

Chief Johnson was born on April 3, 1942, on the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas Indian Reservation, located just outside of Livingston, Texas. After graduating high school, he enrolled at Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas, where he demonstrated his skills on the basketball court. In 1963, Mr. Johnson was selected as an All-American after setting the then all-time national record of scoring 67 points in a single game. Last year, Jacksonville College recognized him as a Distinguished Alumnus.

A member of the Beaver Clan, Chief Johnson served his community in various capacities over the years, including being twice elected to the Tribal Council and working as the Tribal Security Director for more than 21 years. On October 5, 2013, he was elected as the Tribe's Second Chief and remained in that position until being installed as Principal Chief following the passing of Chief Clem Sylestine, Mikko Colabe III, in 2019. In addition to his dedicated service to his tribe, Mr. Johnson sat on the Big Sandy ISD School Board for 48 years and was a faithful member of the Indian Presbyterian Church, serving as a devoted deacon and elder for many years.

Madam Speaker, today we remember the life and legacy of Herbert G. Johnson, Sr., and express our deep appreciation for his leadership as a proud member and Principal Chief of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. My heartfelt prayers remain with his family and tribe members during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING ARIEL TORRES FOR HIS IMPRESSIVE SHOWING AT THE 2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ariel Torres, whose hard work and dedication led him to earn a bronze medal in the men's karate kata at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Born in Cuba, Ariel's family settled in Hialeah, Florida, when he was only four years old. As a young child, he turned to karate to manage his hyperactivity after being encouraged to do so by his doctor. Ariel's family has been his biggest support system throughout his career and his achievements would not be possible without their unwavering dedication. Like most looking to rebuild their lives, his family had very little when they arrived in the United States, but still encouraged Ariel to pursue his dreams. One instance of this was when Ariel, at age eleven, wanted to attend a tournament in North Carolina but his parents could not afford to send him. Instead of giving up, his parents and Ariel put on an exhibition, where he performed karate moves at an intersection to ask for donations from people driving by. Ariel and his family did this for weeks until they saved up enough money to attend the tournament, where he won both competitions that occurred.

Ariel's family continued to support his dreams and encouraged him throughout his career, shaping him into the dedicated young man that he is today. He is a four-time USA Karate Senior Team Member, a two-time USA Karate National Champion, and now, an Olympian

pic bronze medalist. When Ariel learned that karate would be included in the 2020 Olympics, he envisioned himself competing at the highest level on that world stage. It was an honor to witness Ariel's performance in Tokyo and see him bring an impressive victory back to Hialeah.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to know that such a committed young man resides in South Florida. His life story and perseverance serve as an inspiration for all—that no dream is too big to achieve. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

CONGRATULATING MATTIE KINDELSPERGER FOR WINNING THE IHSA'S CLASS 1A TITLE IN THE 3200-METER RUN

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mattie Kindelsperger, a senior at Sherrard High School, who won the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A state championship in the 3200-meter run.

Mattie beat her qualifying time by twelve seconds to win the state championship with a time of 11:19.93. As a former student athlete, I understand the time that goes into being awarded such a title, and I applaud Mattie's persistence and hard work to archive her goals. I am proud to see her represent Sherrard exceptionally well throughout the state.

It is because of student leaders such as Mattie that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Mattie Kindelsperger on her state championship, and I join the entire Sherrard community in wishing her every success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF GARY DEDEAUX

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gary Dedeaux who passed away August 4, 2021. He was born March 31, 1956 in West Point to Ruth Murray and Dr. Howard Dedeaux.

Gary was known for his humility and compassion. He was a successful entrepreneur in Columbus and West Point. He enjoyed farm work, shooting, and above all flying. Gary was a member of Faith Baptist Church and sought to live in a way that honors Christ.

Left to cherish his memory are Gary's wife Natalie; daughter Gina; son Richard; and grandson Thomas Lane. I join countless others in mourning Gary's loss and offer my most sincere condolences to his loved ones.

IN HONOR OF JOHN WALCZAK'S RETIREMENT AND SERVICE TO LOUISVILLE

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Walczak, the longtime Director of the Louisville Zoo, as he enters retirement.

John joined the Louisville Zoo in 1985 and assumed the role of Director in 2004, just a few years before I got to Congress. In my first year, I got to take a behind-the-scenes tour with John where I had the good fortune to spend a day interacting and playing with the animals. I felt like a kid all over again, and it's a day I'll never forget.

I also saw firsthand the attention and love that John and his staff brought to every animal in their care. It's a passion that has spread throughout our community and the tens of thousands of Louisville families who have happy memories at the zoo.

The Louisville Zoo has long been an asset to our community, but in John's 35 years there, its place in our hearts has solidified and grown. During his esteemed tenure, John oversaw the construction of several award-winning exhibits, including the Gorilla Forest and Glacier Run, and created renowned educational programs that taught our community about the beauty of the natural world. In the last 17 months when threats to public health seemed impossible to avoid, John and his team quickly adapted, ensuring that the zoo could be a safe place for families to enjoy.

Under John's leadership, the Louisville Zoo has won the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Significant Achievement in Education Award for the School and Zoo program, introducing hundreds of children to the importance of wildlife conservation. He also facilitated the creation of the Little Penguin Conservation Center and the Cub House, the Zoo's first early childhood learning space. After over 35 years of service, John's commitment to his staff, his community, and the animals under his care has helped establish the Louisville Zoo as one of Kentucky's finest cultural institutions.

In short, the Louisville Zoo is an absolute treasure to our community and the region, touching and improving countless lives, and providing a happy home for nature's wonders. John Walczak is a huge reason why, and we are grateful for his service.

On behalf of the people of Kentucky's Third Congressional District and the city of Louisville, thank you, Mr. Walczak, for your leadership and service. I wish you the best in your retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF IBRAHIM AL HASBANI AND QAHWAH HOUSE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ibrahim Al Hasbani, the founder of Qahwah House. Qahwah House