

Marketing Institute Board, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly, and the Nelson Lagoon Advisory Board.

What truly distinguishes Justine is not merely the duration of her service, but the unwavering commitment that propels it—a resolute determination to ensure that the state's villages, regardless of their size and remoteness, receive the attention they deserve. With the accumulating of nearly 50 years of service, Justine has become a beacon of knowledge, dedicating herself to educating others about village life.

Beyond her board service, Justine assumed the role of Administrator for the Tribe and Corporation in Nelson Lagoon. In these capacities she worked tirelessly to shepherd projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life for the village residents. These projects include a community dock, erosion mitigation initiatives, a boatyard and storage facility, a community greenhouse, and two seasonal tourism adventure sport fishing camps that provide employment opportunities for Nelson Lagoon residents.

Justine's wealth of knowledge in the region and the fishing industry, coupled with her extensive experience and unyielding passion, positioned her as a formidable advocate. Her dedicated service to APICDA leaves an indelible and positive mark upon its history and its future, and upon the CDQ Program generally and continued economic opportunity that it provides to Villages throughout areas of Western Alaska. I thank Justine for her service to Alaska.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF IDRA

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to call the attention of the House in recognition of the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. For over 50 years, IDRA has been steadfast in its commitment to equitable access to high-quality public education for every child and family that needs it. Both their research and advocacy focus on ensuring public schools have the tools necessary to succeed.

Originally founded in 1973 by Dr. José A. Cárdenas, IDRA quickly established itself as a singular voice for Texas students and parents in the field of education. In the early 1980s, Dr. Cárdenas was an expert witness and, alongside IDRA staff, played a pivotal role in the Supreme Court's decision on *Plyler v. Doe*, guaranteeing equal protection for immigrant children across the country to access education in our nation's public schools.

Since then, IDRA has continued working with lawmakers and policy advocates to help secure critical laws supporting bilingual education, equity in school funding, and the rights of immigrant students. Every year, IDRA supports the training of thousands of teachers and administrators on creating the best environment for our children to succeed, while connecting parents and schools so they have a seat at the table in shaping and supporting their child's education.

IDRA has spent decades working to create a more equitable system for millions of students across the country, including those in my district. As the Congressman for the 35th District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate them on their 50 years of transforming public education and empowering our communities.

JOSHUA BANALES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joshua Banales for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Joshua has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Joshua, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Joshua's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Joshua Banales on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL JAMES "BEN" BENTON GASTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of James "Ben" Benton Gaston, 74, who passed away on November 22, 2023, in Indianola, MS.

Ben was born in Greenville, MS, on December 4, 1948, where he also grew up. He graduated from Greenville High School in 1966 and attended Mississippi State University and Mississippi Delta Community College. He ultimately graduated from Delta State University following his discharge from active duty military service. He joined the U.S. Army in July 1969 and served as an Infantryman in the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Upon his discharge from active duty, Ben joined the Mississippi National Guard as a Non-Commissioned Officer in 1971 and later took a direct commission to 1st Lt. in 1981. Ben also served as the Company Commander for B Company 2/198th Armor—Indianola, MS, Battalion Commander 1/198th Armor—Amory, MS, 155 Armored Brigade—Tupelo, MS, 66th Troop Command—Jackson, MS and Assistant Adjutant General—Mississippi Joint Force Headquarters—Jackson, MS.

Brigadier General Gaston retired in January 2008. He was recalled one month later to function as the Assistant Adjutant General as a Major General, which ultimately culminated his 42-year military career. MG Gaston received numerous awards and decorations, including the Soldier's Medal, Air Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Legion of Merit. Following his discharge from active

duty, he continued his civilian education at Delta State University, obtaining a Bachelors and Master's in Chemistry and an MBA in Business. He also received a Master's in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He began his civilian career with the USDA in Stoneville, MS, and was eventually elected as the District 3 Supervisor for Sunflower County.

Ben is survived by his wife, Sherry Ikerd Gaston, his high school sweetheart, his sister, Ann Bradshaw (Jimmy) of Pearl, MS. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Bobbie Ruth Gaston of Greenville, MS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was late to the House floor on the day of November 15, 2023 due to time-sensitive commitments I had as the White House Liaison for the House Democratic Women's Caucus. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 664.

HONORING THE 26TH ANNIVER- SARY PASSING OF FORMER MAYOR COLEMAN YOUNG

HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the longest serving mayor of the city I so proudly represent, Mayor Coleman A. Young, on the 26th anniversary of his passing.

Born in the throes of segregation in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Mayor Young rose from the humble beginnings of the Great Migration to become a beacon of hope and a pillar of strength for the city of Detroit. His journey was marked not just by the offices he held, but by the indomitable spirit he embodied—a spirit that challenged inequality, fought for justice, and tirelessly sought to uplift every resident of Detroit.

As Detroit's first African-American mayor, he broke barriers and built bridges. He led our city through times of challenge and change, always with an unwavering vision for a more inclusive and prosperous Detroit. His efforts to integrate the Detroit Police Department and to fight excessive use of force were not just administrative actions, but bold steps towards healing and unity. His advocacy for affirmative action and his dedication to economic development were testament to his belief in a Detroit that offered opportunity for all. Under his leadership, Detroit saw the rise of vital infrastructure and community projects, laying the groundwork for the city's future.

As we reflect on Mayor Young's legacy, let us remember his courage, his unwavering commitment to civil rights, and his enduring love for Detroit. His life's work reminds us of the power of resilience, the importance of visionary leadership, and the unyielding pursuit of equality. Mayor Young's legacy is not confined to the past; it is a guiding light for our future, motivating us to continue building a city