

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ERNEST  
"BOBO" CLOUD, JR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated mortician and compassionate public servant, the Honorable Ernest "Bobo" Cloud, Jr., who will celebrate 33 years of distinguished service to the City of Cairo, Georgia. His celebration will take place on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Cairo.

Ernest Cloud, Jr. was born on May 4, 1948, to the union of the late Ernest Cloud, Sr. and Sarah Brown-Cloud. He graduated from Washington Consolidated High School in 1966, and went on to attend and graduate from Gupton-Jones School of Mortuary Science in Atlanta, Georgia in 1971. After graduation, he received a greater calling upon his life and enlisted in the United States Army. But, this was not the only calling that he would receive in his lifetime. Ernest continued to pursue his interest in mortuary science by serving in the funeral service business alongside his father.

Mr. Cloud's distinguished civil service has been mirrored by his extensive involvement in his community. In conjunction with his professional accomplishments, Mr. Cloud served on several boards, including the boards of the Georgia Funeral Service Practitioners Association, Inc. (where he served as the Budget and Convention Chairmen and the Past President), the Cairo Civics Club (where he served as the County Chairman), the Cairo High School Booster Club (where he served as President), Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity, Inc. (where he served as the Vice President for GA, FL, and AL), and the Fourth District Funeral Service of Georgia Practitioners Association, Inc. (where he served as the Assistant Secretary). He also belonged to a number of prestigious organizations, such as the Grady County Branch of the NAACP, the Georgia State Board of Funeral Services, the Suwanee River Area Council Boy Scouts of America, and several others.

A trailblazer of firsts, Ernest was the first African-American Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in Grady County, and in 1985, he became the first African-American to serve on the Cairo City Council. He has held this prestigious seat for the past 33 years.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." We are so grateful that Mr. Cloud has given his time and service to the City of Cairo. A man of great integrity, his efforts, his dedication, and his expertise are unparalleled. The light in Cairo, Georgia shines a little brighter because of Ernest Cloud, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in thanking Mr. Ernest "Bobo" Cloud, Jr. for 33 outstanding years of service to the City of Cairo, Georgia, our state, and our nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE JEWISH  
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

**HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2018*

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the hard-working men and women of the David A. Stein Jewish Community Alliance on the celebration of their 30th Anniversary of enriching the lives of those with a variety of needs. JCA is a pillar in our Jacksonville community. The Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) is a non-profit community center affiliated with the Jacksonville Jewish Federation, the United Way of Northeast Florida and the Jewish Community Centers of North America. Its focus is to enhance the quality of life for families and individuals of all ages, religions, races, financial means, and physical and mental abilities.

To this end, JCA has impacted tens of thousands of citizens in our community. Situated on the Ed Parker Jewish Community Campus, JCA welcomes preschool-age children to get a good start in life and embraces teens and adults to join classes on health, heritage and other diverse subjects. At the JCA, there is a spirit of intergenerational sharing of values and ideas. The after-school and school-closed day programs give peace of mind to working parents, both married and single. Seniors and adults with special needs are offered opportunities to reach their potential with dignity and tradition.

The JCA facility offers swimming, theatre and camp programs, fitness and exercise classes, sports teams, and art and academic classes to all members and welcomes all for membership. JCA offers an array of creative and innovative classes, programs and events sure to inspire and benefit participants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in acknowledging the 30th Anniversary of the JCA and its commitment to the community.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2018*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 70 and 71 on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 70 and 71.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE KNIGHTS  
OF LITHUANIA COUNCIL 143 AND  
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
LITHUANIA INDEPENDENCE

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2018*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Knights of Lithuania Council 143 as they celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Lithuania's independence. The Knights

of Lithuania is an organization of Roman Catholic men and women of Lithuanian ancestry located in Pittston, Pennsylvania.

Organized on April 27, 1913, the Knights of Lithuania was originally established as a youth organization. Its mission was to unite young Lithuanians living in the United States, preserve Lithuanian culture, and restore freedom to Lithuania, which, at the time, was divided between Russia and Germany.

In more recent times, it has become a family organization. St. Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania's youth, is honored as the organization's patron. "For God and Country," is the motto of Knights of Lithuania, and its members keep an appreciation of the Lithuanian language and culture alive, while also stressing the importance of Roman Catholic beliefs.

It is an honor to recognize the Knights of Lithuania as they celebrate 100 years of Lithuanian independence. I am grateful for their work preserving Lithuanian traditions for the citizens of the Greater Pittston. I wish their membership all the best as they continue their important mission.

**HONORING COUNCILMAN JIM  
BAYMAN**

**HON. JIM BANKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2018*

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Whitley County Councilman Jim Bayman. For 36 years, Councilman Bayman has represented all or parts of Washington, Cleveland, Jefferson and Columbia Townships. I had the honor of serving with Councilman Bayman in 2009 and 2010, and I saw firsthand the positive influence he has had on the people of his district and our County. Councilman Bayman is hard-working, honest and a caring public servant. I wish him the best as he begins the next chapter of his life. Whitley County will miss his leadership and commitment to public service.

**HONORING LINDA RUFFING**

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2018*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Linda Ruffing, who is retiring from her position as the City Manager of Fort Bragg on February 14, 2018.

Born in Pennsylvania, Linda Ruffing came to California to attend college at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She received a Master's Degree from the University of California, Berkeley, before moving to Fort Bragg in 1992 to work for Mendocino County as a coastal planner.

Linda began her career at the City of Fort Bragg in 1999 as the director of community development and became City Manager in 2006. In addition to her exceptional character, judgment, ethics and values, Linda has provided critical leadership on many initiatives for the city, including the acquisition of 95 acres of parkland and a site for the Noyo Science Center on the former mill site, which includes