

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S 16TH  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FIRE  
AND RESCUE EMS AWARD RE-  
CIPIENTS

**HON. VERN BUCHANAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire, rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District. First responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Often, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call." Twelve years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement. On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following honorees, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district: Associate Service Award: Private Citizen Jake O'Brien of Hillsborough County Dedication and Professionalism Award: Senior Telecommunicator Lisa Kalmbach of the Manatee County Emergency Communications Center, Deputy Chief Jose Prado, Captain David Raasch, Company Fire Captain Andrew Capeletti, Fire Captain Nico DiNova, Fire Inspector Ryan Gould, Battalion Chief Jeffrey Landis and Captain Scott VanDeBoe of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Unit Citation Award: Captain Rondalfo Rodriguez and Driver/Engineer Jose Obradovich of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Battalion 6-C, Charge Paramedic James Bryant, EMT Monica Ramos, and District Chief Robin Thayer of Manatee County EMS, Fire Chief Tim Geer, Lieutenant Lionel Harrison, Engineer Louis Chiocchio, Engineer Jacob Barwick, EMT Thomas Ferrett, EMT Jared Gould; and Firefighter Bo Gurskis of the Bradenton Fire Department, Fire Chief Joe Sicking, Assistant Chief Joel Baker, Battalion Chief Blair Pontious, Captain Donald Bunch, Captain Ben Miller, Engineer Justin White, Engineer Michael Davila, Firefighter John Mueller, and Robert Barber (Logistics) of the North River Fire District, Division Chief Michael Williamson, Lieutenant Payton Edwards, Firefighter James Howard, Firefighter Aaron White, and Firefighter Liz Alvarez of the Parish Fire District, Deputy Chief Paul Wren, Lieutenant Adam McDaniel, Firefighter Isaac Libby, and Firefighter Connor Reilly of East Manatee Fire Rescue, Chief Angel Herrera, Chief Jeffrey Landis, Captain Jeffrey Hartner, Captain Pete Dzuibinski, Driver/Engineer Freddy Miller, Driver/Engineer Stan Hyatt, Driver/Engineer Jerome Mancillas, Lieutenant Eric Kotala, Fire Medic John Maltby, Fire Medic Lucas Haislop, Fire Medic Vinny Mortellero, Fire Medic Matthew Holubik, Fire Medic Adam Hayward, Fire Medic Scott Shedd, Firefighter Angel Rengifo, Firefighter Jared Ladd of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Pilot Alex Myers, Flight Nurse Caitlyn

Buell, and Flight Paramedic Kyle Miller of Aeromed Career Service Award: Assistant Chief Jane Herdn of the Longboat Key Fire Department, Chief (retired) Edward Cleveland and Fire Commissioner Derrick Warner of the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District, and Jimmie Hamrick, Jr. of Manatee County EMS.

CONGRATULATING GENRIETTA  
CHURBANOVA

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Genrietta Churbanova, a Little Rock native.

Genrietta was named Princeton's 2024 valedictorian, not solely for ranking the top of her class, but embodying the absolute best Princeton has to offer.

Joao Biehl, Chairman of Princeton's anthropology department, agrees that she is the most exceptional student that has come through his department in the last two decades.

Genrietta was also named as Schwarzman Scholar for 2024, which is awarded to those who want to deepen their understanding about China's political, business, and technological impact on the rest of the world.

Genrietta stated that growing up in Arkansas kept her grounded and helped enable her to go far and achieve her goals.

I am proud to call Genrietta an Arkansan. Her accomplishments and drive have made her more than deserving of this honor, and I am eager to watch her journey in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, due to official business regarding the upcoming anniversary of the September 11th attacks in my state, I was unable to participate in voting on the passage of H.R. 8333 and H.R. 1157. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 410, and YEA on Roll Call No. 402.

HONORING DAVID PEYTON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions of David Peyton, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, whose dedication to public service and tireless efforts have positively impacted countless lives.

David Peyton graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1984, laying the foundation for his journey of academic excellence and professional success. In 1988, he obtained his

Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Alcorn University, where his passion for science and community service flourished. Continuing his academic pursuits, Mr. Peyton earned a Master's degree in Public Health Policy and Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1994, solidifying his commitment to improving public health outcomes and advocating for effective policy solutions.

Throughout his esteemed career, Mr. Peyton served with distinction at the Mississippi State Department of Health in Communicable Disease Prevention, from 1989 until 2019. In this role, he demonstrated exemplary leadership, managing grants with budgets exceeding \$2 million and overseeing a workforce of over 60 employees. His dedication to public health and disease prevention has undoubtedly saved lives and strengthened communities across our state.

In addition to his public service, Mr. Peyton is a visionary leader in the non-profit sector, serving as President and CEO of Gateway Solutions, Inc., an organization dedicated to addressing pressing community issues and promoting social change. Furthermore, he is the founder of Peyton Unlimited LLC, a consulting firm committed to providing innovative solutions to complex challenges facing our society.

Most recently, Mr. Peyton was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Supervisors for Yazoo County, a testament to his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of his fellow citizens. One of his first acts of business was organizing Yazoo Day at the Capitol, in collaboration with Joseph Thomas Jr., highlighting the rich heritage and vibrant culture of Yazoo County to state officials and legislators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring David Peyton for his exceptional achievements, steadfast leadership, and dedicated service to the people of Mississippi. His remarkable contributions have left an indelible mark on our state, and he serves as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF JEFFERSON HIGH  
SCHOOL

**HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of Jefferson High School.

Established in 1949, under the leadership of its first principal, Mr. J.M. Whitaker, Jefferson High School has been the institution that has provided an excellent education to generations of students from the South-Central community. Better known as the 'Silver Foxes,' students and alumni proudly represent Jefferson all throughout El Paso, the country, and the world. From Ricardo Samaniego, our El Paso County Judge, Alberto Almanza, an Olympian who competed in 1960 and 1964, and numerous of veterans and servicemembers who have served in all branches of the military in pursuit of liberty and justice. Jefferson has a saying 'once a fox, always a fox'—and Jefferson students and alumni are always proud of their community and where they come from.

I would also like to recognize all the teachers, faculty, and staff of Jefferson for their dedication and tireless work to enrich the lives of students, empower them to become productive citizens, and leaders in their communities. It takes a village to educate and raise children and without their work, Jefferson High School would not be able to operate.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring Jefferson High School for their 75 years of educational excellence and its profound impact on the lives of countless students, families, and the broader community. Long live Jeff (Viva la Jeff).

HONORING THE LEGACY OF  
CONGRESSMAN BILL PASCRELL

**HON. MIKE CAREY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, who passed away last month after serving nearly three decades in Congress.

It was a privilege to serve alongside Bill on the Ways & Means Committee. Though we sat on different sides of the aisle, Bill's warmth, humor and dedication to his constituents can be a source of inspiration for all of us.

Bill was born in Paterson, New Jersey. America's first industrial city. Through the years he saw his community grow and change, but like the city's great falls, he remained a steadfast engine for progress.

I got to know Bill during events with the Italian American caucus, where we could talk about our shared heritage over glasses of Primitivo and Montepulciano. In the spirit of those days, I would like to share a message in memory of this great man and his legacy: "My friend, you will not be forgotten. (Amico mio, non sarai dimenticato)."

HONORING DR. CALVIN MOON

**HON. ANDY KIM**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the selfless service and incredible accomplishments of Dr. Calvin Moon, a United States Navy Veteran, who passed earlier this month.

Born in Yardville, Calvin spent his life in southern New Jersey. After graduating from Bordentown High School, he served in the United States Navy Submarine Service as a Petty Officer First Class Radar Operator on the Razorback Submarine in World War II. His bravery during his service played an integral role on the Pacific Front. After his service, he returned to New Jersey and earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural research from Rutgers University. Calvin then continued his studies at the University of Pennsylvania earning a doctorate of veterinary medicine in 1952.

Calvin was also a devoted veterinarian practicing in his hometown. While he began his career at the Wood Veterinary Hospital, he later helped launch the Hamilton Veterinary Hospital. Additionally, Calvin was a key player in

establishing the Columbus Central Veterinary Hospital and served 20 years as their Medical Director, in addition to his service as a diplomat with the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. His devotion to ensuring the beloved pets of families were taken care of was an inspiration to all those who knew him.

Outside his professional work, Calvin was an active member of his community. Having served on the Northern Burlington High School Board of Education and as scoutmaster for Troop 55 in Crosswicks, Calvin received the Father of the Year Award in Chesterfield, New Jersey. In addition to all those contributions, he was also a radio operator for Mercer County Emergency Service, a member of the Rutgers Oral History Society, the Base Commander of the New Jersey South Submarine Veterans, and Honorary Life Member of the USS Razorback Association. I commend him for his deep roots in our community, and for his desire to uplift youth, veterans, and all of his neighbors.

Calvin was, at his core, a loving husband to June Ann Moon. In their 76 years of marriage, the Moons had four children, seven grandchildren, and now five great-grandchildren.

While many community members locally know Calvin and his positive impact in our community, today I'm proud to honor his tenure as a veteran of the United States Navy, a valued member of our community, and as a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. We are fortunate to be able to carry on his legacy of service and to have his life's work as inspiration in our community.

HONORING GERALDINE GRAMMER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Mrs. Geraldine Grammer. Mrs. Grammer has been a champion of education and community service, and dedication to Bolivar County, surrounding counties and the State of Mississippi.

Mrs. Grammer is a retired educator and had redirected her life to one of service in helping people everywhere. She is a resident of Shelby, Mississippi, and president of the Alcorn Bolivar County Alumni Chapter of Alcorn State University. She recently received the Frank Dobbins Chapter President of the Year award for 2024. Mrs. Grammer joined the Alcorn State University Bolivar County Alumni Chapter in 2016 and in 2019 she became the chapter's president. Since becoming president, she has devoted countless hours toward working with the various committees to involve parents and high school students in applying for scholarships. They have awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships and provided students with beginning college gifts, such as printers, laptops, hampers, luggage, towels and essentials to start college life.

Mrs. Grammer's outlook and passion for education has had a profound impact on not only Shelby but the surrounding communities as well. Her continuous progress that as a community and state are making enforces the fact that she is focused on protecting the well-being of the community and that our local students are prepared for college life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Geraldine Grammer for her outstanding dedication, compassion and advocacy in her community. Her selfless service to her community, surrounding areas in the MS Delta, and the Alcorn State University Bolivar County Alumni Chapter are commended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, due to an issue with my staff getting me my vote card, I was unavailable for Roll Call No. 401. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 401.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL IN HONESDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a remarkable and historic milestone for a cherished institution in the Eighth Congressional District of Pennsylvania: the 75th Anniversary of Congregation Beth Israel. Located in Honesdale, a picturesque borough nestled in the hills of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Congregation Beth Israel holds the esteemed title of being the oldest continually operating synagogue in America still in its original building.

In September of 1849, amidst the backdrop of thousands moving westward in search of new opportunities, eleven pioneering men gathered in a modest home on Main Street in Honesdale. In the flickering light of kerosene lamps, they made a commitment that would profoundly shape our community. They pledged to form a Jewish congregation to serve the members of the Jewish faith, laying the foundation for what would become a beacon of faith and perseverance.

By 1856, these visionaries celebrated the first services held in their new building on Court Street. This structure has withstood the test of time, continuing to serve as a spiritual home for generations. It truly is a testament to the resilience and dedication of the Jewish community in Honesdale.

Today, Congregation Beth Israel remains a living symbol of Northeastern Pennsylvania's rich heritage and bright future. Exemplifying this fact are the descendants of three of the congregation's original eleven families, who continue to play an active role in the synagogue's life and mission.

As we mark this 175th Anniversary, we celebrate not just a historical milestone but the vibrant, enduring spirit of Congregation Beth Israel. The synagogue is not only a cornerstone of our community's religious life but also a living testament to the dedication and faith of its members. The echoes of prayers and songs that fill the pews today are a reminder of the deep roots and unwavering commitment of this congregation.