to promoting, presenting, and preserving the African Diaspora and Indigenous cultures of the world through music, art, dance, multimedia arts, education, and STEAM research programs and events. The organization is leading as one of the most-important multicultural art and event centers in San Diego—a place to celebrate all cultures, all art, all music, all dance, and all people.

She also established the WorldBeat Center's Children's EthnoBotany Peace Garden which is used to bring families outdoors and teach children of the origins of their food and science. The WorldBeat Center's Children EthnoBotany Peace Garden, honoring the great George Washington Carver, furthers the organization's mission to preserve and promote African and Indigenous art forms.

Her work in the community has impacted the lives of thousands and has cemented her place in San Diego. She has been honored and recognized by the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame, the African American Heritage Foundation, San Diego 10 News, KPBS, San Diego Unified School District, California State 78th Assembly District, UC San Diego Life Course Scholars, and California Senator President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins. In 2020, she had a mural dedicated to her career in music and community advocacy.

She has participated in a four-year research project through the National Science Foundation and worked as a co-principal investigator with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. She currently serves on the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership Executive Committee, the Balboa Park Committee, and the San Diego Natural History Museum's Canyon Initiative Advisory.

Makeda exemplifies how music, art, dance and culture can unite people across varying cultures. Makeda's vision has brought past, present, and future generations of community members the opportunity to express themselves through varying art forms and gain a diversified outlook on life.

Makeda was awarded the Cesar E. Chavez Humanitarian Award on March 14th during the Barrio Station 54th Anniversary Dinner. She is celebrated for her dedication and lifelong commitment to community members as an inspirational director, mentor, and advocate.

HONORING GRAND MASTER BYUNG
LEE

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true pillar of my community, Grand Master Byung Lee of King Tiger Taekwondo in Greenville, North Carolina. Grand Master Lee recently received his ninth-degree black belt, the highest achievement in his field of martial arts. Only 1,000 worldwide and 100 individuals

in the U.S. have received this rank, which qualifies him as an exceptional, unparalleled expert in his craft. I remember fondly when my sons and I studied Tae Kwon Do under him. I was always impressed by his dedication, talent, and professionalism.

The word Taekwondo can be translated as tae ("strike with foot"), kwon ("strike with hand"), and do ("the art or way"). In addition to its five tenets of courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit—all of which Grand Master Lee exhibits. The sport requires three physical skills: poomsae, kyorugi, and gyeokpa.

Grand Master Lee came to the United States from Jeonlabukdo Province, Korea in 1988 to educate about the wonderful teachings of taekwondo. In his decades of service, he has had a lasting impact on the Greenville community and his faith community. He has instilled the great virtues of mental fortitude and discipline in many lives. I am honored to extend this chamber's recognition of this esteemed individual to celebrate not only his remarkable achievements in martial arts, but his enduring legacy of inspiration and empowerment for all.

RECOGNIZING DAUPHIN-MIDDLE
PAXTON FIRE COMPANY

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the Dauphin-Middle Paxton Fire Company on the auspicious occasion of its 100th Anniversary on August 10, 2024.

Established in 1924, and originally the "Dauphin Fire Company," the Dauphin-Middle Paxton Fire Company has served our communities tirelessly over the past century, around 60 square miles in Middle Paxton, and a population of over 5,000. The Company also generously provides assistance to Susquehanna Township, Lower Paxton Township, West Hanover Township, Duncannon, Marysville, and Halifax.

Through federal grants, hosting myriad fundraisers (like Bingo, chicken BBQs, etc.) and generous donations from the community, Dauphin-Middle Paxton Fire company has been able to modernize both its equipment and training to better serve its Citizens. Through the continued selfless service, dedication, and leadership of present Fire Chief Shane Swenson and distinguished Firefighters, the Company will continue to faithfully execute the critical task of safeguarding our Citizens and Communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the Dauphin-Middle Paxton Fire Company on its 100th Anniversary, but more importantly, on their service and selflessness by which we all should be judged.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BECCA BALINT

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present on July 22, 2024 due to flight

delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356, YEA on Roll Call No. 357, and YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JOHN
HEMMINGS, III

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of John Hemmings, III, who is retiring as Executive Director of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, what we in Southern Ohio know as the OVRDC, after committing 33 years of life and work to the Commission.

Starting as a Regional Planner in 1991, John has held almost every position within the Commission, serving as Executive Director since 2008.

During his time at the OVRDC, John lent his skills and talents to countless programs that helped revolutionize the Ohio River Valley, including a regional commission that coordinates a cross-governmental approach to improve the local community through infrastructure and economic development.

As a Scioto County native, John's commitment to the region has led to critical improvements in the lives of so many Ohioans. Working with him to advance the dreams and lives of so many has truly been an honor.

HONORING GILBERT GARCIA ON
HIS EXCEPTIONAL CAREER IN
JOURNALISM

HON. TONY GONZALES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gilbert Garcia, a distinguished journalist with more than 30 years of dedicated service to the San Antonio community and beyond.

A native of Brownsville and a Harvard University graduate, Mr. Garcia has made significant contributions to journalism, earning numerous awards for his insightful reporting on politics, sports, religion, music, and much more. He authored "Reagan's Comeback: Four Weeks in Texas That Changed American Politics Forever," and his work has been featured in the national anthology "Da Capo Best Music Writing 2001."

Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Garcia has written for esteemed publications such as the Dallas Observer, Phoenix New Times, San Antonio Express-News, and Plaza de Armas—earning six Press Club Awards.

Most recently, as an Editorial Writer and Columnist for the San Antonio Express-News, Mr. Garcia has provided readers with in-depth analysis and commentary on local politics, economics, and social issues, greatly enriching the community's understanding of important local, state, and federal matters.

Mr. Garcia's exceptional contributions to journalism have profoundly shaped Texas and our Nation for the better. We thank him and wish him all the best in his well-deserved tran-

sition. Undoubtedly, his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of journalists, and we are immensely proud of him as he begins to write the next chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING AN OUTSTANDING
EDUCATOR AND THE HISTORICAL
CAREER OF VERANIECE WIL-
LIAMS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and resilient individual, Veraniece "Nanny Vera" Williams, for recently completing 50 years as an educator in Congressional District in Louisiana.

Ms. Williams graduated from Southern High School (Baton Rouge, Louisiana) in 1967. She attended Southern University and Agriculture & Mechanical College, graduating with a degree in Business Education in 1971. She also earned an English Minor from Nicholls State University—1973—Thibodaux, LA. She later earned a Master in English Ed., Administration and Supervision from Southern University—in 1981; Nicholls State University—1982 Plus 30 Guidance Counseling—Thibodaux, LA; National Beauty School—1983 Cosmetology—New Orleans, LA, and was an Insurance Agent.

Ms. Williams's first teaching job was at Montague Elementary School, where she taught English and Social Studies to 4th-grade students. She later moved to Henry Louis Bourgeois High School (HLB), where she taught Business and English. At HLB, Ms. Williams sponsored the Key Club of America, educating young students on the importance of school and social organizations.

After 22 years at HLB, Ms. Veraniece moved to John McDonogh High in New Orleans, teaching Business and Marketing Education with an emphasis on Entrepreneurship Studies. In collaboration with Tulane University, Ms. Williams taught entrepreneurship to high school students in a real-life setting. During this time, Ms. Veraniece Williams went on to be recognized as an Outstanding Entrepreneur Teacher of the Year at Tulane University.

Her dedication to educating young students included consistently managing and seeking the challenge of teaching and inspiring lower-track high school students to succeed in strengthening business skills and writing abilities, including building life skills and motivating students to consider job career goals and higher education. She effectively used town meetings, group learning, role switching, college mentoring programs, field trips, and classroom business operations to motivate students to learn. She also developed student-run businesses inside the classroom. She worked to build interview skills in preparation for work experience, providing job shadowing programs for students, and supervised several clubs in which students participated to introduce reading strategies in teaching literature.

Her experience included CEO/Owner of Vocational/Career School; developing a marketing/entrepreneurship program for high school students; assessment teacher/mentor teacher for the State of Louisiana; Outstanding Entrepreneurship Teacher for Academies of

Entrepreneurship Teacher (High School); High School Programs Teacher (Tulane University) Developed Curriculum program for Failing High Schools (Chair); State Team: Improving Best Practices for teachers at High School Level; sponsor of (Key Club, Marketing Club, Future Business Leaders of America and Yearbook); and Teacher of the High School Yearbook Program. She is the founder of PI 3.14 Inc. (Through which "The Turn-Around Kids Club was created") and CEO of Act Too Travel Inc., Serving as the CEO of a Cosmetology School and Mortgage Loan Originator (State of Louisiana), as well as a Supervisor Federal Credit Union and CEO/La Rue Esplanade Bed & Breakfast—New Orleans, LA Over All Business, and Co-Chair "The Celebration of Women."

Her professional associations include the National Education Association and the National Collation of Black Women membership.

I am so honored to have witnessed her courageous efforts during my career over the years. So many people's lives are forever changed because of the fight she endured during her lifetime. I thank Ms. Williams for all that she has done in her 50-year career.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
ZOOKEEPER WEEK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Zookeeper Week, which is celebrated from July 21st to July 27th, as we honor the dedicated men and women who care for our Nation's diverse and magnificent wildlife while educating the public.

As a proud representative of Northwest Ohio, home to the renowned Toledo Zoo, I have seen firsthand the passion and commitment zookeepers bring to their vital work. These unsung heroes play a crucial role in wildlife conservation, education, and the preservation of endangered species. Zookeepers work tirelessly behind the scenes, ensuring that animals receive the highest standard of care, from nutrition and enrichment to veterinary support. Their efforts not only enhance the well-being of the animals but also foster a greater understanding and appreciation of wildlife among the public. No one exemplifies this more than Laurie Dixon, Lead Zookeeper in the Aquarium at the Toledo Zoo who has dedicated her life to this work for the past 41 years. She shared with me that "Zookeepers are passionate about their animals. So, we provide the best care that our animals need to thrive."

I have loved my Toledo Zoo since I was a little kid. The Toledo Zoo is a great place to make memories with family and friends." Their work is essential to preserving biodiversity and educating future generations about the importance of protecting our planet's natural treasures. Let us take this week to acknowledge and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of zookeepers across our country. They truly are the guardians of our wildlife and stewards of our natural heritage.

CELEBRATING DOROTHY
AMERSON-LAW'S RETIREMENT

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dorothy Amerson-Law, who is entering a well-deserved retirement after fifty years with M&T Bank. With her dedication to service and passion for altruism, Ms. Amerson-Law is a true pillar of our community.

A born and raised Buffalonian, Ms. Amerson-Law attended Kensington High School, where she was a star athlete and discovered her passion for banking. She then secured a prestigious internship with M&T Bank. Her excellence in relationship management and risk remediation earned her a permanent position within M&T Bank's retail branches.

For five decades, Ms. Amerson-Law served as an Accounting Associate within M&T Bank's Finance Division. She worked in numerous departments throughout her tenure, including Retail Banking, Auto Lending, Installment Loans, Credit Card Processing, and Financial Controls. In recognition of her exceptional client service, Ms. Amerson-Law received multiple "High Five" awards.

Beyond her professional work, Ms. Amerson-Law is deeply committed to giving back to her community. She serves as the National Vice President of the African American Resource Group and organized M&T Bank's Annual Juneteenth Festival. Further, Ms. Amerson-Law dedicates her time as a volunteer to numerous organizations, including Erie County's "Day of Caring," the Salvation Army, Edward Saunders Community Center, Delavan-Grider Community Center, and United Way of Buffalo. Ms. Amerson-Law's compassion and community spirit shone through in the aftermath of the May 14 shooting, as she played a crucial role in distributing food and resources to all those affected.

Ms. Amerson-Law has earned numerous accolades in recognition of her outstanding contributions to our community. In February 2024, she received the inaugural Dorothy Amerson-Law Legacy Award. This award, named in Ms. Amerson-Law's honor, was a testament to her embodiment of M&T's core values of Candor, Ownership, Curiosity, Integrity, and Collaboration. Additionally, Ms. Amerson-Law received the esteemed Black Achievers Award for commitment to overcoming barriers and embracing inclusivity. Ms. Amerson-Law is a loving wife of forty years to her husband, James, and a proud mother to her two sons, James and Jalen. She credits much of her success to the steadfast support of her family.

Today, Ms. Amerson-Law enters a well-deserved retirement after fifty years of dedicated service. Please join me in congratulating Dorothy Amerson-Law on this incredible achievement and thanking her for all she has done for our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, due to technical difficulties, I was unable to cast my vote on July 22, 2024.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I had to miss yesterday's vote due to illness. During that time, I was unable to make Roll Call votes No. 356, No. 357 and No. 358. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

YEA on Roll Call No. 356, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, S. 3249 to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, as the "Captain Elwin Shopteese VA Clinic";

NO on Roll Call No. 357, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1631 the Pro Codes Act; and

YEA on Roll Call No. 358, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 8812 the Water Resources Development Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances in flight delays, I missed votes on Monday July 22, 2024.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356 and YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY, GAMMA EPSILON BOULÉ ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Gamma Epsilon Boulé on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, acknowledging its significant contributions to the Sacramento community and its dedication to the principles of leadership, service, and scholarship.

Whereas, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, also known as the Boulé, was founded on May 15, 1904, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by a

group of professionals as the first African American Greek-lettered organization, dedicated to fostering a spirit of brotherhood, professional excellence, and community service; and

Whereas, the Gamma Epsilon Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity was established 40 years ago in the Sacramento region, when its first Sire Archon John Wesley Hudson MD wrote a letter on July 27, 1984 stating that Gamma Epsilon Boulé had completed its chartering ceremony with a list of members including fourteen distinguished professionals in the Sacramento metropolitan area of which two are still living today including Archon Dr. Eugene Spencer and Archon Judge Gary E. Ransom; and

Whereas, the members of the Gamma Epsilon Boulé continues to include an impressive list of local and national leaders representing a variety of professions, including the following: medicine, dentistry, health care, law, politics, architecture, engineering, real estate development, education, the entertainment industry and business; and

Whereas, the members of the Gamma Epsilon Boulé have contributed to the Sacramento community through its dedication to leadership, academic excellence, and civic engagement, and demonstrated exceptional commitment to mentoring youth, supporting educational initiatives, and fostering economic development, thereby enhancing the quality of life in Sacramento; and

Whereas, this 40th anniversary provides an opportunity to honor the Boulé's remarkable achievements and the positive impact it has had on the Sacramento community fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Congress extends its congratulations to the Gamma Epsilon Boulé, celebrating its legacy of excellence and wishing its members continued success in their future endeavors.

I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Gamma Epsilon Boulé's 40th anniversary and wish them the best on their continued work and dedication towards improving the Sacramento region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting on the passage of S. 3249, H.R. 1631, and H.R. 8812.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356, YEA on Roll Call No. 357, and YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AWARD THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR RAMON RODRIGUEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to award the Medal of Honor

to Special Forces Command Sergeant Major Ramon Rodriguez of the Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam War.

At the age of 17, Ramon Rodriguez of Wilmington, California, began his military career when he enlisted in the Army during his junior year at Banning High School. Ramon Rodriguez served as a Staff Sergeant in Vietnam for 32 months, becoming one of the most decorated combat soldiers to serve in the Vietnam War.

In recognition of his heroism and fearless actions even when wounded, Staff Sergeant Rodriguez received many medals and awards—including three Bronze Stars with V, two Oak Leaf Clusters, and five Purple Hearts.

There are many examples of Staff Sergeant Rodriguez's bravery, but I will highlight four of them. On August 16, 1967, he volunteered to guide a helicopter by flashlight to evacuate wounded platoon members. Despite being the target of enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Rodriguez remained exposed until the helicopter reached the pick-up zone. On November 8, 1967, he entered a tunnel complex despite the presence of enemy combatants and the risk of a cave-in. Staff Sergeant Rodriguez employed grenades to root out the enemy and prevent their escape. On January 24, 1968, his outpost came under a heavy ground assault. The platoon leader was mortally wounded so Staff Sergeant Rodriguez assumed command. He administered aid and brought the wounded to safety, despite being wounded himself—all while fending off attackers. Staff Sergeant Rodriguez then rallied the remaining men in the platoon and fought off the enemy onslaught. On February 26, 1968, his platoon was ambushed during a search and clear mission. Staff Sergeant Rodriguez assumed command after the platoon leader was wounded. He maneuvered the platoon to return fire and removed all wounded personnel from danger.

After the war, Staff Sergeant Rodriguez graduated from the U.S. Ranger School with distinguished honors, led the Special Forces scuba team at Fort Gulick, Panama, and in 1981, earned the rank of Command Sergeant Major at the United States Sergeant Mann Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez officially retired from the Army in 1983 and was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on June 11, 2008. Rodriguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission for the County of Los Angeles, California.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this brave hero. Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez's devotion to duty and personal courage are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes to attend to an emergency in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 344; NAY on Roll Call No. 345; YEA on Roll Call No. 346; and YEA on Roll Call No. 347.

INSPIRING TRUMP CONVENTION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Republican National Convention Was inspiring for the future of American families with the nomination of Donald Trump and JD Vance.

The Trump-Vance ticket has a proven record of creating jobs, limiting inflation, controlling the border, recovering energy independence, and achieving Peace Through Strength. I have attended Republican conventions since being a Youth Delegate in 1972 in Miami Beach. This convention with grandsons

Addison, Hunter, and Michael in the aftermath of the miraculous assassination survival was a positive revelation of Donald Trump as the leader American families can trust.

Corrupt Judge Merchan has been unanimously condemned for his unethical backfiring and re-electing Trump and now removing Biden. My invitation for Merchan to be my guest at the Trump Inauguration is more profound than ever.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops as the Global War on Terrorism continues. We do not need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

My deepest sympathy for the family of my friend and colleague, Sheila Jackson Lee.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356, YEA on Roll Call No. 357, and YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAHANA HAYES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I am unavailable to vote because of travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356, YEA on Roll Call No. 357, and YEA on Roll Call No. 358.