

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHARLES BLOODWORTH

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Charles "Chuck" Bloodworth, a former member of the U.S. Army and law enforcement.

Mr. Bloodworth was known for his outstanding commitment to his military and law enforcement careers. He was a distinguished public servant who dedicated his life to serving the people of Georgia and the United States of America.

He began his career in the U.S. Army and transitioned into different areas within law enforcement. Notably, Mr. Bloodworth worked in the Secret Service where he performed electronic crime investigations and worked to protect an array of individuals, including U.S. Presidents.

Mr. Bloodworth's dignified service was recognized with Senate Resolution 111, signifying an exceptional life of public service. Senator Anavitarte's (An-Uh-Vi-Tart-Ey) tribute to Mr. Bloodworth highlighted his strong influence that was felt deeply throughout the communities that he touched.

Mr. Bloodworth's legacy of great honor and patriotism will forever be cherished by the Georgia community and the United States of America.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF WILLARD'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the City of Willard's Sesquicentennial. The perseverance of pioneers and settlers to overcome the challenges faced during the early years of the city's history has persisted throughout the past 150 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of city residents have made Willard an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

In 1874, the City of Willard was established as a community and a junction for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's line to Sandusky and the branch west to Chicago. The original name of Willard was Chicago, however, passengers would mistake the community for Chicago, Illinois. The city's name was changed to Chicago Junction, but the word "junction" did not fit on name boards at the time. In 1917, the town changed its name to Willard, after the then president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Daniel Willard. In 1960, Willard officially became the city's name. The city is an asset to the great State of Ohio through its many contributions in the fields of manufac-

turing and agriculture. It remains to this day a key junction for the rail company CSX Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, by remembering the 150th Anniversary of the City of Willard, community members recognize the outstanding achievements, maintain the pioneer attitude, and strive to better their city through the principles on which it was founded. I thank and congratulate Willard on this significant milestone.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO ANNABELLA PERK

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Coppell High School student, Annabella Perk. At age four, Annabella Perk already had her sights set on becoming a chef. Last month, after winning district and regional titles, she competed against students from every county in the Lone Star State and secured the statewide title at the 4-H Food Show at Texas A&M.

Annabella took home the overall first place title for her main dish, seared duck breast with couscous, zucchini, and squash, and also helped her team, "2 Cowgirls and a Cajun," win second place in the food challenge category. Despite facing learning disabilities, Annabella has demonstrated immense culinary talent, honing her skills over the years. Beyond her abilities as a masterful chef, she is a member of the National Honor Society and founded Coppell High School's first Culinary Club. In Annabella's own words, glass ceilings are there to be broken.

Congratulations to Annabella on becoming a state cooking champion.

CONGRATULATING TAC INDUSTRIES

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate TAC (The Abilities Connection) Industries, a nonprofit organization located in my Congressional district, that provides job opportunities to people with disabilities through its participation in the AbilityOne Program. AbilityOne is a federal program that provides employment opportunities to approximately 40,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities, including more than 2,500 veterans.

TAC Industries recently received the 2024 Innovation Award at Source America's annual X-Force conference in Orlando, Florida. This award honors a nonprofit that developed "in-

novative work methods, products or services." TAC Industries partnered with Clark State College in Springfield, Ohio, which is also in my district, to create the Fresh Abilities restaurant, a farm-to-table quick service restaurant on the campus, which functions simultaneously as an employment center and a training program for workers with disabilities.

Through their partnership, TAC developed a curriculum that included over 100 hours of classroom instruction and hands-on skill building. They utilized the college's classroom facilities for their employees' food safety training. In the restaurant, the employees were then trained in how to prepare meals, how to make sales, and develop customer service skills.

Employees at Fresh Abilities gained the unique experience of working in a safe, inclusive environment while getting the training and support they need to do their jobs to the best of their abilities. Clark State students, faculty and employees gained access to healthy food, and the college's administration was able to divert funds previously spent on food service to other student-focused areas.

For individuals with disabilities, the opportunity to pursue a fulfilling, meaningful career of one's own choosing with a path for advancement is important to their quality of life. I appreciate the work TAC Industries undertakes to provide these employment and vocational opportunities, and congratulate them on receiving this prestigious award.

HONORING DR. DON THOMAS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of former Georgia Senator Dr. Don Thomas, who sadly passed at the age of 91, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Dr. Don Thomas, a native of Dalton, led a tremendous life both as a physician and public servant. Dr. Don Thomas delivered thousands of babies, treating thousands more patients with a medical career spanning more than half a century.

He got his political start as a member of the Whitfield County School Board in 1972, then served as Chairman of the Board from 1974 to 1984. Notably, he spearheaded a statewide battle that led to Georgia's adoption of equalized funding for local school systems.

Not only did he make his mark in the education system, but also as Georgia state Senator where he pushed major bipartisan legislation such as the prohibition of smoking in restaurants and public places.

Dr. Don Thomas' legacy will forever be remembered through the many positive impacts he made across the state of Georgia and his community.

• 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.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE
STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND (SAC)
ELITE GUARD

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) Elite Guard, as they celebrate their reunion this August.

Founded in 1956 by the visionary General Curtis Lemay, the Guard wasn't simply a security unit, it was the cornerstone of safeguarding our nation's most critical assets. Following WWII, the security surrounding our strategic air assets were woefully inadequate. Because of this, Lemay sanctioned Detachment "A" of the 3902nd Air Police Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, which later became known as the SAC Elite Guard.

Having had the privilege of serving as a SAC intel briefer, I can attest to the elite men and women that served in the Guard. They were hand-picked, rigorously trained, and became guardians not just of installations and resources, but those who shielded our nuclear arsenal, and served as our planet's greatest deterrence.

The Guard's mission was threefold: securing SAC Headquarters, protecting the Commander and Vice Commander, and as SAC ambassadors at official dignitary functions representing SAC with honor. Serving during the Cold War had its many complications, and the weight of responsibility all service men and women carried was immense, yet the Guard never faltered. The Guard pushed themselves to the limit, both physically and mentally, and the weight of these responsibilities forged an unbreakable bond between them, because they knew even the smallest mistake could have devastating consequences.

In 2004 the SAC Elite Guard Association was formed by former SAC Elite Guardsmen Sgt Mike Paventi and Sgt Herbert "Bill" Marshall. The association's mission was to maintain a social connection to those men and women that served and protected SAC Headquarters. The Guard's reunion each year is a chance to honor the legacy they built together. A chance to remember all our fallen comrades, whose sacrifices will never be forgotten, and a chance to reconnect with the brothers and sisters in arms who shared the Guard's extraordinary experience.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF MATT
SHEPPARD OF THE FOUNTAIN
VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT
FOR HIS RETIREMENT AND
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a heartfelt congratulations to Chief Matt Sheppard of the Fountain Valley Police Department.

I would like to personally thank him for a remarkable 24 year tenure marked by service, selflessness, and commitment. I applaud Chief

Sheppard and am grateful for his dedication to our community in Fountain Valley. In occupying nearly every role within the department—from police officer, senior officer, sergeant, detective, lieutenant, captain and police chief—his experience and understanding are unmatched and is a direct reflection of his commitment to safety, security, integrity, and perseverance.

I know the Sheppard family is incredibly proud. My hope and prayer for our generation and the next is that they believe in the American Dream. This is the greatest country in the world, and as a first-generation American, I know firsthand that with hard work, anything is possible no matter who you are or where you are from.

While Chief Sheppard's leadership within the department will be missed greatly, the legacy he is leaving behind will not be easily forgotten. I am confident that I am joined by countless others—family, friends, and community leaders—in expressing our gratitude for his leadership in making the City of Fountain Valley "A Nice Place to Live".

I thank Chief Sheppard. I wish him the greatest of success in his new chapter.

CELEBRATING THE RESTORATION
OF THE LAKE HOPATCONG FOUNTAIN

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the successful reconstruction of the Lake Hopatcong Fountain. Covering 2,500 acres and stretching a total of nine miles, Lake Hopatcong State Park is frequented by all with a love for the natural beauty New Jersey has to offer. Whether visiting to enjoy the water, take in the scenery, or spend valuable time with family and friends, visitors are now greeted with a beacon of community, camaraderie, and friendship upon entering. First opened to the public on July 16, 1925, the fountain served as a popular cooling spot and photo opportunity for all visitors until its closure in the 1990s due to a clogging issue. For years, the fountain thousands of people once knew and loved stood dry. With the help of the Historic Preservation Fund of Morris County, its full restoration was completed, and honored with a plaque. Providing much needed aeration for the Musconetcong River, a beloved asset for New Jersey citizens and visitors, and a tribute to the rich history of New Jersey, I am proud to honor its restoration.

HONORING COL. SIDNEY MILES

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Colonel Sidney "Sid" Miles. Sid was the Colonel and Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety.

Recognized for his commitment to public education and enforcement of the Georgia

safety belt use law, Mr. Miles was presented with a public service award from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 1998.

Prior to his appointment at the Department of Public Safety, Mr. Miles spent several decades serving at the Georgia State Patrol. He retired from his career in law enforcement in 1999. Mr. Miles was a dedicated public servant to the state of Georgia and will be greatly missed by those he served with.

I send my deepest condolences to Sid's wife and two children. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his family and friends at this moment.

CONGRATULATING KEVIN LYONS

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Kevin Lyons and his work with the Monroe County Agriculture Extension Agency for Natural Resources.

Kevin has been an advocate in the agricultural industry for the past thirty-seven years across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He is with the Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Cattlemen's Association where he served on the state board of directors for both organizations.

Kevin has devoted his time to improving agricultural productivity in Monroe County and the surrounding areas. Kevin helps people in the area start their own farms when he served as Financial Services officer for Farm Credit Mid America.

I am proud to recognize Kevin and all that he has done for agriculture in the 1st Congressional District.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. ED DWIGHT

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Mr. Ed Dwight.

In 1961, Mr. Dwight was a U.S. Air Force pilot when President John F. Kennedy selected him as a candidate for NASA's early astronaut corps. In the face of great pressure and prejudice, Mr. Dwight became the first Black astronaut candidate and advanced to the second phase of the training course. Despite his stellar accomplishments, qualifications, and graduation in the top half of a test pilot school, Mr. Dwight was not selected to be a part of the final astronaut group.

But, on May 20, 2024, at 90 years old, Mr. Dwight finally achieved spaceflight.

This story is perhaps a perfect representation of Mr. Dwight's drive and tenacity. He was born and raised in racially segregated Kansas City, Kansas. Mr. Dwight was the first Black male to graduate from Bishop Ward High School in Kansas City, a feat that did not come without experiencing hate and injustice. He earned his Associate of Arts in engineering

from Kansas City Community College and graduated cum laude from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science in aeronautical engineering before serving as a captain in the Air Force.

Even in the wake of disappointment following his rejection from the final 1963 astronaut group, Mr. Dwight did not retreat. Instead, he worked for IBM, started a construction company, opened his own barbecue restaurant, and finally, as if none of this was enough, earned a Master of Fine Art in Sculpture from the University of Denver. He's since become a highly respected artist. His sculptures focus on Black history and include memorials and monuments across the country.

The Kansas state motto is "ad astra per aspera," which means "through hardships to the stars." Mr. Dwight embodies everything it means to persevere and, literally, reach for the stars. He is a true example of the American dream, and I'm honored to have such an extraordinary individual call Kansas City home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 2024, I was unable to vote due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 393.

RECOGNIZING FREDDY HOWELL

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bryan County Fire Chief Freddy Howell. Mr. Howell has had a wonderful thirty-nine year career serving his community, and we are all better off for and will deeply miss his passionate service.

During his time of public service for Bryan County, Mr. Howell led his department in various cleanup efforts and oversaw the expansion of the fire department.

He led the cleanup for a tornado in North Bryan that damaged many parts of our community, and Mr. Howell secured several grants that grew his department's team from 36 to over 100 firefighters.

The fire department also acquired new equipment, ambulances, and tankers under Mr. Howell's leadership. With his passion for aiding others, Mr. Howell greatly enhanced Bryan County's emergency response capabilities.

Following his retirement from the Bryan County Fire Department, Mr. Howell plans to join the private sector as a customer relationship manager. I thank Mr. Howell for his impactful public service to Bryan County.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF PATRICIA JEAN HAYES POPE

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Patricia Pope on her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Patricia Jean Hayes Pope has lived in the Central Valley her whole life, having lived in San Martin, Salinas, King City, and now Visalia. Mrs. Pope will reach an incredible 100 years of age this August, and is deserving of recognition for the incredible life she continues to live.

Born on August 4, 1924, to Katherine Hitchcock and Francis "Austin" Hayes in San Jose, California, she is the middle child of three, born between her oldest brother Jack and younger brother Danny. While attending King City High School, she played piano for the dance band, clarinet in the school's marching band, and was the editor of the school newspaper.

After high school, Mrs. Pope attended Hartnell Junior College, after which she began teaching 4th grade at King City Grammar School. At the city pool in 1945, she met Marion Pope, who was then serving in the U.S. Navy. The next year, they were married in Del Monte, California, a marriage which would last 65 years. They later moved to King City, California, where they had five children together—Susan, Linda, Dennis, Laurie, and Leslie. Throughout their lives, Mrs. Pope has been dedicated to her children and active in their activities. She served as den mother for Cub Scouts and troop leader for Girl Scouts, taught 4-H sewing, and was president of the Parent Teacher Association.

Mrs. Pope has been an active member of her community throughout her life. She worked as the bookkeeper for her husband's painting business and was a substitute teacher at the local elementary school. Mrs. Pope also dedicated more than 4,000 hours as a volunteer at the local hospital service league. Mrs. Pope and her husband were key participants in the establishment of the Mee Memorial Hospital Foundation. To honor their life of service to the community, they were named King City Citizens of the Year in 1997.

After her husband's passing in 2012, Mrs. Pope moved to Visalia to be closer to her family. She is the proud grandmother of 2 grandsons, 7 granddaughters, and 16 great-grandchildren. In addition to spending time with her family, she remains a thriving member of the Visalia community, enjoying playing piano concerts, painting, and spending time with friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Mrs. Patricia Pope on her 100th birthday.

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to respect the passing of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. She leaves behind a significant legacy, grounded in a lifetime of passionate, diligent public service.

I came to know Sheila during the eight years we served on the Homeland Security Committee together. Having worked alongside her and engaged in countless debates with the good Congresswoman from Texas, I can say with full certainty that she was one of the hardest working Members of Congress I have known. Sheila was always incredibly well prepared, and although we commonly disagreed on ideological matters, I greatly respected her conviction.

In one of her final statements, she said, "the road ahead will not be easy, but I stand in faith that God will strengthen me."

I will miss Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, and I extend my most sincere condolences to her family.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF CHARLES OLVERA LONA

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to announce the passing of Charles "Charlie" Olvera Lona on June 26, 2024. Charlie was a beacon of justice, advocacy, and hope in Kansas City's Westside community and beyond. I urge us all to celebrate and remember the life of this incredible activist, community leader, friend, brother, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Born in Kansas City on October 14, 1946, to Wesley H. and Luz O. Lona, Charlie became an active community member of Kansas City's Westside neighborhood—a historic Mexican-American community—at birth. A graduate of Westport High School and Metropolitan Community College, Charlie took over his family business and transformed it into a Westside, and Midwest, staple.

Through dedication, effort, and business acuity, Charlie transformed his father's automotive repair shop into one specializing in building custom lowriders. His business, Lona & Sons Hydraulics, brought this unique aspect of Chicano culture to Kansas City. As Charlie allowed lowrider culture to make its mark on Kansas City, his skill and work brought attention from all over the United States.

Charlie's contribution to Kansas City's Chicano community did not stop at his business. He spent his life uplifting and empowering the residents of the Westside through his relentless advocacy and commitment to being a voice for the unheard. Worried that his fellow residents were being excluded from city affairs and left with disproportionately low resources, Charlie became a proud supporter of the Chicano Movement in the 1960s. He courageously marched, organized, and protested for

equal rights and better conditions for the Westside neighborhood and beyond. Charlie also founded the Kansas City chapter of the Brown Berets, a Chicano activist group inspired by the Black Panthers. Collaborating with other famous Chicano leaders like Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales and Cesar Chavez, Charlie inspired Kansas Citians to join El Movimiento.

In addition to bringing nationwide movements to Kansas City, Charlie placed great value on local activism. His political influence helped elect many Chicano leaders to local government, allowing Westside residents to take part in the city affairs from which they long felt excluded. He also is responsible for the founding of the Aztlan Center for Chicano cultural education and empowerment, and for immensely expanding the impact of the Guadalupe Centers, a local social service agency for Latin Americans in the United States, that is now the longest continuously standing agency of its kind. Even as he neared the end of his life, Charlie never wavered in his fight for justice and equity.

Though Charlie has passed, his legacy and impact on Kansas City will remain long past our mortal lifetimes. I am reminded of Mark 10:45—"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Charlie's life was one dedicated to serving others in need, bettering the lives of countless people throughout. Charlie is survived by his loving family, friends, and the current and future generations of the Westside. As we celebrate and fondly appreciate the decades of devoted service from Charlie, let us be inspired by him to advocate for justice and uplift our community.

RECOGNIZING BILLY COVINGTON

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Billy Covington and his dedication to leading the youth at the Jenkins Athletic Club.

Billy is just now retiring after an impressive 30 year run as the organization's executive director. However, Billy's love for the club began well before he took on this leadership role. In fact, the Jenkins Athletic Club provided a formative experience for Billy in his youth.

It was here where Billy developed a passion for basketball and the club itself, later winning the state crown for Savannah High in 1974 and continuing to play at Livingston University and South Georgia State College.

Under his leadership, the Club's programs served the community's youth greatly. Just last winter, it had an astounding and diverse cohort of 800 kids in their basketball league. As described by Billy, the Jenkins Athletic Club is not just an afterschool program, but a haven of sports and coaches who care about its youth and their families.

Congratulations to Billy on his retirement. His impact within his community will be felt forever.

RECOGNIZING THE 12 AND UNDER MAMIE JOHNSON LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 12 and under Mamie Johnson Little League softball team for winning the 2024 District of Columbia Little League State Championship and advancing to the Eastern Regional Tournament of the Little League Softball World Series. The team has made D.C. proud.

Founded in 2021 and named after the first woman to pitch in the Negro Leagues, the softball division of the Mamie Johnson Little League has given girls in D.C. the opportunity to learn softball fundamentals. Congratulations to the entire team: Noelle O'Brien, Cayla London Smith, Sasha Wilson, Shawndella Walker, Emily Alvarenga, Alayana Kennedy, Aryn Davis, Lyric Barnett, Devin Barnes, Kellyn White and Karsyn White.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring these talented young women from the District of Columbia on their tremendous achievement.

CELEBRATING MOTT'S LOUNGE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a truly remarkable milestone: Mott's Lounge in Burlington, Illinois, celebrates 100 years of rich history, community spirit, and unwavering dedication to its patrons. Founded in 1924 by the pioneering couple Albert and Flora Mott, Mott's Lounge has encapsulated a century of history, evolving through the ages while remaining a cherished cornerstone of the community.

During the roaring twenties, Mott's found itself amidst lively dancehalls, just steps away from a train station that connected folks to the city of Chicago. It was during this era of Prohibition that Mott's Lounge was ingeniously labeled a cafeteria. But behind those walls, it thrived as a lively speakeasy. The cryptic whispers of train conductors providing coded announcements of "Next stop, Vinegar Hills!" have resonated through the years, echoing the spirit of resilience and adventure that characterized that era. Thanks to cleverly concealed back doors leading into cornfields, countless patrons found both refuge and refreshment, forging bonds of camaraderie that still stand strong today.

As we reflect on this remarkable journey, we honor not only the legacy of its founders but the remarkable women who kept the establishment alive. Following Albert's passing in 1950, Flora Mott led Mott's Lounge with grace until her retirement at the age of 85, living a remarkable 101 years. Upon her retirement in 1980, the reins were passed to her granddaughter, Shirley, who transformed the cafeteria into the vibrant lounge we all know and love.

Under Shirley's leadership, Mott's Lounge blossomed as a true community hub. Her unwavering commitment to philanthropy and community welfare is a legacy etched in the hearts of Burlington residents. From opening her home to those facing hardships to hosting successful fundraisers for the United Way, Shirley not only transformed a business but also transformed lives.

Today, the legacy of Mott's is preserved through Shirley's son and his family, who proudly represent the fourth generation of Mott's stewards. They continue to uphold the values of generosity and community spirit that have long defined this establishment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate this centennial achievement. I ask my colleagues to join me in a heartfelt congratulations on 100 years of exceptional service, generosity, and community spirit. May the next century bring continued success, growth and connection with this generous community.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN TOM HAAG

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Haag, my close, personal friend and Chairman of the National Corn Growers Association.

Tom has served on the National Corn Growers Association board since 2016 and has led NCGA on the executive leadership team since 2021. Before NCGA, he was a longtime member of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, serving as its President from 2012 to 2013. Tom is also a fourth-generation family farmer in Eden Valley, Minnesota, growing over 2,000 acres of corn and soybeans with his son Nathan.

I am thankful to have had a strong working relationship with Tom throughout his time at NCGA. During his long career working on behalf of Minnesota corn farmers, Tom has been a strong leader and advocate for expanding opportunities for Minnesota's biofuel producers and refiners. Thanks to the hard work of people like Tom, Minnesota became the first state to require biodiesel in our diesel fuel blends in 2018.

In Congress, I am proud to be a co-chair of the bipartisan House Biofuels Caucus and a strong advocate for renewable biofuels. In particular, I have urged the EPA to consider how biofuels can address climate change and improve emissions standards. Minnesota-grown biofuels are critical tools that we have at our disposal right now to help address climate change and stimulate Minnesota's economy, thanks to leaders, and farmers, like Tom.

I'm grateful for our partnership, and I thank Tom, known as "The Legend," for his tireless advocacy on behalf of Minnesota family farmers and corn farmers across our country.

HONORING GUSTAVOUS "GUS"
HOLMES BELL

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gustavous "Gus" Holmes Bell III of Savannah, GA, who passed away on July 22nd at the age of 86.

Gus, known by many as "Buster," was a dedicated, hard-working man, who earned a degree in Civil Engineer from The Citadel before attending graduate school at the University of Kentucky.

Gus was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant as a Reserve Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army. After assignments in Virginia, Texas, and New Mexico, Gus moved to Kentucky and was hired in an engineering role. Gus, eventually landed in Savannah and was honorably discharged in 1969.

Gus was an engineer who was instrumental in establishing a partnership between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. In honor of Gus's contributions to the city, Former mayor Eddie DeLoach declared August 11th as "Gus H. Bell III" Day in Savannah.

Gus was also a founder of St. Andrews on the Marsh School in Savannah and a member of First Presbyterian Church in Savannah.

Gus was married for 42 years to his beloved wife Mandy. After her passing, he was blessed to marry Jan Hall. He is survived by his three children, Lisa, Adam and Holmes, as well as his grandchildren and great grandchildren. We mourn his loss and keep him and his family in our prayers.

HONORING WESTFIELD HIGH
SCHOOL COACH CHRISTOPHER
TAFELSKI

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Westfield High School track coach Christopher Tafelski on his recent designation by the U.S. Boys' Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) as the 2024 Boys' High School Track and Field Coach of the Year for the State of New Jersey. This is not Coach Tafelski's first award from the USTFCCCA, and I am certain it will not be his last. Coaching for the track and field and cross country programs at Westfield High School since 2004, Tafelski, a WHS alum himself, has worked to build a team that is not only award-winning, but one with a strong sense of community. Tafelski has led the renowned WHS track and field and cross country teams to multiple national qualifications and state championship titles among countless other accolades. I am honored to have such a dedicated coach and educator in our district, and I look forward to seeing both Coach Tafelski and the Westfield track and field and cross country programs continue to thrive in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, 2024, I was unable to vote due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 400.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I tested positive for COVID in Louisiana, and was restricted from travel to D.C. for the week of July 22 through July 26.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 356; NAY 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; YEA on Roll Call No. 362; YEA on Roll Call No. 363; YEA on Roll Call No. 364; YEA on Roll Call No. 365; YEA on Roll Call No. 366; NAY on Roll Call No. 367; NAY on Roll Call No. 368; NAY on Roll Call No. 369; NAY on Roll Call No. 370; NAY on Roll Call No. 371; NAY on Roll Call No. 372; NAY on Roll Call No. 373; YEA on Roll Call No. 374; YEA on Roll Call No. 375; YEA on Roll Call No. 376; YEA on Roll Call No. 377; YEA on Roll Call No. 378; YEA on Roll Call No. 379; YEA on Roll Call No. 380; YEA on Roll Call No. 381; YEA on Roll Call No. 382; YEA on Roll Call No. 383; YEA on Roll Call No. 384; YEA on Roll Call No. 385; YEA on Roll Call No. 386; YEA on Roll Call No. 387; YEA on Roll Call No. 388; YEA on Roll Call No. 389; YEA on Roll Call No. 390; YEA on Roll Call No. 391; YEA on Roll Call No. 392; YEA on Roll Call No. 393; YEA on Roll Call No. 394; YEA on Roll Call No. 395; YEA on Roll Call No. 396; YEA on Roll Call No. 397; YEA on Roll Call No. 398; YEA on Roll Call No. 399; YEA on Roll Call No. 400.

CONGRATULATING CITY MARKET

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 76th anniversary of City Market, the supplier to Sea Island Corporation and many other restaurants in South Georgia.

City Market was founded in 1848 in Brunswick by Harold Sigmund and E.W. Stanford, Sr. Upon E.W. Stanford, Sr.'s death that same year, his 18-year-old son and E.W. "Captain Red" Stanford, Jr. took over the business. The two eventually bought out Mr. Sigmund and continued building a great reputation for the business.

City Market then moved to its current location on Gloucester Street in 1969. After his passing, Captain Red left the legacy of City Market to his grandson, Frank "Little Red"

Owens, Jr., as well as his brother and sons, Walker and Wyatt Owens. Left to run the packing house was his son-in-law, Bruce Collins, Sr.

Through the dedication of the family and its loyal customers, City Market has continued to grow and prosper. Congratulations to City Market, a true family business, on 76 years of success and hard work.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY OFFICER PROTECTION ACT OF 2024

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Department of the Treasury Officer Protection Act of 2024. This bill would help protect Treasury Department police officers and the public by allowing all the officers, including those who work at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), to carry their government firearms home.

BEP officers are not allowed to take their government firearms home. However, BEP officers can be targets because they wear uniforms to and from work. Many BEP officers carry personal firearms to and from work because they are not allowed to take their government firearms home, and some are forced to leave those personal firearms in their cars while they are on duty, creating a possibly dangerous situation.

Allowing BEP officers to carry their government firearms home will put them in the same position as Mint officers. Although both agencies are under the Treasury Department under Treasury Department rules, Mint officers are allowed to carry their government firearms home, while BEP officers are not. There is no meaningful distinction between officers for these two agencies. They should be treated equally.

This bill would allow all police officers in the Treasury Department to carry their government firearms home to protect officers and the public, eliminating separate carrying rules for the Treasury Department's different law enforcement agencies.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING JACK RICHTMAN'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a truly remarkable milestone—the 100th birthday of Mr. Jack Richtman, a true American hero.

Jack's life is a testament to resilience, service, and the enduring power of family. A longtime resident of Elburn, Illinois, Jack served our Nation with distinction during World War II. Six months after D-Day, he landed on the beaches of Normandy, bravely fighting in six battles as a gunner on a mortar unit for the Army's 71st Infantry Division. His contributions were instrumental in aiding Allied forces in post-war efforts throughout Europe.

Growing up on the South Side of Chicago, he faced the challenges of the Great Depression, eventually moving to Wisconsin to continue his education. While a Junior in high school, Jack's patriotism ignited after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. His dedication to service led him to the artillery unit, where he honed his skills through rigorous training in California. After the war, Jack served in Austria and returned home with a lifetime of memories and a heart full of gratitude for his fellow servicemembers and the freedoms he defended.

Upon returning home, Jack married his high school sweetheart, Karwyn, building a life filled with love in St. Paul, Minnesota. Their union blossomed into a remarkable family of 12 children, a testament to their unwavering commitment to each other. With a degree in chemistry, Jack's career led him to Illinois in 1971, eventually landing in Elburn in the 1990's, where he has resided ever since.

After 32 years of marriage his wife Karwyn passed away in 1978, but Jack's love for family never wavered. He found love again with Mary Perkins, a widow with eight children, whom he married in 1980. This union brought together a blended family of 19 children, and has blossomed to include 52 grandchildren, and 52 great-grandchildren.

Today, surrounded by his loving family, he stands as a beacon of strength, embodying the spirit of sacrifice and service that defined his generation. Jack continues to live a fulfilling and energetic life in Elburn with his son, Tom.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Jack Richtman and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jack Richtman's extraordinary life and unwavering patriotism. He is an inspiration to us all, and his 100th birthday serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who came before us.

CONGRATULATING STEVIE
CANNADY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Golfweek Super Senior National Championship Winner Stevie Cannady. Mr. Cannady turned 65 in early January, making 2024 his inaugural season in the Super Senior division.

Prior to his National Championship victory, he had his best finish of 2024 in early May at the Lowcountry Senior invitational, placing in the top 5. He hit 86 percent of fairways and 89 percent of greens with a final-round score of 70, jumping up to the lead and placing first in the National Championship.

Aside from his many golf achievements, Mr. Cannady owns a logistics company specializing in trucking, warehousing, and commercial real estate.

Cannady is a valued member of our community and a force on the golf course. Congratulations to Mr. Cannady on an amazing accomplishment, and I can't wait to see what he achieves next.

CELEBRATING THE REEVES-REED
ARBORETUM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the Reeves-Reed Arboretum on their 50-year anniversary. I am grateful to be able to celebrate this incredible milestone with the Reeves-Reed family and our community. The Reeves-Reed Arboretum is a beautiful natural setting of a forest and gardens that engages, enriches, and teaches its visitors about environmental stewardship. For the past 50 years, they have shown their dedication to our community through programs and activities for all ages to grow through connecting with nature. Reeves-Reed has something for everyone, including summer camps for children, gardening and hiking groups, scout events, and many opportunities to learn and reflect. As a non-profit organization, the Arboretum and its staff are dedicated to their mission of helping our community and being an educational and spiritual resource for its visitors. Reeves-Reed is also a cornerstone of Summit's cultural landscape, and its 13.5 acres are listed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places. As we reflect on the past 50 years at Reeves-Reed they have exceeded the expectations and I know they will continue to do so for the next 50 years to come. I am honored to have such an amazing community in the 7th Congressional District, and I look forward to what is to come.

CONGRATULATING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. LOURDES "LULU" BLACKSMITH

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Lourdes "Lulu" Blacksmith on her retirement and to honor her many years of dedicated service to communities across Kane County and beyond.

Dr. Blacksmith's Journey is a testament to the American Dream. Born in Querendaro, Michoacán, Mexico, she arrived in the United States in 1974, embracing a new land with open arms and a thirst for opportunity.

Her career path reflects a commitment to public service and community engagement. Dr. Blacksmith began her exemplary career as the Manager of Community Outreach at AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center in Aurora, Illinois. She went on to serve as the Director of Community Relations and District Press Secretary for the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, demonstrating her ability to navigate the complexities of government and advocate for the needs of constituents. Most recently, she served as the Managing Director of Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs for Elgin Community College, where she helped bridge the gap between education and the community.

In addition to her professional achievements, Dr. Blacksmith has dedicated herself to

empowering marginalized communities. In 1999, she founded *Compañeros en Salud*, an organization that provides vital healthcare resources to the Hispanic community and other diverse groups. Her commitment to social justice is evident in her active membership in numerous organizations, including the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley, RISE of South Elgin, and the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Blacksmith's tireless efforts have been recognized with numerous awards including the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation's Latino Leadership Award, the Quad County Urban League's "Women of Power" Award, and the Chicago Latino Network's Latina Professionals Award.

Her academic achievements are equally impressive. Dr. Blacksmith earned her Doctor of Education degree in Leadership in Higher Education and Organizational Change from Benedictine University, a Masters degree in Higher Education Leadership from Northwestern Illinois University, her Bachelors degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis on Multicultural Studies from DePaul University, and an Associate's degree in Applied Sciences from Waubesa Community College.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Lourdes "Lulu" Blacksmith. Her dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to serving others have left an indelible mark on our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her as she embarks on this new chapter in her life with her husband Steve, two daughters Nikki and Stefanie, and her grandchildren Sophia and Stephen. We wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement, and we express our gratitude for her contributions to Kane County and the Nation.

HONORING WILLIAM ARTHUR
HUGHES

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of William Arthur "Bill" Hughes, who sadly passed at the age of 96.

Bill served for three years in the United States Marine Corps and attended the FAA Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City, which launched him into his 28-year career as a dedicated air traffic controller.

After his time in Oklahoma City, Bill and his beloved wife, Nancy, lived in Wilmington, North Carolina, Savannah, Georgia, and Isle of Hope. After settling down in Isle of Hope, Bill began his second career as a "starter" of one of Skidaway Island's golf courses.

Mr. Hughes was also well known for his incredible athletic skills. Bill played on the Marine Corps football team and was a highly talented bowler.

Bill and his wife Nancy are survived by their three children, William, Martha, and Jennings. Mr. Hughes was a hardworking individual who will be missed greatly by his family, friends, and coworkers. I send my most sincere condolences to Bill's wife and three children. My thoughts and prayers are with all his family and friends in this moment.