

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL SITE FOUNDATION

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation on its 50th anniversary.

On Friday September 6, 1901, President William McKinley was shot by anarchist Leon Czolgosz during a trip to the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. Closely monitoring the situation from a family vacation in the Adirondack Mountains, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt traveled to Buffalo to pay his respects when it became apparent that President McKinley would not survive his injuries. President McKinley died the day of Roosevelt's arrival, on Saturday, September 14, 1901.

It was only a matter of hours before the Vice President assumed the Office of the President of the United States. That same day, Vice President Roosevelt was sworn in as president at the residence of his close friend, and an esteemed lawyer, Mr. Ansley Wilcox, located at 641 Delaware Avenue. In taking his Oath of Office, Roosevelt declared, "In this hour of deep and terrible national bereavement, I wish to state that it shall be my aim to continue, absolutely without variance, the policy of President McKinley, for the peace and honor of our beloved country."

In conjunction with the National Park Service, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation has maintained the residence on Delaware Avenue since 1971, with several missions in mind. First and foremost, the foundation strives to uphold educational dialogues around the Roosevelt Presidency, ranging from the inauguration itself to his life, policy choices, and legacy. The foundation also highlights the 1901 Pan-American Exposition, which introduced Buffalo to the world as the first electrified city of light, powered by nearby Niagara Falls. More generally, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation highlights a period in Western New York's history when it served the country as an industrial powerhouse filled with driven, creative individuals seeking to build a new and better future.

Today, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation offers a variety of programs and experiences that aim to preserve the legacy of President Roosevelt. The foundation displays a variety of exhibits and showcases within the home that examine Roosevelt's inauguration and time in office. Tours are offered at the nearby museum, as well as at sites of importance across the City of Buffalo. The foundation also hosts a "Speaker Nite" series of events, inviting esteemed individuals to explore issues of significance from President Roosevelt's tenure and share how these issues remain relevant today.

I thank the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation for its commitment to preserving the unique history of the Western New York region, and I again congratulate the foundation on its 50th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING MAKENNA PEED FOR WINNING FOUR STATE TRACK MEDALS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize MaKenna Peed of Kewanee High School for winning four gold medals for Track in the IHSA State Competition.

MaKenna competed in the 100 meters (41.12 seconds), 200 meters (1:32.09), shot put (2.23 meters), and discus (5.28 meters), winning gold in all four events. She is also the first Kewanee High School athlete to medal in the Athletes with Disabilities Division. As a former student athlete, I admire and appreciate MaKenna's hard work and dedication to track. I am proud that she represented Kewanee High School and the community exceptionally well throughout the state.

It is because of student leaders such as MaKenna that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would once again like to congratulate MaKenna Peed on her success in Track while competing at the state level.

HONORING BERNARD A. BARTON, JR., IN CELEBRATION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bernard A. Barton, Jr. on his retirement from the Library of Congress and to thank him for nearly three decades of dedicated public service.

Following his service as a U.S. Air Force officer, Mr. Barton spent his career at the intersection of knowledge and technology. As Deputy Chief Information Officer for the North Carolina National Guard, Mr. Barton designed the agency's disaster recovery and continuity of operations capabilities, ensuring the Guard can meet its "Always Ready" motto. As Chief Information Officer for the Defense Technical Information Center, Mr. Barton ensured that the Department of Defense's largest library had the IT infrastructure necessary to "fuse science and technology data" and "reliably deliver the knowledge needed to develop the next generation of technologies to support our Warfighters and help assure national security."

In 2015, Mr. Barton took on what Fortune Magazine labeled maybe the "hardest job in tech," serving as the Chief Information Officer for the Library of Congress. Since then, he has ably guided the nation's oldest federal cultural institution through a complete technological overhaul. With aplomb, he oversaw the centralization of Library technology activities; fostered the creation of an agency-wide digital strategy; and marshalled efforts to optimize and modernize the Library's IT infrastructure and critical IT business systems. Under his leadership, the Library completed a three-year Data Center Transformation, embracing the best of traditional IT services and the Cloud to ensure a stable, flexible, scalable foundation

for the future. He also completely revamped IT security, and successfully addressed more than 100 major technology recommendations identified by Congress and the GAO.

Through it all, he has been a transparent, proactive, and enthusiastic partner for Members of Congress, our staff, and our constituents. He has responded to our inquiries and ideas with the resolute assurance that technology will not be a problem for our Library.

The impact of these changes cannot be overstated. As the world's largest library and home of both the Congressional Research Service and the U.S. Copyright Office, the Library of Congress stands as a beacon of knowledge and creativity the world over. Mr. Barton leaves the Library a stronger, more digitally enabled institution that is better prepared than ever to serve the needs of Congress, researchers, and all Americans.

Please join me in wishing Mr. Barton a well-deserved retirement after a lifetime of faithful public service.

RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN—
JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the views submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman, of Temple Lev Tikvah:

The Jewish High Holy Days, also known as the Days of Awe, are a ten-day period commencing with the New Year of Rosh Hashana and concluding with the Day of Atonement of Yom Kippur. With humble Biblical roots and profound Rabbinic transformation, it is a sacred vehicle and opportunity set aside for inspiring soul-searching and heroic resolve to mend the brokenness of the human heart and do our called upon share, individually and collectively, to repair and heal our inner world as well as the outer one. Quite a tall order but a compelling one!

The celebration this season takes place against the onerous backdrop of a threatening gathering cloud of anti-Semitism—the world's oldest and most resistant virus—at home and abroad as critical American democracy, alarmingly violated on 1/6, along with the unresolved burden of shameful Black slavery, lingering racism toward minorities, urban unrest and a ravaging global pandemic with the State of Israel begrudged its rightful responsibility to protect its citizens from those intent on obliterating the only sovereign Jewish country while denying the monumental Holocaust. What a perfect storm scenario for the resurrection of history's worst images of hatred for the Other.

The High Holy Days, peak Jewish religious experience, offer a reflective mirror into an ancient people's awesome spiritual odyssey enabling it to somehow survive history's high waves of relentless tsunamis through offering humanity noble teachings and indispensable lessons. On Rosh Hashanah 5782 (Based on calculating the generations enumerated in the Biblical Genesis) as we celebrate the world's creation, our prayerful focus is not only on the wonder of the unfathomable acts of creation, but no less on the confounding complexity of human relationships. Our Biblical heroes, unlike the Greek ones, are flesh and blood creatures who both succeed and succumb, contending with blessings as well as blemishes.

The first Jewish family of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael, birthing the kindred monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, reflects deep convictions along with searing conflicts whose profound impact is still with us today. This we know for sure, our basic human make-up of passions and prejudices, loves and hatreds has not changed. We remain subject to their influences in determining our conduct, positively and negatively. While naturally we tend to dwell on the multiple challenges and struggles of contemporary life, there is much we can absorb from those who laid the foundation for the twin components of Jewish identity, faith, and peoplehood.

Abraham and Sarah had the stamina to leave their home in pagan Mesopotamia in search of new beginnings—spiritually, physically, and psychologically. They were not deterred by the cumbersome obstacles such a journey and journeys would entail, sustained by a driving vision of an encounter with a God whose unifying message captured their yearning imagination. Soon they would discover, however, that their newly found breakthrough faith was intertwined with a fragmented reality. The shared tenets and tents in an unknown territory would become the testing ground for lofty ideals and binding values. The Rabbis teach us that the founders' tent in the wilderness of Canaan was open on all sides to allow one and all to enter and be warmly welcomed, finding caring respite and appreciated protection from both hostile humans and adverse elements.

Are we equipped with the capacity to learn from mistakes and chart a new course of conduct and consideration, finally creating Shalom's overarching harmony? The tradition ushered in by our progenitors is an optimistic one, having faith in God as well as us, while sanctifying the precious gift of life. As we enter the portals of a new year may we master from those who shaped us in ways both manifest and concealed, that we may turn hatred into love, violence into vision, pain into promise, adversity into advantage and blemishes into blessings!

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. He is a member of the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission.

HONORING LOUIS TESSIER'S DECADES OF SERVICE AT THE DEDICATION OF "LOU TESSIER WAY" AT THE WARREN COUNTY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Louis Tessier for his decades of service to Lake George and all of Warren County, New York, and to mark the dedication of "Lou Tessier Way" at the Warren County Airport.

Louis Tessier first came to Lake George in the 1970s when he purchased the Four Seasons Hotel. He quickly got involved in the local community and was elected to the Lake George Town Board in 1982. Just two years later, Mr. Tessier was elected as Supervisor of the Board, a position he held until his retirement in 2009. His long list of accomplishments in this role includes overseeing \$500,000 in renovations for the Lake George Town Hall, acquiring the land for Usher Park Beach, and

assisting in building the Scoville Learning Center at Adirondack Community College. In addition to his years of service on the Lake George Town Board, he also served as Chairman of the Board for Warren County's Board of Supervisors, budget officer for Warren County, and a member of the American Legion.

A pilot himself, Louis Tessier was a devoted advocate for the Warren County Airport. He went out of his way to support the staff and assist them whenever they needed help. He put in hours of work to help organize the Adirondack Balloon Festival. In honor of his commitment to the airport and the community it serves, the Warren County Board of Supervisors unanimously decided to rename the entrance road to the airport "Lou Tessier Way."

Mr. Tessier truly embodies the community spirit present throughout the North Country. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to thank Mr. Tessier for his decades of service to Lake George and Warren County and congratulate him for this well-deserved recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. VIVIANA MEDELLIN

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I rise today to memorialize the significant contributions of Mrs. Viviana Medellin, an individual who went above and beyond to serve our KC Latino community. She poured her heart and soul into the empowerment of Latino voices, leveraging her Chicana roots and producing so many far-reaching programs that will carry her legacy forward while sharing her culture with many within the Greater Kansas City region.

Before her public service, Mrs. Medellin followed her dream of working with renowned cardiologists Dr. G. Hartzler and Dr. Barry Rutherford in the Cardiovascular lab at St. Luke's Hospital. Prior to working in the Cardiovascular lab, she started at St. Luke's as a nursing assistant and eventually retired after nearly 48 years of service and dedication to public health. It was during that 48 years that she met her amazing and loving husband, Richard Medellin, and together raised their children: Monica Holman, Robert A. Frias, Sophia Byers, and Ricardo Medellin.

Viviana not only was committed to public health in Kansas City, but she was also a devout Catholic, as a long-time parishioner of St. Agnes Catholic Church. Having graduated from Redemptorist Catholic High School in 1965, Viviana was charged at an early age to give back. She also served the Altar and Rosary Society and as a member of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle.

It is because of her pursuits to advance the celebration of her Mexican American culture that Viviana served as the President of Azteca de Greater KC and as Vice-President of The Greater Kansas City Hispanic Heritage, advancing several amazing programs over the years. Of those programs, Viviana was a significant contributor to the Fiesta Hispanic celebration that started in 1984 and has been a

beacon of Hispanic celebration and acknowledgement for decades. In addition, Viviana has been a host on Kansas City Community Radio station, KKFI 90.1 FM's Taste of Tejano, where she combined her love of Tejano music and that of sharing her culture through the airwaves. She was certainly an amazing person, sharing her passion for her community with all of Kansas City, and for that she deserves great recognition.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mrs. Viviana Medellin for the tremendous accomplishments throughout her career and her tireless efforts in providing Kansas City with celebration of the rich Mexican American culture, thriving within our amazing City. Her contributions to our community have made a significant impact on Missouri's Fifth District and I speak on the behalf of the entire district when I say thank you to Viviana.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. SUSAN "CHERI" CHERYL MAINARD OFNER

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Susan "Cheri" Cheryl Mainard Ofner, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, patriot, and friend.

Cheri was born July 27, 1951, in Dallas, Texas to the late Loretta and Aston "Dee" Dale Mainard. She was the oldest of four children, and at an early age, developed a love for sports, her country, and the Lord.

Cheri was a woman of great faith and spent her life dedicated to learning and sharing the Word of God. As a young girl, Cheri's family moved to Houston, and attended Springs Branch Baptist Church, where her mother taught Sunday school.

Cheri attended school as a National Merit Scholar at the University of Texas, where she secured a highly competitive spot on the gymnastics team. It was during gymnastics practice where Cheri met the love of her life, Lee Ofner, in January 1971. The couple's first date was watching Superbowl V, played between the Baltimore Colts and the Dallas Cowboys.

In 1972, Cheri graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance & Accounting, and in 1973 married Lee in a ceremony at her home church in Houston, Texas. A few years later, in 1975, Lee earned a Doctorate in Dental Surgery degree from Baylor College of Dentistry and began his U.S. Navy tour in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

The couple moved back to Dallas after Lee completed his tour with the U.S. Navy. Together with Cheri's degree in business and Lee's doctorate in dental surgery, they established a successful dental practice in 1977. During this time, Cheri and Lee had two children, Jay and Courtney. Cheri was an all-star mom, attending every soccer practice, school musical, ballet, Bible study, etc. She even coached Courtney's gymnastics team.

The Ofners eventually retired from dentistry, and ultimately, found their forever home in 1991 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Cheri and Lee immediately became involved with their new community, joining several Bible