

an all-female rhythm and blues group, "Sista," with three fellow Portsmouth natives and her childhood friend, Timbaland.

Even in the early stages of her career, Missy was a trailblazer. Instead of signing with a major record label, as was common with recording artists in that era, she retained her creative independence by founding her own record label, The Goldmind, Inc. Her music career quickly skyrocketed because of her exceptional songwriting and signature production style alongside her frequent collaborator, Timbaland. Missy became a cultural phenomenon because of the artistry of her music videos. The creativity she displayed in the iconic videos "SUPA DUPA Fly" and "Work It" revolutionized how artists expressed themselves. Missy has also been an advocate for female empowerment in the music industry, and she is credited for being a pioneer in championing body positivity.

Over the course of her career, Missy Elliott has earned a plethora of accolades, including four GRAMMY Awards, six studio albums that are Recording Industry Association of America platinum-certified, and countless numbers of BET, NAACP and Soul Train awards. In 2019, Missy became the first female hip hop artist to receive the MTV Video Music Award's Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award; she was the first female hip hop artist to be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and she was the first hip hop artist to earn an honorary Doctor of Music from the prestigious Berklee College of Music. Missy's impact continues to be felt in today's popular music. She has been credited as an influence on other superstar artists, such as Beyonce, Ciara, Pharrell, and the late Aaliyah.

Despite becoming a global superstar, Missy Elliott has never forgotten her Virginia roots. She has contributed to the education of students in Hampton Roads by donating to her high school alma mater, and through a Hampton University scholarship fund from her foundation. The latter donation supports the Atlanta Chapter of the National Hampton Alumni Association and funds scholarships, as well as tuition and fees for students at Hampton University.

Madam Speaker, as Missy's family, friends, fans, and supporters gather for the dedication of "Missy Elliott Boulevard," I join them in congratulating Missy Elliott and thank her for all she has done for the City of Portsmouth, Hampton Roads, and music fans across the globe.

RECOGNITION OF BART CHARLOW

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a 1960's Borscht Belt Baby who, of late, has been a distinguished individual serving turkey with all the trimmings in San Mateo County. Bart Charlow, the Chief Executive Officer of Samaritan House, is retiring after eight years on the front lines of human services. We will miss him enormously.

Samaritan House annually serves clients 3,000,000 meals, provides 44,120 nights of safe shelter, and during the time of Bart's leadership increased donations by 100 per-

cent. Samaritan House provides a place for people without fixed housing to recover from hospital care. He led the agency to create a food pantry, added mental health services to the existing medical clinics, doubled food services, quintupled case management and financial assistance, and managed temporary operations of four additional shelter programs—a tripling of shelter capacity during COVID.

The stories told by Samaritan House clients are America's stories. For example, 72-year-old Edwina and Demitrio were living in their car, trying to live on their combined Social Security checks in one of the most costly housing markets in America. They discovered Samaritan House. Due to its free services, they were able to save some money. Then, they were selected for a unit in a new affordable housing complex, a hotel purchased through federal funding. To a large extent, this couple can credit Bart Charlow, and the outstanding staff and volunteers of Samaritan House, for being a rock they could cling to when the storm of pestilence swept them into an economic sea.

During Thanksgiving, I've personally worked next to Bart as we and dozens of volunteers distributed thousands of pounds of holiday groceries to clients. At Christmas during the pandemic, hundreds of families drove through the county fairgrounds picking up free gifts and food. In pre-pandemic times, Bart and volunteers, including me, would wrap hundreds of Christmas presents for children anxious to take their bounty home to place under the tree. Samaritan House is an official portal for safety net services for San Mateo County because the county trusts this agency's management to handle millions of dollars in contracts for services. Its staff follows Bart's belief: Respect human dignity and lift people up.

Bart's come a long way from watching his extended family serve tourists at Charlow's Irvington Hotel in South Fallsburg, New York.

Bart is a painter, and images of the Catskills leap from his canvas. Borscht Belt Babies, a Facebook group, confirms that Bart's upbringing was one of family and a tight-knit community. I was struck by a 1963 photo taken at Charlow's Irvington Hotel. It showed three handsome young men in the shallow end of the swimming pool on what was likely a hot summer day. Two were white and one black. 1963 was the year of the March on Washington and the "I Have A Dream" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was also the year that Jackson, Mississippi, drained four public swimming pools and sold another rather than integrate them. At Charlow's Irvington Hotel, all Americans were welcomed and equal. Of the kitchen, Bart remarked, "I could spend hours watching the baker make batter and knead dough in the giant mixers . . . he'd fill [baking trays] with hundreds of perfectly shaped little cookies or mounds of bread rolls in just minutes." I bet the borscht was also great.

Bart joined Samaritan House in 2014. He was 65, a time when others hope to retire. However, Bart is deeply dedicated to philanthropy and brought with him 39 years of executive experience, largely in the non-profit sector. He was also a licensed marriage and family therapist for 42 years, certainly excellent preparation for leading a non-profit. He has a BA in Anthropology and Sociology from Wake Forest University and a Master's in Education and Counseling, also from Wake Forest.

Please join me in wishing Bart Charlow the time of his life in retirement with his wife Nancy, their sons Alex and Michael and daughter Lisa. Gevald, di mantens! [Wow, the mountains!] is a Yiddish song celebrating the Catskills. One of the lines is that, in the mountains, "Everybody rests their bones." Well, now it's Bart's turn. He may seek his retirement by resting his bones, but he will never truly rest until his fellow Americans are also safe, their health secure, and their weary bones afforded a cooling retreat in the shade created by human dignity.

HONORING THE TREVINO FAMILY FOR THEIR INCREDIBLE WORK IN PROVIDING INCREDIBLE FOOD AND COMMUNITY AT NANA'S TAQUERIA IN WESLACO, TX

HON. MAYRA FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mrs. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alfredo and Roxanna Trevino, owners of Nana's Taqueria in Weslaco, Texas. Originally from Nuevo Progreso, Mexico, Alfredo and Roxanna immigrated to the United States and opened Nana's Taqueria in January 2010.

Since then, Nana's has become a staple in the Rio Grande Valley, serving thousands of hungry customers over the last twelve years. Roxanna, a breast cancer survivor, has continually served as a source of inspiration for all of us in South Texas as the embodiment of the Hispanic values of God, family, and hard work.

The generosity and hospitality shown by the Trevino family are second to none, and it is an honor to represent them in Congress. Their family is living proof that the American Dream is alive and well, and I congratulate them for their incredible work in the Rio Grande Valley.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to recognize this incredible family and restaurant.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, and recognize the diverse culture, influence, and remarkable contributions Hispanic Americans have made to Colorado's Sixth Congressional District. I'm proud to represent the most diverse district in Colorado. With people from all walks of life and over 120,000 immigrants calling our community home, our diversity makes our community a stronger and more vibrant place to live.

Beginning in 1968, and continuing every year since, from September 15 to October 15, we observe and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize and honor the extensive history of Hispanic Americans across the country. The 2022 theme for Hispanic Heritage Month is Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation. It is only fitting that this year's theme

necessitates the inclusion of all voices and reflects the need for us to come together and welcome all people in order to build stronger communities and a stronger Nation.

It goes without saying that the Hispanic community in my district plays an integral role in making the Sixth District a better place to live. In the face of a devastating pandemic, we saw COVID-19 disproportionately impact the Hispanic community. Healthcare groups like Salud Family Health, Servicios de la Raza, Colorado Access, STRIDE Community Health Center, and Aurora Health Alliance were committed to educating the Hispanic community about COVID-19—providing vaccine and healthcare services to ensure our community has an equitable pandemic recovery.

We owe a debt of gratitude to organizations like Village Exchange Center and Mi Casa Resource Center, among many others that foster an inclusive environment and work directly with the Hispanic community—providing resources, healthcare and vaccine access to residents in District Six.

The contributions by Hispanic Americans and community leaders across our District and the State of Colorado are tremendous and play a vital role in the diversity, development, and success of our Nation. I'm proud to celebrate and recognize Hispanic Heritage Month and all the Hispanic Americans that make our community a better and more prosperous place to live.

HONORING ARIS MELISSARTOS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary Greek American—Aris Melissartos. Aris was born to Greek parents in Galatz, Romania, on December 3, 1943. The following year the Soviet Union occupied Romania and implemented a process of Sovietization. In 1950 the Melissartos family fled to Greece as refugees. In 1956 they emigrated to the U.S., settling in Baltimore where Aris worked in, and later ran, a bakery with his father. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering at the Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Science in Contents Early life and education engineering management at George Washington University and completed the Graduate Program for Management Development at Harvard University and graduate research in international relations at Catholic University of America.

In 1966, Aris joined Westinghouse Electric Corporation and soon began work as its chief operating officer for defense electronics and aerospace. He left Westinghouse as its vice president of science and technology after 32 years with the company. In 1998, he became Thermo Electron Corporation's vice president of research and development. He also worked as CEO of Coleman Research Corporation, Thermo Coleman Corporation and Thermo Information Solutions. In 2001, Aris founded ArMel Scientifics, a technology incubation venture capital entity investing in more than 30 technology ventures. He also chairs the ArMel Scientifics Center for Technology and Public

Policy and wrote "Innovation: The Key to Prosperity—Technology and America's Role in the 21st Century," which he considers a great accomplishment.

On top of all of his successes in the private sector, Aris found great success in Government service. In 2003 Aris, a lifelong Democrat, was appointed Business and Economic Development Secretary of Maryland in the administration of Republican Robert Leroy "Bob" Ehrlich, Jr., who became Maryland's Governor in January that year after defeating Democratic candidate Kathleen Kennedy Townsend. Ehrlich said Aris' department would be the cornerstone of his administration. Explaining his willingness to work in a Republican Cabinet, Aris said he saw himself as "a bridge-builder". He said the basis of his economic policy would be a focus on Maryland's universities, which he regarded as potential economic powerhouses because of their research innovation capabilities. Aris was popular in the business community and when Ehrlich was defeated in his bid for gubernatorial re-election, his successor, Democrat Martin O'Malley, came under pressure to retain Aris in his Cabinet. The Baltimore Sun newspaper reported that at a conference in the boardroom of First Mariner Bank, "business leader after business leader" urged O'Malley to reappoint Aris, who was described as "the best marketing manager the state has had in recent memory" and as a "visionary".

Aris has lived a life of great success and service. Even with all of his own personal success, Aris says that it's his work mentoring and developing employees under his various leadership roles that has brought him the most career satisfaction.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Affairs, I am pleased to honor this great Greek-American, Aris Melissartos, and offer my sincere gratitude for his many years of service to his community. Axios.

RECOGNIZING GAR BENNETT, LLC

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate GAR Bennett, LLC, as they receive the King's County Chamber of Commerce Ag Support Business of the Year award.

In 1929, Lon Bennett founded Bennett and Bennett Irrigation Systems in Selma, California. Twenty years later, Gar Tootelian Inc., a crop care company, began in Reedley. For decades, these two family-owned companies were essential to the success of the Central Valley agricultural community. But in 2020, these two Valley institutions merged to form GAR Bennett, LLC. Together, they have helped to provide countless resources and services to the farmers who feed the world.

For nearly 100 years, these two family-run businesses have been dedicated to the success of our farmers and growers in the Central Valley. As they have come together under a single operation, their mission of providing quality fertilizers, fertigation, and irrigation has

never wavered. GAR Bennett continues to expand their resources for farmers and growers, such as providing logistical assistance on agricultural regulations, deep-well drilling, and many other important issues facing farmers today.

GAR Bennett is critical to providing resources to farmers as well as being incredibly involved in the community at large. They regularly support multiple local farmers and agricultural advocacy groups and help to support our future Ag leaders at local schools like California State University Fresno, College of the Sequoias, and Reedley College.

While their name has changed and the leadership of the companies has been passed down to new generations, the mission of GAR Bennett has always remained the same—help the farmers who feed the world. These two families have helped to make the Central Valley agriculture community what it is today, and I cannot think of a more deserving recipient of recognition.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating GAR Bennett, LLC for their decades of service to the Central Valley and for being named the Ag Support Business of the Year.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. MICHELE JOHNSON

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations and gratitude to Dr. Michele L. Johnson on her retirement from Pierce College. Throughout her 45 years at Pierce College, Dr. Johnson has been a faculty member, collegiate coach, executive dean, campus president, and, for the last 18 years, Chancellor and CEO. Her leadership has served students, Pierce College employees, and the statewide community and technical college system.

In her current role, Dr. Johnson leads two colleges and an off-campus site at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and oversees two campus presidents and a district administration. Her dedication to student success and innovative leadership promotes Pierce College's mission to create quality educational opportunities for a diverse community of learners to thrive in an evolving world. Dr. Johnson has consistently been committed to the word "community" in community college, developing partnerships that have made our region stronger and that have served as a model for collaboration.

Under her leadership, Pierce College has received national awards, including recognition for serving veterans and community college excellence.

Speaking personally, I've been honored to consider Dr. Johnson a partner and a friend. I am grateful for all that she has done to create opportunities for students in our region and to improve higher education throughout our state.

Madam Speaker, Members of Congress, please join me congratulating Dr. Michele Johnson on her retirement.