

our city” and was a “champion for civil rights,” who “worked tirelessly for all who called Baltimore home.”

Thomas Ludwig John D’Alessandro III leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Margaret; his children, Thomas, Dominic, Nicholas, Patricia and Gregory; a brother, Nicholas; 10 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and countless neighbors and friends who will always remember this family man and transformational mayor who opened up the City of Baltimore politically. My deepest sympathy to his entire family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF REVEREND GREG JACKSON

**HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of my good friend, and a great leader in New Jersey, Pastor Greg Jackson. For the last thirty-five years, after growing up in South Carolina, Reverend Jackson has shared his warmth, integrity, and compassion with our blessed community in Hackensack, New Jersey.

Reverend Jackson is the longest-serving pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church in the congregation’s remarkable 130 years. Under the Pastor’s leadership, Mount Olive has continued to flourish; it serves not only as a vibrant spiritual center, but also as a community dedicated to serving others, especially for those in need. Among other accomplishments, during his tenure, Mount Olive Church built the Logan Family Life Center, providing emergency assistance, social services and educational programs, and advancing the church’s goal of serving humanity. Without question Mount Olive’s success is reflective of the compassion and selflessness of its spiritual leader. We are truly lucky to have Reverend Jackson in North Jersey, and I am especially lucky to call him a friend. He has, more than once, invited me to speak from his pulpit. I have often joked that I spent more time praying with Pastor Jackson than my own Rabbi.

Reverend Jackson’s efforts to improve the lives of others extends beyond his work as pastor at Mount Olive. He founded the Interfaith Brotherhood and Sisterhood breakfast, has served on Hackensack City committees, and the Bergen County Council of Churches. Even in retirement, Reverend Jackson’s service will endure as President of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention.

Over the course of his incredible career, Reverend Jackson has traveled across the world to preach, including in South Africa, China, India, Brazil, Cuba, and right here on the floor of the House of Representatives, where he offered the opening prayer as the Guest Chaplain. He has also welcomed transformational leaders to his church, including JOHN LEWIS and so many other civil rights leaders. I only wish my colleagues had the opportunity to experience the passion, smarts, warmth, wisdom, and conviction of Reverend Jackson for themselves.

I am proud to recognize Reverend Jackson on his remarkable career and wish him many years of happiness alongside his wife Barbara

and their children, Michael, Monique and Aashon, and their grandchildren Jordan, Kennedy and Madison. In the years to come, I know he will remain a pillar of our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GROUNDBREAKING OF MICHIGAN MEDICINE’S ‘HOSPITAL OF THE FUTURE’

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the groundbreaking of Michigan Medicine’s new “Hospital of the Future.” The construction of Michigan Medicine’s new adult hospital on its main medical campus will transform patients’ medical and surgical care, improving the lives of many within our community. This endeavor is worthy of commendation.

Since the opening of the University of Michigan Medical School in 1850, Michigan Medicine has been the site of many transformative medical and technological advancements. Since its humble beginnings, Michigan Medicine has grown to become one of the largest health care complexes in the state of Michigan. Today, the institution continues to advance the future of healthcare and lead the nation in health care reform, education, and biomedical innovation.

The groundbreaking of Michigan Medicine’s new hospital exemplifies the institution’s lasting commitment to meeting the increasingly complex health care demands of communities across Michigan. The new 12-story facility will include a revolutionary neurological and neurosurgical center, specialty care services for cardiovascular and thoracic patients, and 264 private rooms equipped with universal intensive care. Measuring around 690,000 square feet, the hospital will expand Michigan Medicine’s breadth of services and significantly heighten access to medical care community-wide.

Notably, the new facility aligns with the University of Michigan’s commitment to enhancing environmental sustainability and continued efforts to reduce the institution’s carbon footprint. Working alongside a team of expert architects and engineers, Michigan Medicine hopes the new hospital will be a highly efficient “green” facility and achieve LEED gold status.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the groundbreaking of Michigan Medicine’s new hospital. It is critical that healthcare providers adapt to meet the changing medical needs of communities nationwide. I am grateful for Michigan’s support in this endeavor. Their revolutionary vision propels our country forward and truly makes them part of our nation’s leaders and best.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2019*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with affection in memoriam of Congressman Elijah E. Cummings of Baltimore, Maryland. He was a man for our time.

Today, I join a grateful nation in honoring the life, as well as, mourning the death of an exceptional American, a man of deep faith in his creator and fellow human beings. As I learned of Elijah’s passing, I was deeply saddened by the loss of such a magnanimous human being, a devoted patriot, and a man whose heart for others never stopped beating. During my tenure in the House of Representatives, I had the honor to serve alongside Elijah for over 23 years, but it is the greatest privilege of all to call him my friend. All Members who served with him know this similar affinity. The word great is often overused, but Elijah was truly a great man. He served his district in a way that made clear to everyone his unshakable love for the City of Baltimore and its people. His love was enduring. His service and passion touched those of us serving in any capacity.

A graduate of Howard University in 1973, Elijah received his bachelor’s in political science and served as the student government president. Following the completion of his undergraduate degree, he attended the University of Maryland where he studied law, which led to two-decades of legal practice in the private sector. Elijah also served as the Chief Judge on the Maryland Moot Court, where he aided law students in their studies on appellate casework.

Prior to winning his election to the House of Representatives in 1996, in 1982, at only 31 years old, Elijah became the youngest chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus in the Maryland House of Delegates. With not only an impressive 16 years to show for this service, he successfully climbed the ranks to become the first African American to serve as Speaker pro tem—one of the many groundbreaking milestones in his illustrious career. As a trailblazer, Elijah advocated for economic and racial justice, and human rights. He was constantly working to improve the condition of his community that had been devastated by the loss of over 30,000 steel jobs, which brought about great despair. Elijah persevered for his people and community using every opportunity to revitalize and to improve his hometown.

Joining the House of Representatives in 1996, Elijah became the Representative for the seventh district in Maryland, serving and dedicated to Baltimore and its suburbs. He was truly a crusader, as he tirelessly fought as an advocate against drug abuse, gun violence, and a visionary for home ownership for all and labor unions—issues that so deeply impact our nation and his district. Amid racial conflict in his home city, Elijah was able to stand above the fray in such a riot-torn landscape and bring peace and reason. As a man who lived by example, his mantra of standing up for one’s beliefs was reflected through his years of diligent service and his grace under fire.

I can attest, during his medical challenge, which had been significant and prolonged, he never yielded. His dutiful work sustained the hope of his family and colleagues. History will attest his vision will have laid the foundation for a more honorable and respectful approach to governance of a free people.

May I extend my deepest condolences to his family, his devoted wife Maya, daughter Jennifer, and the people of greater Baltimore for sending a man of such substance and bearing to serve the people of the United States.

Elijah, the proud son of Baltimore, left his community, our nation, and this world a better place through his service. And for that, we shall remain eternally grateful. May God rest his soul peacefully and in full communion with the power of creation.

HONORING THE STRAND THEATRE  
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS RIBBON  
CUTTING CEREMONY

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Ms. STEFANK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The Strand Theatre on the occasion of its Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

At nearly a century old, the Strand theatre has been a staple of the Hudson River community since the 1920s. It has played host to the evolving nature of entertainment since that time. First being used as a Vaudeville theatre, it evolved with the times to start featuring films. Over the years, the Strand fell into disrepair. However, Hudson River Music Hall Productions stepped in and has just finished a full renovation and modernization project to bring the Strand back to its former glory.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I want to congratulate Hudson River Music Hall Productions and all those who worked so hard to revive this historic venue. Historic places like the Strand connect us with our history while we chart our own paths forward. I look forward to seeing its renewed role as a centerpiece of the Hudson Falls community and to the new memories being created there.

COMMEMORATING IDAHO WHEAT  
60TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, Idaho is recognized around the world for producing high-quality wheat. Sixty years ago, Idaho wheat farmers decided to join together and form the Idaho Wheat Commission to develop export markets, conduct research, and educate growers.

Much has changed over the past 60 years. In 2018, Idaho was the highest yielding state in the nation with an average of 90 bushels per acre. Idaho ranked fifth among wheat producing states at more than 100 million bushels.

Idaho has one of the most consistent harvests of any wheat-growing area. Wet springs

and warm, dry summers combined with rich volcanic solids create ideal conditions for our high-quality wheat. Nearly two-thirds of Idaho wheat is grown under irrigation, allowing for Idaho growers to manage the crop to customers' specifications.

Idaho is one of few states that grows all five classes of wheat.

About half of the 100 million bushels produced each year in Idaho are exported. Idaho is uniquely positioned to access the global marketplace by moving grain through the Columbia-Snake River system to Portland, and then onto foreign customers, particularly Asian markets.

The other half of Idaho's wheat production goes to domestic markets via trucks and rail into products we all know and love like Pepperidge Farms Goldfish Crackers, Wheaties and Wheat Chex cereals, pasta, cookies and pastries.

This year, the Idaho Wheat Commission is celebrating 60 years of service to wheat growers in Idaho providing growers with market development, research, and education.

Let it be known that Idaho wheat is Quality Wheat Simply Grown and let us join Idaho's wheat growers in celebrating 60 years of the Idaho Wheat Commission.

CELEBRATING BRYAN K. EXUM'S  
RETIREMENT

**HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Bryan K. Exum. Bryan began his career with Farmers Home Administration (aka Rural Development) as a Student Trainee Agriculture Management Specialist on May 18, 1980, in the Pine Bluff, Jefferson County Office. He worked in that office for three months and then was transferred as a Student Trainee to the Paragould, Greene County Office. While working Bryan was attending Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and received a degree in Agriculture Business. In December 1982, he was hired as the Assistant County Supervisor in the Greene County Office. In 1989, Bryan was transferred to the Marianna, Lee County Office and in 1992 he was selected as the County Supervisor.

In 1995 Bryan was selected as the Rural development Manager for Greene, Craighead and Poinsett Counties and was an Area Specialist from August 16, 2007 until January 2011, in the Jonesboro Area Office. On January 16, 2011, Bryan was selected as the Area Director for the Jonesboro Area Office. In addition to his duties as Area Director in Jonesboro, he was Acting Area Director for the Forrest City Area Office on two different occasions for an extended amount of time.

Bryan K. Exum, throughout his lifetime of service, has played a significant impact on eastern rural Arkansas. Bryan is a loyal and dedicated Arkansan, and we are a better State because of his service to the agriculture business.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL  
JOHN CLAYTON REPPERT

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Brigadier General John Clayton Reppert of Anna, Illinois, who passed away peacefully earlier this month. General Reppert dedicated his life to his God, his country, his family and his friends.

As a young man, John was a star on his high school football team and worked at his hometown, family-owned newspaper, the Anna Gazette-Democrat. While attending Kansas State, he met and later married Patricia Ann Rash. Soon after graduating, John was drafted as a private and assigned to Officer Candidate School before serving in Vietnam as a Signal Corps Officer. General Reppert proudly served in the Army for 33 years, with a focus on issues impacting relations between the United States and former Soviet Union. General Reppert became the Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, playing a key role in shaping American military and diplomatic policy.

General Reppert earned a master's degree and a Ph.D., leading him to an influential career as a professor. He later taught classes at schools such as Harvard University and West Point. He eventually served as Harvard's Executive Director for Research. Though he maintained an extremely busy life after his military and educational careers, General Reppert remained involved in his community as a Sunday School teacher at his local church. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, General Reppert lived his life in full measure, leaving his mark on all on who knew him.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Brigadier General John Reppert of Anna, Illinois, and celebrate the incredible life he lived. May he rest in peace.

ELIJAH MARLER EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 23, 2019*

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elijah Marler of Boy Scouts of America Troop 46 from Fort Morgan, Colorado. On August 28, 2019, Elijah was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout for his outstanding accomplishments. Since 1920, the Boy Scouts of America has helped mold young men in a disciplined environment with only a fraction achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Over the years, the Eagle Scout rank has become an American icon symbolizing the core principles of honor, duty, resourcefulness, and courage.

Throughout his time as a scout, Elijah has grown as a leader among his peers and is dedicated to serving others. For his Eagle Scout service project, Elijah helped organize a creative mural project at the Converge Daytime Treatment Center in Brush, Colorado. This specialized treatment center provides a therapeutic treatment program and targeted academic instruction in a structured, small