

HONORING JIMMY SWEET

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Jimmy Sweet. Jimmy Sweet has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Jimmy Sweet was a standout football player and track athlete at Temple and North Vicksburg from 1970 to 1973. Sweet was part of the Temple team that won the 1970 Red Carpet Bowl and Black Big 8 championship, and then scored 18 touchdowns in three seasons at North Vicksburg.

After his playing career, Sweet spent 28 years working for the Vicksburg Police Department and was involved in several community organizations and programs.

Sweet was inducted into the 2022 Vicksburg Warren School District Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jimmy Sweet for his passion and dedication to the Vicksburg Warren School District and City of Vicksburg.

RECOGNIZING THE CONFERENCE  
OF WESTERN WAYNE**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2023*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the Conference of Western Wayne, a bipartisan organization that serves to connect the 18-member communities of western Wayne County in Michigan as they celebrate 45 years of service.

The Conference of Western Wayne was founded in 1978 with the purpose of coordinating 911 services across western Wayne County. Beyond connecting on the day-to-day coordination of emergency response, the Conference of Western Wayne provides a monthly meeting and creates stronger connections across the communities of western Wayne County. These monthly meetings, which are held in rotating locations across the county, are held with the purpose of creating strong connections across communities and a way for community leaders to exchange ideas and resources to improve the quality of life for all residents.

Whether it's helping to create opportunities for residents to engage or coming together to improve services, the Conference of Western Wayne has been an outstanding hub point and partner. We offer gratitude and wish them well on their 45 years of service.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF  
THE NEW CITY DOGS & CITY  
KITTIIES RESCUE CENTER**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue and

its new Operations and Intake Center in the District of Columbia, which opens on September 18, 2023.

Founded in 2011, City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue takes in dogs and cats from overcrowded shelters. Over the past 12 years, City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue has saved over 8,700 dogs and cats. Many of these dogs and cats were rescued from high-kill shelters, where resources are so limited that animals are frequently euthanized.

City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue has been widely acknowledged by the community for its work in animal welfare. The Washington City Paper has honored City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue numerous times, awarding it the title of Best Nonprofit in D.C. in 2022 and awarding its annual online auction the best charity event of 2023.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to celebrate the opening of City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue's new building in the District of Columbia and recognize its many years of providing a lifeline to dogs and cats in need of a home.

HONORING WILLIE G. OWENS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Fire Chief Willie G. Owens.

Chief Willie G. Owens is the leader of the Jackson Fire Department, and he has 32 years with the department. He is a native of Belzoni, Mississippi, where he attended McNair High School and enrolled in Jackson State University in 1970. He received a B.S. degree in Health & Physical Education from Jackson State in 1972. In 1974, he began a career with the Jackson Fire Department. In 1979, he went back to Jackson State University and received a degree in Fire Science Technology.

The City of Jackson entered a Consent Decree with the Federal Government for racial discrimination in 1973, and therefore, hired an all-black class the next year that produced two Fire Chiefs, with Chief Owens being one of them.

Chief Owens has made many accomplishments since becoming fire chief. He extended the promotional list from one to two years, decreased the age limit from 21 to 18 to become a firefighter, establish a fire science program in the Jackson Public School System, and increased the number of firefighters to its station.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Fire Chief Willie Owens for his dedication to the City of Jackson.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE INCORPORATION  
OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2023*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a significant milestone in the illustrious history

of our district—the 150th anniversary of Holyoke's incorporation. Such a special occasion necessitates pausing and reflecting upon our shared heritage, the indomitable spirit of our forebears, and the bright future that lies ahead.

Since its incorporation in 1872, the City of Holyoke has stood as a beacon of progress, resilience, and community. Pioneers, innovators, and everyday heroes have walked its streets, contributing to its tapestry of stories that resonates with the promise of the American Dream. It was here that the Connecticut River powered the Paper City, symbolizing not just an industrial triumph but also the ceaseless flow of ideas, culture, and determination that defines Holyoke.

Throughout these 150 years, we have seen the city transform, adapt, and grow. From the humming mills to the thriving arts and cultural institutions, Holyoke has always been a place where dreams are realized, and challenges are surmounted. It is the dedication, hard work, and vision of countless individuals, families, and institutions that have carried Holyoke forward, making it a cherished gem in Massachusetts' First District.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Holyoke on this sesquicentennial celebration. May we continue to appreciate our shared history and look ahead with optimism, passion, and a commitment to making Holyoke's future even brighter than its storied past.

RECOGNIZING THE COUNTY OF  
MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 200TH  
ANNIVERSARY**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2023*

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Merrimack County in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District celebrating 200 years since its founding. For two centuries, Merrimack County has offered a wonderful place for families, businesses, and more to call home.

Merrimack County, named for the Merrimack River, was organized in Concord 1823. It was formed by taking towns from northern Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties to create something new, a spirit of innovation that continues to this day. Nearly 154,000 people call Merrimack County home. The County has two cities and 25 towns, including our state capital, Concord. Merrimack is the third-largest county in our state by land area. The highest point of the County is Mount Kearsarge, at 2,937 feet.

A dedication ceremony with special guest speakers, barbeque meals, a tree planting, musical presentations by the Concord Community Music School, a K-9 demonstration, informational booths, a youth activity corner, 'touch-a-truck,' and raffles will all be part of the events commemorating the occasion.

Today and every day, I am proud to call Merrimack County home. Here's to many more years.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, my best wishes to all gathering for Merrimack County's 200th community